

## About Oropó

As told by Maneru

(This story is) about Oropó.

A long time ago Pa'i made peace with the Brazilians. It was really a long time ago.

Araújo was very happy for many years. Then he went downriver to a city called Vizeu. And then he returned on an outboard motor and brought with him a flu. It was a terrible flu and he transmitted it to everyone. The Kaapor caught it and transmitted it to their relatives in the villages.

It was a terrible flu with lots of coughing accompanied by inflammation of the eyes. The Kaapor were all red-eyed and blind.

It was thus that Oropó's wife caught the flu. Two days passed, then on the third day she died. So Oropó got very mad.

"I'm going to kill Araújo. The Brazilians are the source of the flu and also of other diseases. They are bad. I'm going to kill him now."

Oropó disappeared at night and arrived at Canindé where Araújo was who didn't know what was going to happen.

Oropó called out and someone took him in a little canoe to where Araújo was. Oropó was saying:

"Paddle quickly! Paddle quickly!"

Araújo's worker paddled quickly and took him to Araújo who was happy and greeted him with a smile:

"Hey, Captain! Are you well?"

And he shook his hand.

"I'm well," said Oropó.

"What do you want, Captain?" asked Araújo.

Oropó replied:

"I don't want anything."

"Do you want a machete?"

"No."

"Do you want a hammock?"

"No, I don't want it either."

Then an Afro-Brazilian asked:

"Captain! How do you kill a tapir?"

"I kill a tapir with a steel-tipped arrow. I'm a good hunter. Here I'll demonstrate for you."

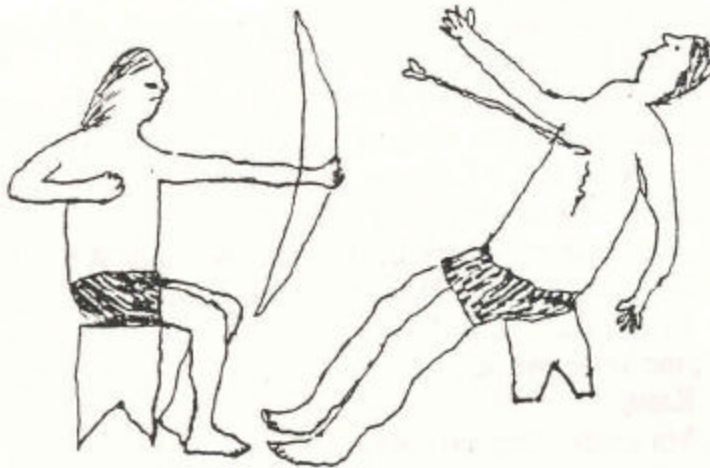
Araújo was sitting on a bench there. Oropó pulled on an arrow then turned in the direction of Araújo.

“Twang!”

Araújo turned and gave a loud cry. There were lots of Kaapor there. One who was there was Nimmingu who fled empty handed. He left his hammock there and his dogs were lying around the fire. He fled in fear.

Nimmingu’s wife, Cupiipé, and his son Iancantaram, fled also. Irainguer was another who fled. At night, Iancantaram returned and crossed the river to the other side. He got out of the water and fled. His father remained on the side where Icoaraci river is. He went into the jungle there and suffered much. He was hungry for food. Then his wife said to him:

“Let’s go see the Brazilians. It’s more or less okay now. Let’s go. We’ll all die of hunger.”



So they returned and arrived to where Captain Mesquita was. He was keeping vigil. Nimmingu arrived at the Post and called out. And Captain Mesquita answered him:

“Captain! Come quickly! The soldiers are about to arrive and it won’t be good. They are angry. Go back to your village. I don’t know a thing and it’s sort of okay now.”

So Nimmingu went away quickly into the jungle. Araújo was laying there in a coffin where Captain Mesquita put him.

The Kaapor went away conversing with each other. All of them were afraid. The relatives were angry at Oropó who disappeared. He took off into the jungle and was afraid of his relatives who were saying:

“Oropó is bad. Let’s kill him.”

Oropó disappeared to a far away place, to the headwaters of the Turiaçu river where he made his house and garden.

End.