

There was two oomans an' each of dem had one daughter. So one of dem die and leave de daughter to do nex' one. So de nex' one dat didn't die her daughter never go to de fireside. Is only de sister one dat die cook at de fireside. So one day she send dat small girl fah some water into a calabash. Den de calabash got broke. Den she says, "If you don't bring dah calabash I will bea' you til I kill you." Den de small girl went back an' start her cryin'. She meet up an ol' ghost, but she didn' know. Den de ghos' said to her, "What happened to you?" Den she said, "I broke a calabash for my aunt. She said if I didn't bring it back, she beat me till she kill me." — "Don't cry!" Small girl say, "I mus' cry." — "All right. Can you scrub ma back?" — "Yes." — "Is your hand get cut?" Girl say no. "Is gettin' late. Go home! You'll see a bone widout no meat an' one grain of rice. You'll put it on the fire and you'll eat as much as you can. An' you'll see a cat. If it come, you mus' beat it an' don't give it nothin' to eat." De cyat come an' dey all eat togeder, but she never strike him. Den de lady comes in an' says, "Did you eat your stomach full?" She says yes. "Is you give de cyat any?" She says no. "Did you beat de cyat?" De gyirl says yes. Dey went ter sleep. De bed was only pins. De gyirl start a rollin' about. Den she says, "Can you sleep?" De gyirl says yes. Nex' mornin' she says, "Look in de coop, you see six eggs, three small ones, three big ones. You'll take three." An' she took the three small ones. She said, "When you walk a certain way, you'll burst one an' you say, 'By de nam' of God, to let me see a big broad road. The second one you'll let me see a big house. The third one, big estates.'" One day the aunt was passin' an' she seen that big estates an' she wonder who that belongs to an' she went in an' start her work. The girl sat down tellin' her about it. Then she surprise'. She went back right home an' she says to her daughter, "Take that calabash an' go in the water an' broke it to

<sup>1</sup> Informant 4.

get that same richness your cousin had." Then she took her calabash an' went down right to de river fah water, an' it get broke. Then she went back home cryin'. Then her moder said, "If you don't give me that calabash, I'll beat you til I kill you." She went down cryin' and meet up wid dat same ol' woman. Ol' woman says, "What's de matter wid you?" She says, "I lost my calabash for my mother." Then she told that gyirl, "Don't cry! Can you scrub my back?" She says yes. Then she began to scrub. She says, "Oh, your back has too much bottles. I can't scrub your back no more, it cut up all my hands." She said, "All right. You go to my home, you'll meet one bone an' one grain of rice. Then you'll put it on the fire an' cook it." The girl say, "No, my moder never cook one grain of rice and a bone widout meat." But anyhow she put it on de fire an' she gets as much to eat. She says, "You'll see a cyat, if him come, beat him." She says yes. An' she beat dat cyat. An' de ol' lady come up an' say, "Do you see de cyat?" She says yes. She says, "Do you beat him?" She says, "Sure I beat him, I was goin' ter kill him, too." She said, "All right. Look in de coob. You goin' ter see six eggs, three big an' three small. Take three." She say, "I wouldn't take de three small one, I take de three big one." — "The firs' one, when you broke it, say, 'By de name of God, make me see a big street.'" An' she see a lot of woods. "De second one, 'By de name of God, let me see a big building.'" An' she see lots of big mountains. "Third one, you'll say, 'By de name of God, let me see a lot of estates!'" She see a lot of wild animals, lion. An' she never went back home again. (The cyat was that old lady.)

## II<sup>1</sup>

Once they had a mother had two sons. The bigges' one say he goin' to look for work. The moder give him one penny and a bread. He walks away on til he nearly reach where he was goin'. He meets up an ol' lady on de way. De ol' lady ax him, "Whey you goin'?" He says, "I am goin' to look for work." De ol' lady tells him, "I don't t'ink dere's any work in dis place whey you goin'." De ol' lady turn to him and says, "Will you give me a piece of bread?" He said to de ol' lady, "No, I can't give you a piece, it is only one bread." De ol' lady say, "All right, go! If it is good for you, you will see." Den he walk til he reach until whey he was goin'. He went inside de gate, an' he said, "Goodnight!" So de gentlemen was a devil, so he answer him, "Goodnight!" He ax him what he want? He said, "I came to look for work." De man said to him, "Come inside an' you'll sleep an' tomorrow I'll give you work." He went in and sleep and tomorrow he get a job. De devil give him a big field wid about four hundred cows in it. An' he give him one whip. He says, "Dat whip when you make one lash you'll make

<sup>1</sup> Informant 4.

whole lots of lash wid it. One lash, an' you will beat all de cow. If you see anybody come to take a cow, say no, you couldn't give dem none." He went up a little guava tree at three o'clock. A small devil pass an' ax him for a cow. He said, "No, I can't give you a cow." De devil turns to him an' says, "Bigger mens dan you I ax dem for a cow and I take one, much less small boy like you." An' de small devil take de cow an' go away. An' de devil come an' kill de boy. After a time de small broder didn't see him come back, de small broder tell de moder, "I am going to look for work." De moder give him one cent and a half of a bread. He walk til he meet up dat same ol' woman. De ol' woman ax him, "Whey you goin', boy?" He say, "I'm goin' to look for work." An' as de ol' woman was goin' to ax him for a piece of bread, he break it an' give her a piece. Den he say, "I will break dis cent an' give you a piece, too." De ol' woman say no. De ol' woman say, "You will walk until you reach to a small little lamp. Here is a key and a belt. An' anybody want ter trouble you, den you jus' put it down an' say, 'Hol' him, my good belt, hol' him! Choke him, my good key, choke him!'" Den he reach to dat small lamp an' he says, "Goodnight!" He says, "Dere's any work?" De devil says, "Yes, dere's work for you. Come in an' sleep an' you will turn to work tomorrow." He say, "No, I wouldn't sleep inside, I will sleep outside, an' tomorrow I'll go to work." Nex' day de boy ax, "How much you goin' to give me a month?" He say, "Ill give you five pounds a month." He say, "I'll gi'e you a big fiel' wid four hundred cows an' one whip. When you make one lash you mus' beat all de cows. If any devil come to take any cow, don't give dem any, say, 'No, don't take any, else I'll kill you.'" One day three o'clock in the afternoon he sit down on top a little guava tree. An' a devil pasin' say, "Boy, give me a cow!" He say, "No, I can't give you none." De devil say, "Bigger man dan you, I ax dem for a cow an' I take one, much less a small boy like you." So de devil take one. De boy run after him an' hol' him. He hol' de boy an' squeeze him jus' like a lime. De boy get away an' t'rew down his belt and say, "Hol' him, my good belt, hol' him! Choke him, my good key, choke him, excep' one." (De one is himself.) He get de cow. Den he had six months workin' wid de devil. One day he says it's time to go an' see his mother. He tol' de devil, "You mus' pay me." De devil say, "Bigger man dan you work wid me an' I don't pay dem, much less you."<sup>1</sup> He say, "You mus' pay me." De devil say, "Make out your bill an' see how much I owe you." — "You owe me thirty pounds." De devil went an' get thirty swords. Give him fifteen and take fifteen. De boy say he don't want it. De boy jes' only put down his belt an' his key an' say, "Hol' him, my good bel', hol' him! Choke him, my good key, choke him, excep' one." De boy took all de money de devil had an' cyarried it to his moder an' dey all got rich.

<sup>1</sup> G'os garçon passé ou qui travail avec moin, moin pas payé yo, qui dira ou même.

*J. Hayti (II, 570-571)*

A woman says she will kill her adopted daughter unless she brings back the calabash she has broken. The little girl meets an old ghost who asks to have her back scrubbed. The little girl does it and says that in

doing it she did not cut her hand. The ghost gives her a dry bone and one grain of rice to cook and tells her if a cat comes she must beat it and not give it anything. She does not beat the cat, they eat together. The girl is put in a bed full of pins but she says she can sleep. She is told to go to the chicken coop and take three of the six eggs. She takes the three small ones. The first shows her a broad road; the second, a big house; and the third, big estates. The second girl does the opposite of all the things the first girl did, and is destroyed by wild animals.