SABA

Yowao

Free Translation

Note: The Jarawaras identify the Yimas with the present-day Jumas, a Tupi-Guarani group living on the other side of the Purus River, on the way from Lábrea to Humaitá.

The Yimas were killing people. He wanted to fight against them, so he went after the wasps. His name was Saba, the one who went after the Yimas. He fought against the wasps [to prepare himself to fight the Yimas]. He always killed the wasps [with his bare hands], without being stung by them. When he was done fighting the wasps, he went after the Yimas and fought against them.

[At the Yima village, in the night] a Yima woman wanted to urinate, and she woke her husband up. She came out of the longhouse with her husband. They took the warriors by surprise as they stood on the edge of the clearing. Saba lay down quickly, just before the Yima woman came. She urinated on his back. After they urinated, they went back into the longhouse. The Yima man stayed behind, standing. He looked intently at the forest, afraid. Then Saba put the Yimas to sleep [by a spell]. He went in and took their weapons, their spears. He took their spears so he could fight them. He carried off their spears, to fight with them. He went back in. He killed. He speared the Yima man, who was having sex with his wife. "Yima! Yima, I'm going to fight you!" he said. The Yima didn't pay any attention to him. He speared the Yima, as he lay face down having sex with his wife. "Yiooo," he said. "Aaa," said the Yima. "I'm going to fight you!" he said. He killed the Yimas. The Yimas threw weights for weighing latex at them, but they escaped. They caused them [by magic] to fall short. They killed the Yimas. They came home after they had killed.

There were no more Yimas. The Yimas died, all of them. Then Saba fought with the wasps again, because he wanted to go after other Yimas. He fought the wasps twice. He looked for the Yimas. He searched. He was unsuccessful. He came home, because there was no one living there. Then he waited for the Yimas back in his village. The Yimas didn't come any more. The Yimas disappeared.
Interlinear Presentation

1
Yima               me       ihi         iiti
yima               me       ihi         DUP- iti
(tribe_name)       3PL.POSS result_of+F  DUP- kill
nm                   ***    pn          ***- vi
toha               me,
to-   ha    me
CH-    AUX+F  3PL.POSS
***-   ***
'The Yimas were killing people.'

2
me     me     mowa       nabone    awani     me     wati
me     me     mowa       na    -habone    awani     me     wati
3PL.O  3PL.S fight_against AUX -INT+F wasp  3PL.O go_after
***   ***   vt          ***-***    nm   ***   vt
kawahematamonaka.
ka-    na   -waha     -himata    -mona    -ka
COMIT- AUX -change  -FP.N+M -REP+M -DECL+M
***   ***   ***     ***-***    nm    ***   vt
'In order to fight against them, he went after the wasps.'

3
Saba,          inomari     amaka       Saba,
Saba           ino    -mari    ama    -ka    Saba
(man's_name)   name+M -PP.E+M SEC -DECL+M (man's_name)
nm             pn        ***    ***-***    nm
Saba           yima        me     wati
Saba           yima        me     wati
(man's_name)   (tribe_name)  3PL.O go_after
nm             nm            ***   vt
kanahari.
ka-    na   -hari
COMIT- AUX -IP.E+M
***    ***  -***
'Saba, his name was Saba, the Saba who went after the Yimas.'

4
Awani     me     mowa       me
awani     me     mowa       na
wasp  3PL.O fight_against AUX+M
nm       ***   vt          ***
'He fought against the wasps.'
'He always killed the wasps, without being stung by them.'

'When he was done fighting the wasps, he went after the Yimas.'

'He went after the Yimas and fought the Yimas.'

'A Yima woman wanted to urinate, and she woke her husband up.'
'She came out with her husband.'

'They took them [the Jarawaras] by surprise as they stood on the edge of the clearing.'

'Saba lay down quickly, just before the Yima woman came. The Yima woman urinated on his back.'

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17 The form of this word is archaic, and form as it would be in current use is kakibani. This is why I have labelled -be as ‘future’, even though in current use there is no form of the future which is -be.
Bari  yima                    fana
bari  yima                    fana
outside_surface  (tribe_name)  female
pn                nm          nf
so     hinematamonane.
s0     hi-        na  -himata -mona -ne
urinateOC-  AUX -FP.N+M -REP+M -BKG+M
vt     ***- *** -*** -*** -***
'The Yima woman urinated on his back.'

Faya  me    so      na
faya  me    so      na
so     3PL.S urinate AUX+F
***  ***  vi     ***
'They urinated.'

me    tokiyamamemetemonehe,   yobe
me    to-      ka      -yoma -ma -hemete -mone -he  yobe
3PL.S away-  go/come -through -back -FP.N+F -REP+F -DUP house
***  ***-  vi     -*** -*** -*** -*** -*** nm
wahi    toro   ya.
wa       toro   ya
stand.NFIN inside+M ADJNCT
vi     pn      ***
'They went back into the longhouse.'

Me    tokiyoma
me    to-      ka      -yoma
3PL.S away-  go/come -through+F
***  ***-  vi     -***
'They went in.'

me    nowati   ya     towakose.
me    nowati   ya     to-  wa    -kosa
3PL.POSSbehind  ADJNCT CH-  stand -middle+M
***  pn      ***  ***- vi     -***
'He stayed behind, standing.'

yama  kakatomematamonane,
yama  ka-    katoma -himata -mona -ne
thing COMIT- watch -FP.N+M -REP+M -BKG+M
nf    ***-  vt     -*** -*** -***
kakomehari.
ka-    komeha -hari
COMIT-  afraid -IP.E+M
***-  vi     -***
'He looked intently at the forest, afraid.'
SABA

18

**Faya tokiyomamakematamonaka**

faya to- ka yoma makI himata mona ka
so away- go/come through after -FP.N+M -REP+M -DECL+M
*** *** vi *** *** *** *** *** ***

**fahi.**

fahi
then
***

'Then he went in.'

19

**Tokiyomamake**

to- ka yoma makI
away- go/come through after
*** vi *** ***

'He went in.'

20

**Faya yima mera amo**

faya yima mera amo
so (tribe_name) 3PL.O sleep
*** nm *** vi

tonihame,

to- niha na ma
away- CAUS- AUX -back+M
*** *** *** ***

'Then he put the Yimas to sleep.'

21

**tokiyomamakehimatamonaka,**

to- ka yoma makI himata mona ka
away- go/come through after -FP.N+M -REP+M -DECL+M
*** vi *** *** *** *** ***

**yima me ye hone**

yima me yehe hone
(tribe_name) 3PL.POSS hand weapon+F
nm *** pn pn

**yabebanoho, yima me ka**

yaba -hiba no -ho yima me ka
take_out -FUT+M -IP.N+M -DUP (tribe_name) 3PL POSS
vt *** *** *** nm *** ***

**wabise.**

wabise
spear
nf

'He went in and took their weapons, the Yimas' spears.'
22

**Wabise yabematamonane, yima**

wabise yaba -himata -mona -ne yima
spear take_out -FP.N+M -REP+M -BKG+M (tribe_name)
**nf vt *** *** *** nm**

**mera mowa nebonaha.**

mera mowa na -hibona -ha
3PL.O fight_against AUX -INT+M -DUP
*** vt *** *** ***

'He took the spears to fight the Yimas with.'

23

**Yima me mowa nebona**

yima me mowa na -hibona
(tribe_name) 3PL.O fight_against AUX -INT+M
**nm *** vt *** ******

**yima me ye hone iso ne**

yima me yehe hone iso na
(tribe_name) 3PL.POSS hand weapon+F carry AUX+M
**nm *** pn pn vt ***

'He carried off the Yimas' weapons, to fight the Yimas.'

24

**faya tokiyomame**

faya to- ka -yoma -ma
so away- go/come -through -back+M
*** ***- vi *** ***

'He went in again.'

25

**ehene itimatamonaka fahi.**

ehene iti -himata -mona -ka fahi
result_of+M kill -FP.N+M -REP+M -DECL+M then
**pn vi *** *** *** *** *** ***

'He killed.'

26

**Yima fati yori neno**

yima fati yori na -hino
(tribe_name) 3sPOSS_wife have_sex_with AUX -IP.N+M
**nm nf vt *** ******

**itematamonaka.**

ita -himata -mona -ka
pierce -FP.N+M -REP+M -DECL+M
**vt *** *** *** ***

'He pierced the Yima man, who was having sex with his wife.'
"Yima! Yima, I’m going to fight you!" he said.

'The Yima didn’t pay attention to him.'

'He pierced the Yima, as he lay face down.'

"Yiooo," he said.'

"'Aaa," said the Yima.'

"'I'm going to fight you!' he said.'
'Then he killed the Yimas.'

'The Yimas threw weights for weighing latex at them, but they escaped.'

'The Yimas threw things at them, but they caused the weights for weighing latex to fall on the ground.'

'They killed the Yimas.'
'They came home after they had killed.'

'There were no more Yimas.'

'The Yimas died, all of them.'

'Then he fought with the wasps again, because he wanted to go after other Yimas.'
41.

Awani me mowa ni fame
awani me mowa na fama
wasp 3PL.POSS fight_against AUX.NFIN two+M
nm *** vt *** vi

'He fought the wasps twice.'

42.

yima me siba
yima me siba
(tribe_name) 3PL.O search_for
nm *** vt
nematamonaka, yima me
na -himata -mona -ka yima me
AUX -FP.N+M -REP+M -DECL+M (tribe_name) 3PL.POSS
*** *** *** *** nm ***
tabiyo.
tabiyo
absence
pn

'He looked for the Yimas.'

43.

Yama siba ne
yama siba na
thing search_for AUX+M
nf vt ***

'He searched.'

44.

yama hikasawari
yama hi- ka- sawari
thing OC- COMIT- frustrate+M
nf ***- ***- vt

'He was unsuccessful.'

45.

kamematamonane, yama
ka -ma -himata -mona -ne yama
go/back -FP.N+M -REP+M -BKG+M thing
vi *** *** *** *** nf
winihirimakoni, yima me noki
wina -hiri -makoni yima me noki
live -NEG -explanation+F (tribe_name) 3PL.O wait
vi *** *** nm *** vt
namebanoho.
na -ma -hiba -no -ho
AUX -back -PUT+M -IP.N+M -DUP
*** *** *** *** ***

'He came home, because there was no one living there. Then he waited back in his village.'
'He waited for the Yimas.'

'The Yimas didn't come.'

'The Yimas disappeared.'