

Matu gathered coconuts and bananas and placed them in a basket that he carried on his head. He peered down from his vantage point high on the great cliff of his island home. The sea looked alive with its blue swells lapping at the shore, and Matu savored the feeling of power that the sea gave to him.

Suddenly, he saw what appeared to be a black dot moving on the horizon, and he watched until the dot became a ship. He saw the red, blue, and white flag and ran down below to the village. "I have seen a ship, Father," he told Chief Tolbi, "and the flag on the mast is red, blue, and white."

Soon the ship arrived, and the tribe greeted it at the beach. It was a ship traveling from England, and the sailors wore dark navy uniforms with white ruffled shirts. They took off their hats and bowed to Chief Tolbi. "My people welcome the navy of King George of England," said the chief. "Come and celebrate this happy occasion."

Matu saw a boy on the deck of the boat. He was the son of the captain of the ship and he seemed to be shy. Matu greeted him and told him his name. "Hello, Matu," replied the boy with the golden hair and blue eyes. "My name is Edward Christian and my father is the captain."

Edward and Matu went to the center of the village to watch their fathers exchange gifts before their people. Captain Christian gave the chief many round hand mirrors. The chief studied his reflection in the glass and laughed so heartily that everyone laughed, too. He was very delighted with the mirrors, and he offered the captain exotic fruit plants to take back to King George for the royal garden.

Edward and Matu enjoyed the great feast together and afterwards taught each other the games that they played with their friends. When it was time for the ship to leave for home, Matu gave Edward a parting gift. "Take this shark's tooth and wear it around your neck. It will give you strength and courage," said Matu. "I give to you my pearl-handled pocket knife. Keep it sharp and think of me whenever you use it," said Edward, and then the two boys waved good-bye to each other.

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