

SIX STORIES FROM BO



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THE MONKEY AND THE CATS

Told by Joseph A Boakarie
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A long time ago there lived two cats in a forest near a hill. One day, one cat asked the other to help him find food. It was a good idea, as they were both hungry. One morning they all went deep into the forest and they found food.

One of the cats said, "Let us share this food."

The other said, "Yes, that is a good idea!"

Both of them wanted to share out the food so that they could give themselves the most. This led to a big argument between them. During their argument a monkey heard them and came down from his tree. The monkey then joined the argument and asked them what it was about.

The two cats told him the story. He then decided to share this food among them so that each got the same share. Being clever, he made two piles of the food and sat down to look at them.

He said, "This pile is bigger than that one."

He took some from it and ate it. The other pile then looked bigger.

The monkey did this many times until both piles were very small. The two cats watched the monkey doing this and said to the monkey. "Stop! Now our food pile is very small. You have eaten most of it. Give us our food, we will not argue about food again."

From that day cats never argue about food.

Now have you ever seen cats arguing about their food?





THE TORTOISE AND HIS BACK

Told by Joseph Boakarie



A long time ago, there was a man who had a corn farm.

Thieves began to steal the ripe corn. This made the man who owned the corn so angry that he made a dummy out of glue. He stood the dummy at the entrance of the farm so that he could find his thief.

He did not know that the tortoise and the rabbit were stealing this corn because they were very clever and nobody could catch them.

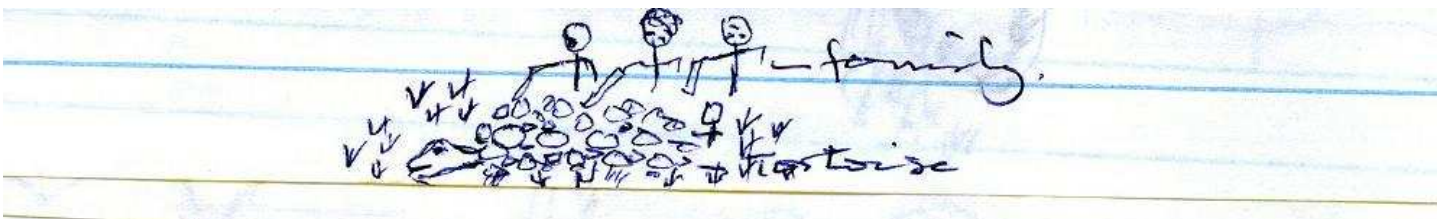
One night they went to steal from the farm – but they saw something like a person at the entrance to the farm. This made them become frightened at first. They thought he would chase them, but the man did not move when they greeted him and they did not receive an answer.

Rabbit said, “We have not come to do bad sir; we only want to take a short cut.” The dummy said nothing! So the rabbit became frightened and told his friend tortoise that they must go back and come another day. His friend tortoise said he must eat some corn. So he decided to touch the dummy.

As he touched the dummy, he felt something was holding his hand. Tortoise became frightened. He could not move his hand, so he shouted to his friend rabbit, who had runaway, and fought the dummy to try to get free. His hands stuck! His feet stuck! All his body stuck! He was completely stuck to the dummy!

The next morning he was still there. The farmer and his family came to see who the dummy had caught. Some had knives and sticks to beat the thief with. When they saw tortoise they beat him until his back cracked.

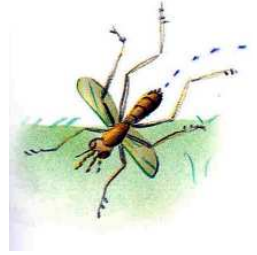
From that day until now, Tortoise has lost his smooth back.





THE EAR AND THE MOSQUITO

Told by Joseph Boakarie



Once upon a time the Ear and the Mosquito were best neighbours for many years. One day Mosquito fell in love with Ear, but Ear did not know this. Every day they sat together and talked. Then one day Mosquito came to see Ear's parents. He told them that he wanted to marry Ear – but the parents said they would think about it. They said they would give their answer the next day.

The next day the parents told Ear about this, but Ear became very angry. She said that she would never agree to marry Mosquito.

Later that day, Mosquito came to the house to talk to Ear, but Ear did not listen to him at all. She told Mosquito to listen to her.

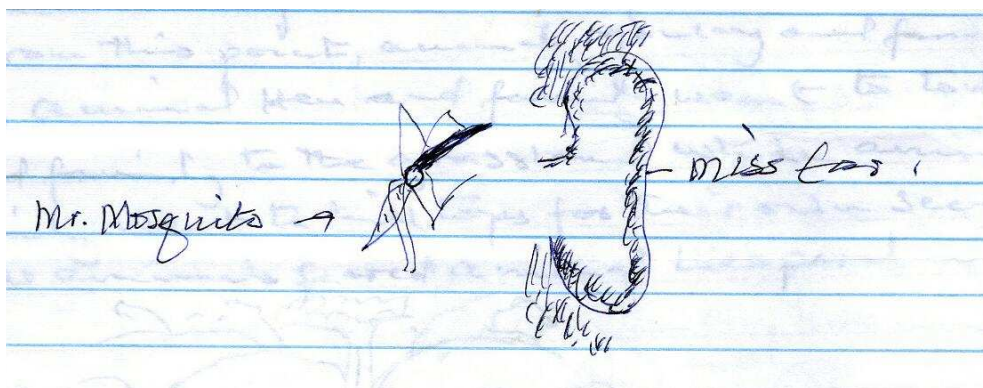
“You are very thin and you are not healthy. You will not even live one more week. You will soon die because you are so thin.”

She asked, “Do you want me to be a widow for the rest of my life?”

Mosquito became very sad for that statement made by Ear.

He then said “Miss Ear, you say I will soon die. That is not true. Everyday I will come and show you that I am still alive.”

This is the reason why every night the mosquito flies around the ear noisily. He is showing Miss Ear that he is still alive.



REASONS WHY ANIMALS ARE ENEMIES

Told by Joseph Boakarie



Years in years out, all creatures were one family living together doing things together. Goat's children and leopard's children played together under the same tree. Cats and dogs and rats slept on the same mats while hens worked together with the bush cats on the same farm.

But every animal had its own work to do. Some worked on the farm
Hen was a messenger. Monkey carried food to workmen.



Leopard was a cook and the strongest among them.

He alone worked in the kitchen near the well and allowed no one to help him cook. One day the workmen sent Hen to get them water to drink. While getting water, Leopard saw Hen and jumped on her and killed her. He prepared good chicken soup for himself alone. Monkey saw what had happened and became fearful. He climbed up the tree and shouted out to his friends.

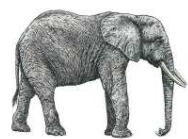
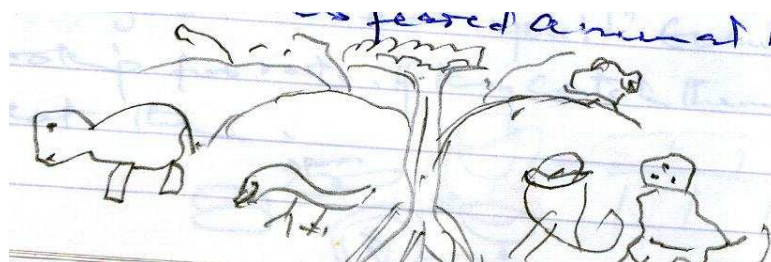


"Brothers and sisters, Hen is dead. Leopard, the cook, has eaten her and now she is in his belly."

Animal Elephant heard this message and went to tell all the other animals. They were all afraid and started trembling. They all came together in a meeting where they decided to let everyone go his own way, leaving animal Leopard alone in the bush.

From this point, animal Monkey and family went up the tree, animal Hen and family went to town, animal Deer and family to the grassland, while animal Baboon and family went to hilltops for their own security.

From that day all animals feared animal Leopard.





WHY CATS EAT RATS

Told by Joseph Boakarie



Many years ago, cats and rats were living together as friends. They lived together and ate the same food. One day they made a good pot of soup with big pieces of meat in it. As the soup was very hot, they decided to take a walk to the evening market.

Rat was very hungry and as he was walking he was thinking about the soup.

"It must be cool now," he said to himself.

He tried to think of a reason to go back to the house. This was the reason.

"We didn't close the door of the house," he said at last. "If I do not run back and close the door, someone will smell the soup and go in and eat it."

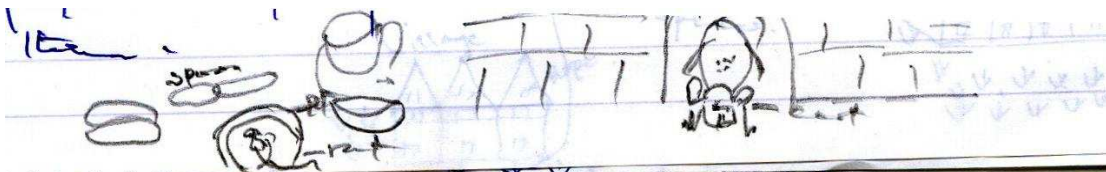
So Cat said, "Go back and close the door. I will wait at the side of the road. Please be quick. It is becoming dark and we will not find anything in the market."

When Rat reached the house, he jumped on the side of the pot and looked at the food. He ate a little, then a little more; then a little more. Eventually he ate all the soup. As he started to climb down he knocked the empty pot over. It fell on top of him. He was caught inside. He could not escape and was very frightened.

At the market, Cat became tired of waiting so he also went home – but as he came into the house he saw the pot on the ground. He lifted it up and out jumped Rat. Straight away Rat knew that Cat could be angry so he ran out of the door.

"You thief," shouted Cat. "If I ever catch you I will kill you and eat you!"

Even today, cats are always looking for rats. If they catch them they kill them and then eat them.



WHY THE SPIDER'S WAIST BECAME THIN

Told by Joseph Boakarie



Once upon a time there lived a spider and his children in a small village in the forest. Mr. Spider was so greedy that he always visited any festivals around him.

One day four villages organised festivals which were to be on the same day, but he did not know the time for each festival. He sat at a junction of four roads each leading to a village. He tied ropes around his waist and he told each child to take a rope to one of the four villages. Mr. Spider commanded his children that whenever the people are ready to share food – the child in that village should pull him there to eat.

Unfortunately for him, the people decided to have the festival at the same time.

The people got ready at the same time and finished at the same time. When they came to share the food, they did so at the same time. His children all pulled him at the same time. They did this until the end of the festivals and Mr. Spider did not take part in any of them.

At the end, his children came to the junction to find out what happened, only to meet their father half dead- because the ropes around him were too tight to loosen. His children undid the ropes and took him home but the mark was left around him. So even today he has that mark. This is how his waist became thin.

