

Learning by Ear 2010

Series: 'Shall I tell you something? African Fables for a culture of peace'

Episode: 04 The hyena, the snake, the panther and the warthog

Author: Ibrahima Ndiaye

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SHALL I TELL YOU SOMETHING? AFRICAN FABLES FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE

EPISODE 04: „THE HYENA, THE SNAKE, THE PANTHER AND THE WARTHOG“

AUTHOR: IBRAHIMA NDIAYE

EDITOR: YANN DURAND, STEFANIE DUCKSTEIN,
NAIMA GUIRA

TRANSLATION: NATALIE GLANVILLE-WALLIS

PROOFREADING: TONY DUNHAM

CHARACTERS:

1. NARRATOR (male, about 40 years old)
2. HYENA (female, about 20 years old)
3. WARTHOG (male, about 30 years old)
4. WHITE-BEARDED OLD MAN (male, sounding +/- 70 years old)

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INTRO / PRESENTER:

Hello and welcome to Episode 4 of 'Shall I tell you something? African fables for a culture of peace'. When was the last time you listened to a fairy-tale? Last night? Weeks ago? Or was it even years ago? Fables conceal universal truths and, from time to time, they can even open the eyes of the ignorant. As you might know, when people coexist peacefully, they have a huge potential for development. So the fables we have chosen for you deal with conflict and reconciliation. How should you handle a tricky situation? How can you deal with distrust, envy or selfishness? In every story you will find a grain of truth that might help you now or later in your personal life.

So, listen carefully to our story „The hyena, the snake, the panther and the warthog“. And find out how the hyena was punished for her greed.

1. MUSIC (play as background for the entire script)

2. NARRATOR:

In the old days, the hyena, the snake, the panther and the warthog were good friends. The four of them owned a plantation together on which they worked.

At mealtimes, they went their separate ways, looking for food and eating it alone. But it took them all too long!

One day, the hyena decided that they had to organize themselves

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better and suggested a very simple rule that the other three accepted immediately: they should each take turns to provide meat for one week for all four of them.

But the next day, the hyena slyly added a second clause to the rule:

3. HYENA:

"He who does not succeed in finding enough meat for the three others, will be eaten by them."

4. NARRATOR:

This was also immediately accepted unthinkingly by the three others.

The first week it was the snake's turn. In the bush, she managed to bite all the animals that passed within reach of her fangs loaded with venom. No problem!

5. SFX: Snake slithering and hissing

6. NARRATOR:

She brought back a large quantity of game and prepared such a hearty meal that the four friends could not finish all of it.

The second week, it was the panther's turn. In the evening, he hid in the tall grass along the banks of the backwaters, and caught the animals that came and drank there. Later he served the others huge chunks of meat. The bellies of the four friends grew so rounded that they could hardly work the next day.

The third week it was the turn of the hyena.

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7. SFX: Laugh of the hyena

8. NARRATOR:

At night she went off in her fiendishly clever way and stole pieces of meat from other animals and dragged it all back to the plantation.

This meat, stolen from the lions and scavengers, was not always so fresh. It sometimes smelt very bad, but at least there was a lot of it.

By holding their noses tightly, the friends could all eat their fill.

In the fourth week the warthog's turn finally came around. But then, when he noticed that the hyena was often looking at him while licking her chops, he began to panic.

The hyena was sure that the fat warthog would fail to capture enough game. I ask you, has anyone ever seen a warthog hunt?

When the hyena met the warthog later in the day, she shook her head sadly, saying:

9. HYENA:

"Oh, poor warthog!"

10. NARRATOR:

Then she turned her head away to hide her evil smile.

11. SFX: Laugh of the hyena

12. NARRATOR:

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This strange behaviour set the warthog thinking. He realised:

13. WARTHOG:

"Ah! The hyena had foreseen this situation from the beginning, and that's why she thought up the second clause of the deal!"

14. SFX: Echo HYENA

"He who does not succeed in finding enough meat for the three others, will be eaten by them."

15. NARRATOR:

In despair, the warthog ran around like mad in an effort to get enough food for the others.

16. SFX : Scurry and grunting warthog

17. NARRATOR:

But all the other animals were too quick for him and he failed to capture anything. The unfortunate unskilled hunter whimpered aloud:

18. WARTHOG:

"There is no hope for me! Oh! This time, there is no hope for me!"

19. NARRATOR:

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But then suddenly, in a clearing, he met an old man with a long white beard who was surprised by the desperate warthog:

20. WHITE-BEARDED OLD MAN:

"What is wrong, brother warthog, my long-maned friend? Why are you crying? Are you ill?"

21. NARRATOR:

And the warthog told him his whole sad story in a whimpering voice. The old man, who was a kind of magic man, decided to help him. He took a shiny triangular stone out of his pocket, and handed it to the warthog, saying:

22. WHITE-BEARDED OLD MAN:

"When you need to kill an animal, hold this stone up in front of it and say:

Magic stone, magic stone!

Turn this into game for me,

Magic stone.

The stone will obey you like a brother. You will hear a crash of thunder...

23. SFX: Thunderbolt

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24. OLD MAN:

... and your prey will fall to the ground, dead. But after it has obeyed you, your magic stone will need to be flattered. If you do not want it to turn against you, you will then have to say:

Magic stone, magic stone!

Your magic amazes me,

Magic stone."

25. NARRATOR:

The warthog gratefully thanked the old man and immediately tried out the magic of the shiny stone on his way home.

26. SFX: Thunderbolt

27. NARRATOR:

And in this way he managed to bring back enough game and dead birds for the others so his own life was not in danger. His friend the old man did not lie!

When they saw the huge pile of meat outside the warthog's door, the panther, the snake and especially the hyena were dumbfounded. The whole week each of the warthog's meals were as good as a feast worthy of a king.

28. SFX: Animals eating

29. NARRATOR:

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Once or twice the hyena slyly offered to accompany the warthog into the bush, but the warthog did not want the hyena to find out about the magic stone, and, at the end of the week, the hyena was furious at not having been able to find out the warthog's secret.

After another three weeks, it was the warthog's turn again. He went off into the bush this time without realizing that the hyena was following him secretly. She slithered soundlessly between the tall grass, and then saw how the warthog used the magic stone.

30. WARTHOG:

"Magic stone, magic stone!

Turn this into game for me,

Magic stone."

31. SFX: Thunderbolt

32. NARRATOR:

The hyena heard the secret words that made the lucky charm work.

And that was enough for her.

Wasting no time, she hurried back to the plantation and so, when the warthog proclaimed the second part of the magic formula to flatter the triangular stone, the hyena was already far away.

The next morning, as her friends set off to work on the plantation, the hyena rolled on the ground moaning and holding her middle. She said she had a terrible stomach ache and wanted to stay at home.

When the others left for the field she immediately went to the

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warthog's home. Once there she searched for the precious stone, quickly found it and stole it. Without losing a second she dashed off into the bush and only stopped when she saw a beautiful antelope grazing. She then held the magic stone out towards the animal and intoned the secret formula.

*"Magic stone, magic stone!
Turn this into game for me,
Magic stone."*

As soon as the last word was said, the antelope dropped to the ground, dead. The magic stone, having finished its work, waited for the hyena's words of gratitude.

It waited and waited but did not hear any words of flattery and it became angry and started to heat up the hyena's paws. Despite all her efforts to drop the stone it remained stuck to the hyena's paws making them hotter and hotter. In panic, the hyena began to run around in zigzags.

33. SFX: HYENA howling

34. HYENA:

"Let go of me, magic stone! Go away!"

35. NARRATOR:

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But the lucky charm would only respond to the secret words, the words told to the warthog by the old man. The poor hyena was terrified.

36. SFX: HYENA howling

37. NARRATOR:

Her cries scared off all the animals for miles around and she ended up running to the plantation where her three friends were still working. At first, they thought her cries were due to her stomach ache.

She howled even louder, and the warthog, noticing that her forelegs looked as if they were stuck together, quickly realized what had happened and smiled under his beard. Taking pity on her, and also on his own eardrums, which were bursting because of the cries of the screaming hyena, he murmured the magic formula quietly into his beard:

38. WARTHOG:

"Magic stone, magic stone!

Your magic amazes me,

Magic stone."

39. NARRATOR:

Immediately, the little magic weapon freed the hyena's paws and fell at the warthog's feet.

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40. SFX: Dull sound of a falling stone

41. NARRATOR:

He picked it up without any fear of being burned in front of the frightened snake, and the brave panther and the terrified hyena, who was exhausted and scared to death.

Since that day, all animals respect the warthog. Not only that, he has been promoted to the rank of the great wise animals and regularly gives out lots of good advice.

Thus our fable goes to sea, and he who will smell its perfume first, will go to heaven.

42. Music

OUTRO:

And what about you? Have you got something like a magic stone or lucky charm, secretly hidden beneath your mattress? Or maybe something you carry with you every day in your pocket?

Please let us know what you think and send us your comments at
lbe@dw-world.de.

Stay tuned and you will learn more next time by listening to our Learning by Ear series 'Shall I tell you something? African Fables for a culture of peace'.

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Until next time, take care!

END