



Fox, God and Vulture

Andrew Duop Pal
Vusumuzi Malindi

English



Long ago, Fox and God were friends. One day, they went to look for cows at a village far away from home. Fox said to his friend, "We should take water with us."

God said, "No, we will get water there."



On their way, Fox was thirsty. He said, "God, I want water. I am thirsty."

God replied, "Pull out those grasses next to the road, you will get water." Fox pulled out the grasses and water came from the ground. They drank.



They reached the village and went to the cattle camp. They took two cows, tied them with ropes, and quickly left.

But the cattle owners saw them and ran after them. Fox cried, "God, people are coming after us. They will catch us!"



As the people approached, Fox became more worried. "God! People are coming closer," cried Fox. "Don't worry," God responded.

When the cattle owners were very close, Fox cried out, "Help, God! They will catch us now!"



God said, "Hold my toe and the rope of your cow." Fox did so. God put his forehead on the ground, and the earth opened up. God dived into the ground with his cow, and Fox followed.

The earth closed behind them. They came up in their village.



The next day, Fox called his friend, Vulture. Fox said, "My friend! Let's go and look for cows."

Vulture agreed and said, "We should take water with us." Fox replied, "We will get water on the way."

They left home for the same cattle camp as the day before.



On their way, they both began to feel thirsty. They reached the same spot next to the grasses. "I am very thirsty," complained Vulture.

Fox said to Vulture. "Pull out those grasses, you will find water."



Vulture pulled out the grasses, but there was no water. Fox pulled out more grasses, but still there was no water.

So, they had to look for water in other places.



Fox and Vulture finally reached the cattle camp and took two cows. The cattle owners saw them and ran after them.

Vulture saw the people following them with sticks. He said "Fox! People are coming." "Don't be afraid," replied Fox.



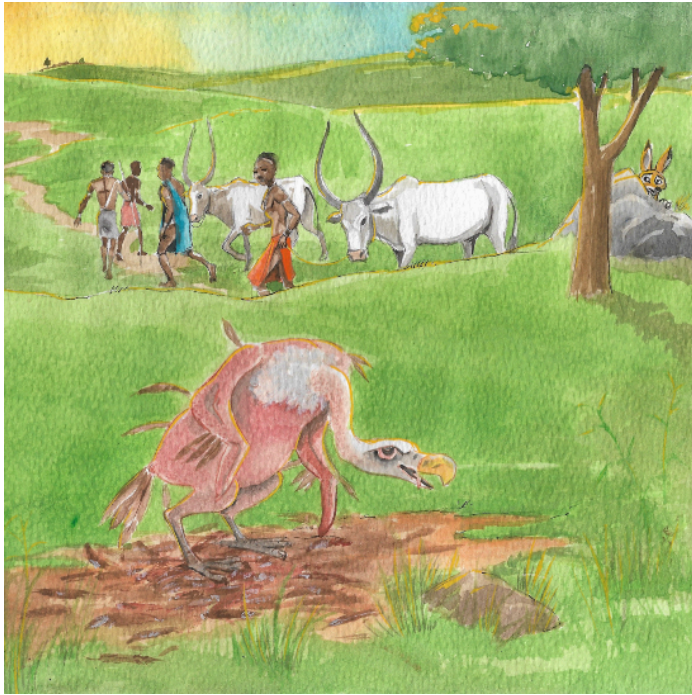
The cattle owners got closer. Vulture cried, "Fox! People will catch us now!"

Fox said, "Hold my toe and the rope of your cow." Vulture did so.



Fox placed his head on the ground to open it. But the ground didn't open up. Fox tried many times, but nothing happened.

"Let go of my toe!" Fox shouted at Vulture. Fox ran away, leaving Vulture with the two cows.



The cattle owners caught Vulture and beat him. Vulture was so frightened that all his feathers fell out. Eventually, most of the vulture's feathers grew back, but not all of them.

Until today, this is the reason that vultures are bald on their heads and necks.

Fox, God and Vulture

Author - Andrew Duop Pal

Translation - Andrew Duop Pal

Illustration - Vusumuzi Malindi

Language - English

Level - Longer paragraphs

© African Storybook Initiative 2022

Creative Commons: Attribution 4.0

Source www.africanstorybook.org