

A COLLECTION OF  
**STORIES**  
FROM  
**WEST AFRICA**

Compiled and Illustrated by  
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**TWO BOYS AND THEIR  
OWN TRUE FATHER**



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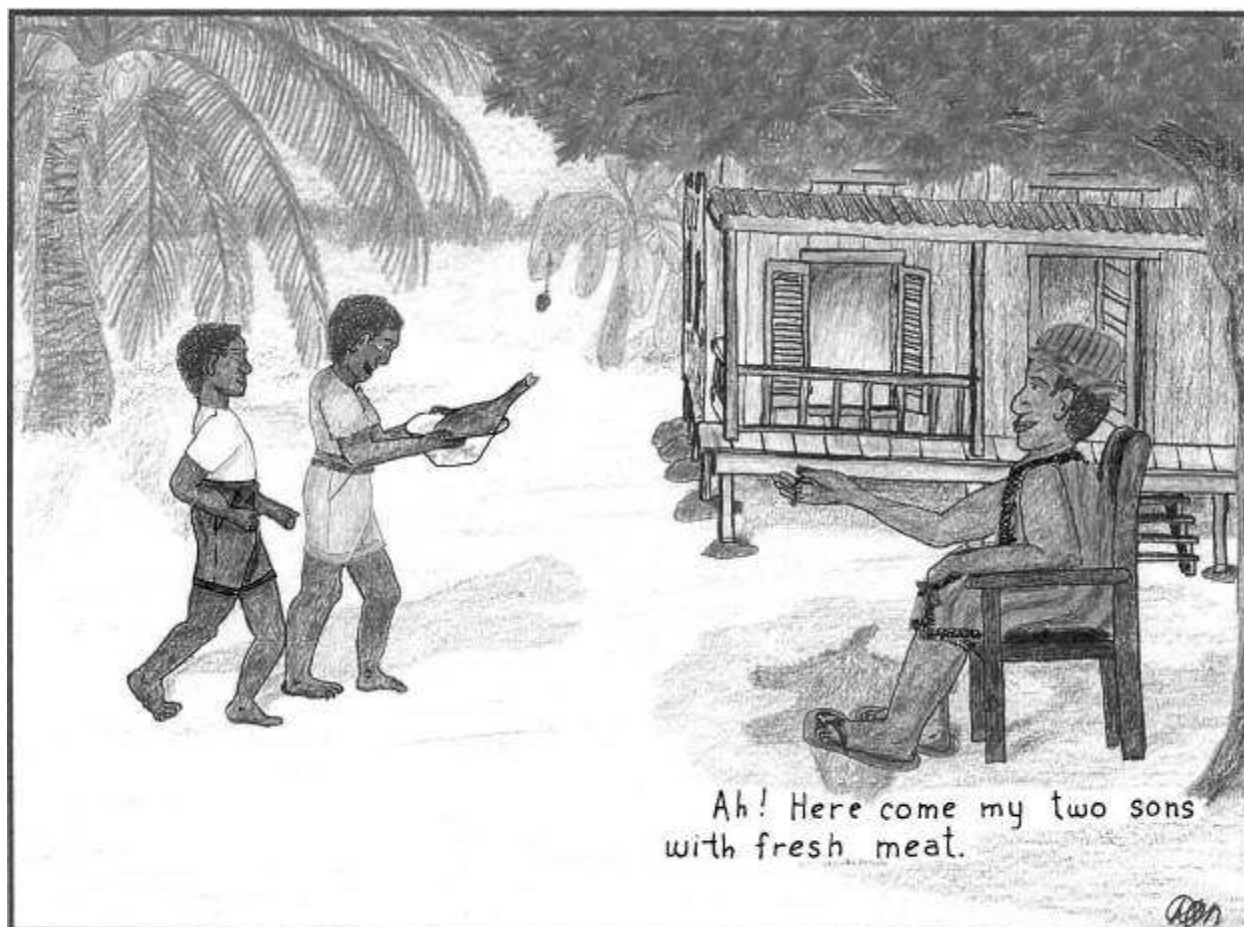
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**By Spark Team**



## TWO BOYS AND THEIR OWN TRUE FATHER

Note to the reader: words and phrases typical of West Africa are retained and indicated by italics.

Two boys went out from their own home and their own father to find their way in the world. They wanted to see what it was like in other places. They thought their father did not have *good ways*. They thought they could do better somewhere else, so turned away from their father's help. These two boys were very good hunters and seldom failed to bring back *a meat* when they went out hunting.

After looking about for some time they came to one fine town where a rich man gave them a place to sleep. He lived in a

big house made of sawed timber. When he saw what good hunters they were, he gave them a fine place in the town and told them they could marry his daughters. Every day they brought him fine meat from the bush. The rich man was very happy to have them there because he liked good meat. He treated them well and even called them, "my sons."

"You see how my sons can *be clever so*. Every day, every day they bring me *fine fine* meat. *I never see* hunter before who can *catch meat* every day." The *old man* (a term of respect) was always talking to strangers about these two boys, calling them, "my sons." The two boys thought that they were doing very well.

Then after a long time had passed, the two boys were talking.

"The *old pa* can treat us *fine too much*."

"But we bring him *plenty fine* meat."

"Yes, but I wonder if he likes us or the meat."

"*For true*. What will happen if we bring him no meat for two-three days?"

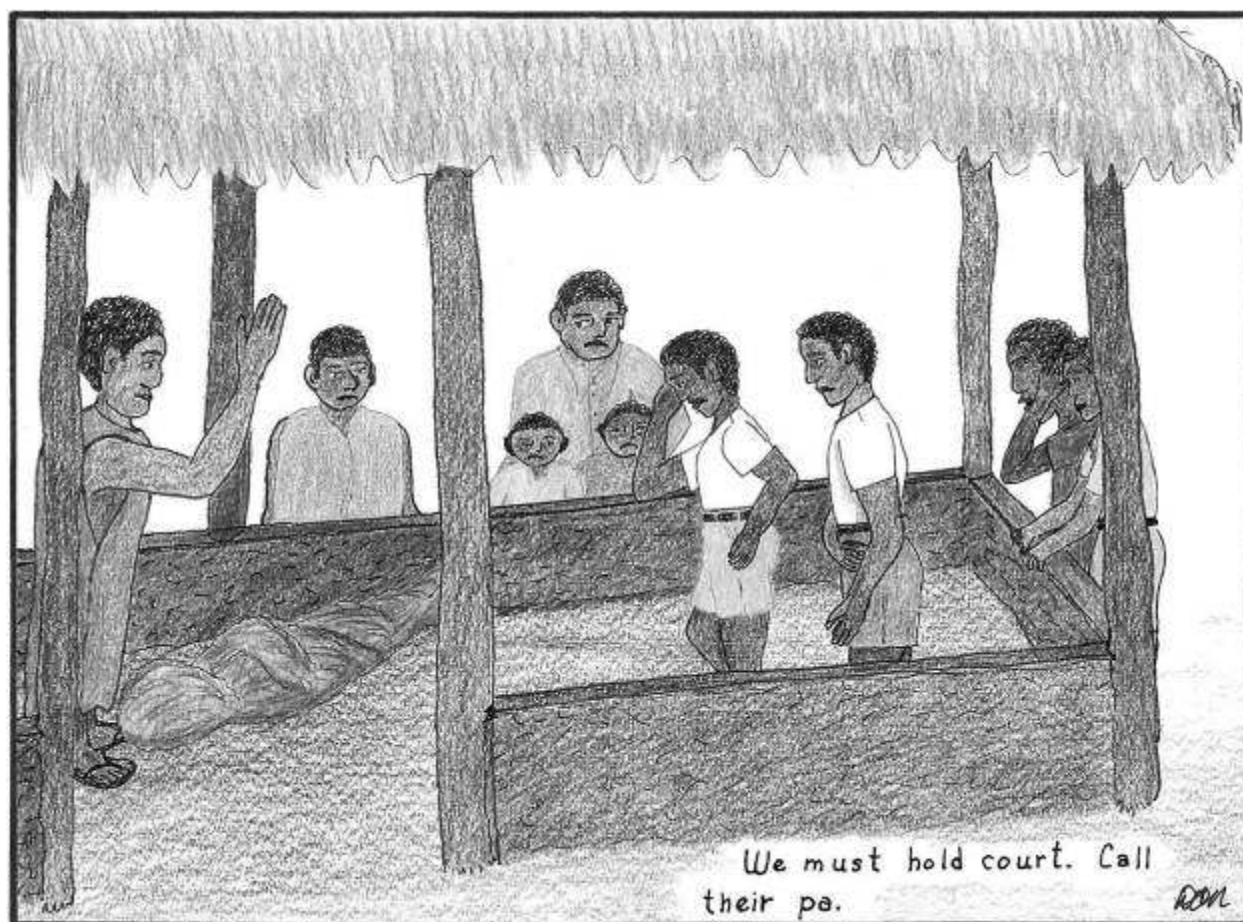
"But if we just do not hunt, he will think that we are trying to trick him."

"He might *vex* if he thought that we be *kroakagii* (tricky fellows) or *wear beds* (lazy). We must make careful plan." So they talked and made a careful plan.

The next day they went out to hunt and shot an ape. They wrapped him up in a cloth and carried him to the edge of town.

As they got near town they began to wail, "Oh! *my people*. Oh! *my people*!"

The people began to crowd around them.



"We catch plenty big trouble-o. Aye yah! Aye yah! By mistake we shot one man. Aye yah! Plenty heavy trouble-o. Aye yah! Don't tell our *old pa*. Aye yah!"

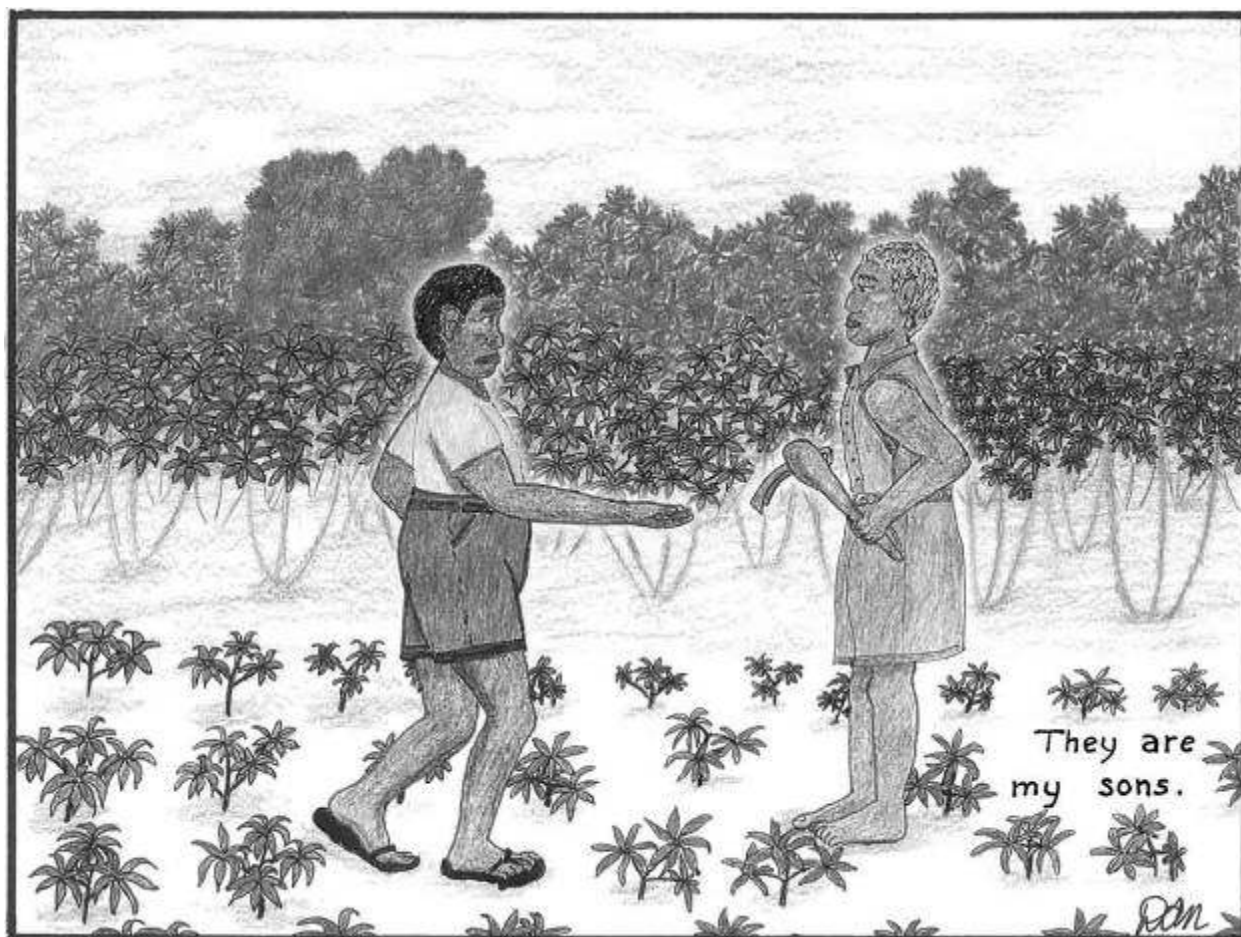
"But we must tell your pa."

"Aye yah, we be too scary (afraid) for that one."

So the people carried them to the court. The court called for their *old pa*, the rich man.

They sent a messenger to the *old pa*, the rich man saying, "*Old Pa*, come quick. Your two sons killed a man. We must hold court to try them."

But the rich man said, "Do not say they are my sons. I do not know these boys. They just came here one day. They are not for me."



Then the people said to the boys, "What must we do? Your *old pa can say* he does not know you. Who will *beg for you* in the court?"

The two boys said, "Call our *own pa what born us*. Maybe he will come to help us."

So the court sent a messenger to call the boys own true father from their own home town.

When he heard the news, without any hesitation he said, "Yes, they are my own sons. You can kill me, but they are my *own born* sons. Yes, I will come to the court to be with them."

When the boys heard this they decided to return to their own true father's town. He would be true to them even when

they were in trouble. Even though he was not rich, he would not forsake them.

The boys said, "Yes, it is good that we live close by our own true father. He has true love for us. Now we know who will be true to us."

Of course, when they uncovered the body and saw that it was only an ape, the case was closed. Some people were angry saying, "Why do these strangers play some kind of trick on us? Who do they think they are?" Others just laughed and said, "That was a good joke. They found their true father."

Besides our own father who *born* us, we have one of two other fathers. In John 8:44 Jesus said, "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. ... there is no truth in him...."

But if we put our trust in Jesus, we have another Father. He is in heaven. He is our true Father. We can talk to Him.

When Adam and Eve sinned they realized they were naked. All they could do was sew fig leaves together for clothing and hide from God. But God did not turn away from them. He called them back to Him, and made them clothes of skin. He will NEVER turn away from those who return to Him. John 6:37 says, "...whoever comes to Me I will never drive away."

Our great Father God in heaven is all powerful and he loves us. Let us choose to let Him be our true Father.

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