



A COLLECTION OF
STORIES
FROM
WEST AFRICA

Compiled and Illustrated by
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**WHY ELEPHANT IS
AFRAID OF GOAT**



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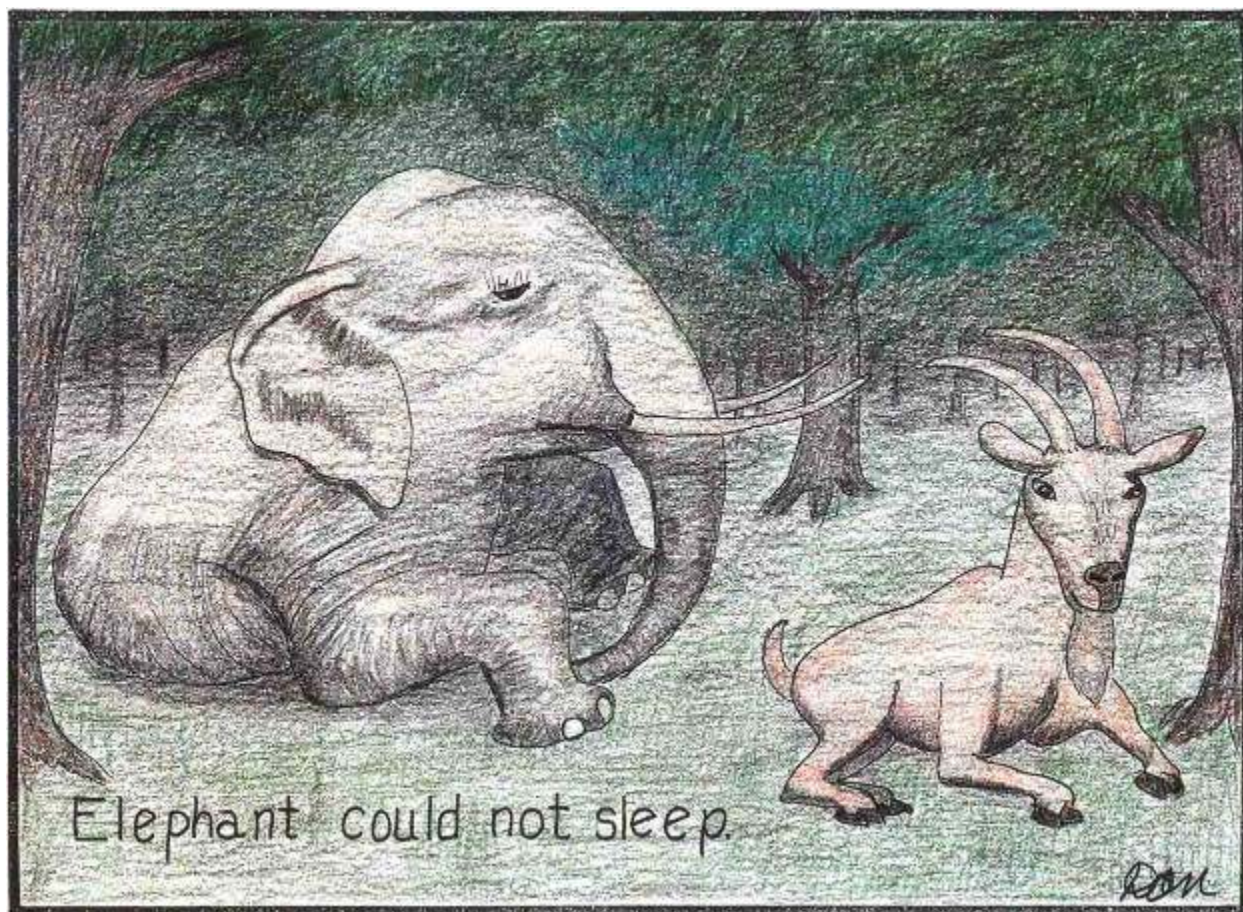
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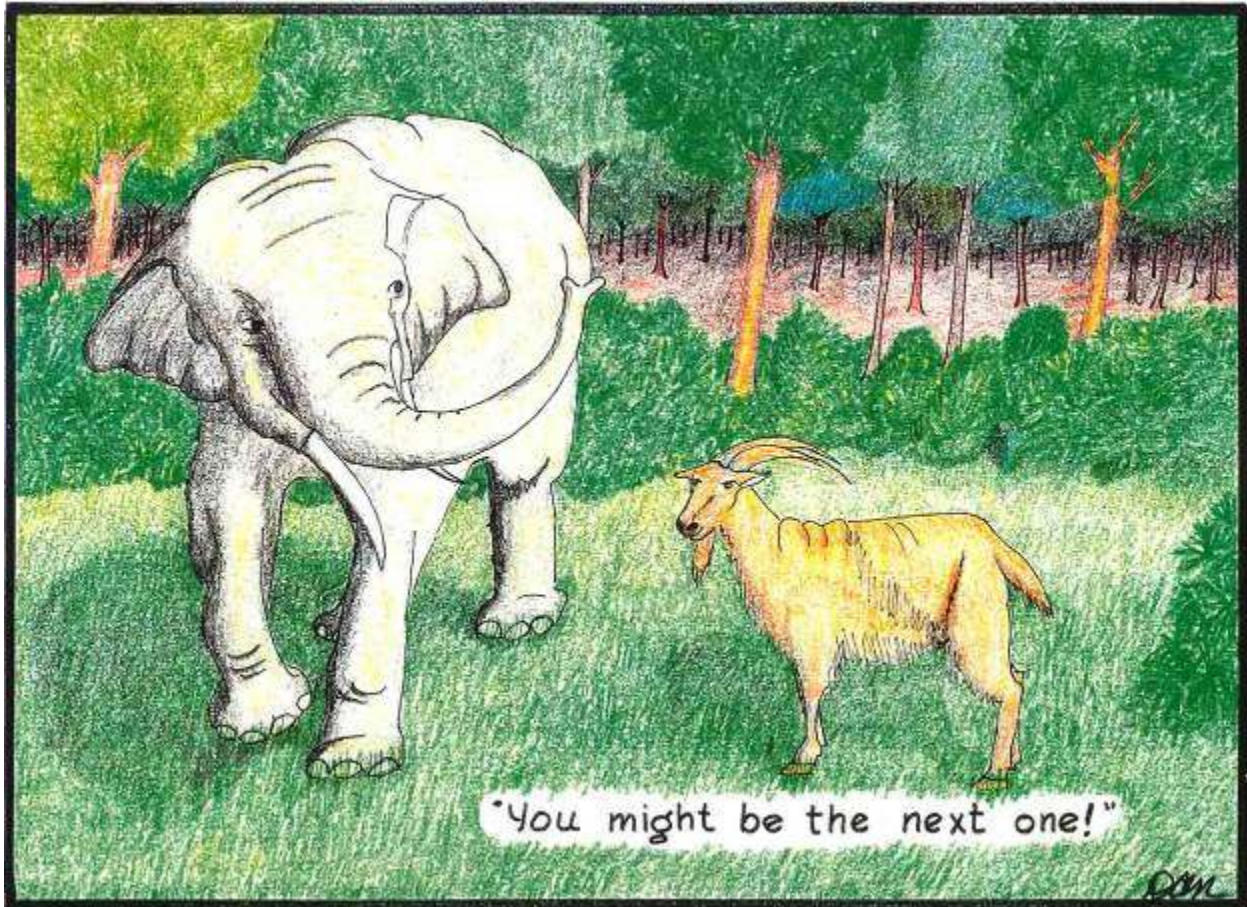


WHY ELEPHANT IS AFRAID OF GOAT

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

When the people in Belle County (Liberia) meet elephants they make a sound like Bush Goat and the elephants run away. Why do the elephants run? They run because Elephant is afraid of Bush Goat. This is how the people explain Elephant's fear of Bush Goat.

Elephant and Bush Goat often met out in a field where they were both eating green things; grass and taller weeds, leaves from the bushes, trees, etc. Elephant and Bush Goat became friends as they ate together. Elephant even allowed Bush Goat to eat some of the leaves off the branches he pulled down. Bush Goat really enjoyed those leaves.



One evening when it began to get dark Elephant said, “Bush Goat, why not spend the night with me. I have a nice place and you will be safe with me.”

“Thank you friend Elephant. I will be happy to spend the night with you,” said Bush Goat.

So Bush Goat went with Elephant to spend the night. Bush Goat found it a very comfortable place. There was lots of nice soft grass there to lie on. He settled down contentedly and spent most of the night chewing his cud. Elephant noticed that Bush Goat spent the night eating. In fact, Elephant could not sleep very well for the noise Bush Goat made chewing. Chewing, chewing, always chewing! Almost all night long just chewing.

In the morning Elephant asked Bush Goat, “Friend Bush Goat, I noticed that you have been chewing throughout the whole night. Could you tell me what you were eating?”

Bush Goat answered, “Do you really want to know what I am eating?”

“Yes,” said Elephant.

“I always eat whatever I find, so don’t worry,” explained Bush Goat. “As soon as I finish what I am eating, you will be the next thing for me to eat!”

Well, when he heard this, Elephant flapped his big ears in fright and ran away from Bush Goat. He ran far into the bush. They were never seen together again. And do you know? From that day Elephant has been afraid of Bush Goat. Elephant always runs away whenever he hears a sound like Bush Goat.

So the Belle people make a goat sound to scare away elephants. But we know a name so powerful that the devil will tremble and flee from the sound of that name. That name is Jesus Christ. You can read about it in Philippians 2:9-10 where it says, “So when the name of Jesus is spoken, everyone in heaven and in earth and under the earth will bow down before Him.”

(I got this story from John S. B. Deguah’s prayer letter of August 99. It was told to John by Old Man Fonkpah, a Belle elder.)

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