



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

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# HOW MONKEY AND DOG BECAME ENEMIES



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## HOW MONKEY AND DOG BECAME ENEMIES

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

Monkey and Dog used to be very close friends, but now they are enemies. This is how it came to be.

Monkey decided to have a feast for all the wild animals. He invited Dog, his *good friend*, to be his special guest. Now Dog is not a wild animal. He is a town animal, or even a house animal.

"Who is coming to your feast?" asked Dog.

"Oh everyone - Elephant, Crocodile, Leopard, Bush Cow, Hippo, just everyone."

"But I am a town animal and those bush animals cannot be friendly to me," answered Dog.

"Oh, it will be all right for I have a big surprise for you. You are to be my *special special* guest."

"*Heyah*. I like that one *too much*, but those bush animals may eat me."

"No! No! I will dress you up in this lion's skin and they will not eat you. They will think you are lion and they will give you great respect."

"Well, maybe. .... All right, I'll come."

So Monkey pulled the lion skin over and around Dog. He tied it very well. Dog, that is -er- Lion, was happy *too much* with this arrangement. But now it was late and they had to run to get to the feast .

When they arrived Monkey put Dog, dressed like Lion, in the middle of the circle of all the animals. He was in the place of honor. Dog -er- Lion, looked around. All the animals were looking at him with great respect. Dog -er- Lion, was very happy. He was also very hot for they had run all the way to the feast. Dog -er- Lion, opened his mouth. His long tongue hung down and he panted, "huh huh huh."

All around him the animals looked at Dog -er- Lion.

"I never saw Lion hang out such a long tongue," said Elephant.

"I never saw Lion breath so, 'Huh Huh Huh,'" said Crocodile.

Clever Rabbit added, "I do not believe that animal is really Lion."

So he picked up a stick and went close to Dog -er- Lion. When Dog -er- Lion turned his head a little, Clever Rabbit hit him with the stick across his nose.

"Woff," said Dog -er- Lion.

"Oh!" the animals said. "I never heard Lion *talk so*."

Clever Rabbit hit Dog -er- Lion on the nose again.

"Woff woff."

"You are not Lion."

"You only have on Lion's skin."

"You are Dog."

"Pull off the skin."

"Beat him."

"Kill him."

"Run Dog, Run," yelled Monkey. Dog ran away as fast as he could go.

"After him. Catch him."

"Chase him."

"Beat him."

All the bush animals ran after Dog trying to catch him and beat him. Dog had to run as he had never run before in his life, for he was running to save his life.

Dog has never forgiven Monkey for almost spoiling his life. "I *lack small* to die that day. I must *get my own*," (I must revenge myself), Dog says.

Monkey and Dog tried to deceive all the other animals, and for a little while the deception worked. But their deception was found out. Remember that you cannot deceive God. We read in Numbers 32:23 "...you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure that your sin will be found out."

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