



A COLLECTION OF
STORIES
FROM
WEST AFRICA

Compiled and Illustrated by
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SPIDER AND FOX
HUNT TOGETHER



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By Spark Team



SPIDER AND FOX HUNT TOGETHER

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

Spider and Fox were both good hunters. But both were also very tricky and selfish fellows. Acting this way can easily get us into trouble.

One day Spider went to Fox. "Good morning Fox. How are you today?"

"I am well, Spider. How are you?"

"I am well, Fox. How has the hunting been lately?"

"Not too good the last few weeks, Spider. I think the animals are catching on to some of my tricks that I use to catch them. How has your hunting been?"

"I have not killed much meat recently," Spider admitted. "Also, most of the farmers have moved their rice from the farm kitchens into town. So I am getting very *dry* (thin). But, Fox, if you and I hunted together we might help each other find more food."

It sounds to me like Spider and Fox were doing what the Bible says. "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

"Well now, that might be a good idea. Why not try it," agreed Fox.

He was thinking, however, "I will have to be very careful with this tricky Spider."

"Okay, we agree," answered Spider, but he was also thinking, "This Fox is tricky and clever. I will need to be very careful with him."

The very next day, Spider and Fox went hunting together. They found and killed a lot of meat. Fox knew of a farm kitchen that still had a lot of rice in it. They took some rice from it and then cooked plenty of food; a real feast.



Fox was all ready to eat plenty of food, but Spider said, "First we must go to the water side and *take bath* so we will feel good and fresh to enjoy this good food."

Fox was not happy to do that, but decided to go along with Spider and *take bath*. After all they were hot and tired from the long walk in the bush while hunting and cooking all that food.

At the waterside, Spider said, "You go first, Fox, and I will stand guard here." So Fox went into the water and had a nice cooling bath.

Then Fox stood guard while Spider went into the water to take bath. That gave Fox time to dry his fur.

Spider skimmed along on the water for awhile and then he went under the water. Spider stayed under the water for a long, long time.

Actually Spider made a path under the water through the plants that grew there to a place where Fox could not see him. Then he came out of the water, went to where the food was and ate all of it!!

Then Spider went back to the water. He went under the water to where Fox waited and then came out saying, "Oh, how refreshing it is to have a nice cool bath after a long hunt. Now the food will taste so much better."

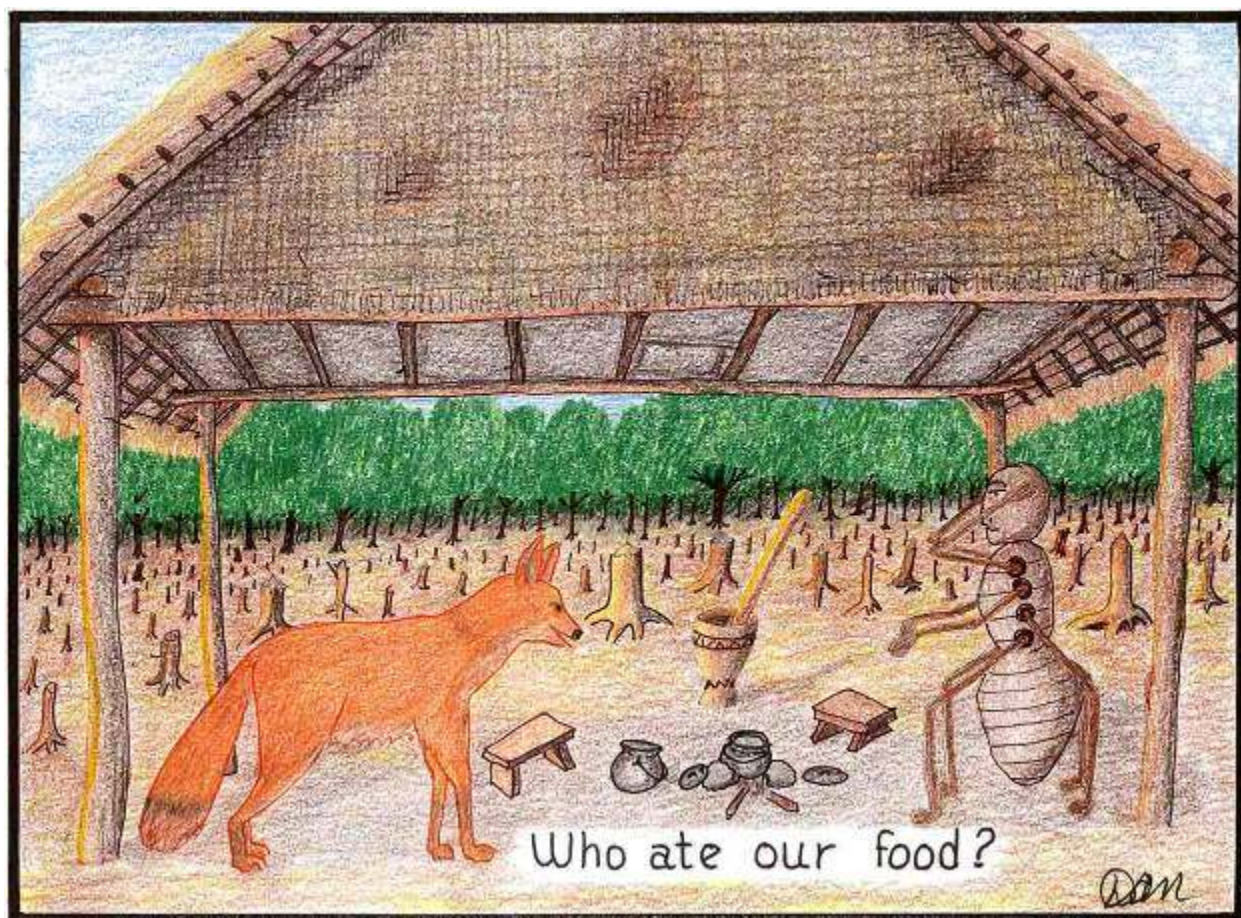
They went back to where they had cooked the food. The food was all gone. Only dirty pots remained.

Spider exclaimed, "Some rascal has come and stolen all our food! What shall we do?"

Fox was suspicious of Spider, but said nothing.

The next day again they had good success hunting. And again they prepared a big feast. Then, as before, they went to the water side to bathe. Fox went first to *take bath*. He went down deep into the water. He saw the path where Spider had gone and gotten out of the water. Fox fixed a trap in the path and then went back to Spider.

"Ah yes, it feels good to have a cool bath when one is hot from hunting. Go on in, Spider, and have a good bath. I'll just sit here and dry my fur in the sun."



Spider went in but soon dove deep into the water. Spider found his path and started down it, but got caught in Fox's trap. Spider struggled and struggled but could not get loose.

Meanwhile, Fox went back and ate all of the food. Then Fox went back to the waterside. He dove into the water and soon found Spider fighting to get loose from the trap.

"E-heh, good friend," said Fox. "I see my trap has caught you."

Fox gently freed Spider, then took him back to where they had cooked the food. Of course all the food was gone.

"Spider," Fox said, "We have both played trick on each other. You came out of the water where I could not see you and ate all the food yesterday. Today, I made a trap and caught you so I could go back and eat all of the food. If we are going to hunt together, we must stop using our cleverness to trick each other and rather use our cleverness to help each other to get good meat while we hunt."

It sounds like Fox and Spider are learning to do what the Bible says. They are starting to use their cleverness to help each other and to show love to one another. That's what God wants us to do. Jesus says in John 13:34, "A new command I give you. Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

God also wants us to help each other. Hebrews 10:24 says, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" And Galatians 6:2a says, "Carry each other's burdens..."

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