



A COLLECTION OF
STORIES
FROM
WEST AFRICA

Compiled and Illustrated by
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**HOW DOG CAME TO
LIVE WITH MAN**



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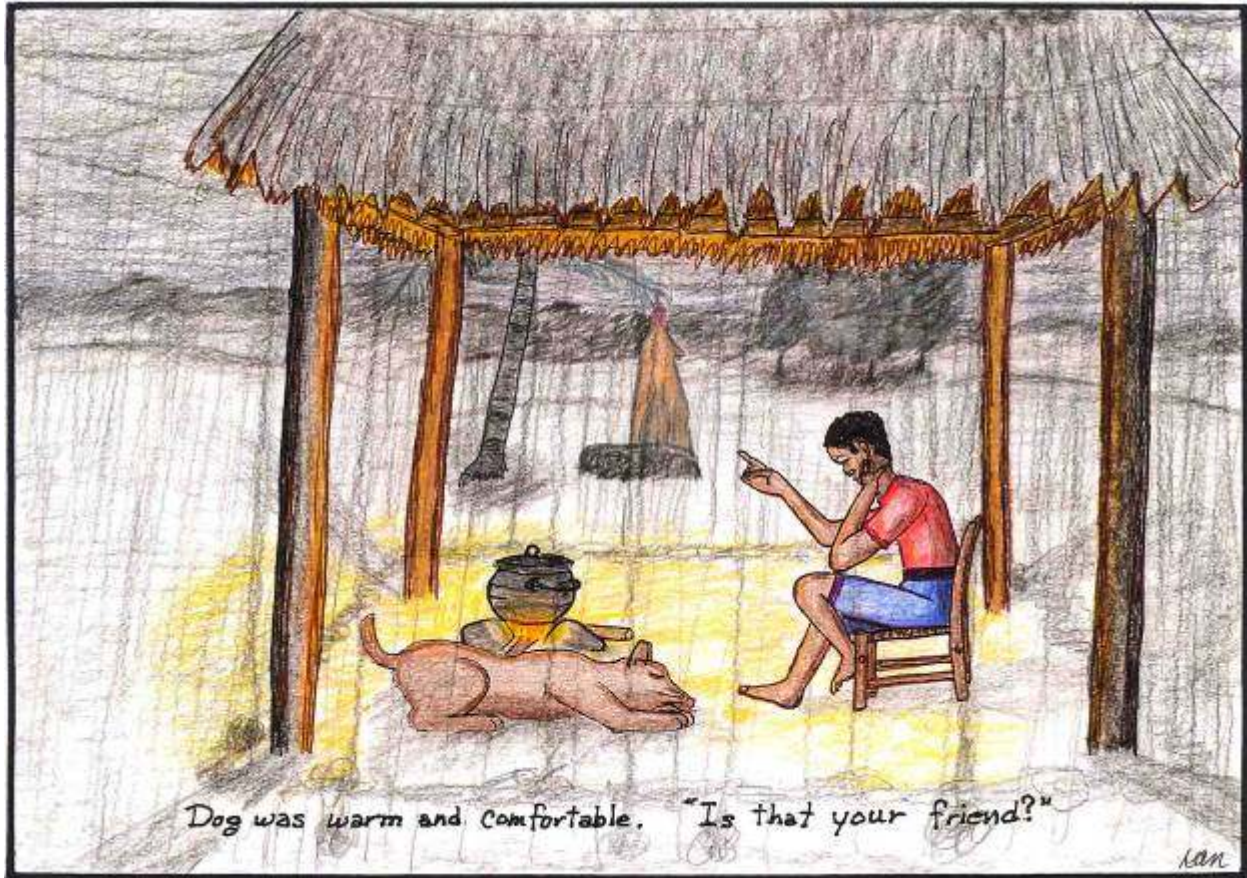
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By Spark Team



HOW DOG CAME TO LIVE WITH MAN

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

If you are going to live in Bat Town, you need to learn to hang like bat.

Dog and *Wolf were cold and hungry out in the bush. They were often wet with the rain and dew. They both hunted but at times found nothing to eat. Often they were very hungry. When the rains were heavy they were very cold.

They could see Man's fire which they knew was warm. They knew that Man hunted with a gun. He often had meat to eat. Often they could smell the meat cooking.

One night as the warm smell of the fire and the delicious smell of cooking meat came to their noses, it was more than they could stand. They had caught nothing that day. It was raining so their coats were wet. The cold rain kept trickling down over their skins.

As they sat on their haunches, shivering and miserable, Dog decided to try his luck and see if he could sit by the fire.

“Maybe Man will let me sit by the fire and get warm” said Dog. “I see some bones near him. He might even let me have some of the meat or bones. If he does, I can bring some to you, Wolf.”

After thinking a bit Wolf said, “OK, it seems like a good idea, but please don’t forget about me out here in the cold.”

“Oh, I won’t,” replied Dog. “How could I *do so* to my *good friend*. If I stay too long, call (howl) and I will know I should come back.”

So Dog started in toward the fire. Man looked at him but said nothing so Dog crouched down and crawled a bit closer.

Finally Man spoke. "Hello Dog," he said.

"Hello, Man, I am cold and very wet," said Dog.

"Come. Sit close to the fire, but do not burn your hair. Your hair should soon dry and the fire will warm you."

So Dog lay close to the fire and his body got nice and warm as his coat slowly dried.

After a while, Dog said, "I am also very hungry."

"Here are some bones you can chew on," man said as he tossed some bones to Dog.

Dog began to chew and crunch on the bones. He crawled a bit closer to the fire where it was nice and warm and his hair soon was nice and dry. He had never been so comfortable.

"Dog, I can give you bones almost every day if you will help me hunt and protect my house from *rogues* (thieves). You can even stay in my house if you will keep it clean."

"That is good," said Dog as he lay close beside the fire.

Presently Wolf began to howl and howl. He was hungry and cold and very wet. He could smell the cooking meat and see the warm fire, but he was afraid to go in.

As he howled, Dog could hear him say, “Dog, don’t forget me. Please bring me *some of the good*. Dog, I am cold. Dog, may I come in?”

"Is that your friend," asked the man. “He seems to be calling you.”

It was warm and comfortable by the fire and there were no more bones. It was still raining hard and Dog did not want to get wet again.

Also, Dog hoped that soon Man would give him some of the meat he was cooking, so he said. "No, I do not know him, but he always calls like that."

So to this day Dog sleeps by the fire, eats bones, helps the man to hunt and protects his house. Meanwhile Wolf keeps calling to Dog, but Dog never answers.

How about us? Have we come to trust in God Who has forgiven our sins, Who loves us, Who helps us and gives us many things? Then, do we treat our friends like dog is treating Wolf? Do we get so comfortable we never tell our friends about Jesus?

Can our friends trust us? Do we try to help our friends? Or do we forget them when things go well?

*Wolf is probably the Golden Jackal which ranges from the West Coast of Africa all the way to Burma.

To stay with Man, Dog had to learn many new things:

1. He could not get too close to the fire. He would burn his hair.
2. Dog must learn how to help Man hunt.
3. Dog must learn to protect the house from rogues (thieves).
4. Dog must learn to keep the house clean if he wants to stay inside.
5. Some dogs must learn to guard or guide other animals - goats, sheep, cows
6. Man would let Dog have the bones, and occasionally a little meat. Dog liked that.

Dog was learning to do some things he had never done before.
What are some of the new things you might have to learn?

1. How to live with and love other missionary kids.
2. How to share things (toys, food, space ...) with others.
3. How to do your school lessons in a different place.
4. How to eat and enjoy foods new to you.
5. How to live with and love people of other countries.
6. How to live without running water or electricity.
We may have to run and get water.
7. How to keep healthy where there may be much dirt and disease.
8. How to share Jesus with friends.
9. How to speak a different language
10. How to help your parents in their work.
11. Things that are new and different are not necessarily bad.

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