

# West African Folktales

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William Russell Bascom Kwaku A. Adoboli Abubakar Yusuf Ibrahim Kwame A. Insaidoo J.K.  
Jackson Vincent Mũli wa Kĩtukũ Thomas G. Schaefer, Ph.D. Carter Godwin Woodson Nelson  
Mandela Aliéh Kimbeng Dianne Stewart

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the deep forest and broad savannah the campsites kraals and villages from this immense area south of  
the sahara desert the distinguished american folklorist roger d abrahams has selected ninety five tales  
that suggest both the diversity and the interconnectedness of the people who live there the storytellers  
weave imaginative myths of creation and tales of epic deeds chilling ghost stories and ribald tales of  
mischief and magic in the animal and human realms abrahams renders these stories in a narrative

voice that reverberates with the rhythms of tribal song and dance and the emotional language of universal concerns with black and white drawings throughout part of the pantheon fairy tale and folklore library

mandela the nobel laureate for peace has selected 32 african stories for this extraordinary new book an anthology that presents africa s oldest folk tales to the children of the world full color

favorite african folktales is a landmark work that gathers many of africa s most cherished folktales stories from an oral heritage that predates ovid and aesop in one extraordinary volume nelson mandela has selected these thirty two tales many of them translated from their original tongues with the specific hope that africa s oldest stories as well as a few new ones will be perpetuated by future generations and appreciated by children and adults throughout the world book jacket

the latest work from harold scheub one of the world s leading scholars of african folktales is the broadest collection yet assembled with tales from the entire continent of africa north to south it brings together mythic fantastic and coming of age tales some transcribed more than a hundred years ago others dating to modern day africa scheub includes the work of storytellers from major african language groups as well as many storytellers whose work is not often heard outside of africa this anthology offers a classroom ready collection that should appeal to any scholar of african literature and culture realizing that these tales are part of a dying art scheub writes for the inner ear in everyone bringing an oral tradition to life in written form

these 123 tales reflect the rich oral tradition of west african folklore playful and sly they teem with talking animals and shape shifting tricksters with pacts and promises made and broken and with impossible deeds done through chicanery and magic these tales deal with themes common throughout west africa and the world indeed american readers will recognize such characters as brer rabbit and the tar baby which had their roots in the folklore of this region because there is no overlay of western values however some of the morals may surprise the unsuspecting reader murder and polygamy cannibalism and cunning witchcraft and revenge spin matter of factly throughout the stories

collection of west african folktales drawn from prose narratives proverbs riddles and songs

this children s storybook contains five african folktales the first story explains how the tortoise got its

rough shell the animals had a summit with the supreme being eke in the sky greed and lack of altruism cost the tortoise dearly as he crash landed onto the roof of his hut from the sky his broken shells were mended by snail but the result was a tortoise with rough shells altruism and concern for others are the morals of this story the second story which extols the pride of motherhood is on the farmer who buried his mother alive donealot the successful farmer had no choice other than to bury his persistently sick mother in the evil forest at night with the help of his friend conscience the spirits of the evil forest brought his mother back home to a remorseful son with a sobering message you can never do enough for your mother encounters of the lion and the tortoise is the third story in two separate incidents tortoise outwits lion the animals that were on their way to work for lion never got there instead tortoise intercepted and entertained them all day with his melodious music wiseone the youngest son of tortoise survived a murder attempt by lion agunta lion s son was killed instead wiseone returns home to a heroic welcome with a reminder to all of us that wits usually prevail over raw strength and that slow and steady wins the race the story of the two mischievous brothers describes how two brothers kofi and uka conspired to swindle people on market days uka would transform himself into a bull and his brother kofi took him to the market unsuspecting buyers would exchange the bull for other animals uka the bull escaped from the buyer and transformed himself back into a human only to be resold to someone else the two brothers ran out of luck when nkume the buyer with magical powers beat them to their game the moral of the story is that it does not pay to be a cheat the fifth story vengeance of the god of justice amadioha explains the ordeal chuk went through at the hands of his wicked stepmother dab this heir to the throne of the ancient city of kaa survived numerous physical and emotional abuses from dab he was buried alive for a crime he never committed only the timely intervention of the god of justice amadioha brought him back from the grave the moral of the story is that we should be careful not to maltreat the less privileged in our society because the natural law of justice is sure to catch up with us if we treat others unfairly

full of life wisdom and humor these tales range from the earthy comedy of tricksters to accounts of how the world was created and got to be the way it is to moral fables that tell of encounters between masters and slaves they include stories set down in nineteenth century travelers reports and plantation journals tales gathered by collectors such as joel chandler harris and zora neale hurston and narratives tape recorded by roger abrahams himself during extensive expeditions throughout the american south and the caribbean with black and white illustrations throughout part of the pantheon fairy tale and

folklore library

these essays devoted to traditional narratives found in africa and in the new world represent the last major research project of william bascom 1912 1981 eminent authority on african art and folklore his intention was to demonstrate the african roots of african american folktales

african folk tales by kwaku a adoboli the author picked up his love of folk tales from his father and his uncle okuma totokpuiti gamega in the evening the kids and some adults sat in a circle around the storytellers listening to the tales the audience was alive and active interjecting short songs remarks and dances as the tales progressed folk tales are for entertainment that is why the songs and dances come in the tellers themselves may sing and dance the children are allowed to tell their tales folk tales also teach lessons in obedience loyalty forgiveness justice and more folk tales encompass oral literature adages grammar and dos and don ts of the language the tales are meant to teach the young people the customs and norms of their society they are different from oral history oral histories are more involved and cover the behaviors and experiences of the people the author s father told these tales with animation joy and happiness in three languages igo ewe and twi the tales are universal and can be told in any language interpret and propound wisdoms to children and adults in any society the western world is aware of the famous african drums rhythms and songs now the author brings you the unique folk tales they are not poems to repeat word by word they are not told the same way twice the readers can embellish and adjust them to given situations use them in entertainment or in expounding moral lessons folk tales are for action and are full of active verbs all the american based tales were originated by the author

african folktales for the young at heart hausa tales of wit wisdom and wonder is a captivating collection of traditional stories from the hausa speaking regions of northern nigeria these tales passed down through generations of oral storytelling are imbued with moral lessons humor and wisdom capturing the essence of african cultural heritage written in english by abubakar yusuf ibrahim and richly illustrated these stories reveal the enchanting world of hausa folklore where animals speak cunning tricksters outwit their foes and valuable life lessons are shared ideal for both young readers and adults this book of african folktales is a must have for anyone interested in world literature folklore or african culture

this book challenges us to take a cursory glance at our contemporary world where modern mans scientific and technological ingenuity has led him to soar thorough the galaxy and made the heavens part of his domain and contrast that with his level of morality today open any newspaper or listen to the radio and television news and you cant help but lament on the appalling moral depravity and obscene behavior of our contemporary man with this intractable moral depravity on the ascendancy the author nostalgically reminiscences the upright morality of yesteryears and admonishes us to heed platos philosophical advice now since men are by nature acquisitive jealous combative and erotic how shall we persuade them to behave themselves by the policemen's omnipresent club now ak 47 it is a brutal method costly and irritating there is a better way and this is by lending to the moral requirements of the community throughout this book the author emphasizes the significance of proper moral education in shaping the character of children youngsters and even adults and reminds us morals are the rules by which society exhorts its members and associations to behavior consistent with its order security and growth will ariel durant the author noted that in traditional african societies the wise elders like the ancient greek philosophers strongly emphasized the teachability of moral values and deliberately inculcated them into their youngsters the stories in this book are folktales filled with moral lessons that have been handed down from many generations to the present in many african countries from ghana nigeria cameroons liberia the gambia kenya ethiopia tanzania to zimbabwe the traditional african elders successfully utilized these folktales to socialize their youngsters to the moral requirements of their society to insure stability harmonious relations order security and growth

from the rift valley come stories of gods tricksters cattle and ogres from the many peoples of east africa traditional stories bring a deeper understanding of the movement of peoples across east africa common roots and differences between ancient peoples create a lively portrait with their fragile powerful gods the modern nations of kenya tanzania uganda rwanda and more inherit the folk and mythic tales of the rift valley region here you ll find stories of ogres and tricksters riddles and poems figures such as the first man gikuyu and woman mumbi and great heroes of history such as liongo this new collection is created for the modern reader flame tree 451 from myth to mystery the supernatural to horror fantasy and science fiction flame tree 451 offers a healthy diet of werewolves and mechanical men blood lusty vampires dastardly villains mad scientists secret worlds lost civilizations and escapist fantasies discover a storehouse of tales gathered specifically for the reader

of the fantastic

a bilingual collection of 18 folktales or short fables in english and kikamba from the kamba community in kenya

central africa is at the core of the african continent the nations that comprise this region are inhabited by hundreds of different ethnic or tribal groups while there are many differences among these groups of people there are also many similarities oral tradition has played a very strong role in the passing on of the stories of these people which we refer to as folktales these stories told to children and shared in villages and homes reveal a great deal about the thought and the culture of the people of this region in many ways they show the way people think and the values they possess the stories in this children s book come from the people of the central african republic the democratic republic of the congo and the republic of the congo variations of these stories are found throughout central africa where they are recounted in hundreds of other native languages

compiled by the father of black history these fables unfold amid a magical realm of tricksters and fairies recounted in simple language they will enchant readers and listeners of all ages over 60 illustrations

a cause for celebration and a landmark work that gathers in one volume many of africa s most cherished folktales in these beloved stories we meet a kenyan lion named simba a snake with seven heads and tricksters from zulu folklore we hear the voices of the scheming hyena and we learn from a khoi fable how animals acquired their tails and horns creation myths tell us how the land its animals and its people all came into existence under a punishing sun or against the backdrop of a spectacularly beautiful mountain landscape whether warning children about the dangers of disobedience or demonstrating that the underdog can and often does win these stories through their depiction of wise animals as well as evil monsters are universal in their portrayal of humanity beasts and the mystical translated from their original languages karanga nguni xhosa and many others these folktales are a testament to the craft of storytelling and the power of myth

oral history is a key part of west african oral tradition used to pass down values and traditions from one generation to the next folktales are part of african oral history and are usually filled with wisdom which convey a moral or teach a lesson as a child alieh s father usually told them stories storytelling

was a part of their family and these stories had been passed down from one generation to the next some of these stories were used by alieh s father to teach her and her siblings a lesson as alieh grew older she realized that she could not remember most of these stories and this oral tradition was being lost so she decided to capture them this book is a collection of stories that have been passed down from one generation to the next but have never been written down or visually represented the name tales from my childhood represents stories from everyone s childhood regardless of their age through this book alieh hopes to bring back storytelling to families

folktales are timeless and although they are a product of a particular culture they have universal relevance because they give insight into the human condition in folktales from africa award winning south african author dianne stewart has retold stories from the length and breadth of the african continent beautifully illustrated by marjorie van heerden this collection of twenty stories is certain to entertain and delight the reader as well as give insight into the countries from which the tales have been sourced

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