





Kaldi and the Dancing Goats

Svay Leemeng



The Asia Foundation



A long time ago, a young goat herder named Kaldi lived with his family in Ethiopia.



Every morning, Kaldi and his friends would take their goats up the mountain to find food. Kaldi, his friends, and the goats were always exhausted from the trip by the time they returned home in the evening.



One day, Kaldi and his friends took their goats to find grass on a mountain on the other side of the village. On the way, they stopped to talk with a monk. The monk was happy for the visit, as he had started to get sleepy during his prayers.



Soon, Kaldi and his friends realized that their goats had wandered off. They searched and searched, but the goats were nowhere to be found.



Suddenly, Kaldi heard strange sounds coming from behind a bush. When he walked around the bush, Kaldi saw a very odd sight. The goats were dancing and running around with incredible energy! Kaldi was relieved to have found the goats. But he

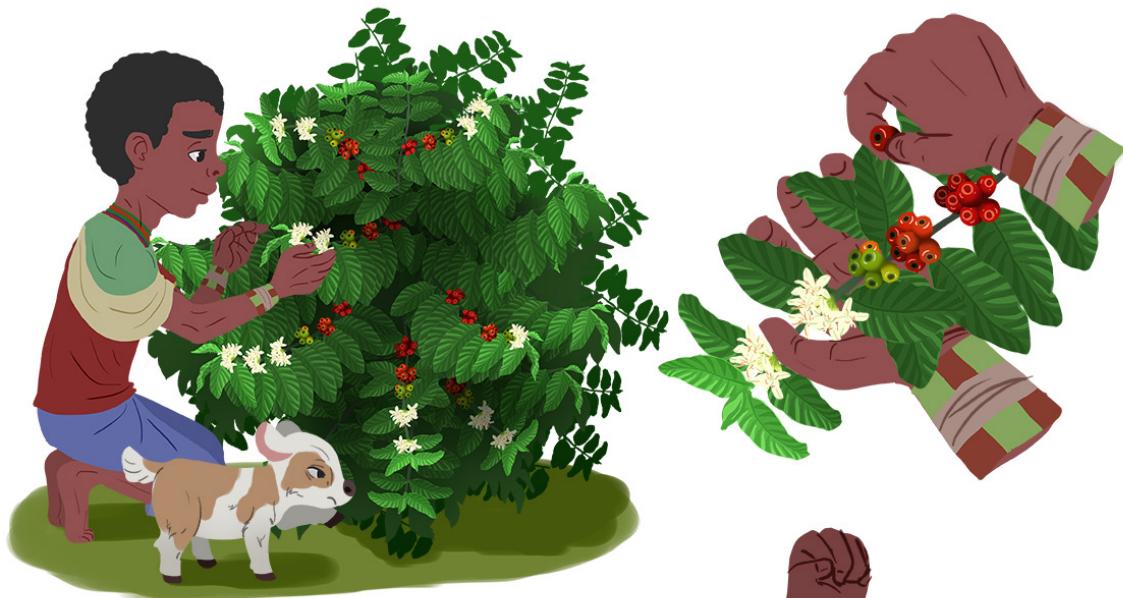
wondered why his goats had so much energy.



Kaldi was tired from the searching, so he sat down under a tree to wait for the goats to calm down.



He noticed the goats were eating bright red beans from a bush with shiny leaves. After they ate the beans, they jumped and danced again!



Kaldi decided to try the beans himself. After he chewed a bean, he had more energy too! He decided to bring some of the beans home with him.



On the journey home, he thought of the monk he had talked with earlier. He stopped to give the monk some of the beans.



Kaldi and the monk decided to crush the beans into powder and add it to

the boiling water that the monk was preparing. After the monk sipped the drink, he said, "I feel refreshed. Thank you so much."



When Kaldi returned home, he decided to dry the rest of the beans, crush them into powder, and share them with the monks in his village.



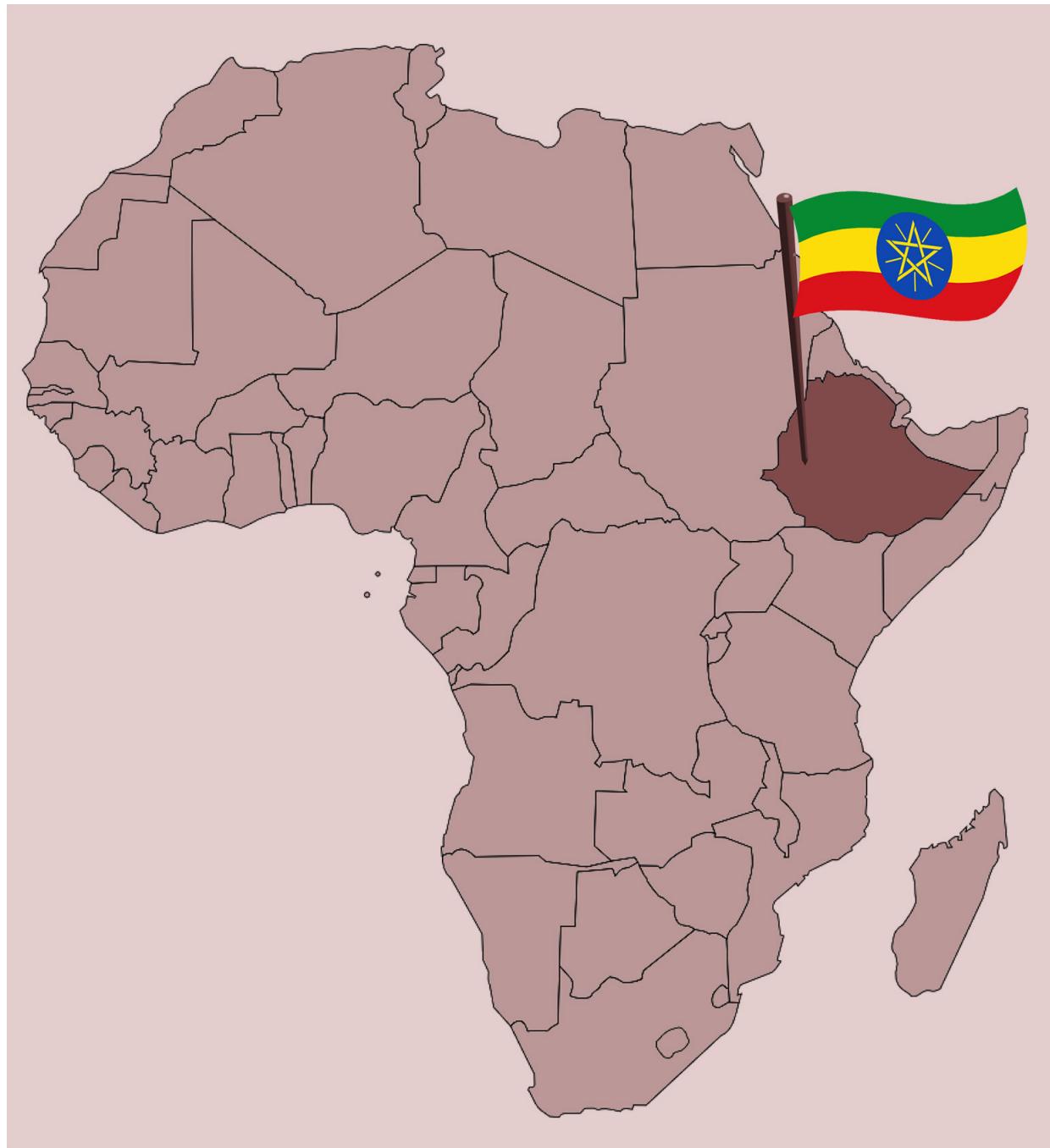
After trying the new drink, the monks were able to stay awake until late into the night. They were grateful for this amazing discovery.



Next, Kaldi shared his discovery with his village elders.



Everyone wanted to enjoy the bean powder drink! So the villagers decided to work together to harvest many beans. Whenever they felt tired, they could enjoy the drink and get more energy. They named this new drink coffee.



They shared their drink with their neighbors, who shared it with their

neighbors. Now, coffee is enjoyed all over the world! Today, Ethiopia produces more coffee than any other country in Africa. Most coffee is still produced in the traditional manner, with beans cultivated, harvested, and dried by hand.

Brought to you by

Let's Read is an initiative of The Asia Foundation's Books for Asia program that fosters young readers in Asia and the Pacific. booksforasia.org To read more books like this and get further information, visit letsreadasia.org.

Original Story ខាល់ខ្លួន និងពេព័រក
(Kaldi and the Dancing Goats),
Author: Svay Leemeng. Illustrator:
Seat Sopheap. Published by The Asia Foundation - Let's Read,
<https://www.letsreadasia.org> © The Asia Foundation - Let's Read.
Released under CC BY-NC 4.0.

This work is a modified version of the original story. © The Asia Foundation, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY-NC 4.0.

For full terms of use and attribution,
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Contributing translators: Kyle Barker