

# **THE HONEY CARTEL**

## **AND OTHER STORIES**

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# 1

## Why dog and man became friends

A long time ago, dog, jackal, fox and hyena lived together. They were very good friends. They always shared everything they had. The three friends used to hunt together and share the kill. At night, dog used to bark and defend the family.



After a while, dog became selfish. Whenever dog went to hunt, he used to hide some meat in the bush .His friends became suspicious. Soon, they discovered dog's trick. They advised dog to stop his bad behaviour but he did not listen to them. Dog's friends finally decided to chase him away. Dog found it difficult to live alone. He became very lonely.

Dog decided to stay in a thick forest. One day, he saw a man walking in the forest. The man had a bow and an arrow. The man was a hunter. Dog followed him to his hut. From that day, dog protected the man's hut. Every night, dog used to bark loudly and fiercely. It chased away intruders. The hunter felt safe. He began to like dog. Whenever they went out to hunt, dog was agile and swift in chasing the prey. Dog also became very honest. He did not hide any meat in the bush. Dog and the hunter became very good friends. To date dog and man are close friends.

## **Questions**

1. Why did the animals decide to stay together?
2. Why did the other animals chase dog away?
3. What lessons have you learnt from this story?
4. Retell the story in your own words.
5. How did dog and man meet?

# 2

## **Old is gold**

Once there was a pride of lions. The lions were very old. They could not even go out and hunt. Young lions were boastful and disobedient. They thought that the elderly lions were as useless as broken pots.



The young lions called for a meeting. At the meeting, they decided that they would kill all the old lions. They said that the old lions added no value to the community. One of the young lions was wise. He decided to hide

his elderly father in a hut that was far away from their village. The young lions were determined to kill the old lions. They put all the aged lions in a cage. After that, they lit a big fire and burnt all of them. As the fire burnt the old lions, the young lions sang and danced. They made fun of the old lions who were crying in pain.

One day the young lions were playing. They were in an open field near the bush. Suddenly, a black snake appeared. It got into the nose of one young lion. The others got very frightened. None of them knew what to do. The affected little lion could neither eat nor move with ease.

All the young lions called for a meeting. They talked for a long time but they could not get a solution to the little lion's problem. Suddenly, one of them announced that he had an elderly lion. He told the other young lions that he was sure the elderly lion could help them. All the other young lions were surprised.

The young lions took their problem to the elderly lion. He advised them to get a dead rat and pass it near the nose of the affected little lion. To the surprise of everyone, the snake rushed out and fell on the ground. It was then hit and killed. The young lions were happy but also very surprised. They regretted killing the elderly lions. From there then, the young lions knew that old is gold.

## **Questions**

1. What lesson have you learnt from this story?
2. Retell the story in your own words.
3. What sound does a lion make?
4. What do we call a young one of a lion?
5. What do we call a female lion?

# 3

## The honey badger

There once lived a honey badger called Kipsegem. He loved harvesting honey from bee hives. He also loved stealing honey from beehives that belonged to other people. His love for honey was so strong that he kept on moving from one forest to another.



One day he harvested honey from a beehive. He found a queen bee in the hive. He moved to the next beehive to harvest more honey. When he inserted his fingers into the hive, he found unpurified honey. He moved to the next beehive. He found honey combs. Kipsegem felt unlucky.

Kipsegem was determined to get honey. He decided to inspect the last beehive. As he put his hand into it, he felt a sharp needle-like tongue bite his finger. It was a venomous snake!

Kipsegem went home. He was taken to a nearby dispensary to seek treatment. He was attended to and allowed to go home. As days went by, his health began to deteriorate. He lost weight. The poison spread to all the parts of his body. No medicine could cure his disease. He became emaciated and sickly. Finally, he passed on.

## Questions

1. What lesson have you learnt from this story?
2. Why did Kipsegem move from one beehive to another?
3. Why did Kipsegem seek treatment?
4. How do we know Kipsegem's health began deteriorating?
5. What caused Kipsegem's death?

# 4

## The disobedient hyena

Hyena and her children lived together in a forest. They always looked for food in the forest. They moved up and down the valleys in the forest. One morning, they went out as usual. They found a carcass. They became very excited. They fed on it greedily. Hyena warned her children not to take the carcass home. One of her children disobeyed her.



Suddenly, a lion roared loudly in a nearby bush. Hyena and her children stopped feasting on the carcass. They laughed and ran for their dear lives.

The disobedient young hyena took with him a big piece of meat. When the lion saw the little hyena, he left the carcass and ran after him. At the time, the other obedient hyenas were already inside the cave. The little hyena tried his best to run into the cave. It could not do so easily. The piece of meat he was carrying slowed him down. The other members of his family feared that something terrible was about to happen to him.

“Drop it! Leave it! Please, jump in...The lion is about to catch you...” they cried out.

The young hyena turned a deaf year. The lion pounced on him and crushed him to pieces. Surely, as you make your bed so you must lie on it.

## **Questions**

1. What sound does a hyena make?
2. Which mistake did the young hyena make?
3. Why did the hyenas run away before eating the carcass?
4. What lesson do we learnt from the story?

# 5

## Kipsioror

In the village of Chesarur there was a man called Kipsioror. He made his mind to go and greet his friend who lived in a neighbouring county. He woke up at dawn, took a heavy breakfast and began the journey. He sauntered along the murram road. He was determined to arrive at noon. By mid-morning, it was sunny and dusty. He felt thirsty and hungry.



Kipsioror could not withstand the urge to drink water. That was why when he saw water in a dam, he knelt down and sipped it. At the side of the

dam, there was a frog. The frog was silent and harmless. Kipsioror quenched his thirst and continued with journey.

He finally reached his friend's house .He was welcomed warmly. As he talked with his friend, lunch was being prepared. Suddenly Kipsioror felt knots in his stomach. He thought that the pain would go away. Surprisingly, instead of going away, the pain became unbearable. His friend Kiplaabat became very worried. He decided to act immediately. He led Kipsioror to his car and drove him to a nearby heath centre.

Kipsioror suspected that he had swallowed the frog he had seen at the dam. He felt that the frog was the cause of the pain in his stomach. He tried to push the thought out of his mind but he couldn't. They soon arrived at the health centre.

Kipsioror explained to the doctor how he was feeling. He also told the doctor about the water he had drunk at the dam and that he suspected that he had swallowed a frog. The doctor understood Kipsioror's problem. He knew it was difficult for one to swallow a frog.

The doctor brought a clean piece of cloth. He then told Kipsioror to close his eyes. The doctor gave him some tablets to make him vomit. He instructed him to vomit into a basin. The doctor dashed out. He brought a dead frog and mixed it with vomit in the basin.

When the doctor removed the piece of cloth from his face, Kipsioror looked at the basin. He saw a frog.

“I told you! I swallowed a frog!” Kipsioror shouted.

Kiplaabat and the doctor laughed heartily.

## Questions

1. Who is Kipsioror in the story?
2. Where did Kipsioror's friend live?
3. Where did Kipsioror drink water?
4. What problem did Kipsioror encounter in his friend's house?
5. What lesson have you learnt from the story?

# 6

## The wise old man

In the village of Soin there was a woman called Chesamich. She was rude and unkind to her husband. She was quarrelsome. Her habit made many people to dislike her. Chesamich knew her weakness. She struggled to stop her bad ways without any success.



Chesamich heard of a wise old man called Chelogoi who lived across the river. He was a traditionalist. The old man was popular for giving out traditional medicines of all types. She decided to go and talk to him.

Chesamich visited the old man one morning. When she arrived at his hut, the old man welcomed her cordially. There were different bottles of liquid on the floor. Chesamich told the old man all her problems.

The wise old man gave her water-like liquid. Chesamich was supposed to take it home. He explained to her how to take it. The old man reminded her to strictly follow his instructions.

Chesamich walked back home. When she arrived home, she followed the old man's instructions. As usual, her husband came home complaining, shouting arrogantly and abusing her.

Chesamich sipped the liquid the wise old man had given her. As she had been instructed, she did not swallow the liquid. She kept it in her mouth. As a result, she could not talk. Her husband had nobody to argue with.

The more Chesamich did what the wise old man had told her, the more peace returned to her home.

## Questions

1. What shows that Chesamich was rude and unkind to her husband?
2. What made people to hate Chesamich?
3. How did Chesamich change her bad ways?
4. Retell this story in your own words.
5. Which lesson do we learnt from her?

# 7

## The rise of Chepkurso

Once there lived an old woman called Chepkurso. She was elderly and well known in the whole of her village. She lived near a road. She earned a living from selling porridge to travellers. Chepkurso had an only son. His name was Kiimaiyaat. He was a drunkard .He was irresponsible and lazy. He completely depended on his mother.

Chepkurso always wondered when she would live and survive like other villagers. She often never had enough food in her store. She looked weak because she could barely feed herself and her son. Every day, she asked God for wealth.

One morning, Chepkurso was very hungry. She came out and started shouting. Chepkurso's voice



was so sharp that it alerted many people. Her neighbours ran towards her home. They were eager to know what had happened. She screamed loudly mumbling words which were not clear.

People could hear Chepkurso saying, “There is an animal in the house!”

His neighbours became anxious and confused. With all manner of weapons, they streamed into her compound.

Suddenly, Chepkurso said, “If there is no animal in the house, then you have to guess why I was shouting.”

The villagers shook their heads in surprise. They sat down calmly. The villagers organized for immediate contribution. They donated maize, sorghum and millet. The villagers helped Chepkurso with intense generosity. Chepkurso looked calm and thankful. She was struck with surprise. At last God had answered her prayers!

From that evening, Chepkurso’s life changed greatly. The village elder ordered Kiimaiyat to stop drinking. He encouraged him to practise farming. Chepkurso was no longer considered a poor woman. She went round the village thanking everybody. She commanded a certain amount of influence on her environment.

## Questions

1. Why did Chepkurso shout?
2. What was the name of Chepkurso’s son?
3. What did the villagers do when they heard Chepkurso shouting?
4. Retell this story in your own words.
5. What lessons have you learnt from this story?

# 8

## The woman and the leopard

Taprandich was a prosperous farmer. She grew millet, sorghum and indigenous vegetables. She lived near a forest.



One day, she went to harvest millet. She worked until late in the afternoon. It was at noon when she finished harvesting. Suddenly, she

heard people yelling and screaming. She stood aghast and tongue tied. Her ears stood like those of a scared donkey. She stood still.

Taprandich picked her basket and began to leave for home. All of a sudden, a leopard appeared. Taprandich was scared beyond words. Before she could do anything, the leopard leapt into her basket. It was panting and visibly scared. Taprandich made up her mind. She would save the animal. She folded the basket and hid the animal.

Armed hunters soon got into Taprandich's farm. One of the hunters asked her about the whereabouts of the leopard. Taprandich told him that she had not seen the animal.

The other hunters murmured. They doubted the sincerity of the woman. Unknown to them, the animal was inside the woman's basket. It was buried in the millet grains the woman had harvested. The armed hunters were sweating profusely. All they wanted was to kill the leopard.

The hunters shook their heads in disappointment and walked back to the village. Taprandich smiled with satisfaction. She felt she had won. Sadly, she did not know what lay head of her. When the hunters had disappeared into the forest, the old lady opened the basket. The leopard was no longer panting. It was very relaxed. Taprandich noticed that the leopard appeared tired and weary. Its eyes seemed weak and sickly.

Slowly, the leopard came out of the basket and stretched itself. Swiftly and without warning, the leopard let out a strange sound. It then pounced on Taprandich. She tried to scream but the leopard tightened its grip on her throat. No sound could come out! Finally, she died. Hours later, Taprandich's grandchildren wondered why she could not join them for lunch.

That evening, Taprandich's grandchildren went out to look for her. It was then that they discovered the remains and clothes of their grandmother beside her basket. They began and within a short time, a crowd of anxious villagers gathered around them. The hunters realized that Taprandich had lied to them.

## **Questions**

1. Which crops did Taprandich grow in her farm?
2. What did Taprandich tell the hunters?
3. How did the hunters respond to the lie which Taprandich told them?
4. What lesson have you learnt from this story?
5. As you make your bed so you must lie on it. How is this proverb relevant to the story?