

Snaffles Mamba na Punch Kipepeo

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Katika chemichemi upande wa mbali wa Msitu Mbali,
paliishi Sniffles, Mamba.

Sniffles alilia machozi mengi ya uongo ama angeendelea sniff...sniff... Hata mamake alikuwa amechoka naye na angemwambia, "Acha kuvuta vuta pua na kulialia, anza kuwa kama mamba. Nenda ukawinde chakula chako."

Lakini Sniffles angeangua kilio kwa lile wazo la kumla mnyama mwingine.

Kwa hivyo mama na baba walilazimika kumlisha Sniffles kila siku.



Sniffles hakutaka kuwa mamba. “Nina sura mbaya,” aliangua kilio kila alipofikiria. Hakutaka hata kuishi kama mamba wanavyoishi.

Rafikiye mpendwa alikuwa Punch, ambaye alikuwa kipepeo wa rangi ya manjano. Na Punch alitamani kuwa mkubwa na mwenye nguvu.

Kwa hivyo wakati wote Punch alikunja pembe yake na kuifanya ifanane na ngumi na kisha kusema, “Hebu kuwa macho! Nitakupiga ngumi mdomoni.” Wao wawili walifurahisha sana.

Sniffles alimkalia Punch kichwani wakiogelea. Mamba wengine walicheka na kuwafanyia mzaha. Hilo halikumsumbu Sniffles.

Aliendelea kulia, kuvuta pua lake na kwa kuendeleza urafiki wake na Punch.



Alasiri moja, wakati juu lilikuwa limeangaza mno, Punch alikaa karibu na sikio la Sniffles na kumwambia, “Nimewaona wanaume wawili wakija huku na bunduki, wanataka kuwauwa mamba kwa ajili ya ngozi wao.”

“Kwani hawa wanaume hawana ngozi yao wenyewe?”
Punch aliuliza kwa mshangao.

“Mimi sijui, Sniffles,” Punch alijibu. “Waeleze mamba wengine kisha ujifiche.”

“Punch, lakini wanaweza kukupiga risasi. Ah! Nitafanyaje,”
Sniffles alilia kwa kwi kwi.

“Watu hushika vipepeo kwa kutumia nyavyu na kisha kuwatandaza juu ya ubao, shangazi yangu aliniambia,”
Punch alisema halafu akaruka na kwenda zake.



Mamba wengine walimsikia Sniffles akillia na kupiga kelele,
"Wanaume wanakuja kutuua.
Jificheni...Harakisheni...Jificheni."

Mwanzoni mamba hawakumwamini Sniffles, lakini kisha
walisikia vishindo vyta wanaume vikikaribia.

Mamba walizama ndani ya maji na kuacha kipande cha mti
kilichoza kikielea juu ya maji.

Wanaume hao walipiga kipande hicho risasi maanake kwa
mbali kilifanana kabisa na mamba.

Wanaume hao hawakuona mamba wowote, ila mamia ya
vipepeo ambao walirukia nyuso na nywele zao.



Huku wakitingiza vichwa vyao wakitaka
kuwafukuza vipepeo, walisema,
“Hakuna mamba hapa, tutaleta nyavu halafu
tushike vipepeo.”

Kisha waliondoka na kwenda.

Mamba wote walikusanyika na kusema,
“Asante Punch.”
“Asante Vipepeo.”





Siku iliyofuata, Sniffles aliwaona wanaume wakiwa wamebeba nyavu.

Alikumbuka Punch akimwambia kuhusu nyavu.
“Punch, nyavu! Njoo hapa haraka! Wanaume wenye nyavu wamekuja.”

Mamba wote walienda kwenye ukingo wa mto.

Vipepeo walitulia juu ya migongo na vichwa vyaa mamba.

Mamba wachache waliwazingira wanaume walipokaribia.
Mamba walifunua vinywa vyao.

Sniffles alikuwa mstari wa mbele akiwa anasaga meno
yake na kupiga mkia wake kutoka upande hadi upande kwa
ukali.

Wanaume waliogopa sana wakatoroka moja kwa moja
kupitia sehemu yenye matope.

Mamba wale wengine walijivunia sana ujasiri wa Sniffles
kwa vile alikuwa ameonyesha umaarufu wake kama
mamba kamili.

Sasa, Sniffles pia alijivunia kuwa mmoja.



Vipepeo wote waliruka wakiwazunguka mamba
wakipeperusha mbawa zao.

“Asante ewe Sniffles,
“Asante enyi mamba.”

“Ni sawa,” Sniffles alijibu huku akiona haya.

“Hiyo ndiyo sababu ya kuwa marafiki,
Kuwasaidia wenzako.”

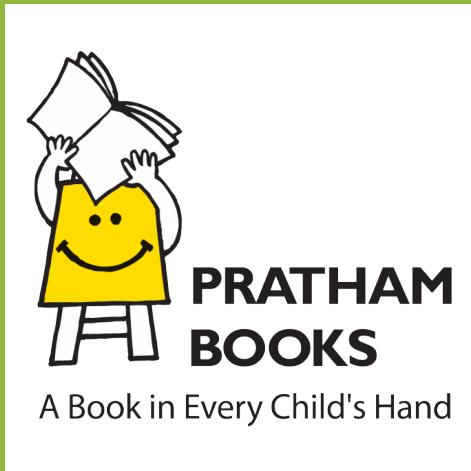
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