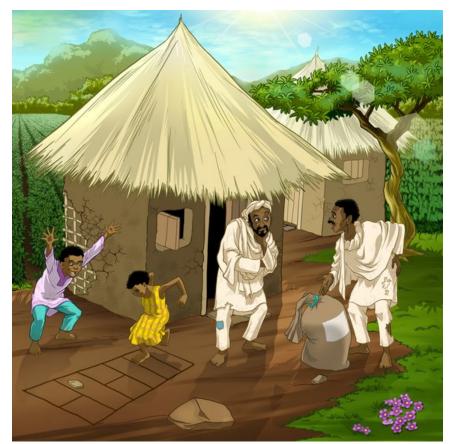
Jaji aliyekosa hekima

Magabi Eynew Gessesse and Elizabeth Laird Kiswahili







Hapo zamani, waliishi majirani wawili marafiki, Meseret na Demeke. Walikuwa maskini sana.

Siku moja, Meseret alimwambia Demeke, "Ni lazima niipeleke ngano yangu sokoni leo. Gunia ni nzito na soko iko mbali. Ningekuwa na pesa za kutosha, ningemnunua punda."

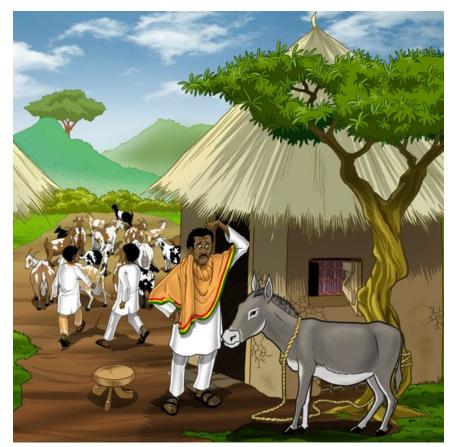


Demeke akajibu, "Nami lazima nikavinunue vyungu vipya leo sokoni. Vitakuwa vizito mno. Ingekuwa heri ningekuwa na punda vile vile. Kwa sasa, nina tu nusu ya pesa."



Meseret alikuwa na wazo. Alisema, "Hebu tumnunue punda pamoja. Wewe utalipa nusu nami nilipe nusu. Nitamtumia kwenda sokoni kwa juma moja nawe umtumie kwa juma lingine."

Meseret na Demeke walimnunua punda. Kwa muda mrefu waliishi kwa furaha.



Siku moja, babake Meseret alifariki. Meseret alirithi mashamba, miti, ng'ombe na kondoo.

Alikuwa tajiri na hakutaka kufanya kazi na Demeke tena. Vile vile, alitaka nusu yake ya punda.



Meseret alimwambia Demeke, "Mbwa wangu wanahitaji nyama. Ninataka kumchinja punda wetu wewe uchukuwe nusu yake nami nichukuwe nusu itakayobaki."

Demeke alilia, "Sihitaji nyama yoyote ila ninamhitaji punda. Ikiwa unataka kumchinja, nipe pesa za nusu yangu." Meseret alifoka, "Sitakupatia pesa zozote. Nusu ya punda ni yangu na ninaitaka sasa."

Demeke alisema, "Hebu twende kwa jaji. Atatuamulia."



Meseret na Demeke walienda kumwona jaji asiyekuwa na hekima. Hakuwasikiliza kwa makini. Jaji aliwauliza, "Mnammiliki punda pamoja?"

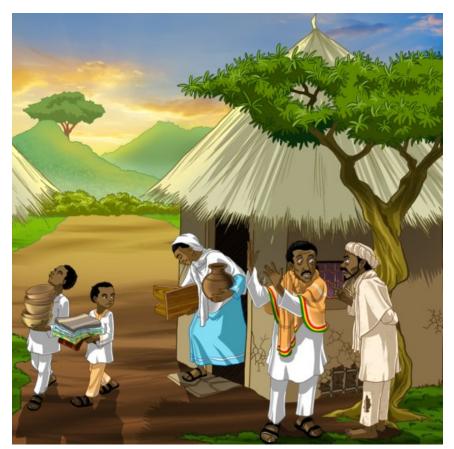
"Ndiyo," Meseret na Demeke waliitikia.

Jaji akasema, "Kwa hivyo, kila mmoja atapata nusu. Ikiwa Meseret anataka nusu yake, anaweza kuichukuwa. Mchinjeni punda kisha mmgawe nusu mbili."



Meseret alifurahi.

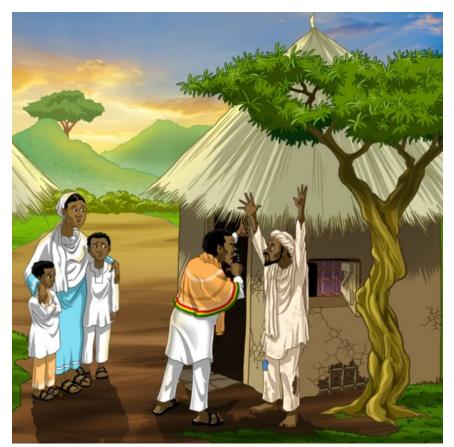
Alimchinja punda na kuchukuwa nusu ya nyama kuwapelekea mbwa wake. Demeke alihuzunika akawaza, "Maskini punda wangu hayupo tena, na sasa lazima nibebe kila kitu mwenyewe."



Miezi michache baadaye, Meseret alitaka kujijengea nyumba mpya. Aliwaza, "Nitakiteketeza chumba changu kizee kisha niijenge nyumba mpya nzuri na kubwa."

Meseret alianza kuviondosha vitu kutoka chumba chake. Demeke alimwona, akamwuliza, "Unafanya nini?" Meseret alimjibu, "Ninataka kukiteketeza chumba changu ili niijenge nyumba mpya."

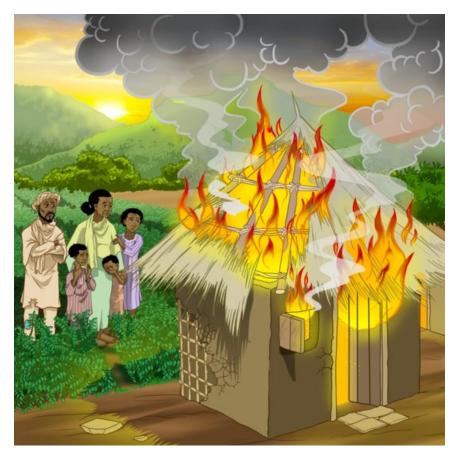
Demeke alikumbwa na wasiwasi, "Lakini, chumba chako ki karibu na changu. Ukikiteketeza chako, utakiteteteza changu pia."



Kwa hasira, Meseret alimwambia, "Usijaribu kunizuia! Hiki ni chumba changu, na nitakiteketeza nikitaka."

"Acha! Hebu twende tumwulize jaji," Demeke alilia.

Jaji hakuwa na hekima kwa hivyo hakusikiliza kwa makini na wala hakuelewa. Mwishoni alisema, "Acha Meseret akiteketeze chumba maanake ni chake na hakuna anayeweza kumzuia kufanya hivyo."



Kwa hivyo Meseret alikiteketeza chumba chale. Upepo uliupeperusha moto hadi kwenye paa la chumba cha Demeke. Punde, chumba chake pia kilianza kuteketea.

Demeke alimlilia jaji, "Ona! Meseret amekichoma chumba changu! Lazima anilipe."

"La, Meseret alikichoma chumba chake. Ni moto ulikiunguza chumba chako. Meseret atabaki na pesa zake." Jaji aliamua.



Maskini Demeke alihuzunika sana.

Hakuwa na punda wala chumba. Alibaki na shamba lake peke yake.

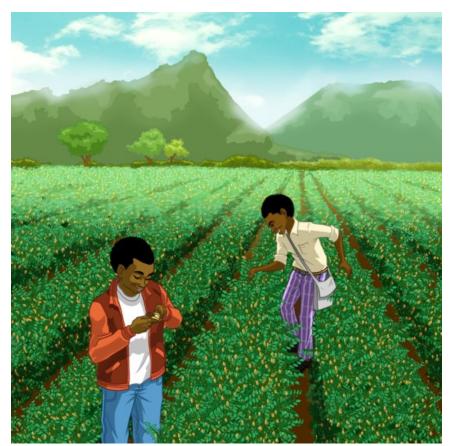
Kila siku alifanya kazi katika shamba lake. Kila usiku, alilala chini ya mti.



Wakati wa kuvuna ulifika.

Demeke alikuwa amefanya kazi kwa bidii katika shamba lake. Aliyang'oa magugu na kuwafukuza ndege.

Kwa hivyo, kulikuwa na mazao mazuri ya mbaazi katika shamba lake.



Siku moja, wanawe Meseret walimtembelea baba yao.

Walipitia katika shamba la Demeke. Walipoziona mbaazi, walisema, "Mbaazi! Ni tamu sana!"

Walizivamia mbaazi wakazitoa zote. Muda mfupi baadaye, mbaazi zote zilikwisha.



Demeke aliwaona kwa mbali. Alikimbia haraka akwaambia, "Nirudishieni mbaazi zangu."

Walimjibu kwa dharau, "Hatuwezi kukurudishia maanake tumezikula. Mwulize babetu akulipe."



Demeke alienda kumwona Meseret. "Wanao wamezila mbaazi zangu," alisema. Meseret alimjibu, "Nitakulipa pesa."

"Sitaki pesa zako. Ninaenda kuzichukuwa mbaazi zangu." Demeke alitishia. "Subiri! Hebu twende tukamwulize jaji," Meseret alilia.



Meseret na Demeke walienda kumwona jaji. Kama kawaida, jaji hakuwasikiliza kwa makini na wala hakufikiria juu ya tukio hilo.

"Wanawe Meseret walikula mbaazi zako na ni lazima wakurejeshee. Zipasue tumbo zao ukazichukuwe mbaazi zako," Jaji aliamua. Meseret alitishika sana akasema, "Lakini wanangu watafariki! Tafadhali, Demeke, hebu nikupe pesa."

"Nilizitaka pesa ulipomuua punda wetu. Sizitaki sasa. Ninazitaka mbaazi zangu," Demeke alinena.



Demeke alikichukuwa kisu chake. "Nitakujengea chumba kipya! Naomba msamaha kwa kukiteketeza chumba chako cha kwanza," Meseret alisema.

"Sitaki chumba kipya. Ninataka mbaazi zangu," Demeke alimjibu. Alianza kukitia kisu chake makali kwenye jiwe.

"La! La! Tafadhali, ngoja! Hebu twende tukawaone wazee. Tafadhali rafiki yangu wa jadi, acha wazee waamue." Meseret alilia.



Kwa hivyo, Meseret na Demeke walienda kuwaona wazee.

Wazee waliongea kwa muda mrefu na mwishowe walimwambia Meseret, "Ulikosea. Ulikataa kumlipa Demeke nusu ya punda yake. Ulikiteketeza chumba chake, na wanao walikula mazao yake."



Walimgeukia Demeke wakasema, "Unataka kuwaua wana wa Meseret. Hilo ni kosa pia. Huu ni uamuzi wetu. Lazima Meseret ampatie Demeke nusu ya miti yake yote, mashamba, ng'ombe na kondoo. Hivyo, mtaishi pamoja kwa amani."



Kwa hivyo, Meseret alimpatia Demeke nusu ya mali yake.

Wakaishi pamoja kwa furaha na wala hawakugombana tena.

Jaji aliyekosa hekima

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