

# West African Folktales

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a delightful collection of folk tales from west africa including 18 anansi tales as well as 17 others includes the story of how the tales came to be called anansi tales in the olden days all the stories which men told were stories of nyankupon the chief of the gods spider wanted the stories to be about him nyankupon agreed on one condition namely that he bring him three things a jar full of live bees a boa constrictor and a tiger how anansi contrived to achieve all these tasks is related in the opening story suitable for ages 6 and up

readers everywhere and of any age will be both entertained and instructed by these timeless stories more than 40 tales of human foibles magic and nature representing fifteen countries including angola nigeria cameroon gambia liberia ghana and senegal

king chameleon and more west african folktales is a selection of folklore believed to have originated from west africa and the people who live in the region west africa is home to several scores of tribes languages and dialects even though tribal cords are quite strong and languages may differ markedly even between two communities a few hundred miles apart it is usual to find similarities between the local folktales and in some cases only the names of the central characters would make one version of a tale to be different from another most of the stories in this volume were gleaned from areas within the countries now known as ghana and togo however the stories are commonly retold in several forms all over the west africa region

discover the rich tapestry of west african storytelling in west african folk tales a collection of captivating folktales and legends passed down through generations collected and presented by william henry barker and cecilia sinclair these tales offer a window into the vibrant oral tradition of west africa immerse yourself in a world of wonder where timeless narratives explore themes of courage wisdom and the enduring power of the human spirit this meticulously prepared print edition preserves the authenticity of these classic stories allowing readers to experience the magic and cultural significance of african folktales explore the folklore and mythology of west africa through these enduring stories perfect for anyone interested in the roots of african storytelling and the universal appeal of legends this work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it this work is in the public domain in the united states of america and possibly other nations within the united states you may freely copy and distribute this work as no entity individual or corporate has a copyright on the body of the work scholars believe and we concur that this work is important enough to be preserved reproduced and made generally available to the public we appreciate your support of the preservation process and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant

the sky god nyame owns all the stories in the world he keeps them to himself in a box in his kingdom in the clouds but anansi thinks the stories should be shared by all creatures so one day he strikes a bargain with the sky god if anansi can trick some of the earth s fiercest and quickest creatures nyame will share his stories learn how anansi wins the box of stories in this ancient tale from west africa

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

travel back over a century to a vibrant world of intriguing characters and timeless tales first published in 1917 west african folk tales is a landmark collection of fascinating folk tales collected by w h barker and cecilia sinclair during their time living among the peoples of west africa in the early 20th century barker a former colonial administrator with a passion for the culture and traditions of the region teamed up with sinclair an enthusiastic educator eager to bring these powerful stories to young audiences together they captured the tales of gifted local storytellers and preserved them in print for future generations within these pages you ll find a treasure trove of wise animal fables hilarious jokes and haunting ghost stories that offer an unparalleled insight into west african beliefs clever spider constantly outsmarts animals many times his size lazy son kibo learns the value of hard work the hard way the terrifying water demon preys on a village in a gripping tale of the supernatural more than just entertainment these stories reveal subtle meanings and practical wisdom passed down from grandparents to children as advice words of warning or moral truths that stand the test of time full of vivid imagery and imagination west african folklore captures all the richness and magic of one of the world s great oral traditions in a written form that continues to engage readers 100 years on so step inside its pages and let these unforgettable stories work their magic and reveal new worlds

twenty six traditional tales from various west african countries

poor chinye back and forth through the forest she goes fetching and carrying for her cruel stepmother but strange powers are watching over her how chinye discovers the magic of the gourds and transforms her life is enchantingly retold in this traditional west african story of goodness greed and a treasure house of gold

florence cronise and henry ward fascinated with the folklore of the west african peoples tried to render the pearls of the native art of storytelling into this book to make the settings language and spirit as close to the land of origin as possible they used the dialect of english they ve heard from locals many native namings and extensive footnotes explaining phenomena that are foreign to a western reader

west african folktales about talking animals

entertaining stories handed down from generation to generation among tribal cultures include the magic crocodile the hare and the crownbird the boy in the drum

15 others 19 illustrations

elphinstone dayrell's folk stories from southern nigeria west africa presents a rich tapestry of oral traditions interwoven with the cultural nuances of the region this collection characterized by its engaging narrative style and vivid imagery showcases stories that have been passed down through generations illuminating the values and beliefs of the communities they originate from the book serves as both a cultural anthology and a literary artifact offering insight into the societal norms and mythologies that inform the lives of the yoruba and other ethnic groups in southern nigeria dayrell's careful attention to authenticity and detail also reflects a significant moment of colonial interest in local narratives during the late 19th and early 20th centuries dayrell a british ethnographer and writer was deeply influenced by his experiences in nigeria where he worked as a colonial officer his genuine affection for the local culture and his commitment to preserving its stories motivated him to delve into folklore that would otherwise be at risk of fading this endeavor not only highlights the richness of african storytelling but also serves to challenge the prevailing narrative paradigms of the time that often overlooked the depth of indigenous cultures folk stories from southern nigeria west africa is an essential read for anyone interested in african literature anthropology or the mechanics of storytelling it captures the essence of a vibrant cultural heritage and invites readers to appreciate the wisdom inherently found in these folk tales dayrell's work provides an invaluable resource for scholars and casual readers alike transporting them into the heart of southern nigeria's folklore

presents six tales about spider including those which explain how he got a thin waist and a bald head and why he lives in ceilings and dark corners

this collection of folk tales from west africa focuses on stories in which animals take on human qualities and speak to deliver important lessons to both animals and humans nassau's firsthand account of his time spent with a liberian tribe also provides valuable cultural context this work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it this work is in the public domain in the united states of america and possibly other nations within the united states you may freely copy and distribute this work as no entity individual or corporate has a copyright on the body of the work scholars believe and we concur that this work is important enough to be preserved reproduced and made generally available to the public we appreciate your support of the preservation process and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant

thirty six tales from africa s gold coast include several anansi tales as well as stories about many african animals

collected and retold by buchi offodile once upon a moonlit night children gathered elbow to elbow lying on the ground while the adults sat near by drinking and snacking they listened to the storyteller who held adult and child alike rapt with animal noises and spooky voices gesture and song call and response until the wick of the palm oil lamp ran down and the storyteller tired it wasn t that the stories themselves were over no many more were yet to be told tales of the ever scheming tortoise spider or hare tales of spirits tempting children tales of fate punishing whole villages for their folly or rewarding them for their perseverance though almost all the tales have morals the most popular characters are the tricksters the tortoise the spider and the hare the orphan girl includes a fascinating introduction exploring the roots of the storytelling tradition in the history and culture of west africa history s boundaries divide this book by nation from mauritania into the continent s interior to the hinterlands of mali burkina faso and niger and down the atlantic coast as far as cameroon each country is represented by several stories a map and brief information invariably though as all of these countries share common origins and cultures the stories overlap and play off each other for example a ghanaian story featuring anansi the spider is almost the same tale told by the igbos of eastern nigeria starring mbe nwaniga the tortoise

a retelling of the west african tale about the creation of the world and all its different peoples suggested level junior

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