



A COLLECTION OF  
**STORIES**  
FROM  
**WEST AFRICA**

Compiled and Illustrated by  
David A. Naff



# DOG AND HIS BIG BONE



## Copyrights and Creative Commons license

The license used here makes 7 important provisions.

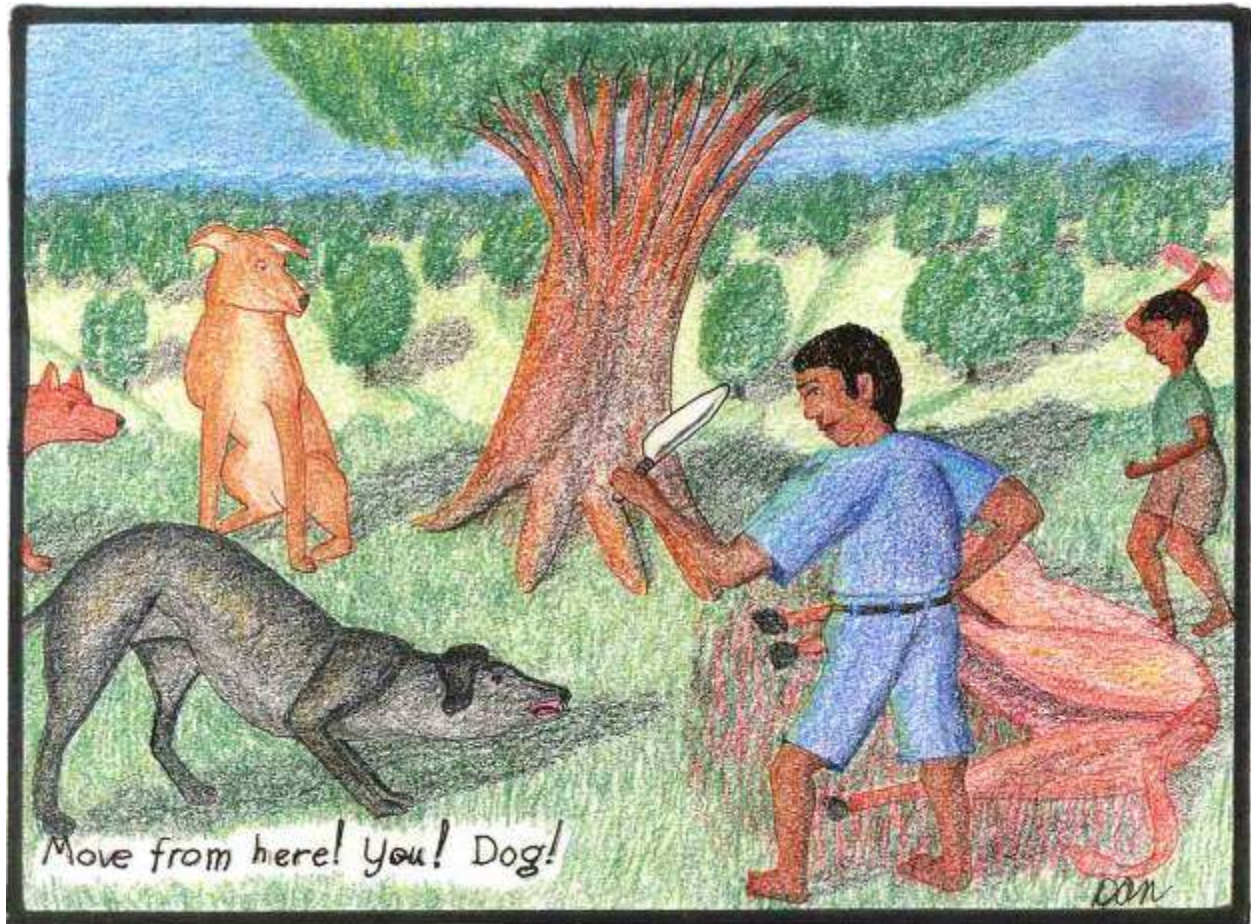
You are free, indeed encouraged, to do the following:

- Copy, print, distribute, display, and teach from Spark materials in any way you wish.
- Make changes for your own use and for distribution to others.
- Make any sort of non-commercial copies, ministry copies, or personal copies, from any Spark material, without further notice.

Under the following conditions:

- You properly cite the original authors of the material you find here. Pages on [www.vernacularmedia.org](http://www.vernacularmedia.org) without a clear authorship should be cited to [vernacularmedia.org](http://vernacularmedia.org) on your copies.
- You must retain the BY-NC-SA license on your copies of materials copied from [www.vernacularmedia.org](http://www.vernacularmedia.org). (You must not trample the commons.)
- You must not change the license. (You must not steal from the commons.)
- You must ask for permission for use of Spark materials outside of this list. (You need permission to take work out of the commons.)

**By Spark Team**



## DOG AND HIS BIG BONE\*

Note to reader: words and phrases typical of West Africa are retained and indicated by italics.

“Patient dog gets the bone. Impatient dog gets knocks.”

Dog was a good hunter, but he was also very greedy. Often Dog would bring back from the bush several animals he had killed. His master would cook plenty of food; just like a party. Dog had plenty of fine food but would hardly share any with the other dogs.

"Grrr! Move from here," he growled. "I killed this meat! Grrr! Go hunt and kill *your own part* meat." The others only got a bite now and then.

One day a nearby town killed a cow. All the dogs went. Many dogs got a piece of bone, but Dog got a very big piece of bone for he *humbugged* the butchers as they cut up the cow. He *humbugged* them so much that they threw a big bone at him to chase him away.

“Move from here, dog!” one said. Keep your nose away from our meat!”

All the other dogs laughed at him. But Dog did not care. He growled, “Laugh all you want to. I have the biggest bone of all. GRRR! Go away!”

When one of the other dogs would try do get close he would growl, “GRRR. Don’t come too close to me. Eat those little bones you got. GRRR.”

Dog started home with the big bone in his mouth. On the way he had to cross a monkey bridge (a log over a pond of water). As he crossed he looked down. There he saw his reflection in the water. Was that another dog down there? When he looked closer it seemed that the other dog had a bigger bone in his mouth.

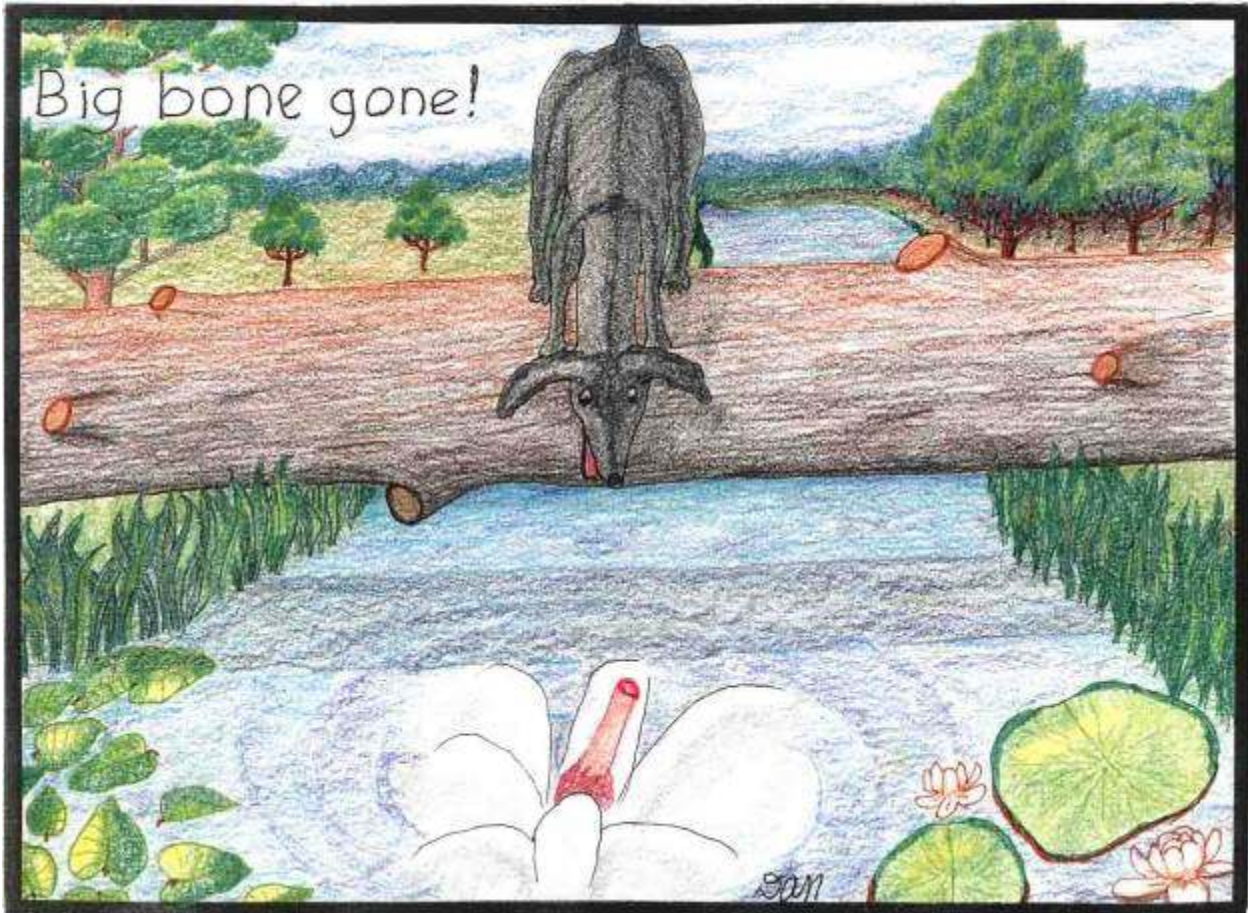
Dog wanted both bones. "Grrrrrr," he growled. “Who is that dog down there with that big bone? Where did you come from? Who are you?”

The dog in the water just looked at him.

"GRRRRRRR," Dog growled louder. “Give me that bone!”

Still the dog in the water just looked back at him. It seemed to Dog that the other dog was growling at him. He didn’t like that one little bit.

The hair on Dog's neck and back stood up. The other dog's hair also stood up. Now that was a challenge!



"Woff! Woff! Woff! Woff! GIVE ME THAT BONE!"

Dog barked loudly.

And what do you know? His big bone fell into the water, kersplash!

The other dog was gone! Both bones were gone! And all of the other dogs from his town sat on the bank and just laughed and laughed and laughed. They laughed at him for barking at his own reflection. They laughed too because the big bone he would not share was gone. He had *gotten his own* at last!

Now Dog was *shame too much*. When other dogs would see him they would bark, "Woff! Woff! Woff. Big bone gone! Big bone gone!" Then they would laugh, "Hah Hah! Hah Hah Hah!"

Dog would just put his tail between his legs and slink off. He was *too shame* to do or say anything.

It is easy for us to want the best and most for ourselves. But when we act that way we lose friends. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 15:27, "He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house."

\*Similar to an Aesop's fable, The Dog & His Shadow AESOP'S FABLES, Watermill, p 156.  
Aesop's moral: Grasp the shadow and lose the substance.

© 1997, 2003 David A. Naff. All rights reserved.

All scripture quoted is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, KING JAMES VERSION, public domain.