

A COLLECTION OF
STORIES
FROM
WEST AFRICA

Compiled and Illustrated by
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HOW DOG AND CAT BECAME ENEMIES



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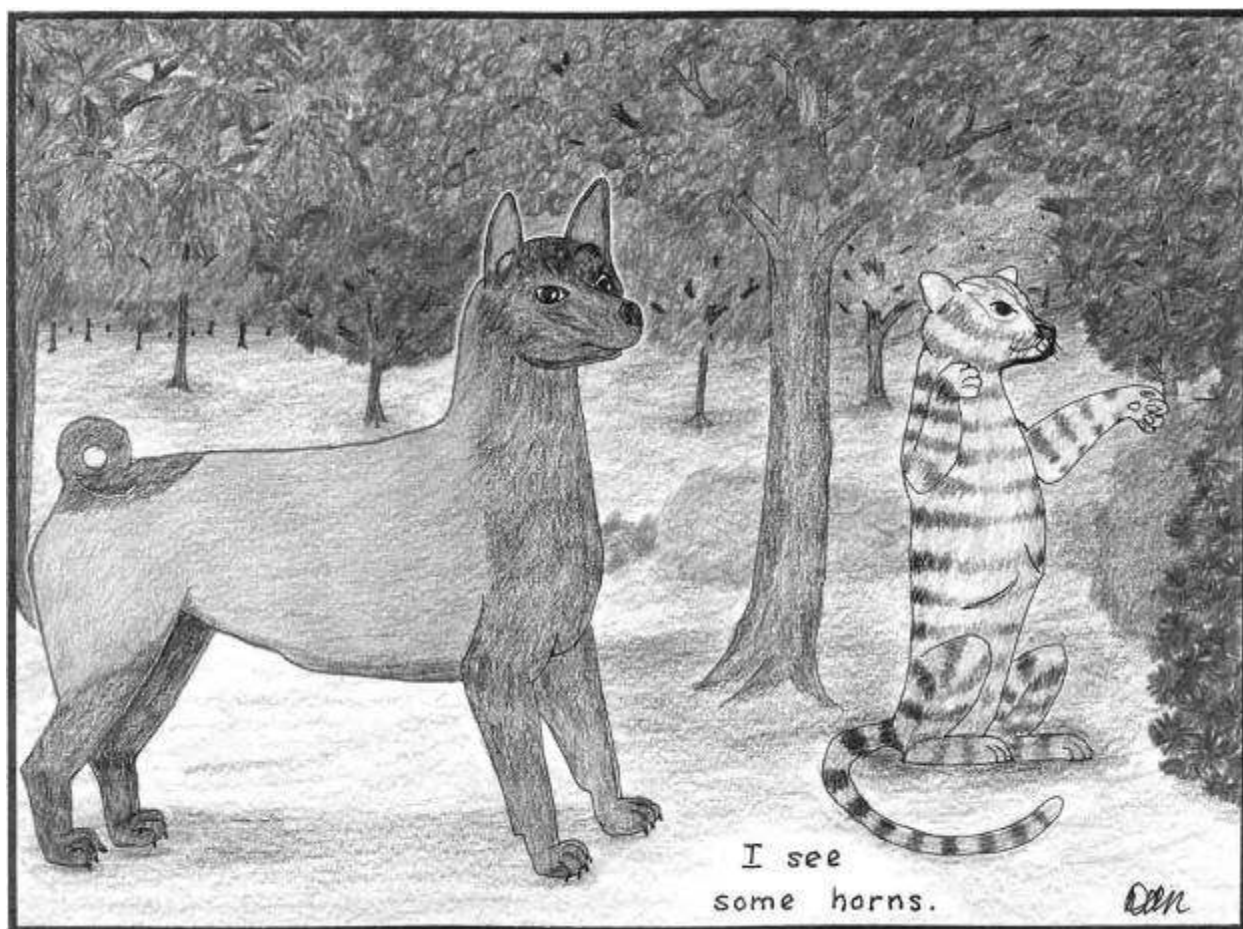
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By Spark Team



HOW DOG AND CAT BECAME ENEMIES

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

Today Dog and Cat are enemies but once they were good friends. This is how it came about.

At one time all the animals lived together in one very big town. They lived there without confusion. They were kind and thoughtful and helped each other.

Then, one day, Bush Cow decided to make a big feast to celebrate her birthday. But she did not invite everyone. Bush Cow invited only all the horned animals to her feast. Only animals with horn could come to Bush Cow's big feast.

Now Dog and Cat wanted to go to that feast in the worst way. But they did not have horn. What could they do? They walked out into the bush talking about how they might be able to get into the feast.

"It seems that Bush Cow's feast is really a big one," said Dog.

"Yes," answered Cat, "because there are many animals with horn."

"As I came by Bush Cow's house just now, I smelled the food cooking. It made me hungry *too much*. But Bush Cow would never let us in, because we do not have horn. Even though I was just passing by, Bush Cow saw me, *tied her face* and yelled, '*Move from here!*'"

"We could go *hold her foot* and beg," suggested Cat hopefully.

"Bush Cow does not like *beg business*," answered Dog as they walked along the path.

Suddenly he exclaimed "What thing I can see over there?"

"It *can look* like some animal horn," Cat said as she stood up on her hind legs to see over the grass and small bushes.

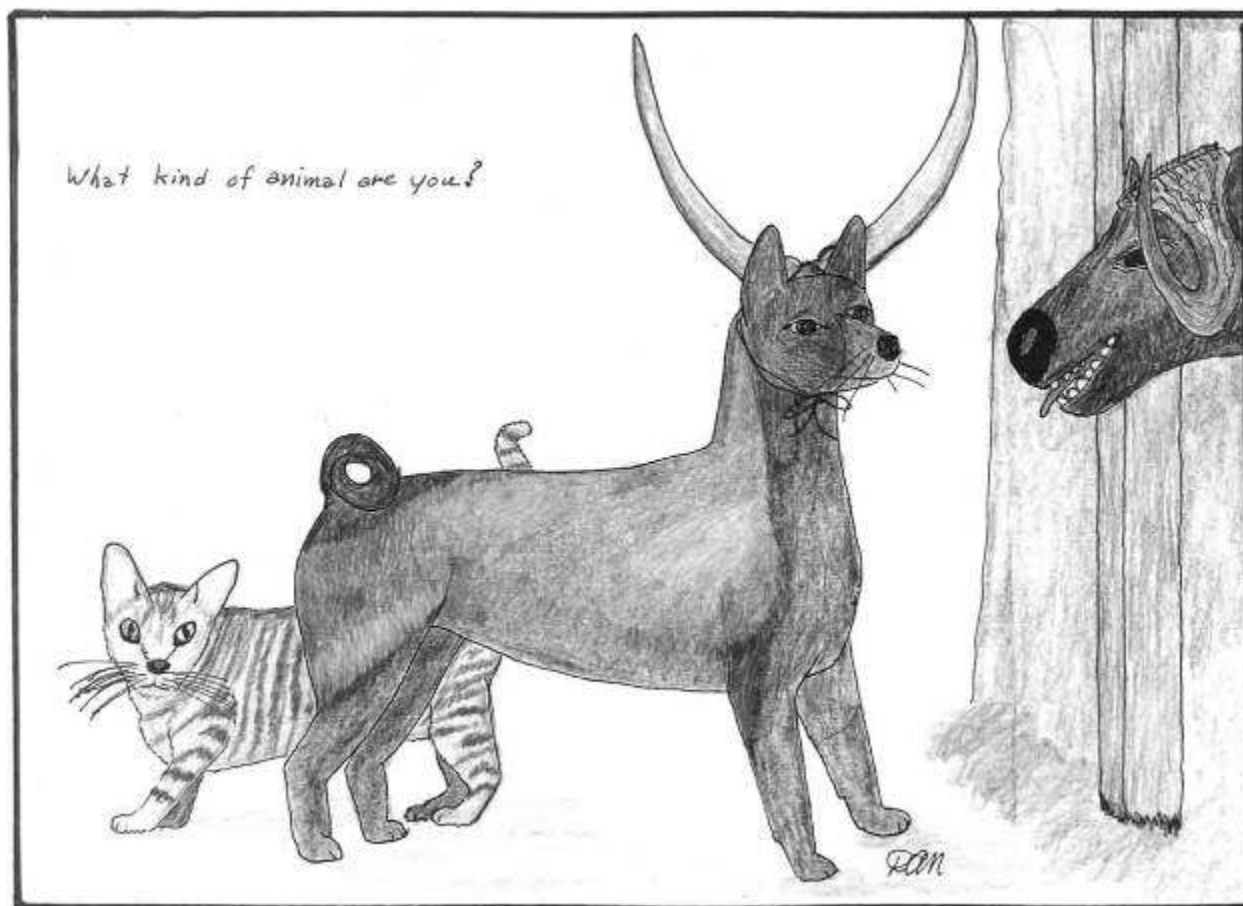
"I think that it is a wild goat's horn," said Dog as he ran over to it. "Yes, wild goat horn *for true*."

"Do you think we could tie it on and fool Bush Cow into letting us into the feast?" asked Cat hopefully.

"Yesssss, why not try?" Dog answered. "*You never try you never know*."

They found some piece of vine and tied the horn on Dog's head. He looked pretty good.

"Dog," suggested Cat, "since you already have the horn on, you go on to the feast and eat plenty. Then in one hour, you come out and tie the horn on me and I'll go in and eat."



"Good idea, Cat," replied Dog. "Here I go!"

So Dog went to the feast with the horn tied on his head. The doorkeeper, a huge cow, stopped him.

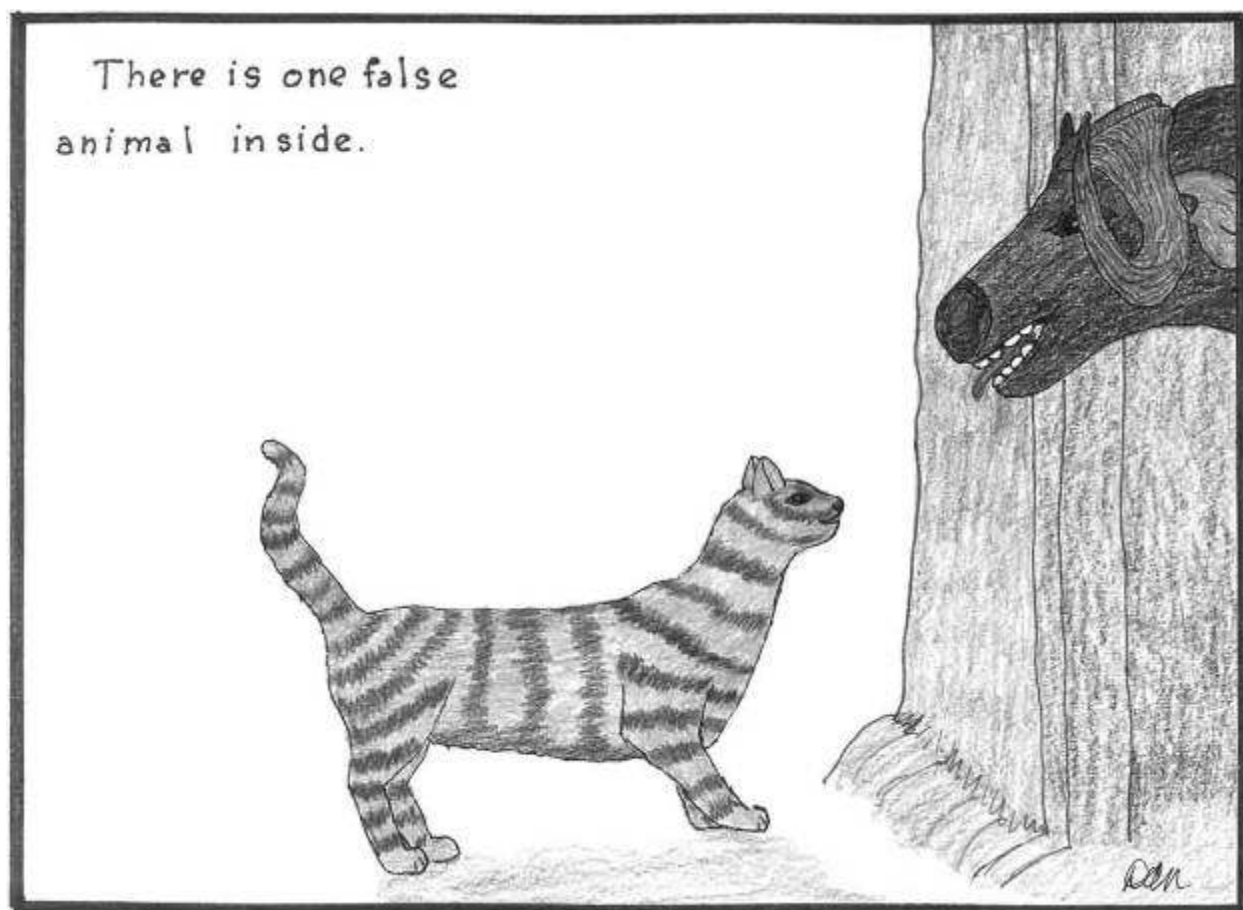
"What sort of animal are you? You look almost like Dog, but you got horn like bush goat. *How you can look so?*"

"That is the way God made me," Dog answered.

The doorkeeper let Dog pass. "Strange animal," he said to himself.

Ah-h-h, there was plenty of food and music and games. Dog was having so much fun that he forgot all about Cat.

After more than one hour had passed, Cat went to the door and called to Dog, "Psst! Hey, Dog, come out! It's my turn!"



The door keeper saw Cat. "*Move from here! You no have horn! Move from here I say!*" As he scolded, the doorkeeper drove Cat from the door.

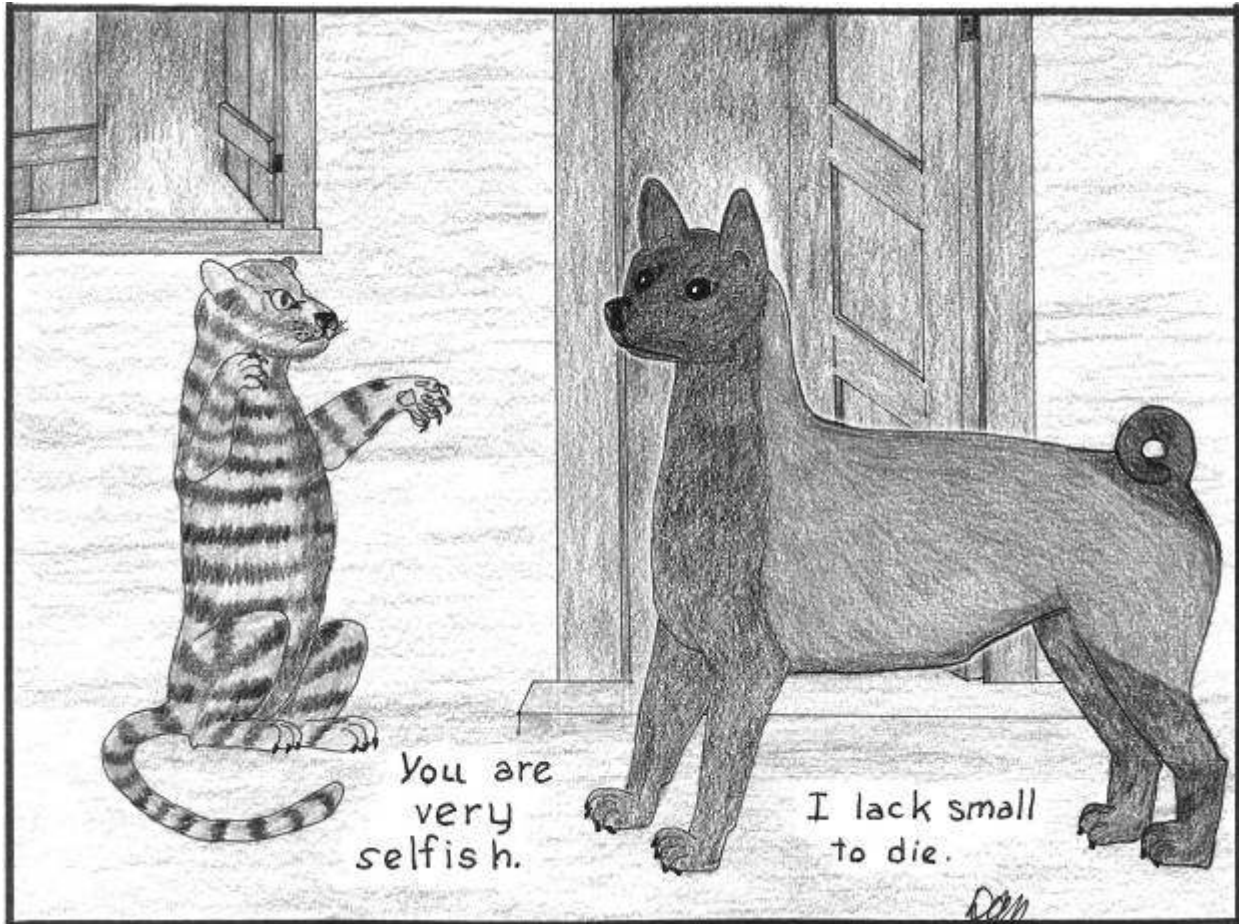
Twice more Cat came to the door and called for Dog. "Psst! Hey Dog, it's my turn." But each time Cat was chased away.

Finally, he said to the doorkeeper, "One animal inside does not have his own horn."

"But," the doorkeeper retorted, "*I look on everyone who came in. They all had horn.*"

"But you must look good again," Cat replied. "You must go and shake everyone's horn. Dog has horn from Bush Goat tied on his head."

"Aha," said the doorkeeper, "Now I understand."



The doorkeeper went to Bush Cow and said, "One false animal is in here with horn *not for himself*. We must shake every horn."

Bush Cow stopped the music. "We got *false person* in here," he announced. "We must shake every horn. Everyone must stand still and *bear patience*."

They shook goat's horn. It would not move. They shook Cow, Deer, and many others. All the horns were strong. Then they came to Dog. When they shook Dog's horn it came right off.

"So, you do not have *true horn*. *You be Dog!* You will make fool of us will you?" they all cried.

Then they caught Dog and *beat him proper*. Finally he managed to escape.

When Dog found Cat there was one big *palaver*. "You *made me shame* too much," Dog snarled. "My life *come close to fini* because of you!"

"For two hour *you never come out*," hissed Cat. "You are too selfish. You *not give me* one chance to eat some of that good food."

The palaver became so strong that Cat had to move to the other side of the town. And do you know? Dog and Cat are still fighting to this very day.

Dog says, "I will always fight Cat because *she put too much shame on me*. I *lack small* to die."

Cat says, "Dog was not fair. He wanted all the food and fun for himself and he would not share with me."

If we want to have friends, we must be friendly and be kind to others.

God says, "A friend loves at all times." He also says, "A man who has friends must be a friend, but there is a friend who stays nearer than a brother" (Proverbs 17:17 and 18:24). Do you know who that is? He is Jesus.

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