



A COLLECTION OF
STORIES
FROM
WEST AFRICA

Compiled and Illustrated by
David A. Naff



ROOSTER, DOG, & CAT
KEEP HOUSE



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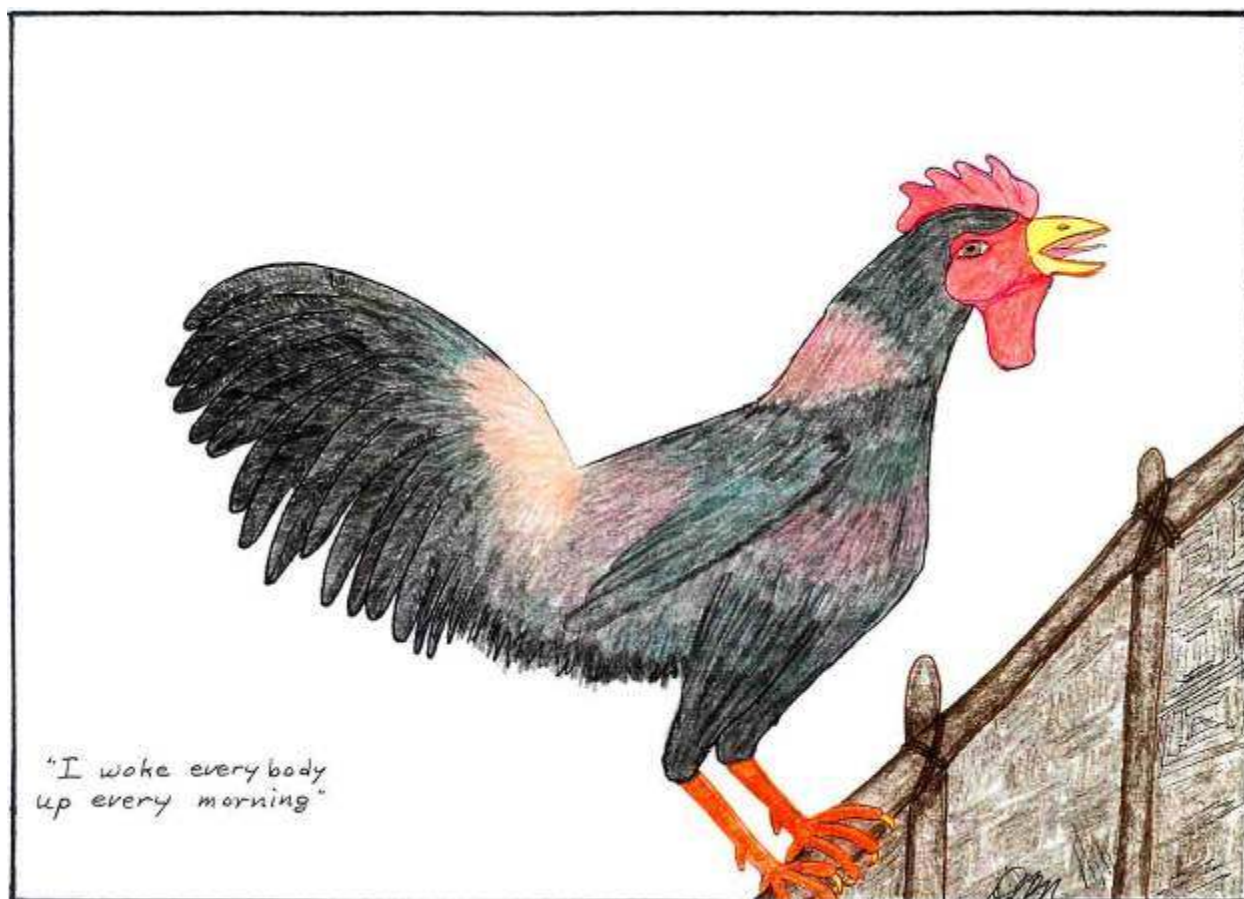
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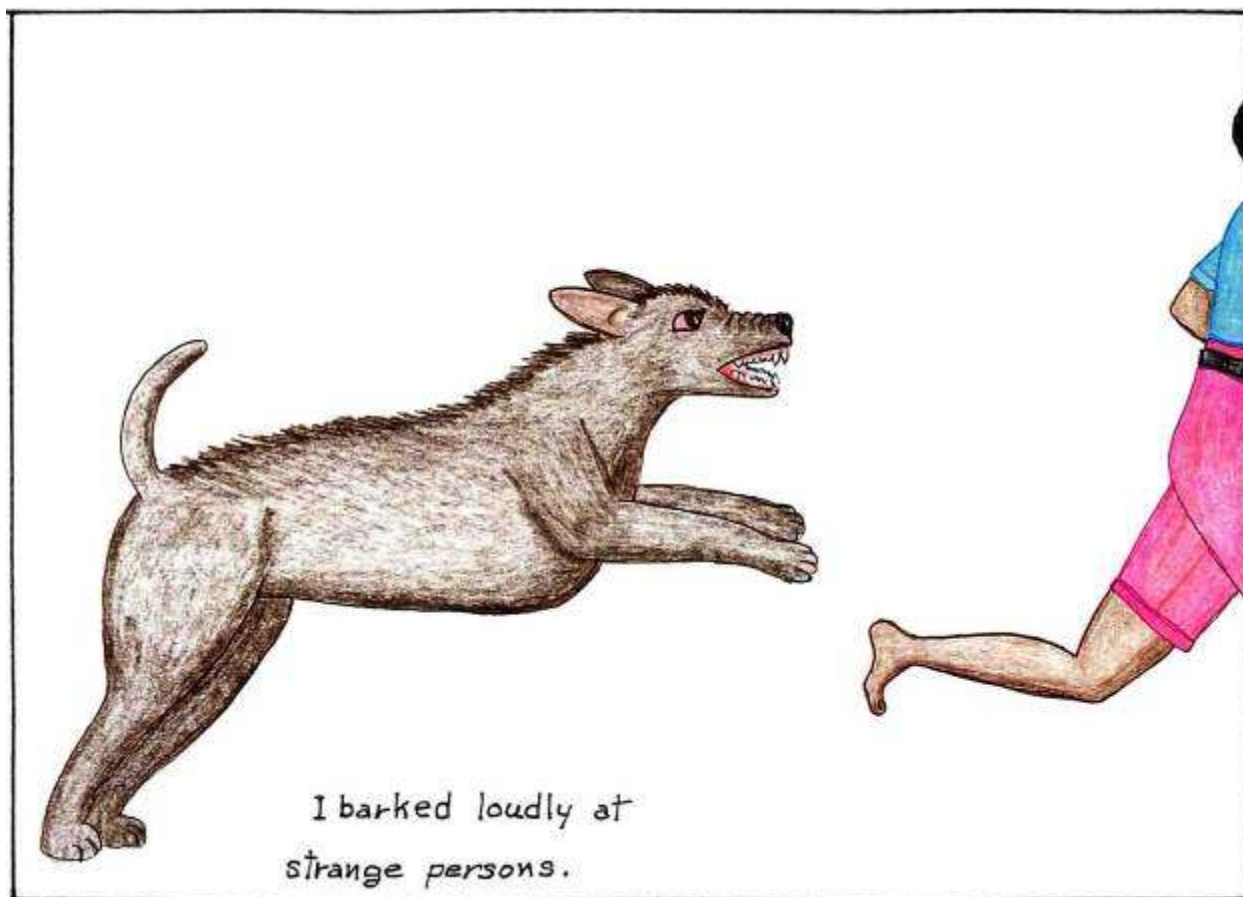
ROOSTER, DOG, & CAT KEEP HOUSE

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

Man was going to be away from his house for several days. He was going on a trip to Dugbah (Monrovia). He left Rooster, Dog and Cat in charge of the house. They were to guard it and make sure that everything went well.

He told everyone, "Now I want to find everything in good order when I return."

Hearing this Rooster, Dog and Cat worked very hard. Rooster crowed loudly every morning so that everyone got up and went about their work. Dog barked loudly at any strange noise or any strange person who might come around. He also guarded the garden well so that no sheep or goat could get in



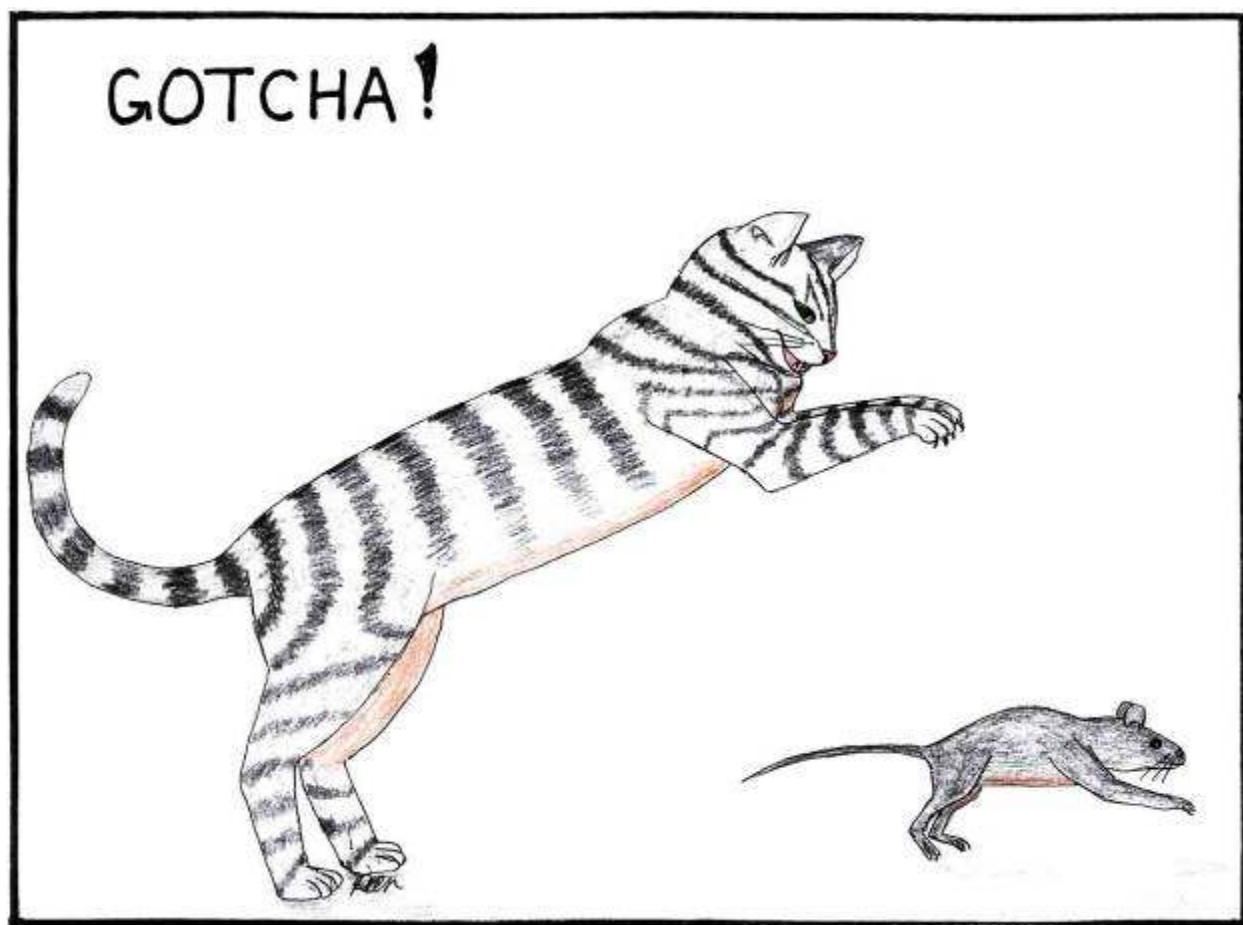
and spoil it. Cat caught and ate all the rats, mice and bugs she could find.

When Man returned, he asked them all to come and report. He wanted to know how well they had done while he was gone.

Rooster said, "I crowed loudly every morning until everyone got out of bed and went about their work."

"Yes," Man answered. "I can see that the house and yard are clean. The garden looks good and also the farm is doing well. You have done well, Rooster. You shall have a reward."

Then Dog reported, "I barked loudly whenever I heard a strange noise, or whenever any strange person came near. So no *rogue* (thief) came near your house. I also kept the goats and sheep out of the garden."



"Very well done, Dog. I have looked around the house and all is in very good order. I can also see that no goat or sheep has been in the garden. You shall have a reward, Dog."

"Now you, Cat, how have you done."

Then Cat purred, "I have killed and eaten many rats while you were gone. You will not find one rat in your house. I have also eaten many mice and bugs."

"Oh!" Man said, "I did not know that there were any rats or mice in my house. You should have kept some of their bodies so I could see how hard you have worked. You have eaten your reward."



Many times people do not see or appreciate how hard we have worked. But God does.

He says in Revelation 2:2, "I know what you have done and how hard you have worked. I know how long you can wait and not give up..."

God knows all about us and He will not forget even a cup of cold water given in His name.

He says in Matthew 10:42, "For sure, I tell you, anyone who gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he follows Me, will not lose his pay."

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