

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

Compiled and Illustrated by  
David A. Naff



**BEAN SEEDS**



## Copyrights and Creative Commons license

The license used here makes 7 important provisions.

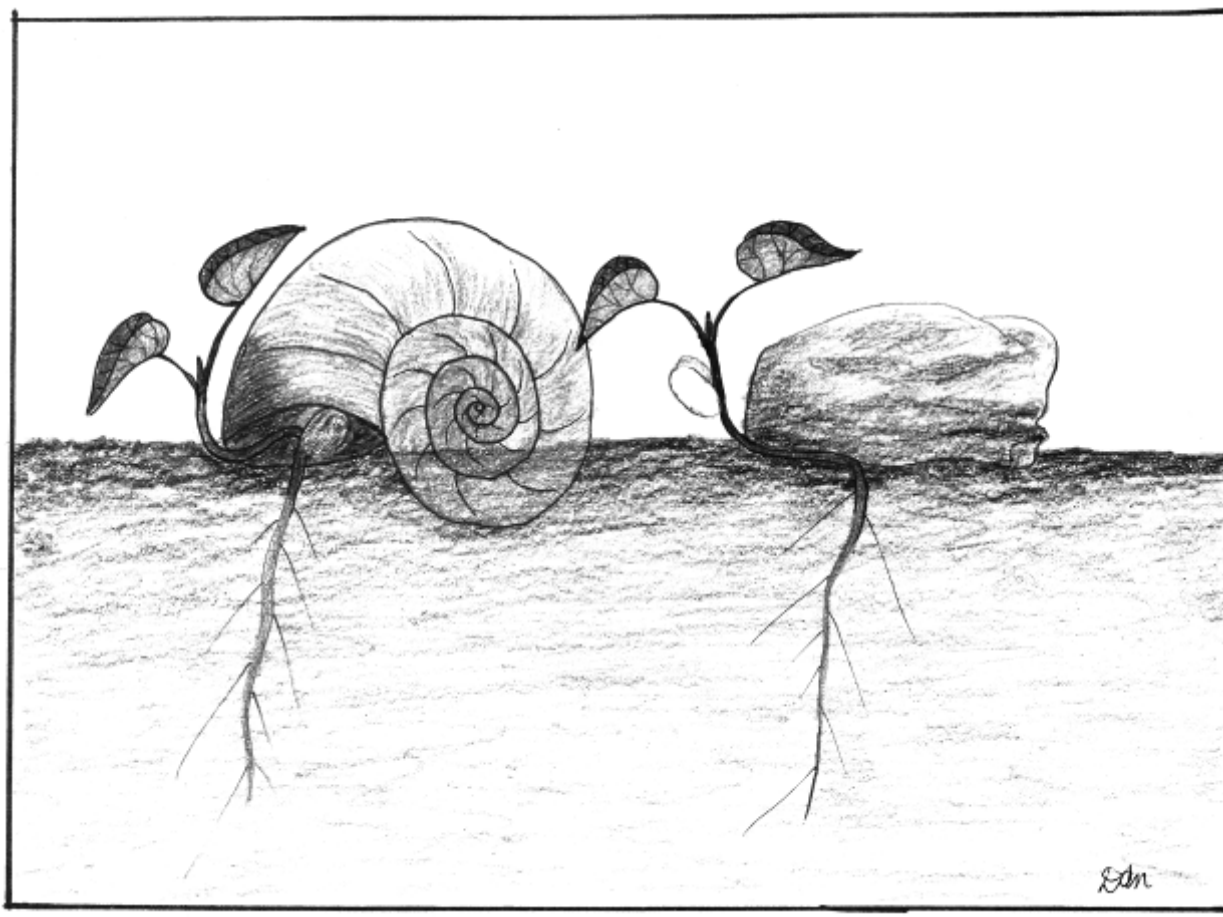
You are free, indeed encouraged, to do the following:

- 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**



## BEAN SEEDS

Illustration from a message by Fayiah Kabakollie

Are we listening to what God is saying to us through His beautiful and wonderful creation? Do we see and learn from all the wonderful things He has made? A Liberian pastor once shared the following.

“When I was a small boy, I helped my mother and father plant bean seeds. I was amazed at how the sprouts would push their way up through the lumpy soil to get out into the sunlight so they could grow. Even though the little shoot was so tender I could easily crush it, it still forced its way up out of the ground.

“So, one time I said to myself, ‘I will put a snail shell over some of the bean seeds I have just planted.’ When I came back later I found that the bean sprouts had come up inside the shell. And then they grew out from under the edge of the shell and so out into the open air and sunlight.

“Well, then I said, ‘I will put a large stone on some seeds.’ The seeds still sprouted and came up around the stone. Now the bean was not very strong and its stem and roots were tender. I could easily crush them.

“When I saw and thought about these things, I said to myself, ‘It must be God who made it happen.’ Does God care about beans? Then He must also care about man who plants beans and eats beans. Did God make the beans for man to eat? Then God must love and care about man. That means that God loves and cares about me.”

Pastor Fayiah was right. There is much that we can learn about God if we only look and think. There is so much around us that says of God, “I love you. I want to care for you.”

Psalm 19:1-3 says, “The heavens are telling of the greatness of God and the great open spaces above show the work of his hands. Day to day they speak. And night to night they show much learning. There is no speaking and no words where their voice is not heard.”

© 1997, 2003 David A. Naff

All scripture quoted is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW LIFE VERSION, Copyright © 1969, 1976, 1978, 1983, 1986 *Christian Literature International, PO Box 777, Canby, OR 97013. Used by permission.*