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Nihai da'aiomesi / Lion's fire

sticks

✎ Traditional San story

👤 Manyeka Arts Trust

📄 Tsemkxao Cwi, Gɣkxao J. B. Kxao (ktz)



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Nihai da'aiomesi

Lion's fire sticks



✎ Traditional San story

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📄 4

🗣️ Juhl'hoansi / English en



Nꞑoahn he coa ||'ae sa koh ꞑxan ko ||'aea !ha-mh kosin ju ko ku !xoana ||kae. Te ||'a ||'ae sa ju koh koara tosi ko da'a. Si koh 'm tci tza'anasi. N!hai n|e'esi koh kxae g|aoh ko da'a khoea.

...

This story starts in the old times when animals and people lived together. In those days people did not have the right to fire. They ate their food raw. Only Lion had the power of fire.



Ko ||'aema gꞑa'in ku ꞑaun, n!hai tsi g|ae |xoa |hoa ||huin. "||Ama |ama he khoea," ha ko, "Mi ||a'ike sin n||ah i!a n|ui. Mi !aqe i!a ka !xoe i!a ka 'm i!a!" Te ka o tcin n!hai ||a'ike oo ge |xoa ju woaqnsi he o si horekxao he kahin ju ||a'ike kxae g|aoh ko da'a khoea.

...

After a long time, Lion returned with a tired face, for Ostrich ran too fast for him. "From this day on," he said, "I will not leave any of you alone. I will hunt you and chase you and eat you!" And this is how Lion came to be everyone's enemy and how people got the power of fire.



Ju kota ihamh llkae nlang se du fang n|ui.
 "Mia re du hatce ka nihai |'an mia ko da ka ma
 n|oan msiz?" Si tsitsa'a. S|ia ll'ae te ko s|ia te ihai g|u
 ka cocoa ge'e ka ge'e, ka ll'am, ka i'au ll'kae ll'kae ju
 wece. "Hoe dxani |xoa e|a. Hoe dxani |xoa e|a."
 Hoe dxani |xoa e|a."

...

The people and the animals came together to
 make a plan. "What can we do to get the fire from
 Lion so that we can cook our food?" they asked.
 They decided to wait until evening and started
 singing and singing, clapping and clapping, calling
 everyone together. "Come dance with us. Come
 dance with us. Come dance with us."



Nihai ko, "Hatce mi |oa tsa'a dohma n|a'a he ge'ea
 mi i'o n|ang ko koa i'ae ke?" Ha se n|lhokhoe te
 ho dsuu te n|lom g|x|a.

...

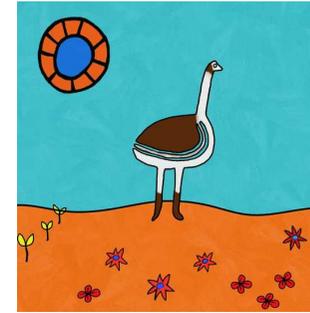
Lion said, "Why do I not hear Ostrich's high
 singing voice behind me anymore?" He looked
 around, saw Ostrich and chased after him.



!Hamh sa ꞑhai ||ama tzi te tsi ||kae |xoá si!a. ||'A si!a dǰxani he ge'e. N!hai n|hui da'a !aihan si te tani. Ha n||ahri te n||hari. Te ||'ae ma tzema g!oh g|ai. N!hai dchun te cete n|hui ||'ai sa !kau te |'u. Da'a coa te ku n!om te ju n|ui woaqn to'a gu da'a !aihan. Ju woaqnsi coa te dǰxani, te dǰxani n||homi da'a.

...

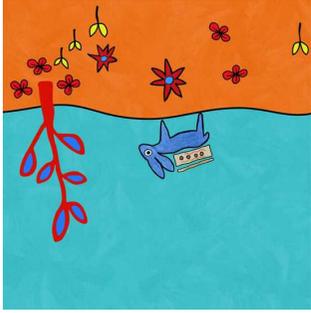
Many animals came from the bush to join in the dancing and singing. Lion brought his fire sticks. He rubbed the sticks, rubbed and rubbed. Soon a little smoke appeared beneath the sticks. Lion blew on the smoke and added some dry grass. A little flame appeared and everyone brought a piece of wood. Soon everyone was dancing around a fire.



"Eeh," ju koe sea khoe, "!Hama tcia ne hui m!a? Dsuu ha !omsi gꞑai'an, m!a tsitsa'a ha." Si!a nꞑoahn dsuu ko ||'a ꞑ'anga, Te ha tsxatsxabu n!hai da'a !aihansi te !aah.

...

"Oh," sighed the people, "Which animal can help us now? Ostrich has the longest legs of all, let us ask him." They explained the plan to Ostrich and he grabbed Lion's fire sticks this time.



iHai koh |xuri te o iha ma di'i. Te ju ioa ha, "I'aea
ke nihai ku djaxani |xoa eia, a nihui ha da'a iaihansi
nlang iaah u." Ha ka |oa xoana ka du khama nihai
niom tsau.

...

Rabbit was a cunning and fast animal. The people
said to him, "While we are singing here and while
Lion is dancing with us, you must take his fire
sticks and run." So Rabbit grabbed Lion's fire sticks
and ran. He did not make it because Lion caught
up with him and brought the fire sticks back.



Te nihai cete ge'e tzi ni'a'an. "Mi koara tih. Mi koara
tih niui. Mi sin 'm |xoa a ko ikui. Mi 'm a xabe ka a
kxae ikui. Khama ia o mi 'msi."

...

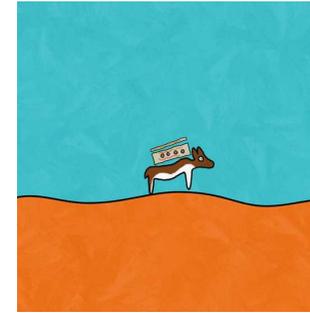
Again, Lion sang his boastful song. "To me it does
not matter. I don't have a problem. I can eat you
with hair, I can eat you without hair. I don't have a
problem. All of you are food to me."



N!hai ge'e tzi n!a'an. "Mi khoea ka |oa o tih. Mi koara tih. Mi sin 'm |xoa a ko !kui, mi sin 'm a xabe !kui koara. Mi koara tih. I!a wece o 'msi ko mi khoea."

...

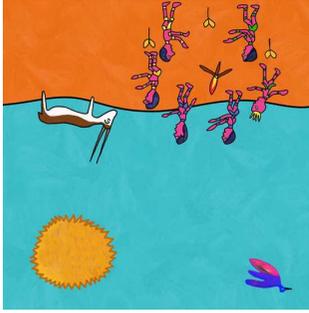
The lion sang a boastful song: "To me it does not matter. I don't have a problem. I can eat you with hair, I can eat you without hair. I don't have a problem. All of you are food to me."



||Aea si!a gea da'a tzi he djxani n||homi da'a, l'Au tsxatsxabi da'a !aiahnsi te !aah g!a'ama ||xao. Xabe n!hai ko, "Hatce re mi |oa tsa'a ha ɸaun kxui n!ana kaq?" Ha mani te n||omg!xa ha ||'a l'au ma te n|huia ha ko da'a !aihansi te tani tsia ha ko da'a tzi.

...

When they were dancing around the fire, Duiker grabbed Lion's fire sticks and ran into the veld. But Lion said, "Why do I not hear Duiker snort-snorting behind me as before?" He turned around and chased after little Duiker who was leaping into the veld. Lion caught up with him and returned to the fire with his sticks.



ƆAqai ku iaah te ho ha 'ae te khu tca di'. Ju ioa ha,
 "Aea nihai djaxani he ge'e |xoa eia, a Ɔaun
 tsatsxabi ha da'a iaihansi nlang iaah u."

...

Springbok could run and jump very fast. The
 people said to him, "While Lion is dancing and
 singing here with us, you must grab his fire sticks
 and run."



Te ju gomagama khoe. Sila ko, "Ya kxoe m tsitsa'a
 'au. Ha tzema te cete di'." "Au," sila koh koe
 nllae, "Aea ke nihai djaxani he ge'e |xoa m ia ko
 khuinke, a n|hui ha da'a iaihansi nlang iaah u."

...

Then the people whispered to each other. They
 said, "Let us ask Duiker. He is small and very fast."
 "Duiker," they said, "while Lion is dancing and
 singing here with us, you must grab his fire sticks
 and run away."



||'Ae si!a djxanihe ge'e, ɸaqai tsxatsxabi !aiansi te khu te g!a'ama ||xao. Xabe ||oeh n!hai koe n||ae, "Hatce khoea re mi |oa tsa'a ha g!oqbug!oqbu kxui ko ha |kaisi taqm kxui ko mi !'o n!ang?"

...

When they were dancing and singing, Springbok grabbed the fire sticks and jumped away into the veld. But Lion said, "Why do I not hear the clippety-clop clippety-clop of Springbok's hooves behind me?"



N!hai mani te se tca ɸaqai ||ae ha da'a !aihansi he ku o !aah g!a'ama ||xao, ||ama ha n||omg!xa ɸaqai, te gu te n|hui coea ha da'a !aihansi. |Ama, n!hai cete ge'e tzi n!a'an.

...

Lion turned and saw Springbok running into the veld with his fire sticks. So he ran after Springbok, caught him and came back with his fire sticks. Again, Lion sang his boastful song.