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Nihai da'aiomesi / Lion's fire sticks

✎ Traditional San story
👤 Manyeka Arts Trust
📄 Tsemkxao Cwi, Gɛkxao J. B. Kxao (ktz)



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Nihai da'aiomesi
Lion's fire sticks



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🗣️ Jul'hoansi! ktz / English en



N!oahn 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.



Nihai ko, "Hatce mi loa tsa'a dohma nia'a he ge'ea
mi 'i'o n'iang ko koa 'iaice ke?" Ha se n||hokhoe te
ho dsuu te n||om gi'xa.

...

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



Ju kota i'hamh ||kae ||kae n'iang se du f'ang n|ui.
"Mia re du hatce ka nihai |'an mia ko da'a ka mia
n|oan msi?" Si tsitsa'a. Si'a ||'ae te ko si'a te i'hai g|u
ka cocoa ge'e ka ge'e, ka ||'am, ka 'iau ||kae ||kae ju
wece. "Hoe djxani |xoa eia. Hoe djxani |xoa eia.
Hoe djxani |xoa eia."

...

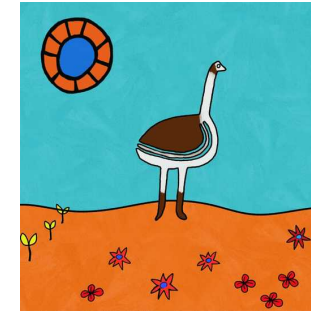
The people and the animals came together to
make a plan. "What can we do to get the fire from
Lion so that we can cook our food?" they asked.
They decided to wait until evening and started
singing and singing, clapping and clapping, calling
everyone together. "Come dance with us. Come
dance with us.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



!Hamh sa ɬhai ʔama tzi te tsi ʔkae ʔxoʔ si!a. ʔʔA si!a dʒxani he ge'e. N!hai n!hui da'a !aihan si te tani. Ha n!ahri te n!hari. Te ʔʔae ma tzema g!oh g!ai. N!hai dchun te cete n!hui ʔʔai sa !kau te ʔu. Da'a coa te ku n!om te ju n!ui woaqn to'a gu da'a !aihan. Ju woaqnsi coa te dʒxani, te dʒxani n!homi da'a.

...

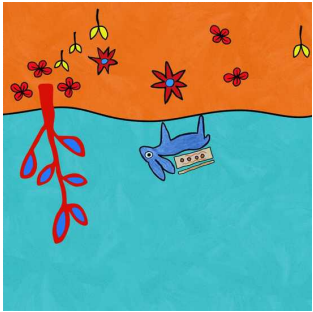
Many animals came from the bush to join in the dancing and singing. Lion brought his fire sticks. He rubbed the sticks, rubbed and rubbed. Soon a little smoke appeared beneath the sticks. Lion blew on the smoke and added some dry grass. A little flame appeared and everyone brought a piece of wood. Soon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



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

...

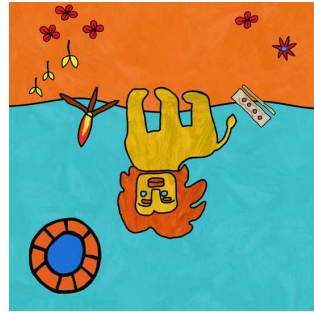
"Oh," sighed the people, "Which animal can help us now? Ostrich has the longest legs of all, let us ask him." They explained the plan to Ostrich and he grabbed Lion's fire sticks this time.



i!hai koh |xuri te o i!ha ma di'i. Te ju i!oa ha, "I!aea
ke ni!hai ku d!xani |xoa e!a, a n!hui ha da'a i!aihansi
n!ang i!aah u." Ha ka |oa xoana ka du khamma ni!hai
n!om 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 ni!hai cete ge'e tzi n!a'an. "Mi koara tih. Mi koara
tih n!ui. Mi sin 'm |xoa a ko i!kui. Mi 'm a xabe ka a
kxae i!kui. Khamma i!a o mi 'msi."

...

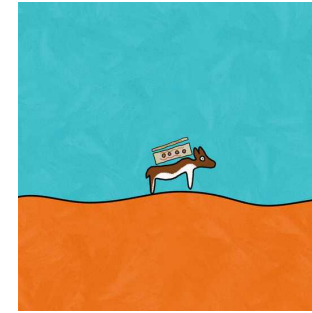
Again, Lion sang his boastful song. "To me it does
not matter. I don't have a problem. I can eat you
with hair, I can eat you without hair. I don't have a
problem. All of you are food to me."



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."

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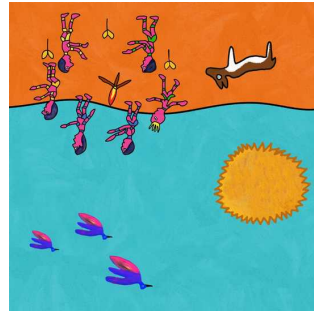
The lion sang a boastful song: "To me it does not matter. I don't have a problem. I can eat you with hair, I can eat you without hair. I don't have a problem. All of you are food to me."



||Aea si!a gea da'a tzi he djsxani 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 ɬaun 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.

...

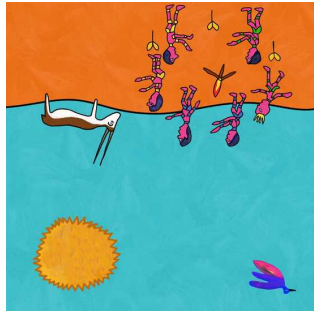
When they were dancing around the fire, Duiker grabbed Lion's fire sticks and ran into the veld. But Lion said, "Why do I not hear Duiker snort-snorting behind me as before?" He turned around and chased after little Duiker who was leaping into the veld. Lion caught up with him and returned to the fire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



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

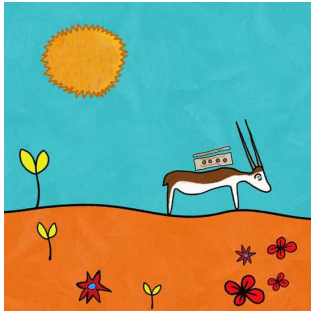
...

Then the people whispored 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."



‡Aqai ku iaah te ho ha 'ae te khu tca di'i. Ju ioa ha,
 "Aea ni'hai djaxani he ge'e |xoa eia, a ‡aun
 tsxatsxabi 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."



||'Ae si!a djxanihe ge'e, ɬaqai 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 !kai si 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 ɬaqai ||ae ha da'a !aihansi he
ku o !aah g!a'ama ||xao, ||ama ha n||omg!xa ɬaqai,
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.