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Ilimo harre / Donkey Child

Lindiwe Matshikiza

Meghan Judge

Demoze Degefa (om)



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Afan Oromo / English (en)



Bocca dinqisiisa kana kanagarte muccaayyo
xinno tokko turte.

...

It was a little girl who first saw the mysterious
shape in the distance.

As the shape moved closer, she saw that it was a heavily pregnant woman.

...

Akka bocni suni itti dhihateen, dubarti! ulfa gudda qabdu ta'uu ishee baram.





Salfattu garu muccatin goota tate tuni gara dubartitti hiqixee akkan jetteen, "Dubarti tana walwajjiin turuu qabna," namooni ishes kana murtesan." Dubarti kanafi da'ima ishees hala gariin tursisina."

...

Shy but brave, the little girl moved nearer to the woman. "We must keep her with us," the little girl's people decided. "We'll keep her and her child safe."



Ilmoonni harre tifi harmee isaa wajjiin guddatani walwajjiin nagan jiratan. Suuta suuta maatiin nannoo isani jirus hala tasgabayeen jiraachu calqaban.

...

The donkey child and his mother have grown together and found many ways of living side by side. Slowly, all around them, other families have started to settle.



Yeroo da'ima dhalate argan, namni martu
nahee dubbati utale, "Harree?!"

...

But when they saw the baby, everyone jumped
back in shock. "A donkey?!"



Harrich boode wangodhu qabu baree.

...

Donkey finally knew what to do.



Namooni walmormuu calqaban, "Dubarti kanafii da'amma ishee akka garitti qabna jenne

waliigallee jirra," jedhe namooni tokko tokko.

"Garu hiree badaa nutti fidu jedhu kunimo!"

...

Everyone began to argue. "We said we would keep mother and child safe, and that's what we'll do," said some. "But they will bring us bad luck!" said others.



Dummessi suni hiriyaa isaa wajjiin bade. Jarsaa wajjiinis bade.

...

... the clouds had disappeared along with his friend, the old man.



Dubartittin amma illee qophaa isshe taate.
Da'imaa rakkisaa kana waangotuu walaaltee.
Esse akka deemitu wallalte.

...

And so the woman found herself alone again.
She wondered what to do with this awkward
child. She wondered what to do with herself.



Samii gubba yeroo gahan hiribin isaan fudhatee.
Harrich abjuudhan harmeen isaa dhukubsachuu
ishee arge. Kanaafu damaqqee ka'ee...

...

High up amongst the clouds they fell asleep.
Donkey dreamed that his mother was sick and
calling to him. And when he woke up...

Dhummarati dar'immichi kana ishee akka ta'eefi
ishenis hadha akka ta'et fudhate.

...

But finally she had to accept that he was her
child and she was his mother.



Guyaa ganama tokko, jarsichi harreen akka
gara gara gubbaa baate isaa kahuu gaafate.

...

One morning, the old man asked Donkey to
carry him to the top of a mountain.





Da'immichi otto akkuma sanatti jiratee garii ture. Garuu da'immni harree kun dafee guddata dugda hadhii ti ol ta'e. Ammalli isaas akka amala namaa ta'u hindandenyee. Harmeen isas yeroo hunda dadhabdde isaa nufatti. Yeroo tokko tokko hojii beellada hojadhu jetiin.

...

Now, if the child had stayed that same, small size, everything might have been different. But the donkey child grew and grew until he could no longer fit on his mother's back. And no matter how hard he tried, he could not behave like a human being. His mother was often tired and frustrated. Sometimes she made him do work meant for animals.



Harriche deeme jarsaa wan bayee isaa barsisee kan wajjiin jirachuf murtesse. Harrichis bayee dhagefate, barates. Walgargarin wajjiin kolfaa jiratan.

...

Donkey went to stay with the old man, who taught him many different ways to survive. Donkey listened and learned, and so did the old man. They helped each other, and they laughed together.



Harrichillee aarifi cinqaan sammu isaa
haddoche. Hojii ittikenname tokko iyyu
hindandeenyee. Gaftookko bayee aare harmee
isaa dhitee lafatti! kuffise.

...

Confusion and anger built up inside Donkey. He
couldn't do this and he couldn't do that. He
couldn't be like this and he couldn't be like that.
He became so angry that, one day, he kicked his
mother to the ground.



Harren olka'ee nama dulooma ija itti basu arge.
Gara jarsa kana ilaale abdi ximno argate.

...

Donkey woke up to find a strange old man
staring down at him. He looked into the old
man's eyes and started to feel a twinkle of hope.



Harrichi bayee safate. Hamma danda'ee tokko figichan faggate deeme.

...

Donkey was filled with shame. He started to run away as far and fast as he could.



Yeroo inni figicha dhabu, halkan wantureef harreen kara bade. "Hii haaw," jedhe dukkanti iyye. "Hii haaw?" jedhe dukkani itti debisee. qophaa isaa ture. Otto figgu bolla kessati kufe.

...

By the time he stopped running, it was night, and Donkey was lost. "Hee haw?" he whispered to the darkness. "Hee Haw?" it echoed back. He was alone. Curling himself into a tight ball, he fell into a deep and troubled sleep.