



Pam-Pam tzama


Pam-Pam bird

 Traditional San story

 Manyeka Arts Trust

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 Ju|'hoansi ktz / English en



Pensa koh o !aqekxao n!a'an ko Kalahari khoea. Ha koh tani tsia tju|ho ko !ha sa tcin ka n'ai 'm ha juasi. Te tzama n|ui koh ge, he o ha Pam-Pam te Pensa koh kare ha gu. ||'A tzama g!ohm |kuiasi ko kaice jan |'an ko tchisi du. Te tih koh o ha sin |oa xoana Pam-Pam ||xau ka ||'ang. Pensa ||'a ha tchisi ku n!om g!a'ama ɬoan n|a'an ko tzama – te ha koh sin kare ka ha koh ||'ang Pam-Pam he ɬhoe ha g!ohm !kuiasi!

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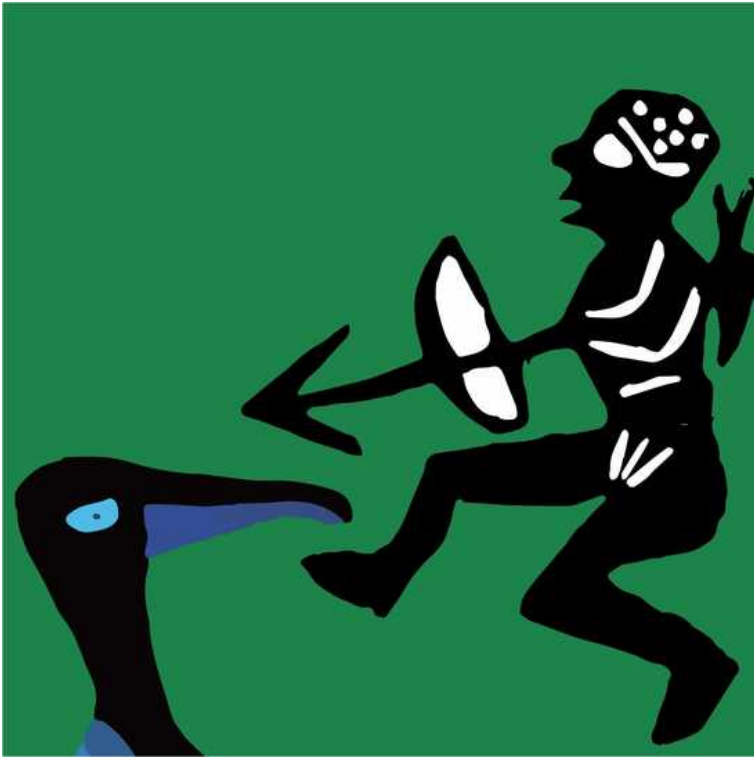
Pensa was the best hunter in the whole Kalahari Desert. He brought home fat animals and fed his family well. There was this bird, the Pam-Pam bird, which Pensa wanted to catch. The bird's tail feathers were perfect for his arrows. The problem was, he could never manage to trap or shoot Pam-Pam. Pensa's arrows would fly through the air just like a bird - if only he could catch Pam-Pam and pull out his tail feathers!



Pensa ua !'hoan kxae, ꞑ'ang he o si!a n|omkxao. Ha gꞑara hui. "A |xom n|ang totoa mi ko tca ju oo ||'anga tzama he o Pam-Pam ko ka ju ||xau ha. Mi kare ha !kuisi ||koa |xoa ko mi n!aoh kosin mi tchisi. Mi re noun dua ka ||'ang ha?" Te n|omkxao mania ha te ko. "U n|ang g|ae du da'a." Te ||'aea tci |kain |kain wece !aah g!a'ia da'a tzi, a ꞑ'aun n|hui ka mhi tsea. ||Xau |xoa ||'a tci |kain |kainhmsa. Kahin mani Pam-Pam ꞑ'angsi.

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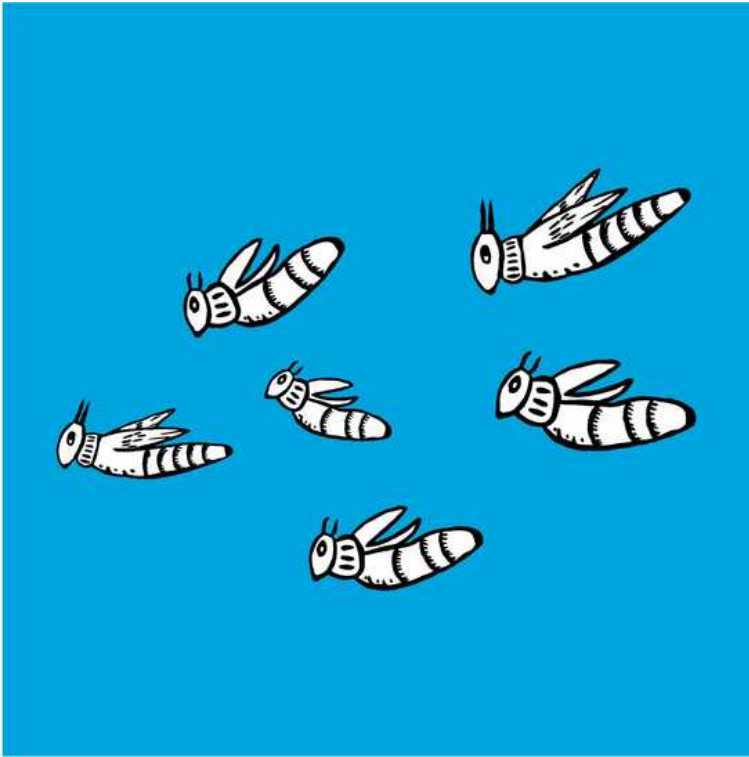
Pensa went to the wise man, their healer. He asked for help. "Please guide me to catch the Pam-Pam bird. I need his feathers for my bow and arrows. What must do to catch him?" The healer replied, "Go and make a fire. When all the insects run away from your fire, you must catch the smallest of them. Make a trap and place this little insect inside your trap. It will tempt the Pam-Pam bird."



Pensa koh !oa !'han tca Pam-Pam sa n|omkxao te o ɸarasi. Pam-Pam ||'ae gesin ha !'ho n|hmkxao. Sa ge ka !'an khoe ko nɸoahnsi. "Mi nɸai ɸxai a," n|hmkxao koe n||ae ko ||'aea Pam-Pam !'ho ha. "Mi koh !oa !aqekxao ko tca ha oo ||'anga a ko ||xau. Ka a hoa da'a ko tzi, a ɸ'aun n!om nɸau koa ɸxan. Mi se ka ko itsa n|uia nere tahn."

. . .

Pensa did not know that the healer and the Pam-Pam bird were friends. Pam-Pam often visited the healer. They exchanged stories. "I warn you," said the healer when Pam-Pam bird visited him, "I have told the hunter how to catch you. When you see a fire in the veld, you must fly far away. I want to see which one of you will win."



Te ||'aeman!angsi, Pensa cocoa te !aqe Pam-Pam tzama. Ha n|anga tzi te n||an||ari da'a !aihansi. Te ||'aea g!oh ma ku g|ai, ha dchun !hara da'a ko ||a'isi sa soahn te da'a dhari ma kua du da'a. Te tci |kain |kainsa ge n||omi da'a dharisi ko n!om du, te Pensa n||uri te gua n#homa ko ||'akoa. Ha |ua ha ko ||xau n!ang.

. . .

In the meantime, Pensa started his hunt for the Pam-Pam bird. He sat in the veld and rubbed and rubbed his fire sticks. When the smoke appeared, he blew into the fine grass around his fire sticks, until the little flame appeared and became a fire. The insects around the flaming grass flew away, but Pensa managed to catch a young grasshopper. He put it into his trap.



Te Pam-Pam tzama |u g|ae kaqm n!ohm ma gea Pensa ||xau n!ang. Te ha kua ||'ae ha te sin n!om tca di'i ka g!ae tsxatsxabi |xoa ha zuhn. Pensa ku tsa'a Pam-Pam oo tjian. "Pam-Pam, Pam-Pam, Pam-Pam, Pam-Pam, Pam." Pensa !aah ua ha ||xau khoea. Te tzama koh ||'ang!

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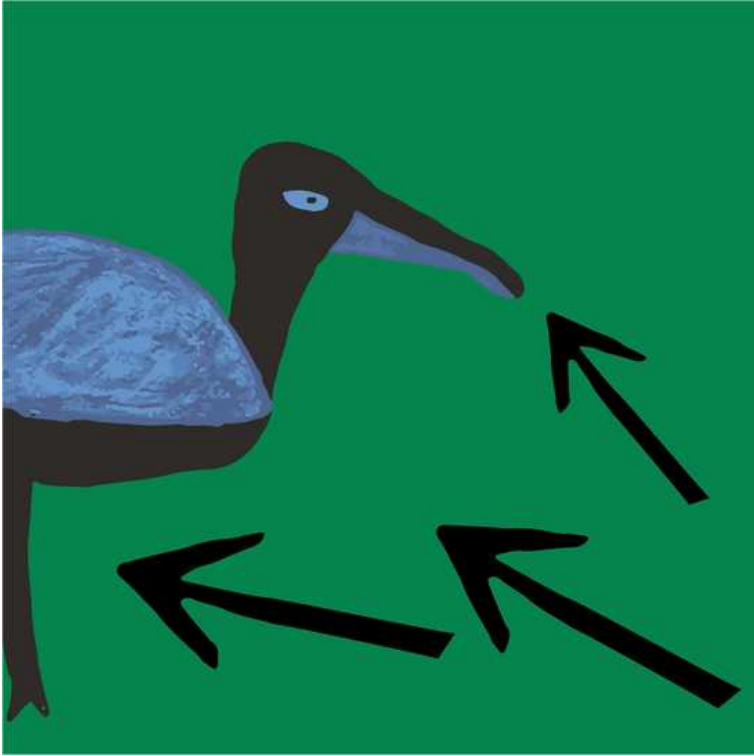
The Pam-Pam bird could not resist the juicy young grasshopper in Pensa's trap. He decided to fly down and grab it quickly with his sharp beak. Pensa heard Pam-Pam bird's cry, "Pam-pam, pam-pam, pam-pam." Pensa ran to his trap. The bird was trapped!



Pam-Pam tzama |xom Pensa n|ang kxoe ha khoara ha. "Ooh 'an'an," Pensa koe n||ae, "Mi kxoa a ko ||'aea n!obe gǀa'in. A ||aike o mi ma! A !kuisi ku oo ka mi tchisi ku n!om g!a'ma n|a'an, ǀoa a."

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Pam-Pam bird begged Pensa to set him free. "Oh no," said Pensa, "I have wanted to catch you for a very long time. Today you are mine! Your feathers will make my arrow fly through the air, just like you."



Pam-Pam tsama ku !'au, "ka a !hun mi o kaa a ||a'ike |oa ceka ho !kui gesin sa a g||aoa a tchisi. Ko ||'aea ka sa ge kxuia, khama mi n|a !ai. Sin n||ah mi n|ang kahin mi sin !xoana n|ang |'an a ko !kui ko n!ui g!ainsi wece."

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Pam-Pam bird screeched, "If you kill me you will have no more feathers for your arrow when these are worn out, because I will be dead. Set me free and I promise to give you new feathers with each full moon."



Pensa n||ah Pam-Pam. Te ka Pam-Pam tsin he ku n̄oah u, ha
ɬ'ang, "Mi re koma sin |'ae koqe te u?"

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Pensa let Pam-Pam go. As Pam-Pam walked away, he thought,
"Am I really free?"



Pensa ua tju|'ho te cete g|ae du tchi zessin. Te ||'aea ju ce ku se tchisi, si!a are: "Ooh se !aqekxao ha tjin !ai kxui, Pam-Pam tzama ||'a ha !kuisa gea ha tchisi ||ama |ama he ha ||a'ike ku ||au !aqe ka tani 'm jansin: E g|ae kxae 'm ||kae."

. . .

Pensa went home and made new arrows. When the people saw his new arrows, they exclaimed: "O-o, look at this hunter! He carries the Pam-Pam bird's feathers in his arrows. Now he will hunt well and bring us good food. We shall have a feast!"



G|ua to'a n|omkxao ||kae||kae ju te tcxai n|ang |'an khoara sia o
!aqekxao sa Pam-Pam tzama ga. ||Ama ||'a ||'aea !aqekxao
woaqnsi ||a'ike ku sin Ɂ'ang nɁoahn o Pam-Pam tzama, te
nɁoahn ka ko si da'abi si ko nɁai Ɂ'anga |amsa koh Ɂaun.

. . .

That night, the healer led the people in a fire dance to
celebrate the hunter's success and Pam-Pam bird's freedom.
And since that day, all the good hunters remember the story
of the Pam-Pam bird, to tell their children as a memory of days
gone by.



Global Storybooks

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Pam-Pam tzama

Pam-Pam bird



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