



**N!hai da'a!omesi**

## **Lion's fire sticks**

✎ Traditional San story

🏠 Manyeka Arts Trust

💬 Tsemkxao Cwi, Gǣkxao J. B. Kxao

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💬 Ju|'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.



Ju kota !hamh ||kae ||kae n|ang se du ɬ'ang n|ui. "M!a re du hatce ka n!hai 'an m!a ko da'a ka m!a n|oan msi?" Si tsitsa'a. Si!a ||'ae te ko si!a te !hai g|u ka cocoa ge'e ka ge'e, ka ||'am, ka !'au ||kae ||kae ju wece. "Hoe djxani |xoa e!a. Hoe djxani |xoa e!a. Hoe djxani |xoa e!a."

...

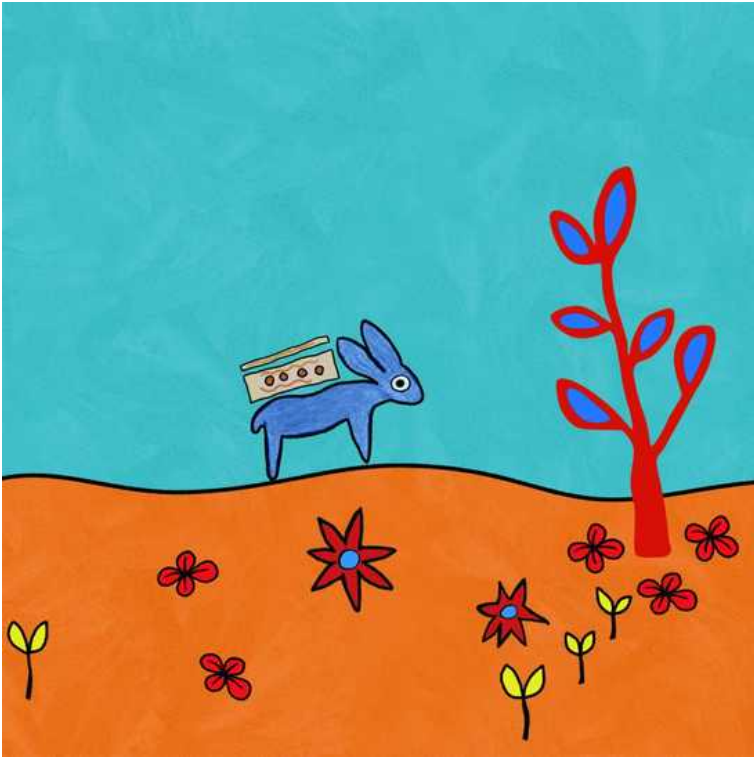
The people and the animals came together to make a plan. "What can we do to get the fire from Lion so that we can cook our food?" they asked. They decided to wait until evening and started singing and singing, clapping and clapping, calling everyone together. "Come dance with us. Come dance with us.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



!Hamh sa ɸhai ||ama tzi te tsi ||kae |xoa si!a. ||'A si!a dɟxani 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 dɟxani, te dɟxani 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.



!Hai koh |xuri te o !ha ma di'i. Te ju !oa ha, "||'aea ke n!hai ku d|xani |xoa e!a, a n|hui ha da'a !aihansi n|ang !aah u." Ha ka |oa xoana ka du khama n!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.



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. !la 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."

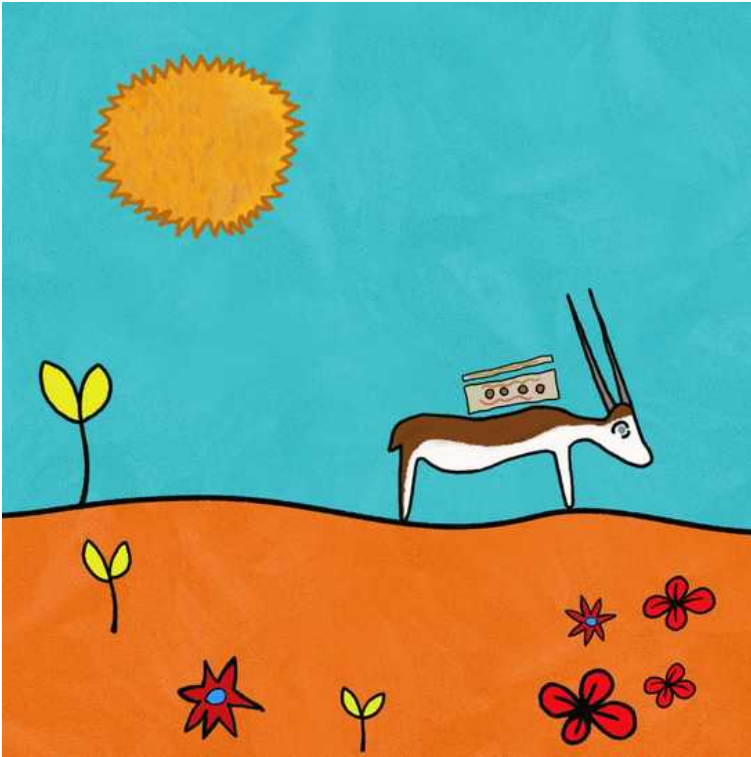


ꞑAqai ku !aah te ho ha ꞑ'ae te khu tca di'i. Ju !oa ha, "ꞑꞑ'aea n!hai  
dixani he ge'e ꞑxoa e!a, a ꞑ'aun tsxatsxabi ha da'a !aihansi  
nꞑang !aah u."

. . .

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 dǀxanihe ge'e, ǀaqai 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 ǀaqai ǁae ha da'a !aihansi he ku o !aah  
g!a'ama ǁxao, ǁama ha nǁomg!xa ǀaqai, te gu te nǁhui coea ha  
da'a !aihansi. |Ama, n!hai cete ge'e tzi n!a'an.

...

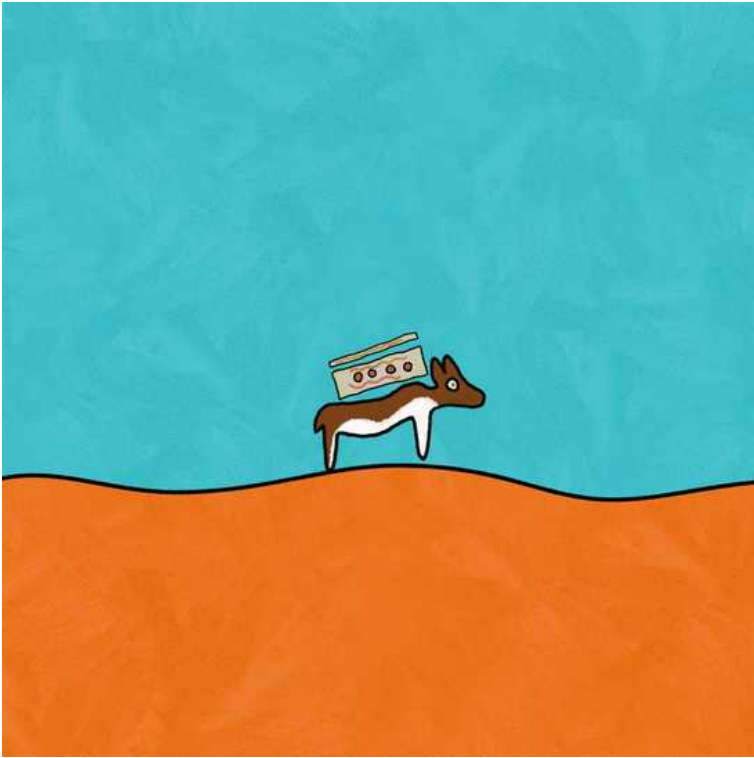
Lion turned and saw Springbok running into the veld with his  
fire sticks. So he ran after Springbok, caught him and came  
back with his fire sticks. Again, Lion sang his boastful song.



Te ju gomagoma khoe. Si!a ko, "Ya kxoe m tsitsa'a !'au. Ha tzema te cete di'di." "!'Au," si!a koh koe n||ae, "||'Aea ke n!hai djxani he ge'e |xoa m!a ko khuinke, a n|hui ha da'a !aihansi n|ang !aah 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."



||Aea si!a gea da'a tzi he djxani n||homi da'a, |'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 |'au ma te n|huiha ha ko da'a !aihansi te tani tsia ha ko da'a tzi.

. . .

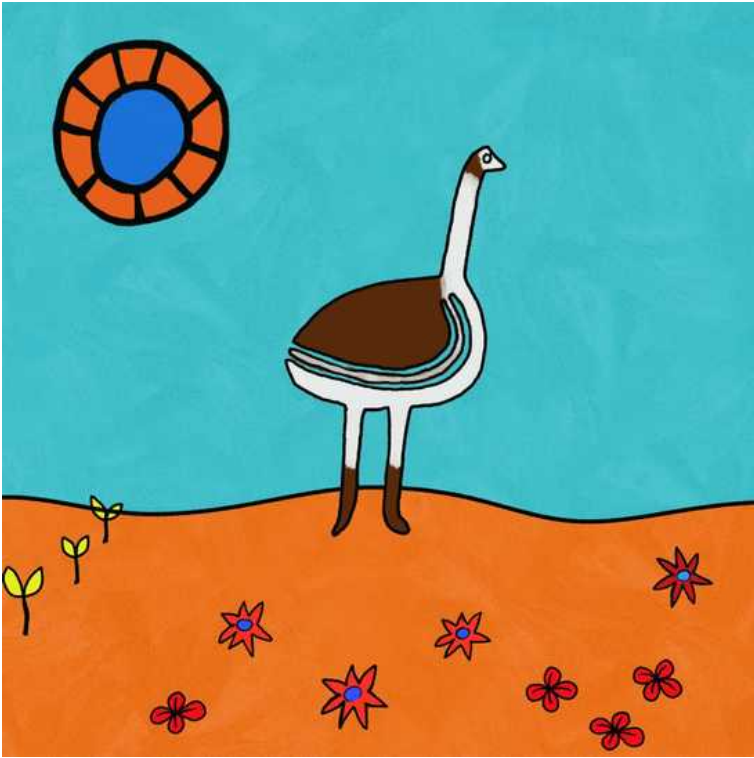
When they were dancing around the fire, Duiker grabbed Lion's fire sticks and ran into the veld. But Lion said, "Why do I not hear Duiker snort-snorting behind me as before?" He turned around and chased after little Duiker who was leaping into the veld. Lion caught up with him and returned to the fire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



Te n!hai cete ge'e tzi n!a'an. "Mi koara tih. Mi koara tih n!ui. Mi sin 'm |xoa a ko !kui. Mi 'm a xabe ka a kxae !kui. Khama 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."



“Eeh,” ju koe sea khoe, “!Hama tcia ne hui m!a? Dsuu ha !omsi gṭai’an, m!a tsitsa’a ha.” Si!a nṭoahn dsuu ko ḽ’a ṭ’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.



N!hai ko, "Hatce mi |oa tsa'a dohma n!a'a he ge'ea mi !'o n!ang ko koa !'aice ke?" Ha se n||hokhoe te ho dsuu te n||om g!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.



Ko ||'aema gɬa'in ku ɬaun, n!hai tsi glaɛ |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 glaoh 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.






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