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Why hippos have no hair



✎ Basilio Gimo, David Ker

✉ Carol Liddiment

🗉 Daniel Berhane Habte

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ሓደ መዓልት፣ ማንቲላ በቲ ገምገም ፈለግ ይዛውን  
ነበረ።

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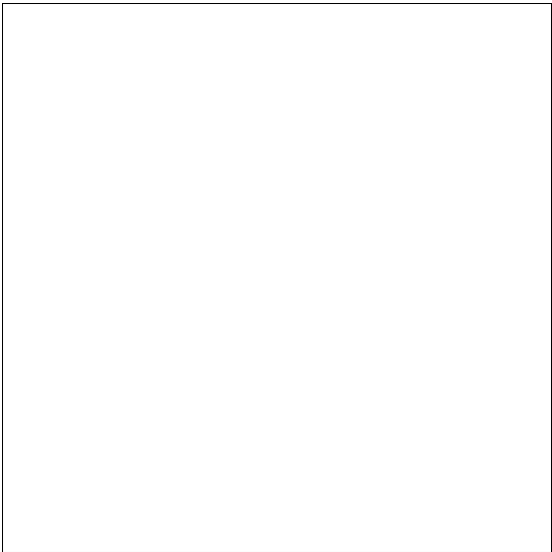
One day, Rabbit was walking by the  
riverside.

Hippo was there too, going for a stroll  
and eating some nice green grass.

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ጉማረ ነቲ ማንቲላ ኣብኡ ከምዘነበረ ኣይርአየቶንዎ ብወዘቢ ኣብ እግሪ ማንቲላ ረገጸት። ማንቲላ ነታ ጉማረ እናወጩጩ፡ “ኣቲ ጉማረ! ኣብ እግረይ ረገጸኪ ከምዘለኺ ክትርእዩ ኣይትኽእልን?” ክብላ ጀመረ።

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Hippo didn't see that Rabbit was there and she accidentally stepped on Rabbit's foot. Rabbit started screaming at Hippo, "You Hippo! Can't you see that you're stepping on my foot?"



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...

Rabbit was happy that Hippo's hair was burned. And to this day, for fear of fire, the hippo never goes far from the water.

Hippo apologised to Rabbit, "I'm so sorry. I didn't see you. Please forgive me!" But Rabbit wouldn't listen and he shouted at Hippo, "You did that on purpose! Someday, you'll see! You're going to pay!"

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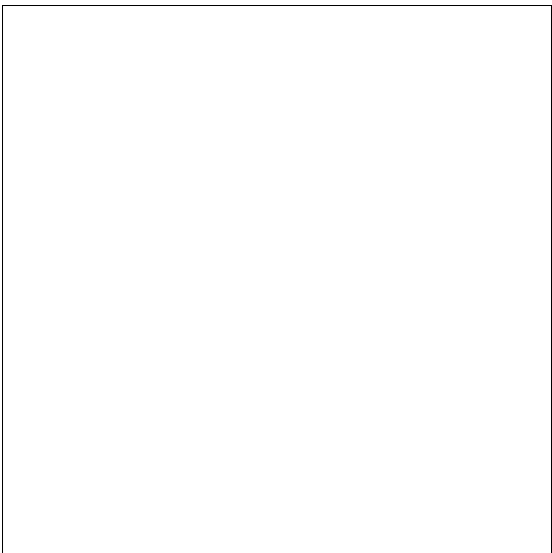
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Hippo started to cry and ran for the water. All her hair was burned off by the fire. Hippo kept crying, "My hair has burned in the fire! My hair is all gone! My beautiful hair!"

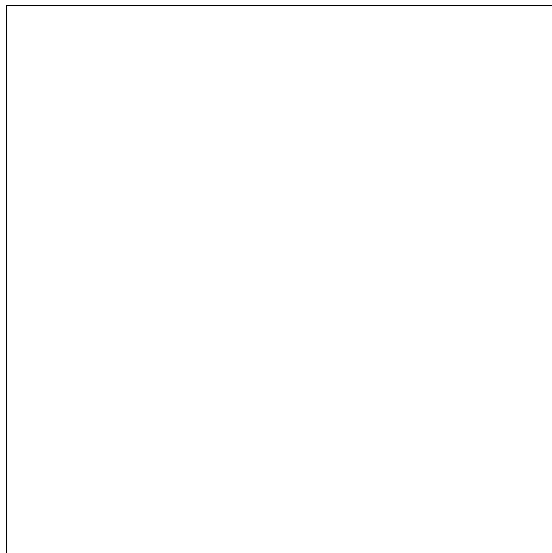
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 “ኪድሞ፡ ጉማረ ሳዕሪ ኽትበልዕ ካብቲ ማይ  
 ምስወጻት ኣንድዳ፡ ረጊጻትኒ እያ!” ሓዊ ድማ፡ “ጸገም  
 የለን፡ ማንቲላ ዓርከይ፡፡ ልክዕ ከም ዝሓተትካኒ ክገብር  
 እየ፡፡” ኢሉ መለሰሉ፡፡

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Rabbit went to find Fire and said, “Go, burn Hippo when she comes out of the water to eat grass. She stepped on me!” Fire answered, “No problem, Rabbit, my friend. I’ll do just what you ask.”



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 ከላ፡ “ሸው!” ሓዊ ተባሪዑ ሃልሃል በለ፡፡ እቲ ሃልሃልታ  
 ነቲ ናይ ጉማረ ጸጉሪ ከንድዶ ጀመረ፡፡

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Later, Hippo was eating grass far from the river when, “Whoosh!” Fire burst into flame. The flames began to burn Hippo’s hair.