

لِمَاذَا لَا تَمْلِكُ أَفْرَاسُ النَّهْرِ شَعْرًا

## Why hippos have no hair

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 العربية  / English

فِي أَحَدِ الْأَيَّامِ، كَانَ أَرْنَبٌ يَمْشِي بِالْقُرْبِ مِنْ حَافَةِ النَّهْرِ.

...

One day, Rabbit was walking by the riverside.

كَانَ هُنَاكَ أَيْضًا فَرَسٌ نَهَرَ جَاءَتْ فِي نَزْهَةٍ، وَكَانَتْ تَأْكُلُ بَعْضَ  
الْعُشْبِ الْأَخْضَرِ اللَّذِيذِ.

...

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

لَمْ تَكُنِ الْفَرَسُ تَعْرِفُ بِوُجُودِ الْأَرْنبِ فَدَاسَتْ بِطَرِيقِ الْخَطَا عَلَى  
قَدَمِهِ. صَرَخَ الْأَرْنبُ بِوَجْهِ فَرَسِ النَّهْرِ، "أَنْتِ يَا فَرَسَ النَّهْرِ! أَلَا  
تَرَيْنَ أَنَّكَ دُسْتِ عَلَى قَدَمِي؟"

...

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?"

إِعْتَذَرْتُ فَرَسُ النَّهْرِ، وَقَالَتْ، “أَنَا آسِئَةٌ يَا صَدِيقِي، فَأَنَا لَمْ أَرَكَ ...  
أَرْجُوكَ سَامِحْنِي”. لَكِنَّ الْأَرْنَبَ لَمْ يَسْمَعْ كَلِمَهَا وَصَرَخَ بِهَا، “أَنْتِ  
قَصَدْتِ هَذَا وَسَتَدْفَعِينَ الثَّمَنَ!”

...

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!”

ذَهَبَ الْأَرْنَبُ لِيَبْحَثَ عَنِ النَّارِ وَقَالَ، “إِذْهَبِي وَأَحْرِقِي فَرَسَ النَّهْرِ  
عِنْدَمَا تَأْتِي إِلَى الْمَاءِ لِتَأْكُلَ الْعُشْبَ لِأَنَّهَا دَاسَتْ عَلَيَّ.” أَجَابَتْهُ  
النَّارُ، “سَأَفْعَلُ مَا طَلَبْتَ مِنِّي يَا صَدِيقِي.”

...

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.”

وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ بَيْنَمَا كَانَتْ فَرَسُ النَّهْرِ تَأْكُلُ الْعُشْبَ، اِنْدَلَعَتِ النَّيْرَانُ  
وَبَدَأَتْ بِحَرْقِ شَعْرِ فَرَسِ النَّهْرِ.

...

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

بَدَأَتْ فَرَسُ النَّهْرِ بِالْبُكَاءِ ثُمَّ رَكَضَتْ إِلَى الْمَاءِ. لَقَدْ أَحْرَقَتْ النَّارُ كُلَّ  
شَعْرَهَا. ظَلَّتْ فَرَسُ النَّهْرِ تَبْكِي، "لَقَدْ اِحْتَرَقَ كُلُّ شَعْرِي بِالنَّارِ، لَقَدْ  
أَحْرَقْتِ كُلَّ شَعْرِي ذَهَبَ كُلُّ شَعْرِي! شَعْرِي الْجَمِيلُ، شَعْرِي  
الْجَمِيلُ!"

...

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!"



فَرِحَ الْأَرْنَبُ أَنَّ شَعْرَ فَرَسِ النَّهْرِ قَدْ احْتَرَقَ. وَحَتَّى يَوْمِنَا هَذَا،  
وَخَوْفًا مِنَ النَّارِ، لَا تَبْتَغِدُ فَرَسُ النَّهْرِ عَنِ الْمَاءِ أَبَدًا.

...

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.



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