

Roobiin maliif rifeensa dhabee

Why hippos have no hair

 Basilio Gimo, David Ker

 Carol Liddiment

 Demoze Degefa

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 Afan Oromo  / English 



Gaftokko, hilletin laga cinaa deemite.

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One day, Rabbit was walking by the riverside.



Roobiins achuma ture, margaa marariisaa
bareda nyaachu dhaqee.

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

Roobiin akka heleetiin achi jirtu hinbekinee tasa mila ishee irra ejetee. Heleetin boyuu claqabdee, “Ati Roobii akka miila kiyyarra dhaabate hinagartu?”

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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?"

Roobiin dhifaatam hileeti gafatee, "Ani bayeen gadde. Sin'agarre ture. Adaara nafdhisii!" Hileettin kana otto hindhagahin Roobiiti akkan jette eyyite." Beekka akkan gotee! Gaftokko gatii isaa nikafalta!"

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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!"

Hileetiin ibddaa barbaacha dhaqxee akkan jette ibbidaan, "Deemi, yeroo Roobiin bishaan kessaa baate margaa dheedu deemitu gubbi. Milaa koo gubba dhaabate!" Ibbdis akkan jedhe, "Rakkoon hinjiru, Hileeti hiriyaan koo. Akkuma ati jetteh godha."

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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."

Boddee, Roobiin margaa laga fagooti dheeda yeroo ibbiddi “wuussh!” qabate. Ibbiddichis refeensa Roobii gubuu calqabae.

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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.

Roobiin bowuu calqabadee garaa bishaani figide. Rifeense ishee hunduu ibbiddan gubbate. Roobiin akkan jette, “Rifeensi koo ibbidda kanaan gubbate! Rifeense koo tokko hinhafnee! Rifeense bareedan koo!”

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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!”

Rifeense Roobii waangubateef hileetin bayee
gammadde. Hammaa hardhaatu Roobiin
sodaa ibbiddatif jedhe bishaan irraa
hinfagaatu.

...

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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- ✍ Basilio Gimo, David Ker
- ✉ Carol Liddiment
- ☞ Demoze Degefa (om)

