

West African Folktales

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compiled by an american missionary west african folk tales by william h barker is a delightful collection of folk tales from nigeria ghana mali mauritania and other countries along the west coast of africa these stories spread in various forms to other countries like the west indies suriname the netherland antilles etc and can be still heard today among the people of these countries

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a delightful collection of folk tales from west africa including 18 anansi tales as well as 17 others includes the story of how the tales came to be called anansi tales in the olden days all the stories which men told were stories of nyankupon the chief of the gods spider wanted the stories to be about him nyankupon agreed on one condition namely that he bring him three things a jar full of live bees a boa constrictor and a tiger how anansi contrived to achieve all these tasks is related in the opening story suitable for ages 6 and up

the sky god nyame owns all the stories in the world he keeps them to himself in a box in his kingdom in the clouds but anansi thinks the stories should be shared by all creatures so one day he strikes a bargain with the sky god if anansi can trick some of the earth s fiercest and quickest creatures nyame will share his stories learn how anansi wins the box of stories in this ancient tale from west africa

these 123 tales reflect the rich oral tradition of west african folklore playful and sly they teem with talking animals and shape shifting tricksters with pacts and promises made and broken and with impossible deeds done through chicanery and magic these tales deal with themes common throughout west africa and the world indeed american readers will recognize such characters as brer rabbit and the tar baby which had their roots in the folklore of this region because there is no overlay of western values however some of the morals may surprise the unsuspecting reader murder and polygamy cannibalism and cunning witchcraft and revenge spin matter of factly throughout the stories

readers everywhere and of any age will be both entertained and instructed by these timeless stories more than 40 tales of human foibles magic and nature representing fifteen countries including angola nigeria cameroon gambia liberia ghana and senegal

king chameleon and more west african folktales is a selection of folklore believed to have originated from west africa and the people who live in the region west africa is home to several scores of tribes languages and dialects even though tribal cords are quite strong and languages may differ markedly even between two communities a few hundred miles apart it is usual to find similarities between the local folktales and in some cases only the names of the central characters would make one version of a tale to be different from another most of the stories in this volume were gleaned from areas within the countries now known as ghana and togo however the stories are commonly retold in several forms all over the west africa region

chinye lives with her cruel mother and lazy stepsister but her life changes for the better when a mysterious old woman in the forest directs her to a magic gourd

collection of west african folktales drawn from prose narratives proverbs riddles and songs

florence cronise and henry ward fascinated with the folklore of the west african peoples tried to render the pearls of the native art of storytelling into this bok to make the settings language and spirit as close to the land of origin as possible they used the dialect of english they ve heard from locals many native namings and extensive footnotes explaining phenomena that are foreign to a western reader

twenty six traditional tales from various west african countries

presents six tales about spider including those which explain how he got a thin waist and a bald head and why he lives in ceilings and dark corners

travel back over a century to a vibrant world of intriguing characters and timeless tales first published in 1917 west african folk tales is a landmark collection of fascinating folk tales collected by w h barker and cecilia sinclair during their time living among the peoples of west

africa in the early 20th century barker a former colonial administrator with a passion for the culture and traditions of the region teamed up with sinclair an enthusiastic educator eager to bring these powerful stories to young audiences together they captured the tales of gifted local storytellers and preserved them in print for future generations within these pages you ll find a treasure trove of wise animal fables hilarious jokes and haunting ghost stories that offer an unparalleled insight into west african beliefs clever spider constantly outsmarts animals many times his size lazy son kibo learns the value of hard work the hard way the terrifying water demon preys on a village in a gripping tale of the supernatural more than just entertainment these stories reveal subtle meanings and practical wisdom passed down from grandparents to children as advice words of warning or moral truths that stand the test of time full of vivid imagery and imagination west african folklore captures all the richness and magic of one of the world s great oral traditions in a written form that continues to engage readers 100 years on so step inside its pages and let these unforgettable stories work their magic and reveal new worlds

west african folktales about talking animals

thirty six tales from africa s gold coast include several anansi tales as well as stories about many african animals

collected and retold by buchi offodile once upon a moonlit night children gathered elbow to elbow lying on the ground while the adults sat near by drinking and snacking they listened to the storyteller who held adult and child alike rapt with animal noises and spooky voices gesture and song call and response until the wick of the palm oil lamp ran down and the storyteller tired it wasn t that the stories themselves were over no many more were yet to be told tales of the ever scheming tortoise spider or hare tales of spirits tempting children tales of fate punishing whole villages for their folly or rewarding them for their perseverance though almost all the tales have morals the most popular characters are the tricksters the tortoise the spider and the hare the orphan girl includes a fascinating introduction exploring the roots of the storytelling tradition in the history and culture of west africa history s boundaries divide this book by nation from mauritania into the continent s interior to the hinterlands of mali burkina faso and niger and down the atlantic coast as far as cameroon each country is represented by several stories a map and brief information invariably though as all of these countries share common origins and cultures the stories overlap and play off each other for example a ghanaian story featuring anansi the spider is almost the same tale told by the igbos of eastern nigeria starring mbe nwaniga the tortoise

contains six folk tales about spider who is lazy greedy and gets in a lot of trouble

presents abridged versions of three previously published tales of clever and crafty spider also called anansi

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