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Vol. II No. 4

NEWS

FEATURES

SPECIAL FEATURES

Conservation Quotations by the Ancient Greeks

Homer

7secs.

Plato

34secs.

Pythagoras

23secs.

CHILDREN'S SECTION

The Talking Pocket

5mins. 19secs.

A kidnapper meets his reward

The Elephant and the Rain

5mins. 50secs.

A very proud Elephant get killed by Tortoise

USEFUL QUICKFACTS

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Quotations From "Women on the Move" in...

...Enugu

52secs.

*Determined women secure bail for others
from police detention.*

...Kano

29secs.

Thanks to enlightenment and empowerment,

more women are voting in Kano.

...Lagos

24secs.

The ultimate in empowerment for Nigerian women

News

Features

Special Features

Conservation Quotations by the Ancient Greeks

Homer

7secs.

“The Fathers...did not erase the past, but linked it by firm ties to the future.”

Homer. Greek poet, 8th Centruy B. C.

Plato

34secs.

“There were mountains in Attica that now keep nothing but bees, but that were clothed not so long ago with fine trees, producing timber suitable for roofing the largest buildings...There were also many lofty tress cultivated, and the country produced bountiful pastures for cattle. In those days, the annual supply of rainfall was not lost, as it is now, through being allowed to flow over a treeless and denuded surface to the sea.”

Plato, Greek philosopher, 427 - 347 B.C.

Pythagoras

23secs.

“For as long as Man continues to be the ruthless destroyer of lower living beings, he will never know health or peace. For as long as men massacre animals, they will kill each other. Indeed, he who sows the seed of murder and pain cannot reap joy and love.”

Pythagoras, Greek mathematician & philosopher, 580-500 B.C.

Children’s Section

The Talking Pocket

5mins. 19secs.

One day a group of girls was returning home from the farm, when they reached a wild plum tree which was laden with ripe fruits. Being tired and hungry they sat down to eat the fruit and rest themselves. When they were ready, they continued walking homewards until one of the girls noticed that her scarf was missing. So she left the others and retraced her steps to find it. On the way, she asked everyone she met, even the animals (who in those days could talk as freely as people), if anyone had seen the scarf, but no-one knew anything about it.

Then she met an old man wearing a large coat. "May I ask about my scarf?" she enquired.

"Oh, it's yours, is it?" he replied. "I have it here. Come and fetch it."

The girls went forward and bowed before the man to receive her scarf. Suddenly, he grabbed her by the shoulder and drew her into his coat, pushing her roughly into a large pocket. He stayed at this place for many hours until the girl began to feel quite hungry, and the old man proceeded on his way until he arrived at a village. As he entered the village, he shouted to the people that if they would dip him out some wine, he would show them something really spectacular.

The people gave him both wine and food in such quantities that he was a little drunk when he had finished and he beat his coat pocket wildly and shouted:

"Speak, pocket speak!"

A voice from the pocket replied:

"What will I say?
By the wild plum tree
We had spent the day,
When a big coat trapped me
In this pocket where I lay.
It was just my fate
To end up this way.
If only my mother knew
What has happened today!"

The people called their friends and relations around to hear this curious talking pocket.

Later on the old man left that village and walked to another village and then another, showing the people his talking pocket in return for food and drinks.

After some time he came to the girl's own village and as he entered he called to the elders, "Come and let me show you what I have here. It is something very spectacular." So the people gathered around him and the old man started beating his coat and shouting:

“Speak, pocket speak!”

And a voice from the pocket replied:

“What will I say?
By the wild plum tree
We had spent the day,
When a big coat trapped me
In this pocket where I lay.
It was just my fate
To end up this way.
If only mother knew
What has happened today!”

Now, the girl’s mother happened to be present and she immediately thought about her daughter who had gone with the other girls to the farm and then to the wild plum tree and had not been seen since. She asked herself if this could be her daughter. This woman told her friends what was in her mind and they plied the old man plenty to drink until he fell into a deep, drunken sleep. Then they opened his and found the girl - almost dead with hunger - inside.

Quickly, the people gathered snakes and scorpions to fill the pocket and then moved silently away, leaving the old man asleep. When he had recovered from his hangover, the old man proceeded on his way.

Quite a few miles further on, he beat his pocket to see what would come out. He listened but heard nothing. He beat the coat again and again, shouting, “Speak, pocket speak!” But there was no sound. Hard as he beat the pocket, nothing happened.

So he took off the coat and laid it on the ground. Picking up a big rock, he held it above the pocket and shouted “Hurry up and speak or I’ll crush you with this rock!” But the pocket was silent. The old man put his hand into the pocket to take out the girl and was bitten by the snakes and scorpions and there he died.

Shangani Folk Tales.

The Elephant and the Rain

5mins. 50secs.

There were once two great powers in the natural world: Elephant and Rain. Now Elephant, who as you know was proud and boastful, was always arguing with Rain, trying to make him agree that of the two of them, he, Elephant was the greater.

One day they were arguing as usual, when Rain said, in his wet, gurgling voice, “How can you, Elephant, be a greater power than I, when it is I who nourishes you?”

Elephant was too proud to admit that Rain was right. Indeed, he didn't even think before replying, "You do not feed me! I find my food myself. I am my own master in all things."

Rain, angered in earnest this time, decided to act, instead of arguing any further. He turned dark gray, thundered, and said, "If I go away, will you not die?" And he vanished.

Once Rain had departed, Elephant laughed loudly and said to himself, "Ha! Now I may rule alone. Rain has admitted defeat by running away!"

For many months, Elephant lorded it over the plains and forests, and life continued normally. In fact it was quite peaceful without the constant loud quarrels of Elephant and Rain.

Then the time of year for the rains arrived. Many of the animals were full with their unborn young ones. Every animal was looking forward to the flush of green succulent grass, and clean, flowing rivers once again.

But, of course, rain had gone away. The skies remained hot and bright blue. Not even a cloud was seen for weeks. The animals became worried because their new born young were starving.

In great distress, they went to find Elephant, for was he not their lord? Elephant looked a bit uncomfortable, but he replied to their demands by saying, "I will call Vulture, the most potent of all rainmakers." Elephant then called Vulture and commanded him to cast lots and make rain. But Vulture was Rain's servant, and knew about the quarrel that the two mighty ones had had. He excused himself, explaining to Elephant that he was too afraid of the great Elephant to try, in case he failed.

Elephant then summoned Crow, the wisest of birds, and commanded her to cast lots to make rain. This she did, and some rain fell. Enough rain fell to fill a few pans, but soon they all dried up, except one, the deepest.

Elephant claimed this last water-hole for himself and ordered Tortoise to guard it for him while he was away feeding during the day (food was becoming rather difficult to find) Tortoise settled down to guard the pan.

Soon a herd of giraffe came down to drink and asked Tortoise for water, for they had searched all day and found none. But Tortoise had to refuse, saying the pan was the property of lord Elephant. Zebras, deers wildebeests, gorrillas, warthogs and chimpanzees and many other animals were all in turn refused a drink. They moved off in distance, whispering among themselves and wondering what was to become of them.

In the evening, Lion came down to drink and, as before, Tortoise told him he could not as the pan belonged to Elephant. But Lion was not impressed. He simply cuffed Tortoise out of the

way and drank his fill. Poor Tortoise was helpless, as the other animals made desperate by thirst, followed Lion's example. They crowded around the pan and drank deeply.

When Elephant returned, the animals had drunk the pan dry, leaving only a mass of churned-up mud. He trumpeted in vain and turned upon the unfortunate Tortoise. Poor Tortoise tried to explain that he had been too little and weak to stop the thirsty animals, but Elephant was in such a rage that he picked up Tortoise and swallowed him whole.

Now Tortoise did not want to die, especially since he did not deserve such punishment. As soon as he reached Elephant's stomach, he began to tear at the soft insides, determined to get out.

Elephant screamed with pain, and realised at the same time his pride and arrogance had led him to a nasty end. By the time Tortoise managed to get out, Elephant was dead. Tortoise scuttled off as fast as he could, and ever since has refused to answer to anyone. He is his own master, and he goes wherever he likes.

And Rain, seeing that the tragic lesson had been learned by all the animals, took pity on the thirsty earth and poured down in a deluge, so that all the rivers and pans filled again.

Ancient Bushman Story/ When Hippo Was Hairy

The Most Intelligent Animal [next to Man]

Do you know what is the most intelligent animal on earth, after human beings? The simple answer is...no one really knows. We do not know how to measure intelligence and cleverness in other animals. Once upon a time, scientists said that tool-making was something was something special and made people cleverer than any other animal. But all that has changed now.

Useful Quickfacts

Women's Issues

Quotations From "Women on the Move" in...

...Enugu

52secs.

"Last week in Ikem, they took some 20 women and locked them up because they had some little quarrel on the farm. The group leader of a the Development Education Centre [DEC] went to the mobilizer of Ikem community. The mobilizer took three people in the community who belong to the 100 Women Group and they marched to the police station. The men came and told the women: "Go back home, you women; when did you start coming to police station to

bail suspects?” But the women persisted and sat there until the detained women were released, and they were released without a charge brought against them, and they went back home.”
Cecilia Asogwa, Executive Director, DEC, Enugu.

...Kano

29secs.

“The women are now more enlightened on programmes, most especially politics. Women did not come out to vote in the past. But during the recent local government election, there was a massive turnout of women. They even came out in groups. In Kumbozo, a woman even stood for election into the House of Representatives. She was a member of the 100 Women Group.”
Amina Suleiman, Assistant Organization Secretary, UWA, Kano.

...Lagos

24secs.

“Equity will be reached when resources, the means of production, decision-making (in both private and public spheres), and other ingredients necessary for sustainable development are available to women and men in proportion to their respective numbers. This will be the ultimate in empowerment - when Nigerian (and men) have equal access to resources.”
Dr. Enyantu Ifenne, Resident Advisor, CEDPA, Nigeria.

ACRONYMS

CEDPA:

Centre for Development and Population Activities.