

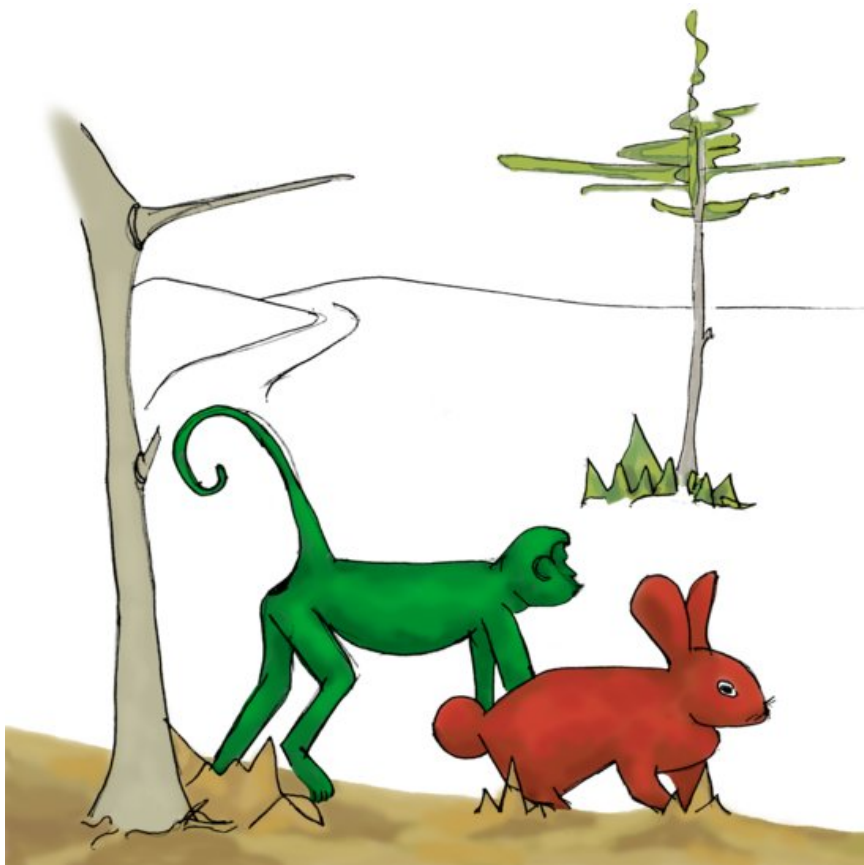
# Monkey Eats his Own Tail

Mozambican folktale  
English





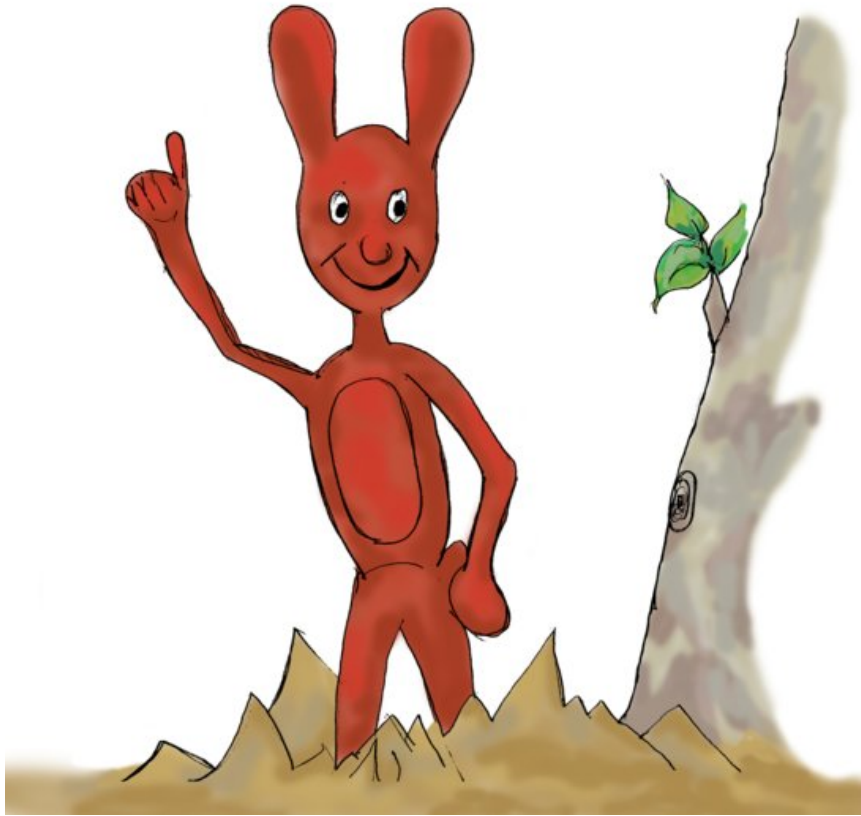
Once upon a time the rabbit was a great friend of the monkey.



One day the rabbit  
said:  
Let's go for a walk  
and look for  
something to eat.  
The monkey agreed,  
but it was a trap for him!



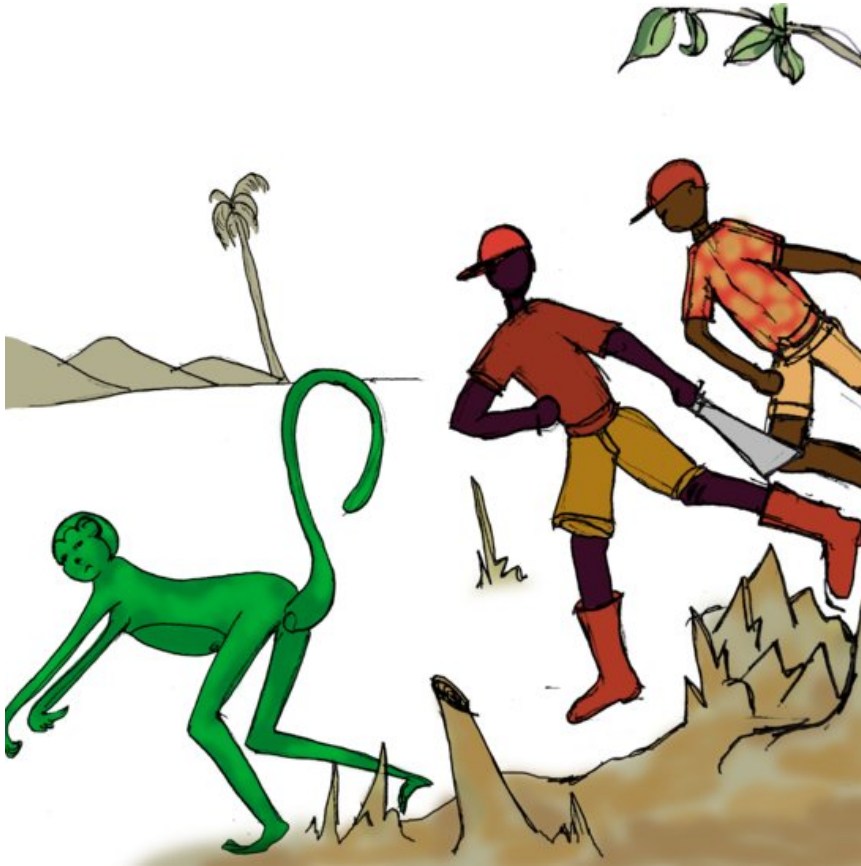
They went to a field of  
maize and started to eat it.



But the clever rabbit had spoken to the owners of the farm, to catch the monkey and show him he was foolish.



The clever rabbit started shouting:  
Robbers! Robbers!  
Your maize is all gone!  
And he jumped up and ran away.



Suddenly the owners appeared and found the monkey trying to run away. But he has a long tail and it was stopping him.





The owners followed  
him, shouting:  
Stop! Stop!  
We saw you, you are  
the monkey.





But they caught him and started beating him.



He couldn't stand the pain so he said:  
I was with my friend rabbit. He is the one who invited me.



But the owners cut his tail  
off and told him:  
Go and tell your friend that  
we cut off your tail!



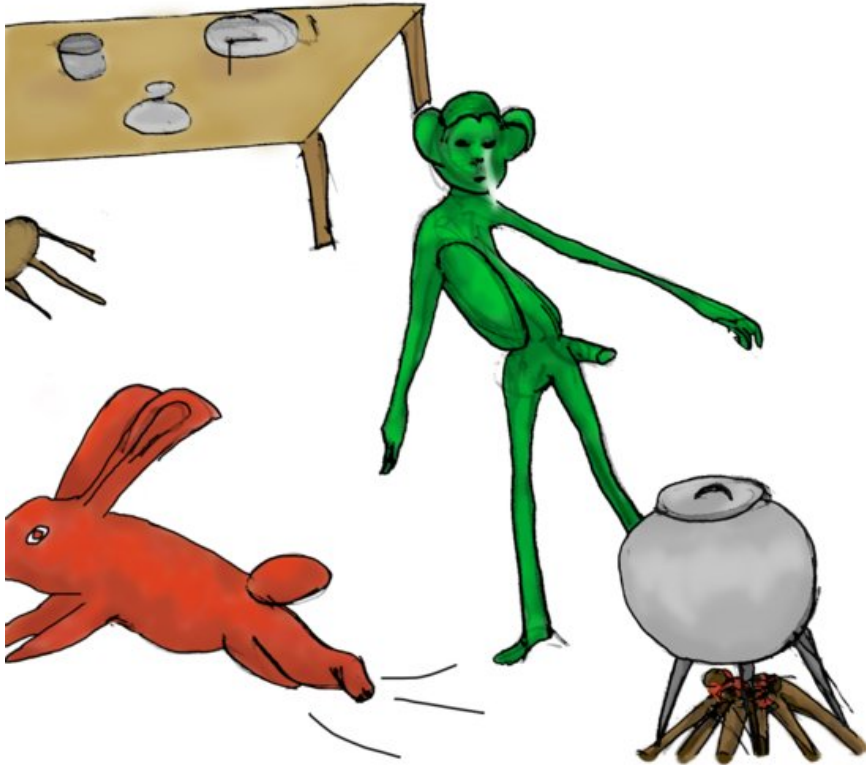
Then they went to the rabbit's house and cooked the monkey's tail to eat.

The rabbit invited the monkey for lunch.



At the end of the meal the rabbit asked the monkey if he knew what he had eaten.

The foolish monkey answered: No, I don't!



The rabbit told him that he had eaten his own tail and then ran away.

And from then on they became enemies!

# Monkey Eats his Own Tail

Writer: Mozambican folktale

Illustration: Horácio José Cossa

Language: English



This story was written down in 2013 by students at Universidade Pedagógica-Maxixe, Mozambique, from their memory of what was told at home, and edited by their English teacher, Ingrid Schechter.

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