

RUDYARD KIPLING

JUST SO STORIES



Чтение в оригинале (Каро)

Редьярд Киплинг

**Just So Stories for Little Children /
Просто сказки. Книга для
чтения на английском языке**

«КАРО»

2018

УДК 372.8
ББК 81.2 Англ-93

Киплинг Р. Д.

Just So Stories for Little Children / Просто сказки. Книга для чтения на английском языке / Р. Д. Киплинг — «КАРО», 2018 — (Чтение в оригинале (Каро))

ISBN 978-5-9925-1277-9

Сборник «Просто сказки», написанный английским писателем Р. Киплингом для его собственных детей, включает занимательные истории-ответы на вопросы детей. Откуда у слонов хобот, почему у леопарда пятнистая шерсть или почему верблюд горбатый, и как появился алфавит? Книга не только даст увлекательные ответы на эти каверзные вопросы, но и позволит обогатить словарный запас и знания по грамматике английского языка. Тексты пособия не адаптированы и снабжены лексическим комментарием, упражнениями и словарем.

УДК 372.8
ББК 81.2 Англ-93

ISBN 978-5-9925-1277-9

© Киплинг Р. Д., 2018
© КАРО, 2018

Содержание

Предисловие	6
How the Whale Got His Throat	7
Questions and tasks	11
How the Camel Got His Hump[22]	12
Questions and tasks	17
How the Rhinoceros[42] Got His Skin	18
Questions and tasks	22
How the Leopard Got His Spots	23
Questions and tasks	29
The Elephant's Child	30
Questions and tasks	36
The Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo[128]	37
Questions and tasks	42
Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.	43

Rudyard Kipling / Редьярд Киплинг
Just So Stories for Little Children /
Просто сказки. Книга для
чтения на английском языке

© КАРО, 2018

Предисловие

Вы знаете или изучаете английский язык? Вы хотите узнать ответы на вопросы, откуда у верблюда горб, а у слона – хобот; как появился алфавит и почему кошки гуляют сами по себе; что произойдет, если мотылек топнет ногой? И вас, конечно, интересует, как выглядело первое на Земле письмо и почему у носорога такая кожа? В таком случае это пособие для вас!

Сборник английского писателя Редьярда Киплинга, куда вошли сказки, рассказанные писателем его собственным детям, не только унесет вас в чудесный и удивительный мир прошлого и ответит вам и вашим детям на эти каверзные вопросы, но и поможет обогатить ваш лексический запас новыми словами и выражениями. В пособии объяснены некоторые трудности английской грамматики. В конце каждого рассказа предлагается выполнить ряд заданий, которые помогут запомнить новые встретившиеся в процессе чтения слова и выражения, а также лучше понять содержание рассказов.

Занимательные, знакомые с раннего детства сказки Киплинга создадут веселую атмосферу на занятиях по английскому языку и зарубежной литературе, а комментарии помогут с легкостью преодолеть трудности грамматики английского языка, возникающие при чтении неадаптированных текстов.

How the Whale Got His Throat

In the sea, once upon time, O my Best Beloved, there was a Whale¹, and he ate fishes. He ate the starfish and the garfish, and the crab and the dab, and the plaice and the dace, and the skate and his mate, and the mackereel and the pickereel, and the really truly twirly-whirly eel. All the fishes he could find in all the sea he ate with his mouth – so! Till at least there was only one small fish left in all the sea, and he was a small 'Stute Fish², and he swam a little behind the Whale's right ear, so as to be out of harm's way. Then the Whale stood up on his tail and said, 'I'm hungry'. And the small 'Stute Fish said in a small 'stute voice³, 'Noble and generous Cetacean, have you ever tasted Man?'

'No', said the Whale. 'What is it like?'⁴

This is the picture of the Whale swallowing⁵ the Mariner with his infinite-resource-and-sagacity, and the raft and the jack-knife and his suspenders, which you must not forget. The buttony-things are the Mariner's suspenders, and you can see the knife close by them. He is sitting on the raft, but it has tilted up sideways, so you don't see much of it. The whity thing by the Mariner's left hand is a piece of wood that he was trying to row the raft with when the Whale came along. The piece of wood is called the jaws-of-a-gaff. The Mariner left it outside when he went in. The Whale's name was Smiler, and the Mariner was called Mr. Henry Albert Bivvens, A. B. The little 'Stute Fish is hiding under the Whale's tummy, or else I would have drawn him. The reason that the sea looks so ooshy-skooshy is because the Whale is sucking it all into his mouth so as to suck in Mr. Henry Albert Bivvens and the raft and the jack-knife and the suspenders. You must never forget the suspenders.



'Nice,' said the small 'Stute Fish. 'Nice but nubbly.'

'Then fetch me some,' said the Whale, and he made the sea froth up with his tail⁶.

'One at a time is enough,' said the 'Stute Fish. 'If you swim to latitude Fifty North, longitude Forty West⁷ (that is Magic), you will find, sitting on a raft, in the middle of the sea, with nothing on but a pair of blue canvas breeches, a pair of suspenders⁸ (you must not forget the suspenders, Best

¹ **whale** – кит

² **'Stute = Astute Fish** – Мудрая Рыба

³ **in astute voice** – лукавым голосом

⁴ **What is it like?** – Какой он? На что он похож?

⁵ **to swallow** – глотать, проглатывать (т.ж. to swallow down)

⁶ **he made the sea froth up with his tail** – море вспенилось под его хвостом. **to make smb do smth** – заставлял/побуждал кого/что-либо сделать что-л.

⁷ **latitude Fifty North, longitude Forty West** – пятьдесят градусов северной широты, сорок градусов восточной долготы

⁸ **with nothing on but a pair of blue canvas breeches, a pair of suspenders** – на нем были только холщевые голубые брюки

Beloved), and a jack-knife⁹, one shipwrecked Mariner, who, it is only fair to tell you, is a man of infinite-resource-and-sagacity¹⁰.’

So the Whale swam and swam to latitude Fifty North, longitude Forty West, as fast as he could swim, and on a raft, in the middle of the sea, with nothing to wear except a pair of blue canvas breeches, a pair of suspenders (you must particularly remember the suspenders, Best Beloved), and a jack-knife, he found one single, solitary shipwrecked Mariner, trailing his toes in the water. (He had his Mummy’s leave to paddle¹¹, or else he would never have done it, because he was a man of infinite-resource-and-sagacity.)

Then the Whale opened his mouth back and back and back till it nearly touched his tail, and he swallowed the shipwrecked Mariner, and the raft he was sitting on, and his blue canvas breeches, and the suspenders (which you must not forget), and the jack-knife. He swallowed them all down into his warm, dark, inside cupboards, and then he smacked his lips – so, and turned round three times on his tail.

Here is the Whale looking for the little 'Stute Fish, who is hiding under the Door-sills of the Equator. The little 'Stute Fish's name was Pingle. He is hiding among the roots of the big seaweed that grows in front of the Doors of the Equator. I have drawn the Doors of Equator. They are shut. They are always kept shut, because a door ought always to be kept shut. The ropy thing right across is the Equator itself; and the things that look like rocks are the two giants Moar and Koar, that keep the Equator in order. They drew the shadow-pictures on the Doors of the Equator, and they carved all those twisty fishes under the Doors. The beaky fish are called Beaked Dolphins, and the other fish with the queer heads are called Hammer-headed Sharks. The Whale never found the little 'Stute Fish till he got over his temper, and then they became good friends again.

и пара подтяжек (на нем не было ничего, кроме холщевых голубых брюк и пары подтяжек)

⁹ **jack-knife** – большой складной нож

¹⁰ **man-of-infinite-resource-and-sagacity** – проницательный человек с безграничными возможностями; **a man of a great sagacity** [– очень проницательный человек]

¹¹ **He had his Mummy's leave to paddle** – Мама разрешила ему плавать на лодке; **to have leave to do smth** – иметь разрешение делать что-либо; **to ask leave to do smth** – просить позволения сделать что-либо



But as soon as the Mariner, who was a man of infinite-resource-and-sagacity, found himself truly inside the Whale's warm, dark, inside cupboards, he stumped and he jumped and he thumped and he bumped, and he pranced and he danced, and he banged and he clanged, and he hit and he bit, and he leaped and he crept, and he prowled and he howled, and he hopped and he dropped, and he cried and he sighed, and he crawled and he bawled, and he stepped and he lepped, and he danced hornpipes¹² where he shouldn't, and the Whale felt most unhappy indeed. (Have you forgotten the suspenders?)

So he said to the 'Stute Fish, 'This man is very nubbly, and besides he is making me hiccough¹³. What shall I do?'

'Tell him to come out,' said the 'Stute Fish.

So the Whale called down his own throat to the shipwrecked Mariner, 'Come out and behave yourself. I've got the hiccoughs.'

'Nay, nay!' said the Mariner. 'Not so, but far otherwise. Take me to my natal-shore and the white-cliffs-of-Albion, and I'll think about it.' And he began to dance more than ever.

'You had better take him home,' said the 'Stute Fish to the Whale. 'I ought to have warned you¹⁴ that he is a man of infinite-resource-and-sagacity.'

So the Whale swam and swam and swam, with both flippers and his tail, as hard as he could for the hiccoughs; and at last he saw the Mariner's natal-shore and the white-cliffs-of-Albion, and he rushed half-way up the beach, and opened his mouth wide and wide and wide, and said, 'Change here for Winchester, Ashuelot, Nashua, Keene, and stations on the Fitchburg Road'; and just as he said

¹² **to stump** – тяжело ступать, ковылять; **to jump** – прыгать; **to thump** – наносить тяжелый удар, стучать; **to bump** – толкать, пихать (очень сильно); **to prance** – прыгать, скакать, резвиться; **to dance** – танцевать; **to bang** – грохотать, колотить, стучать; **to clang** – брен-чать, звенеть; **to hit** – ударять(ся); **to bite** – кусать(ся); **to leap** – прыгать, вскакивать; **to creep** – ползать; **to prow** – бродить, идти крадучись; **to howl** – выть, реветь; **to hop** – прыгать, скакать на одной ноге; **to drop** – зд. падать, валиться; **to cry** – кричать; **to sigh** – вздыхать; **to crawl** – ползать; **to bawl** – орать во всю глотку; **to step** – шагать; делать па (в танце); **to lep** – проказничать; **to dance hornpipe** – танцевать хорнпайп (английский матросский танец, обычно сольный)

¹³ **he is making me hiccough** [– из-за него я икаю (*букв.* он заставляет меня икать)]

¹⁴ **I ought to have warned you** – Я должен был тебя предупредить.

'Fitch' the Mariner walked out of his mouth. But while the Whale had been swimming, the Mariner, who was indeed a person of infinite-resource-and-sagacity, had taken his jack-knife¹⁵ and cut up the raft into a little square grating¹⁶ all running criss-cross, and he had tied it firm with his suspenders (now you know why you were not to forget the suspenders!), and he dragged that grating good and tight into the Whale's throat, and there it stuck! Then he recited the following Sloka¹⁷, which, as you have not heard it, I will now proceed to relate¹⁸:

By means of a grating
have stopped your ating.'

For the Mariner he has also an Hi-ber-ni-an. And he stepped out on the shingle, and went home to his Mother, who had given him leave to trail his toes in the water; and he married and lived happily ever afterward. So did the Whale. But from that day on, the grating in his throat, which he could neither cough up nor swallow down¹⁹, prevented him eating anything except very, very small fish; and that is the reason why whales nowadays never eat men or boys or little girls.

The small 'Stute Fish went and hid himself in the mud under the Door-sills of the Equator. He was afraid that the Whale might be angry with him.

The Sailor took the jack-knife home. He was wearing the blue canvas breeches when he walked out on the shingle. The suspenders were left behind, you see, to tie the grating with; and that is the end of that tale.

When the cabin port-holes are dark and green
Because of the seas outside;
When the ship goes wop (with a wiggle between)
And the steward falls into the soup-tureen²⁰,
And the trunks²¹ begin to slide;
When Nursey lies on the floor in a heap,
And Mummy tells you to let her sleep,
And you aren't walked or washed or dressed,
Why, then you will know (if you haven't guessed)
You're 'Fifty North and Forty West!'

¹⁵ **But while the Whale had been swimming, the Mariner ... had taken his jack-knife** – Но пока Кит плыл, моряк взял свой большой складной нож

¹⁶ **grating** – решетка, сетка

¹⁷ **Sloka** – шлока (слока) – жанр поэзии, двуси-шие или трехстишие

¹⁸ **to proceed to do smth** – зд. приступать, перехо-дить к чему-либо, приняться за что-либо

¹⁹ **he could neither cough up nor swallow down** – он не мог ни выплюнуть, ни проглотить.

²⁰ **soup-tureen** – супница

²¹ **trunks** – во мн. ч. короткие штаны, спортивные трусы

Questions and tasks

1. How did the story begin? Why did the Whale want to find the Mariner?
2. Describe the Mariner.
3. What did the Mariner do after the Whale had swallowed him?
4. Why did the Whale have to take the Mariner home?
5. According to the story why were you not to forget the suspenders?
6. Retell the story.

How the Camel Got His Hump²²

Now this is the next tale, and it tells how the Camel got his big hump.

In the beginning of years, when the world was so new-and-all, and the Animals were just beginning to work for Man, there was a Camel, and he lived in the middle of a Howling Desert because he did not want to work; and besides, he was a Howler himself. So he ate sticks and thorns and tamarisks and milkweed and prickles, most 'scruciating idler²³'; and when anybody spoke to him he said 'Humph!²⁴ ' Just 'Humph!' and no more.

Presently the horse came to him on Monday morning, with a saddle on his back and a bit²⁵ in his mouth, and said, 'Camel, O Camel, come out and trot²⁷ like the rest of us.'

This is the picture of the Djinn making the beginnings of the Magic that brought the Humph to the Camel. First he drew a line in the air with his finger, and it became solid; and then he made a cloud, and then he made an egg – you can see them at the bottom of the picture – and then there was a magic pumpkin that turned into a big white flame. Then the Djinn took his magic fan and fanned that flame till that flame turned into a Magic by itself. It was a good Magic and a very kind Magic really, though it had to give the Camel a Humph because the Camel was lazy. The Djinn in charge of²⁶ all Deserts was one of the nicest of the Djinns, so he would never do anything really unkind.



'Humph!' said the Camel; and the Horse went away and told the Man.

Presently the Dog came to him, with a stick in his mouth, and said, 'Camel, O Camel, come and fetch and carry like the rest of us.'

'Humph!' said the Camel; and the Dog went away and told the Man.

Presently the Ox came to him, with the yoke on his neck, and said, 'Camel, O Camel, come and plough²⁸ like the rest of us.'

²² **hump** – горб

²³ **scruciating** = **excruciating** – мучительный, ужасный; **idler** – лентяй, лежебока

²⁴ **Humph!** – Гм!

²⁵ **bit** – зд. удила

²⁷ **to trot** – спешить, торопиться; **...trot like the rest of us** – ...поспешь, как остальные (как мы)

²⁶ **in charge of** – ответственный за

²⁸ **to plough** – пахать

‘Humph!’ said the Camel; and the Ox went away and told the Man.

At the end of the day the Man called the Horse and the Dog and the Ox together, and said, ‘Three, O Three, I’m very sorry for you (with the world so new-and-all); but that Humph-thing in the Desert can’t work, or he would have been here by now, so I am going to leave him alone, and you must work double-time to make up for it.’

That made the Three very angry (with the world so new-and-all); and they held a palaver²⁹, and indaba, and a punchayet, and a pow-wow³⁰ on the edge of the Desert; and the Camel came chewing milkweed most ‘scruciating idler, and laughed at them. Then he said ‘Humph!’ and went away again.

Presently there came along the Djinn in charge of All Deserts, rolling in a cloud of dust (Djinns always travel that way because it is Magic), and he stopped to palaver and pow-wow with the Three.

‘Djinn of All Deserts,’ said the Horse, ‘is it right for any one to be idle, with the world so new-and-all?’

‘Certainly not’, said the Djinn.

‘Well,’ said the Horse, ‘there’s a thing in the middle of your Howling Desert (and he’s a Howler himself) with a long neck and long legs, and he hasn’t done a stroke of work³² since Monday morning. He won’t trot³³.’

Here is the picture of the Djinn in charge of All Deserts guiding the Magic with the magic fan. The Camel is eating a twig of acacia³¹, and he has just finished saying ‘Humph!’ once too often (the Djinn told him he would), and so the Humph is coming. The long towelly thing growing out of the thing like an onion is the Magic, and you can see the Humph on its shoulder. The Humph fits on the flat part of the Camel’s back. The Camel is too busy looking at his own beautiful self in the pool of water to know what is going to happen to him.

Underneath the truly picture is a picture of the World-so-new-and-all. There are two smoky volcanoes in it, some other mountains and some stones and a lake and a black island and a twisty river and a lot of other things, as well as a Noah’s Ark. I couldn’t draw all the deserts that the Djinn was in charge of, so I only drew one, but it is a most deserty desert.

²⁹ **to hold a palaver** – вести длительные перего-воры

³⁰ **indaba** – встреча; **punchayet** – панчайет (совет, собрание в Южной Азии); **pow-wow** – знахарь; цере-мония заклинания; сборище, совет; ярмарка

³² **He hasn’t done a stroke of work** – Он палец о па-лец не ударил; **to do some work** – выполнять работу

³³ **He won’t trot** – Он не пошевелится.

³¹ **twig of acacia** – веточка акации



‘Whew!’ said the Djinn, whistling, ‘that’s my Camel, for all the gold in Arabia! What does he say about it?’

‘He says “Humph!”’ said the Dog; ‘and he won’t fetch and carry.’

‘Does he say anything else?’

‘Only “Humph!”; and he won’t plough,’ said the Ox.

‘Very good,’ said the Djinn. ‘I’ll humph him if you will kindly wait a minute.’

The Djinn rolled himself up in his dust-cloak, and took a bearing across the desert, and found the Camel most ‘scruciatingly idler, looking at his own reflection in a pool of water.

‘My long and bubbling friend,’ said the Djinn, ‘what’s this I hear of your doing no work, with the world so new-and-all?’

‘Humph!’ said the Camel.

The Djinn sat down, with his chin in his hand, and began to think a Great Magic, while the Camel looked at his own reflection in the pool of water.

‘You’ve given the Three extra work ever since Monday morning, all on account of your ‘scruciating idleness,’ said the Djinn; and he went on thinking Magics, with his chin in his hand.

‘Humph!’ said the Camel.

‘I shouldn’t say that again if I were you³⁴,’ said the Djinn; ‘you might say it once too often. Bubbles, I want you to work³⁵.’

And the Camel said ‘Humph!’ again; but no sooner had he said it than he saw his back, that he was so proud of, puffing up and puffing up into a great big lolloping humph³⁶.

‘Do you see that?’ said the Djinn. ‘That’s your very own humph that you’ve brought upon your very own self by not working. Today is Thursday, and you’ve done no work since Monday, when the work began. Now you are going to work.’

‘How can I,’ said the Camel, ‘with this humph on my back?’

³⁴ I shouldn’t say that again if I were you. – На твоём месте я бы больше этого не говорил.

³⁵ I want you to work – Я хочу, чтобы ты работал.

³⁶ but no sooner had he said it than he saw his back, that he was so proud of, puffing up and puffing up into a great big lolloping humph – но, как только он это ска-зал, он увидел, что на его спине, которой он так гордил-ся, мгновенно вздулся огромный горб; to lollop – букв. бежать вприпрыжку

‘That’s made a-purpose,’ said the Djinn, ‘all because you missed those three days. You will be able to work now for three days without eating, because you can live on your humph; and don’t you ever say I never did anything for you. Come out of the Desert and go to the Three, and behave. Humph yourself!’

And the Camel humphed himself, humph and all, and went away to join the Three. And from that day to this the Camel always wears a humph (we call it ‘hump’ now, not to hurt his feelings; but he has never yet caught up with the three days³⁷ that he missed at the beginning of the world, and he has never yet learned how to behave.

The Camel’s hump is an ugly³⁸ lump
Which well you may see at the Zoo;
But uglier yet is the hump we get
From having too little to do.

Kiddies and grown-ups too-oo-oo,
If we haven’t enough to do-oo-oo,
We get the hump —
Cameelious hump —
The hump that is black and blue!

We climb out of bed with frowzy³⁹ head
And a snarly-yarly voice.
We shiver and scowl and we grunt and we growl⁴⁰
At our bath and our boots and our toys;

And there ought to be a corner for me
(And I know there is one for you)
When we get the hump —
Cameelious hump —
The hump that is black and blue!

The cure for this ill is not to sit still,
Or frowst with a book by the fire;
But to take a large hoe and a shovel also,
And dig till you gently perspire⁴¹;

And then you will find that the sun and the wind,
And the Djinn of the Garden too,
Have lifted the hump —
The horrible hump —
The hump that is black and blue!

I get it as well as you-oo-oo —

³⁷ **he has never yet caught up with the three days** – он так и не наверстал три дня...

³⁸ **ugly** – безобразный, мерзкий

³⁹ **frowzy** – растрепанный

⁴⁰ **to shiver** – дрожать, трепетать; **to scowl** – хмуриться; **to grunt** – ворчать; **to growl at** – брюзжать, жаловаться на что-то/кого-то

⁴¹ **to perspire** – потеть

If I haven't enough to do-oo-oo!
We all get hump —
Cameelious hump —
Kiddies and grown-ups too!

Questions and tasks

1. What animals came to the Camel? What did they offer to the Camel and what was the answer?
2. Why were the animals very angry after the Man had talked to them?
3. Retell the story from the moment the Djinn appeared in it.
4. What did the Djinn do for making the Camel work?
5. What 'advantages' did the hump on the back give to the Camel?
6. Retell the story.

How the Rhinoceros⁴² Got His Skin

Once upon a time, on an uninhabited island on the shores of the Red Sea, there lived a Parsee from whose hat the rays of the sun were reflected in more-than-oriental splendour⁴³. And the Parsee lived by the Red Sea with nothing but his hat and his knife and a cooking-stove of the kind that you must particularly never touch. And one day he took flour and water and currants and plums and sugar and things, and made himself one cake which was two feet across and three feet thick⁴⁴. It was indeed a Superior Comestible (that's Magic), and he put it on the stove because he was allowed to cook on that stove, and he baked it and he baked it till it was all done brown and smelt most sentimental⁴⁵. But just as he was going to eat it there came down to the beach from the Altogether Uninhabited Interior one Rhinoceros with a horn on his nose, two piggy eyes, and few manners⁴⁶. In those days the Rhinoceros's skin fitted him quite tight⁴⁷. There were no wrinkles in it anywhere. He looked exactly like⁴⁸ a Hoah's Ark Rhinoceros, but of course much bigger. All the same, he had no manners then, and he has no manners now, and he never will have any manners. He said, 'How!' and the Parsee left that cake and climbed to the top of palm-tree with nothing on but his hat, from which the rays of the sun were always reflected in more-than-oriental splendour. And the Rhinoceros upset the oil-stove with his nose, and the cake rolled on the sand, and he spiked that cake on the horn of his nose, and he ate it, and he went away, waving his tail, to the desolate and Exclusively Uninhabited Interior which abuts on the islands of Mazanderan, Socotra, and the Promontories of the Larger Equinox⁵¹. Then the Parsee came down from his palm-tree and put the stove on its legs and recited the following Sloka, which, as you have not heard, I will now proceed to relate: —

'Them that takes cakes
Which the Parsee-man bakes
Makes dreadful mistakes.'

This is the picture of the Parsee beginning to eat his cake on the Uninhabited Island in the Red Sea on a very hot day; and of the Rhinoceros coming down from the Altogether Uninhabited Interior, which, as you can truthfully see, is all rocky. The Rhinoceros's skin is quite smooth and the three buttons that button it up⁴⁹ are underneath, so you can't see them. The squiggly things on the Parsee's hat are the rays of the sun reflected in more-than-oriental splendour, because if I had drawn real rays they would have filled up all the picture. The cake has currants⁵⁰ in it; and the

⁴² **Rhinoceros** – носорог

⁴³ **splendour** – блеск, великолепие, роскошь. Подобные слова, оканчивающиеся на **-our** в британском варианте английского языка, в американской орфографии пишутся без буквы **u** и оканчиваются на **-or**: **splendour (GB) – splendor (US)**, **labour (GB) – labor (US)**, **armour (GB) – armor (US)**, **colour (GB) – color (US)** и др.

⁴⁴ **two feet across and three feet thick** – два фута в ширину (от края до края) и три фута в толщину

⁴⁵ **smelt most sentimental** – очень сильно (ощути-мо) пах

⁴⁶ **and few manners** – и с плохими манерами (плохо воспитанный); **manner** – *мн. ч.* хорошие манеры, умение себя вести

⁴⁷ **In those days the Rhinoceros's skin fitted him quite tight.** – В те дни шкура на Носороге сидела очень плотно. **to fit** – *букв.* быть в пору, хорошо сидеть; **tight** – *букв.* плотно прилегающий, тесный

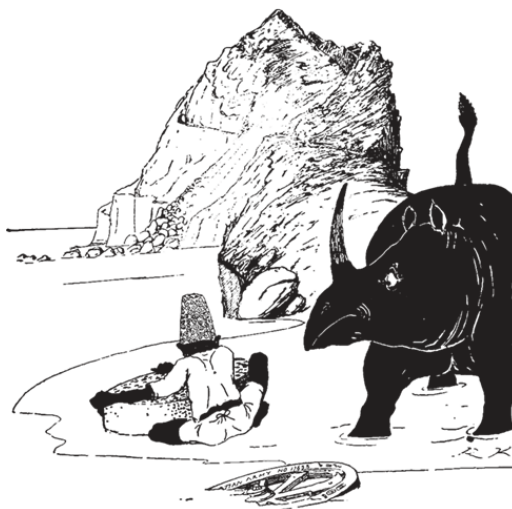
⁴⁸ **He looked exactly like...** – Он был очень похож на... (Он выглядел в точности, как...)

⁵¹ **he went away, waving his tail, to the desolate and Exclusively Uninhabited Interior which abuts on the islands of Mazanderan, Socotra, and the Promontories of Larger Equinox** – крутя хвостом, он ушел в глубь заброшенного и совершенно необитаемого острова, который примыкает к островам Ма-задеран, Сокотра и мысам Великого Равноденствия; **interior** – *букв.* внутренний, расположенный в глубине (страны, острова)

⁴⁹ **to button up** – закрыть(ся), застегнуть на все пуговицы

⁵⁰ **currant** – *зд.* коринка, сабза (сорта бессемянного изюма)

wheel-thing lying on the sand in front belonged to one of Pharaoh's chariots when he tried to cross the Red Sea. The Parsee found it, and kept it to play with. The Parsee's name was Pestonjee Bomonjee, and the Rhinoceros was called Strorks, because he breathed through his mouth instead of his nose. I wouldn't ask anything about the cooking-stove if I were you.



And there was a great deal more in that than you would think⁵².

Because, five weeks later, there was a heatwave⁵³ in the Red Sea, and everybody took off all the clothes they had. The Parsee took off his hat; but the Rhinoceros took off his skin and carried it over his shoulder as he came down to the beach to bathe. In those days it buttoned underneath with three buttons and looked like a waterproof. He said nothing whatever about the Parsee's cake, because he had eaten it all; and he never had any manners, then, since, or henceforward⁵⁴. He waddled straight into the water and blew bubbles through his nose, leaving his skin on the beach.

Presently the Parsee came by and found the skin, and he smiled one smile that ran all around his face two times. Then he danced three times round the skin and rubbed his hands⁵⁵. Then he went to his camp and filled his hat with cake-crumbs, for the Parsee never ate anything but cake, and never swept out his camp. He took that skin, and he shook that skin, and he scrubbed that skin, and he rubbed that skin just as full of old, dry, stale, tickly cake-crumbs and some burned currants as ever it could possibly hold. Then he climbed to the top of his palm-tree and waited for the Rhinoceros to come out of the water and put it on⁵⁷.

This is the Parsee Pestonjee Bomonjee sitting in his palm-tree and watching the Rhinoceros Strorks bathing near the beach of the Altogether Uninhabited Island after Strorks had taken off his skin. The Parsee has rubbed the cake-crumbs into the skin, and he is smiling to think how they will tickle Strorks when Strorks puts it on again. The skin is just under the rocks below the palm-tree in a cool place; that is why you can't see it. The Parsee is wearing a new more-than-oriental-splendour hat of the sort that Parsees wear; and he has a knife in his hand to cut his name on palm-tree. The black things on the islands out at sea are bits of ships that got wrecked going down the Red Sea; but all the passengers were saved and went home. The black thing in the water

⁵² ...than you would think – ...чем ты мог себе пред-ставить (... чем ты думал)

⁵³ heat-wave – период сильной жары

⁵⁴ then, since, or henceforward – тогда, с тех пор или впредь

⁵⁵ to rub one's hands – потирать руки (в знак одо-брения, удовлетворения и т. д.)

⁵⁷ ...waited for the Rhinoceros to come out of the water and put it on – ... ждал, когда Носорог выйдет из воды и наденет ее.

close to the shore is not a wreck at all. It is Strorks the Rhinoceros bathing without his skin. He was just as black underneath⁵⁶ his skin as he was outside. I wouldn't ask anything about the cooking-stove if I were you.



And the Rhinoceros did. He buttoned it up with the three buttons, and it tickled like cake-crumbs in bed. Then he wanted to scratch, but that made it worse; and then he lay down on the sands and rolled and rolled and rolled, and every time he rolled the cake-crumbs tickled him worse and worse and worse. Then he ran to the palm-tree and rubbed and rubbed and rubbed himself against it⁵⁸. He rubbed so much and so hard that he rubbed his skin into a great fold over his shoulders, and another fold underneath, where the buttons used to be⁵⁹ (but he rubbed the buttons off), and he rubbed some more folds over his legs. And it spoiled his temper⁶⁰, but it didn't make the least difference to the cake-crumbs. They were inside his skin and they tickled. So he went home, very angry indeed and horribly scratchy; and from that day to this every rhinoceros has great folds in his skin and a very bad temper, all on account of the cake-crumbs inside.

But the Parsee came down from his palm-tree, wearing his hat, from which the rays of the sun were reflected in more-than-oriental splendour, packed up his cooking-stove, and went away in the direction of Orotavo, Amygdala, the Upland Meadows of Antananarivo, and the Marshes of Sonaput.

This Uninhabited Island
Is off Cape⁶¹ Gardafui,
By the Beaches of Socotra

⁵⁶ underneath – зд. под

⁵⁸ to rub against smth – тереться обо что-либо

⁵⁹ where the buttons used to be – где раньше были пуговицы

⁶⁰ it spoiled his temper – это испортило его характер

⁶¹ cape – мыс

And the Pink Arabian Sea:
But it's hot – too hot from Suez
For the likes of you and me
Ever to go
In a P. & O.
And call on the Cake-Parsee.

Questions and tasks

1. Describe how Rhinoceros looked like formerly? How did he manage to do this?
2. What did the Parsee do when he found the Rhinoceros' skin?
3. Describe a 'modern' Rhinoceros.
4. How did the Rhinoceros get his skin?
5. Retell the story.

How the Leopard Got His Spots

In the days when everybody started fair, Best Beloved, the Leopard lived in a place called the High Veldt. 'Member⁶² it wasn't the Low Veldt, or the Bush Veldt, or the Sour Veldt, but the 'sclusively⁶³ bare, hot, shiny High Veldt, where there was sand and sandy-coloured rock and 'sclusively tufts of sandy-yellowish grass. The Giraffe and the Zebra and the Eland and the Koodoo and the Hartebeest⁶⁴ lived there; and they were 'sclusively sandy-yellow-brownish all over; but the Leopard, he was the 'sclusivest sandiest-yellowest-brownest of them all – a grayish-yellowish catty-shaped kind of beast, and he matched the 'sclusively yellowish-greyish-brownish colour of the High Veldt to one hair. This was very bad for the Giraffe and the Zebra and the rest of them; for he would lie down by a 'sclusively yellowish-greyish-brownish stone or clump of grass, and when the Giraffe or the Zebra or the Eland or the Koodoo or the Bush-Buck or the Bonte-Buck came by he would surprise them out of their jumpsome lives. He would indeed! And, also, there was an Ethiopian with bows and arrows (a 'sclusively greyish-brownish-yellowish man he was then), who lived on the High Veldt with the Leopard; and the two used to hunt together – the Ethiopian with his bows and arrows, and the Leopard 'sclusively with his teeth and claws – till the Giraffe and the Eland and the Koodoo and the Quagga and all the rest of them didn't know which way to jump, Best Beloved. They didn't indeed!

After a long time – things lived for ever so long in those days – they learned to avoid⁶⁵ anything that looked like a Leopard or an Ethiopian; and bit by bit⁶⁶ – the Giraffe began it, because his legs were the longest – they went away from the High Veldt. They scuttled for days and days and days till they came to a great forest, 'sclusively full trees and bushes and stripy, speckly, patchy-blatchy shadows, and there they hid: and after another long time, what with standing half in the shade and half out of it, and what with the slippery-slidy shadows of the trees falling on them, the Giraffe grew blotchy, and the Zebra grew stripy, and the Eland and the Koodoo grew darker⁶⁷, with little wavy grey lines on their backs like bark on a tree-trunk; and so, though you could hear them and smell them, you could very seldom see them, and then only when you knew precisely where to look. They had a beautiful time in the 'sclusively speckly-spickly shadows of the forest, while the Leopard and the Ethiopian ran about over the 'sclusively grayish-yellowish-reddish High Veldt outside, wondering where all their breakfasts and their dinners and their teas had gone. At last they were so hungry that they ate rats and beetles and rock-rabbits, the Leopard and the Ethiopian, and then they had the Big Tummy-ache⁶⁸, both together; and then they met Baviaan – the dog-headed, barking Baboon who is Quite the Wisest Animal in All South Africa.

Said the Leopard to Baviaan (and it was a very hot day), 'Where has all the game gone?'

And Baviaan winked⁶⁹. He knew.

Said the Ethiopian to Baviaan, 'Can you tell me the present habitat of the aboriginal⁷⁰ Fauna?' (That meant just the same thing, but the Ethiopian always used long words. He was a grown-up.)

And Baviaan winked. He knew.

⁶² 'member = remember – помнить

⁶³ 'sclusively = exclusively – исключительно, только

⁶⁴ Eland – антилопа канна; Koodoo – куду, винторого-гая антилопа; Hartebeest – бубал, коровья антилопа

⁶⁵ to avoid – избегать, остерегаться

⁶⁶ bit by bit – мало-помалу, постепенно

⁶⁷ the Giraffe grew blotchy, and the Zebra grew stripy, and the Eland and the Koodoo grew darker – Жираф стал пятнистым, Зебра стала полосатой, а Антилопа канна и Куду стали темнее.

⁶⁸ Tummy-ache – боль в животике

⁶⁹ to wink – мигать, моргать

⁷⁰ aboriginal – исконный, местный, первобытный

Then said Baviaan, 'The game has gone into other spots⁷¹; and my advice to you, Leopard, is to go into other spots as soon as you can.'

And the Ethiopian said, 'That is all very fine, but I wish to know whither the aboriginal Fauna has migrated.'

Then said Baviaan, 'The aboriginal Fauna has joined the aboriginal Flora because it was high time for a change⁷²; and my advice to you, Ethiopian, is to change as soon as you can.'

That puzzled the Leopard and the Ethiopian, but they set off to look for the aboriginal Flora, and presently, after ever so many days, they saw a great, high, tall forest full of tree-trunks all 'sclusively speckled and spotted and spotted, dotted and splashed and slashed and hatched and cross-hatched with shadows. (Say that quickly aloud, and you will see how very shadowy the forest must have been.)

'What is this,' said the Leopard, 'that is so 'sclusively dark, and yet so full of little pieces of light?'

'I don't know,' said the Ethiopian, 'but it ought to be the aboriginal Flora. I can smell Giraffe, and I can hear Giraffe, but I can't see Giraffe.'

'That's curious,' said the Leopard. 'I suppose it is because we have just come in out of the sunshine⁷⁵. I can smell Zebra, and I can hear Zebra, but I can't see Zebra.'

This is Wise Baviaan, the dog-headed Baboon, who is Quite the Wisest Animal in All South Africa.

I have drawn him from statue that I made up out of my own head, and I have written his name on his belt and on his shoulder and on the thing he is sitting on. I have written it in what is not called Coptic and Hieroglyphic and Cuneiformic and Bengalic and Burmic and Herbraic⁷³, all because he is so wise. He is not beautiful, but he is very wise, and I should like⁷⁴ to paint him with paint-box colours, but I am not allowed. The umbrella-ish thing about his head is his Conventional Mane.

⁷¹ **spot** – пятнышко, место, местность

⁷² **it was high time for a change** – давно пришла пора перемен

⁷⁵ **sunshine** – зд. солнечный свет

⁷³ **Coptic** – коптский язык; **Hieroglyphic** – иероглифический язык; **Cuneiform(ic)** – клинообразный знак (в ассирийских надписях); **Bengalic** – бенгальский язык; **Burmic** – бирманский язык; **Herbraic** – древнееврейский язык

⁷⁴ **I should like** – мне бы хотелось



‘Wait a bit’, said the Ethiopian. ‘It’s a long time since we’ve hunted⁷⁶ ’em⁷⁷. Perhaps we’ve forgotten what they were like.’

‘Fiddle!’⁷⁸ said the Leopard. ‘I remember them perfectly on the High Veldt, especially their marrow-bones⁷⁹. Giraffe is about seventeen feet high, of ’sclusively fulvous golden-yellow from head to heel; and Zebra is about four and a half feet high, of a ’sclusively grey-fawn colour from head to heel.

‘Umm,’ said the Ethiopian, looking into the speckly-spickly shadows of the aboriginal Flora-forest. ‘Then they ought to show up in this dark place like ripe bananas in a smoke-house.’

But they didn’t. The Leopard and the Ethiopian hunted all day; and though they could smell them and hear them, they never saw one of them⁸⁰.

‘For goodness sake⁸¹,’ said the Leopard at teatime, ‘let us wait till it gets dark⁸². This daylight hunting is a perfect scandal.’

So they waited till dark, and then the Leopard heard something breathing sniffily in the starlight that fell all stripy through the branches, and he jumped at the noise, and it smelt like Zebra, and it felt like Zebra, and when he knocked it down it kicked like Zebra, but he couldn’t see it. So he said, ‘Be quite, O you person without any form. I am going to sit on your head till morning, because there is something about you that I don’t understand.’

Presently he heard a grunt and a crash and a scramble, and the Ethiopian called out, ‘I’ve caught a thing that I can’t see. It smells like Giraffe, and it kicks like Giraffe, but it hasn’t any form.’

⁷⁶ to hunt smb – охотиться на кого-то, преследовать кого-то

⁷⁷ ’em = them

⁷⁸ Fiddle! – Вздор! (Чепуха!)

⁷⁹ marrow-bones – колени, кулаки

⁸⁰ they never saw one of them – они так и не увидели ни одного из них; never – букв. никогда, ни разу

⁸¹ For goodness sake – Ради бога!

⁸² till it gets dark – пока не стемнеет

‘Don’t you trust it,’ said the Leopard. ‘Sit on its head till the morning – same as me. They haven’t any form – any of ’em.’

So they sat down on them hard till bright morning-time, and then Leopard said, ‘What have you at your end of the table, Brother?’

The Ethiopian scratched his head⁸³ and said, ‘It ought to be ’sclusively a rich fulvous orange-tawny from head to heel⁸⁴, and it ought to be Giraffe; but it is covered all over with chestnut blotches. What have you at your end of the table, Brother?’

And the Leopard scratched his head and said, ‘It ought to be ’sclusively a delicate grayish-fawn, and it ought to be Zebra; but it is covered all over with black and purple stripes. What in the world have you been doing to yourself, Zebra? Don’t you know that if you were on the High Veldt I could see you ten miles off? You haven’t any form.’

‘Yes,’ said the Zebra, ‘but this isn’t the High Veldt. Can’t you see?’

‘I can now,’ said the Leopard. ‘But I couldn’t all yesterday. How is it done?’

‘Let us up,’ said the Zebra, ‘and we will show you.’

They let the Zebra and the Giraffe get up; and Zebra moved away to some little thorn-bushes where the sunlight fell all stripy, and Giraffe moved off to some tallish trees where the shadows fell all blotchy.

‘Now watch,’ said the Zebra and the Giraffe. ‘This is the way it’s done. One – two – three! And where’s your breakfast?’

Leopard stared, and Ethiopian stared, but all they could see were stripy shadows and blotched shadows in the forest, but never a sign of Zebra and Giraffe. They had just walked off and hidden themselves in the shadowy forest.

‘Hi! Hi!’ said the Ethiopian. ‘That’s a trick worth learning⁸⁵. Take a lesson by it, Leopard. You show up in this dark place like a bar of soap in a coal scuttle.’

‘Ho! Ho!’ said the Leopard. ‘Would it surprise you very much to know that you show up in this dark place like a mustard-plaster on a sack of coals?’

‘Well, calling names won’t catch dinner,’ said the Ethiopian. ‘The long and the little of it is that we don’t match our backgrounds. I’m going to take Baviaan’s advice. He told me I ought to change; and as I’ve nothing to change except my skin I’m going to change that.’

‘What to?’ said the Leopard, tremendously excited.

‘To a nice working blackish-brownish colour, with a little purple in it, and touches of slaty-blue. It will be the very thing for hiding in hollows and behind trees⁸⁶.’

So he changed his skin then and there, and the Leopard was more excited than ever; he had never seen a man change his skin before.

‘But what about me?’ he said, when the

Ethiopian had worked his last little finger into his fine new black skin.

‘You take Baviaan’s advice too. He told you to go into spots.’

‘So I did,’ said the Leopard. ‘I went into other spots as fast as I could. I went into this spot with you, and a lot of good it has done to me.’

‘Oh,’ said the Ethiopian, ‘Baviaan didn’t mean spots in South Africa. He meant spots on your skin.’

‘What’s the use of that?’ said the Leopard.

⁸³ **to scratch one’s head** – почесать затылок

⁸⁴ **It ought to be ’sclusively a rich fulvous orange-tawny from head to heel...** – Это должно быть совершенно бурым смугло-рыжим с головы до ног...

⁸⁵ **That’s a trick worth learning.** – Это трюк, которо-му стоит научиться. **This film is worth seeing.** – Этот фильм стоит посмотреть.

⁸⁶ **It will be the very thing for hiding in hollows and behind trees.** – Это будет как раз то, что нужно, для того, чтобы прятаться в низинах и за деревьями. **very** – зд. именно, как раз

‘Think of Giraffe,’ said the Ethiopian. ‘Or if you prefer stripes give them perfect satisfaction⁸⁷.’
‘Umm,’ said the Leopard. ‘I wouldn’t look like Zebra – not for ever so.’

‘Well, make up your mind⁸⁸,’ said the Ethiopian, ‘because I’d hate to go hunting without you, but I must if you insist on looking like a sunflower against a tarred fence.’

‘I’ll take spots, then,’ said the Leopard; ‘but don’t make ’em too vulgar-big. I wouldn’t look like Giraffe – not for ever so.’

This is the picture of the Leopard and the Ethiopian after they had taken Wise Baviaan’s advice and the Leopard had gone into other spots and the Ethiopian had changed his skin. The Ethiopian was really a negro, and so his name was Sambo. The Leopard was called Spots, and he has been called Spots ever since. They are out hunting in the spickly-speckly forest, and they are looking for Mr. One-Two-Three-Where’s-your-Breakfast. If you look a little you will see Mr. One-Two-Three not far away. The Ethiopian has hidden behind a splotchy-blotchy tree because it matches his skin, and the Leopard is lying beside a spickly-speckly bank of stones because it matches his spots. Mr. One-Two-Three-Where’s-your-Breakfast is standing up eating leaves from a tall tree. This is really a puzzle-picture like “Find-the-Cat”.



‘I’ll make ’em with the tips of my fingers,’ said the Ethiopian. ‘There’s plenty of black left on my skin still. Stand over!’

Then the Ethiopian put his five fingers close together (there was plenty of black left on his new skin still) and pressed them all over the Leopard, and wherever the five fingers touched they left five little black marks, all close together. You can see them on any Leopard’s skin you like, Best Beloved. Sometimes the fingers slipped and the marks got a little blurred; but if you look closely at any Leopard now you will see that there are always five spots – off five fat black finger-tips.

⁸⁷ to give satisfaction – принести удовлетворение, принести извинения

⁸⁸ to make up one's mind – решиться на что-либо или сделать что-либо

‘Now you are a beauty!’ said the Ethiopian. ‘You can lie out on the bare ground and look like a heap of pebbles. You can lie out on the naked rocks and look like a piece of pudding-stone. You can lie out on a leafy branch and look like sunshine sifting through the leaves; and you can lie right across the center of a path and look like nothing in particular. Think of that and purr⁸⁹!’

‘But if I’m all this.’ Said the Leopard. ‘why didn’t you go spotty too?’

‘Oh, plain black’s best for a nigger,’ said the Ethiopian. ‘Now come along and we’ll see if we can’t get even with Mr. One-Two-Three-Where’s-your-Breakfast!’

So they went away and lived happily ever afterward, Best Beloved. That is all.

Oh, now and then you will hear grown-ups say, ‘Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the Leopard his spots?’ I don’t think even grownups would keep on saying⁹⁰ such a silly thing if the Leopard and the Ethiopian hadn’t done it once – do you? But they will never do it again, Best Beloved. They are quite contented⁹¹ as they are.

I am the Most Wise Bavian,
saying in most wise tones,
‘Let us melt into the landscape⁹² —
just us two by our lones.’
People have come – in a carriage – calling.
But Mummy is there...
Yes, I can go if you take me —
Nurse says she don’t care.
Let’s go up to the pig-sties⁹³
and sit on the farmyard rails!
Let’s say things to the bunnies⁹⁴,
and watch ’em skitter their tails!
Let’s – oh, anything, Daddy,
so long as it’s you and me,
And going truly exploring,
and not being in till tea!
Here’s your boots (I’ve bought ’em),
and here’s your cap and stick,
And here’s your pipe and tobacco.
Oh, come along out of it – quick!

⁸⁹ **to purr** – мурлыкать, урчать

⁹⁰ **to keep on doing smth** – продолжать делать что-либо

⁹¹ **to be contented** – быть довольным, удовлетвориться

⁹² **landscape** – ландшафт, пейзаж

⁹³ **pig-sty** – свинарник

⁹⁴ **bunny** – кролик

Questions and tasks

1. Why couldn't the Leopard and the Ethiopian find any breakfast?
2. What was the Bavian's advice? Did the Leopard and the Ethiopian follow this advice?
3. How did the animals hide from the Leopard?
4. What was the use of spots for the Leopard?
5. How did the spots appear on the Leopard?
6. Retell the story.

The Elephant's Child

On the High and Far-Off Times the Elephant, O Best Beloved, had no trunk⁹⁵. He had only a blackish, bulgy nose, as big as a boot, that he could wriggle about from side to side; but he couldn't pick up things with it. But there was one Elephant – a new Elephant – an Elephant's Child – who was full of 'satiableness'⁹⁶, and that means he asked ever so many questions. And he lived in Africa, and he filled all Africa with his 'satiableness'. He asked his tall aunt, the Ostrich⁹⁷, why her tail-feathers grew just so, and his tall aunt the Ostrich spanked him with her hard, hard claw⁹⁸. He asked his tall uncle, the Giraffe, what made his skin spotty, and his tall uncle, the Giraffe, spanked him with his hard, hard hoof. And still he was full of 'satiableness'! He asked his broad aunt, the Hippopotamus, why her eyes were red, and his broad aunt, the Hippopotamus, spanked him with her broad, broad hoof; and he asked his hairy uncle, the Baboon, why melons tasted just so, and his hairy uncle, the Baboon, spanked him with his hairy, hairy paw⁹⁹. And still he was full of 'satiableness'! He asked questions about everything that he saw, or heard, or felt, or smelt, or touched, and all his uncles and his aunts spanked him. And still he was full of 'satiableness'!

One fine morning in the middle of the Precession of the Equinoxes¹⁰⁰ this 'satiableness' Elephant's Child asked a new fine question that he had never asked before. He asked, 'What does the Crocodile have for dinner?' Then everybody said, 'Hush!' in a loud and dreadful tone¹⁰¹, and they spanked him immediately and directly, without stopping for a long time.

By and by¹⁰², when that was finished, he came upon Kolokolo Bird sitting in the middle of a wait-a-bit thorn-bush, and he said 'My father has spanked me, and my mother has spanked me for my 'satiableness'; and still I want to know what the Crocodile has for dinner!'

Then Kolokolo Bird said, with a mournful cry, 'Go to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees, and find out.'

That very next morning, when there was nothing left of the Equinoxes, because the Precession had preceded according to the precedent, this 'satiableness' Elephant's Child took a hundred pounds of bananas (the little short red kind), and a hundred pounds of sugar-cane (the long purple kind, and seventeen melons (the greeny-crackly kind), and said to all his dear families, 'Good-bye. I am going to the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees, to find out what the Crocodile has for dinner.' And they all spanked him once more for luck, though he asked them most politely to stop.

Then he went away, a little warm, but not at all astonished, eating melons, and throwing the rind about¹⁰³, because he could not pick it up.

He went from Graham's Town to Kimberley, and from Kimberley to Khama's country, and from Khama's Country he went east by north, eating melons all the time, till at last he came to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees, precisely as Kolokolo Bird had said.

⁹⁵ **trunk** – хобот

⁹⁶ **'satiableness' = in satiableness** – огромное (ненасытное) любопытство

⁹⁷ **the Ostrich** – страус

⁹⁸ **the Ostrich spanked him with her hard, hard claw** – Страус больно отшлепал его своим крылом; **claw** – букв. коготь, клешня; *презр.* лапа, рука; **hard** – тяжелый

⁹⁹ **hairy paw** – волосатая (страшная) лапа

¹⁰⁰ **the Precession of the Equinoxes** – астроном. Пре-цессия, Предварение равноденствий

¹⁰¹ **in a loud and dreadful (dreadful) tone** – громким грозным тоном

¹⁰² **by and by** – вскоре

¹⁰³ **throwing the rind about** – разбрасывая корки; **rind** – букв. кожура, шелуха, корка

Now you must know and understand, O Best Beloved, that till that very week¹⁰⁴, and day, and hour, and minute, this satiable Elephant's Child had never seen a Crocodile, and did not know what one was like. It was all his 'satiable curiosity.

The first thing that he found was a Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake¹⁰⁵ curled round a rock.

'Scuse¹⁰⁶ me,' said the Elephant's Child most politely, 'but have you seen such a thing as a Crocodile in this promiscuous parts?'

'Have I seen a Crocodile?' said the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake, in a voice of dretful scorn. 'What will you ask me next?'

'Scuse me,' said the Elephant's Child, 'but could you kindly tell me what he has for dinner?'

Then the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake uncoiled himself very quickly from the rock, and spanked the Elephant's Child with the scalesome, flailsome tail.

'That is odd,' said the Elephant's Child, 'because my father and my mother, and my uncle and my aunt, not to mention my other aunt, the Hippopotamus, and my other uncle, the Baboon, have all spanked me for my 'satiable curiosity – and I suppose this is the same thing.'

So he said good-buy very politely to the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake, and helped to coil him up on the rock again, and went on, a little warm, but not at all astonished, eating melons, and throwing the rind about, because he could not pick it up, till he trod on¹⁰⁷ what he thought was a log of wood at the very edge of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees.

But it was really the Crocodile, O Best Beloved, and the Crocodile winked one eye – like this¹⁰⁸!

'Scuse me,' said the Elephant's Child most politely, 'but do you happen to have seen a Crocodile¹⁰⁹ in these promiscuous parts?'

Then the Crocodile winked the other eye, and lifted half of his tail out of the mud; and the Elephant's Child stepped back most politely, because he didn't wish to be spanked again.

'Come hither, Little One,' said the Crocodile. 'Why do you ask so much things?'

'Scuse me,' said the Elephant's Child most politely, 'but my father has spanked me, my mother has spanked me, not to mention my tall aunt, the Ostrich, and my tall uncle, the Giraffe, who can kick ever so hard, as well as my broad aunt, the Hippopotamus, and my hairy uncle, the Baboon, and including the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake, with the scalesome, flail-some tail, just up the bank, who spansks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite all the same to you, I don't want to be spanked any more.'

'Come hither, Little One,' said the Crocodile, 'for I am the Crocodile,' and he wept crocodile-tears to show it was quite true.

Then the Elephant's Child grew all breathless, and panted, and kneeled down on the bank and said, 'You are the very person I have been looking for all these long days. Will you please tell me what you have for dinner?'

'Come hither, Little One,' said the Crocodile, 'and I'll whisper.'

Then the Elephant's Child put his head down close to the Crocodile's musky, tusky mouth, and the Crocodile caught him by his little nose, which up to that very week, day, hour, and minute, had been no bigger than a boot, though much more useful.

'I think,' said the Crocodile – and he said it between his teeth, like this – 'I think today I will begin with Elephant's Child!'

¹⁰⁴ **till that very week** – до той самой недели

¹⁰⁵ **Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake** – двухцветная горная змея Питон; **bi** – *прист.* дву(х); **rock** – скала, утес; **snake** – змея

¹⁰⁶ **'Scuse** = **Excuse**

¹⁰⁷ **to tread (trod, trodden) on** – наступать на; **to tread on eggs** – ступать, действовать осторожно

¹⁰⁸ **winked one eye – like this!** – подмигнул – вот так! (т. е. таким образом)

¹⁰⁹ **do you happen to have seen a Crocodile** – вам не случилось видеть Крокодила (вы случайно не видели Крокодила)?

At this, O Best Beloved, the Elephant's Child was much annoyed, and he said, speaking through his nose, like this, 'Led go! You are hurtig be!'

Then the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake scuffed down from the bank¹¹⁰ and said, 'My young friend, if you do not know, immediately and instantly, pull as hard as ever you can, it is my opinion that your acquaintance in the large-pattern leather ulster' (and by this he meant the Crocodile) 'will jerk you into yonder limpid stream¹¹¹ before you can say Jack Robinson.'

This is the way Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake always talk.

Then the Elephant's Child sat back on his little haunches¹¹², and pulled, and pulled, and pulled, and his nose began to stretch. And the Crocodile floundered into the water, making it all creamy with great sweeps of his tail, and he pulled, and pulled, and pulled.

And the Elephant's Child's nose kept on stretching¹¹³; and the Elephant's Child spread all his little four legs and pulled, and pulled, and pulled, and his nose kept on stretching; and the Crocodile threshed his tail like an oar, and he pulled, and pulled, and pulled, and at each pull the Elephant's Child's nose grew longer and longer – and it hurt him hijjus!

Then the Elephant's Child felt his legs slipping, and he said through his nose, which was now nearly five feet long, 'This is too butch for be!'

Then the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake came down from the bank, and knotted himself in a double-clove-hitch¹¹⁴ round the Elephant's Child's hind-legs, and said, 'Rash and inexperienced traveller, we will now seriously devote ourselves to¹¹⁵ a little high tension, because if we do not, it is my impression that yonder self-propelling man-of-war with the armour-plated upper deck' (and by this, O Best Beloved, he meant the Crocodile) 'will permanently vitiate your future career¹¹⁶.'

That is the way all Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snakes always talk.

So he pulled, and the Elephant's Child pulled, and the Crocodile pulled; but the Elephant's Child and the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake pulled hardest; and at last the Crocodile let go of the Elephant's Child's nose with a plop that you could hear all up and down the Limpopo.

Then the Elephant's Child sat down most hard and sudden; but first he was careful to say 'Thank you' to the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake; and next he was kind to his poor pulled nose, and wrapped it all up in cool banana leaves, and hung it in the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo to cool.

'What are you doing that for?' said the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake.

'Scuse me,' said the Elephant's Child, 'but my nose is badly out of shape, and I am waiting for it to shrink¹¹⁷.'

'Then you will have to wait a long time,' said the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake. 'Some people do not know what is good for them.'

The Elephant's Child sat there for three days waiting for his nose to shrink. But it never grew any shorter, and, besides, it made him squint. For, O Best Beloved, you will see and understand that the Crocodile had pulled it out into a really truly trunk same as all Elephants have today.

¹¹⁰ **scuffed down from the bank** – сползла с насы-пи; **to scuff** – букв. идти еле отрывая ноги от земли; **bank** – вал, насыпь, берег, отмель

¹¹¹ **your acquaintance in the large-pattern leather ulster** (and by this he meant the Crocodile) **'will jerk you into yonder limpid stream...** – твой знакомый в кожаном пальто с круп-ным узором (под этим он имел в виду крокодила) мгно-венно приведет тебя вон в тот прозрачный ручей... **to jerk** – букв. резко толкать, бросить; **yonder** – вон тот; **stream** – поток, ручей

¹¹² **haunch** – ляжка, бедро

¹¹³ **kept on stretching** – продолжал вытягиваться; **to keep (kept, kept)** – продолжать(ся); **to stretch** – тя-нуться, удлиняться, вытягиваться

¹¹⁴ **double-clove-hitch** – мор. двойной выбленочный узел

¹¹⁵ **to devote oneself to smth** – посвятить себя чему-либо

¹¹⁶ **will permanently vitiate your future career** – надолго испортит тебе будущее; **career** – букв. карьера

¹¹⁷ **I am waiting for it to shrink** – Я жду, пока он уменьшится

At the end of the third day a fly came and stung him on the shoulder, and before he knew what he was doing he lifted up his trunk and hit that fly dead¹¹⁸ with the end of it.

“Vantage¹¹⁹ number one!” said the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake. ‘You couldn’t have done that with a mere-smear nose. Try and eat a little now.’

Before he thought what he was doing the Elephant’s Child put out his trunk and plucked a large bundle of grass, dusted it clean against his fore-legs, and stuffed it into his own mouth.

This is the Elephant’s Child having his nose pulled by the Crocodile¹²⁰. He is much surprised and astonished and hurt, and he is talking his nose and saying, ‘Led go! You are hurtig be!’ He is pulling very hard, and so is the Crocodile; but the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake is hurrying through the water to help the Elephant’s Child. All that black stuff is the banks of the great, grey-green, greasy Limpopo River (but I am not allowed to paint these pictures), and the bottly-tree with the twisty roots and the eight leaves is one of the fever-trees that grow there.

Underneath the truly picture are the shadows of African animals walking into an African ark. There are two lions, two ostriches, two oxen, two camels, two sheep, and two other things that look like rats, but I think they are rock-rabbits. They don’t mean anything. I put them in because I thought they looked pretty. They would look very fine if I were allowed to paint them.



“Vantage number two!” said the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake. ‘You couldn’t have done that with a mere-smear nose. Don’t you think the sun is very hot here?’

‘It is,’ said the Elephant’s Child, and before he thought what he was doing he schlooped up a schloop of mud from the banks of great grey-green, greasy Limpopo, and slapped it on his head, where it made a cool scoopy-sloshy mud-cap all trickly behind his ears.

“Vantage number three!” said the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake. ‘You couldn’t have done that with a mere-smear nose. Now how do you feel about being spanked again?’

‘Scuse me,’ said the Elephant’s Child, ‘but I should not like it at all.’

‘How would you like to spank somebody?’ said the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake.

‘I should like it very much indeed,’ said the Elephant’s Child.

¹¹⁸ to hit (hit, hit) dead – ударить насмерть, убить

¹¹⁹ vantage = advantage – преимущество, достоинство

¹²⁰ having his nose pulled by the Crocodile – которому Крокодил вытягивает нос

‘Well,’ said the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake, ‘you will find that new nose of yours very useful to spank people with.’

‘Thank you,’ said the Elephant’s Child, ‘I’ll remember that; and now I think I’ll go home to all my dear families and try.’

So the Elephant’s Child went home across Africa frisking and whisking his trunk. When he wanted fruit to eat he pulled fruit down from a tree, instead of¹²¹ waiting for it to fall as he used to do. When he wanted grass he plucked grass up from the ground, instead of going on his knees as he used to do¹²². When the flies bit him he broke off the branch of a tree and used it as a fly-whisk; and he made himself a new, cool, slushy-squishy mud-cap whenever the sun was hot. When he felt lonely walking through Africa he sang to himself down his trunk, and the noise was louder than several brass bands. He went specially out of his way to find a broad Hippopotamus (she was no relation of his), and he spanked her very hard, to make sure¹²³ that the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake had spoken the truth about his new trunk. The rest of the time he picked up the melon-rinds that he had dropped on his way to the Limpopo for he was a Tidy Pachyderm.

One dark evening he came back to all his dear families, and he coiled up his trunk and said, ‘How do you do?’ They were very glad to see him, and immediately said, ‘Come here and be spanked for your satiable curiosity.’

‘Pooh,’ said the Elephant’s Child, ‘I don’t think you peoples know anything about spanking; but I do, and I’ll show you.’

Then he uncurled his trunk and knocked two of his dear brothers head over heels.

‘O Bananas!’ said they, ‘where did you learn that trick, and what have you done to your nose?’

‘I got a new one from the Crocodile on the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River,’ said the Elephant’s Child. ‘I asked him what he had for dinner, and he gave me this to keep.’

‘It looks very ugly,’ said his hairy uncle, the Baboon.

‘It does,’ said the Elephant’s Child, ‘But it’s very useful,’ and he picked up his hairy uncle, the Baboon, by one hairy leg, and hove him into a hornets’ nest¹²⁴.

Then that bad Elephant’s Child spanked all his dear families for a long time, till they were very warm and greatly astonished. He pulled out his tall Ostrich aunt’s tail-feathers; and he caught his tall uncle, the Giraffe, by the hind-leg, and dragged him through a thorn-bush; and he shouted at his broad aunt, the Hippopotamus, and blew bubbles into her ear when she was sleeping in the water after meals; but he never let any one touch Kolokolo Bird.

At last things grew so exciting that his dear families went off one by one in a hurry to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees, to borrow¹²⁵ new noses from the Crocodile. When they came back nobody spanked anybody anymore; and ever since that day, O Best Beloved, all the Elephants you will ever see, besides all those that you won’t, have trunks precisely like the trunk of the ‘satiable Elephant’s Child.

This is just a picture of the Elephant’s Child going to pull bananas off a banana-tree after he had got his fine new long trunk. I don’t think it is a very nice picture; but I couldn’t make any better, because elephants and bananas are hard to draw. The streaky things behind the Elephant’s Child mean squoggy marshy country somewhere in Africa. The Elephant’s Child made most of his mud-cakes out of the mud that he found there. I think it would look better if you painted the banana-tree green and the Elephant’s Child red.

¹²¹ **instead of** – вместо того, чтобы

¹²² **as he used to do** – как он, бывало, делал (как он привык делать)

¹²³ **to make sure (of)** – убедиться, удостовериться в чем-либо

¹²⁴ **hornets’ nest** – гнездо шершней

¹²⁵ **to borrow** – букв. занимать, заимствовать; **to borrow money** – взять займы (о деньгах)



I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.
I send them over land and sea,
I send them east and west¹²⁶;
But after they have worked for me,
I give them all a rest.
I let them rest from nine till five,
For I am busy then,
As well as breakfast, lunch, and tea,
For they are hungry men:
But different folk have different views;
I know a person small —
She keeps ten million serving-men,
Who get no rest at all!
She sends 'em abroad on her own affairs¹²⁷,
From the second she opens her eyes —
One million Hows, two million Wheres,
And seven million Whys!

¹²⁶ I send them east and west. — Я посылаю их на вос-ток и на запад.

¹²⁷ affair — дело, занятие

Questions and tasks

1. What questions did the Elephant's Child ask the animals? Why?
2. What did the Elephant's Child want to find out when he set off to the Limpopo River?
3. What question did the Elephant's Child ask the Crocodile when he saw him for the first time? What did the Crocodile answer?
4. What advantages did the Elephant's Child get thanks to his curiosity?
5. Describe how the family met the Elephant's Child and what happened then.
6. Make up the plan of the story and retell it.

The Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo¹²⁸

Not always was the Kangaroo as now we do behold him¹²⁹, but a Different Animal with four short legs. He was grey and he was woolly, and his pride was inordinate: he danced on an outcrop in the middle of Australia, and he went to the Little God Nqa.

He went to Nqa at six before breakfast, saying, 'Make me different from all other animals by five this afternoon.'

Up jumped Nqa from his seat on the sand-flat and shouted, 'Go away!'

He was grey and he was woolly, and his pride was inordinate; he danced on a rock-ledge in the middle of Australia, and he went to the Middle God Nquing.

He went to Nquing at eight after breakfast saying, 'Make me different from other animals; make me, also, wonderfully popular by five this afternoon.'

Up jumped Nquing from his burrow in the spinifex¹³⁰ and shouted, 'Go away!'

He was grey and he was woolly, and his pride was inordinate; he danced on a sandbank in the middle of Australia, and he went to the Big God Nqong.

He went to Nqong at ten before dinner-time, saying, 'Make me different from all other animals; make me popular and wonderfully run after by five this afternoon.'

Up jumped Nqong from his bath in the saltpan and shouted, 'Yes, I will!'

Nqong called Dingo – Yellow-Dog Dingo – always hungry, dusty in the sunshine, and showed him Kangaroo. Nqong said, 'Dingo! Wake up, Dingo! Do you see that gentlemen dancing on an ashpit? He wants to be popular and very truly run after. Dingo, make him so!'

This is the picture of Old Man Kangaroo when he was the Different Animal with four short legs. I have drawn him grey and woolly, and you can see that he is very proud because he has a wreath of flowers in his hair. He is dancing on an outcrop (that means a ledge of rock) in the middle of Australia at six o'clock before breakfast. You can see that it is six o'clock because the sun is just getting up. The thing with the ears and the open mouth is Little God Nqa. Nqa is very much surprised, because he has never seen a Kangaroo dance like that before. Little God Nqa is just saying, 'Go away,' but the Kangaroo is so busy dancing that he has not heard him yet.

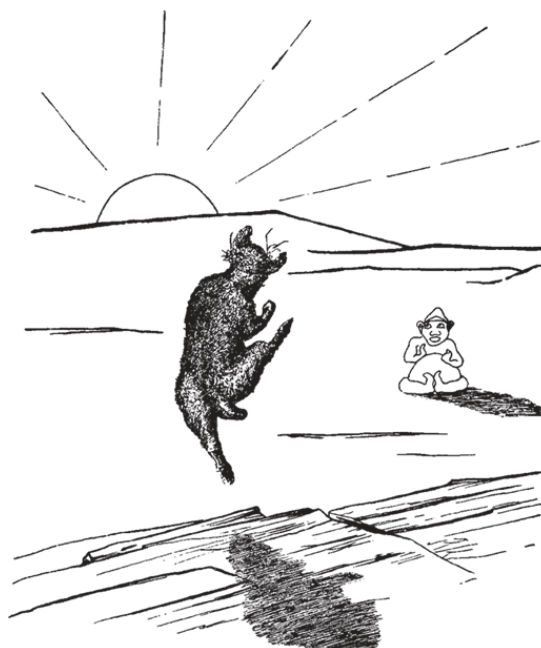
The Kangaroo hasn't any real name except Boomer¹³¹. He lost it because he was so proud.

¹²⁸ **Kangaroo** – кенгуру; перен. *шутл.* коренной житель

¹²⁹ **we do behold him** – вспомогательный глагол **do** употребляется в подобных случаях для придания фразе большей эмоциональности и, как правило, на русский язык не переводится. При произнесении выделяется интонационно.

¹³⁰ **spinifex** – заросли колючек; **spiny** – колючий

¹³¹ **Boomer** – *букв.* самец кенгуру; человек, создающий шумиху вокруг чего-либо



Up jumped Dingo – Yellow-Dog Dingo – and said, ‘What, that cat-rabbit?’
Off ran Dingo – Yellow-Dog Dingo – always hungry, grinning¹³² like a coal-scuttle, – ran after Kangaroo.

Off went the proud Kangaroo on his four little legs like a bunny.

This, O Beloved of mine, ends the first part the tale!

He ran through the desert; he ran through the mountains; he ran through the salt-pans; he ran through the reed-beds¹³³; he ran through the blue gums; he ran through the spinifex; he ran till his front legs ached.

He had to¹³⁴!

Still ran Dingo – Yellow-Dog Dingo – always hungry, grinning like a rat-trap, never getting nearer, never getting farther, – ran after Kangaroo.

He had to!

Still ran Kangaroo – Old Man Kangaroo. He ran through the ti-trees; he ran through the mulga; he ran through the long grass; he ran through the short grass; he ran through the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer¹³⁵; he ran till his hind legs ached.

He had to!

Still ran Dingo – Yellow-Dog Dingo – hungrier and hungrier, grinning like a horse-collar¹³⁶, never getting nearer, never getting farther; and they came to the Wollgong River.

Now, there wasn’t any bridge, and there wasn’t any ferry-boat¹³⁷, and Kangaroo didn’t know how to get over; so he stood on his legs and hopped.

He had to!

He hopped through the Flinders¹³⁸, he hopped through the Cinders¹³⁹, he hopped through deserts in the middle of Australia. He hopped like a Kangaroo.

¹³² **to grin** – скалить зубы, ухмыляться

¹³³ **reed-bed** – заросли тростника; **bed** – букв. кро-вать, клумба, грядка

¹³⁴ **He had to!** – Он был вынужден (Он должен был бежать).

¹³⁵ **Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer** – северный и южный тропики

¹³⁶ **horse-collar** – хомут

¹³⁷ **ferry-boat** – паром, судно для перевоза через реку и т. п.

¹³⁸ **He hopped through Flinders** – Он перепрыгнул через Флиндерс; Флиндерс – название острова

First he hopped one yard; then he hopped three yards; then he hopped five yards; his legs growing stronger; his legs growing longer. He hadn't any time for rest or refreshment, and he wanted them very much.

Still ran Dingo – Yellow-Dog Dingo – very much bewildered¹⁴⁰, very much hungry, and wondering what in the world or out of it made Old Man Kangaroo hop.

For he hopped like a cricket; like a pea in a saucepan; or a new rubber ball on a nursery floor.

He had to!

He tucked up his front legs; he hopped on his hind legs; he stuck out his tail for a balance weight behind him; and he hopped through the Darling Downs.

He had to!

Still ran Dingo – Tired-Dog Dingo – hungrier and hungrier, very much bewildered, and wondering when in the world or out of it would Old Man Kangaroo stop.

Then came Nqong from his bath in the saltpan, and said, 'It's five o'clock.'

Down sat Dingo – Poor-Dog Dingo – always hungry, dusty in the sunshine; hung out his tongue and howled.

Down sat Kangaroo – Old Man Kangaroo – stuck out¹⁴¹ his tail like a milking-stool behind him and said, 'Thank goodness that's finished!'

Then said Nqong, who is always a gentleman, 'Why aren't you grateful to Yellow-Dog Dingo? Why don't you thank him for all he has done for you?'

Then said Kangaroo – Tired Old Kangaroo – 'He's chased me out of the homes of my childhood¹⁴²; he's chased me out of my regular mealtimes; he's altered my shape so I'll never get it back; and he's played Old Scratch with my legs.'

Then said Nqong, 'Perhaps I'm mistaken¹⁴³, but didn't you ask me to make you different from all other animals, as well as to make you very truly sought after¹⁴⁴? And now it is five o'clock.'

This is the picture of Old Man Kangaroo at five in the afternoon, when he had got his beautiful hind legs just as Big God Nqong had promised. You can see that it is five o'clock, because Big God Nqong's pet time clock says so. That is Nqong, in his bath, sticking his feet out. Old Man Kangaroo is being rude to Yellow-Dog Dingo. Yellow-Dog Dingo has been trying to catch Kangaroo all across Australia. You can see the marks of Kangaroo's big new feet running ever so far back over the bare hills. Yellow-Dog Dingo is drawn black, because I am not allowed to paint these pictures with real colours out of my paint-box; and besides, Yellow-Dog Dingo got dreadfully black and dusty after running through the Flinders and the Cinders.

I don't know the names of the flowers growing round Nqong's bath. The two little squatty¹⁴⁵ things out in the desert are the other two gods that Old Man Kangaroo spoke to early in the morning. That thing with the letters on it is Old Man Kangaroo's pouch. He had to have a pouch just as he had to have legs.

¹³⁹ **Cinder** – букв. лава извергающегося вулкана, зола, пепел

¹⁴⁰ **to bewilder** – смущать, ставить в ту-пик, сбивать с толку

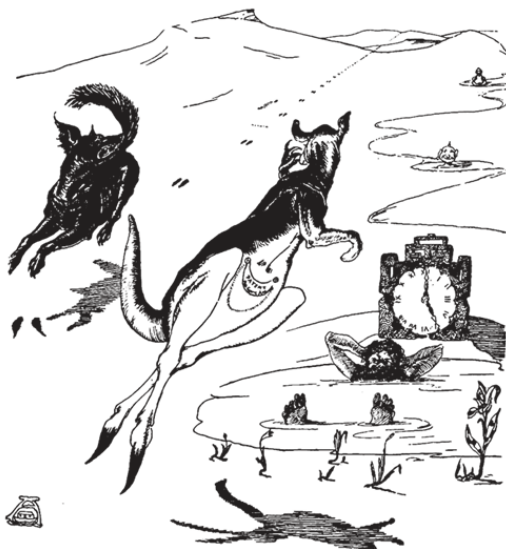
¹⁴¹ **to stick (stuck, stuck) out** – торчать

¹⁴² **He's chased me out of the homes of my childhood.** – Он выгнал меня из моего родного дома (из дома, где я провел детство).

¹⁴³ **Perhaps I'm mistaken** – Возможно, я ошибаюсь...

¹⁴⁴ **sought after** – пользующийся спросом, популярный

¹⁴⁵ **squatty = squat** – сидящий на корточках (о людях); припавший к земле (о животных)



‘Yes,’ said Kangaroo. ‘I wish that I hadn’t¹⁴⁶. I thought you would do it by charms and incantations, but this is a practical joke.’

‘Joke!’ said Nqong, from his bath in the blue gums. ‘Say that again and I’ll whistle up Dingo and run your hind legs off.’

‘No,’ said the Kangaroo. ‘I must apologize. Legs are legs, and you needn’t alter ‘em so far as I am concerned. I only meant to explain to Your Lordliness that I’ve had nothing to eat since morning, and I’m very empty¹⁴⁷ indeed.’

‘Yes,’ said Dingo – Yellow-Dog Dingo, – ‘I am just in the same situation. I’ve made him different from all other animals; but what may I have for my tea?’

Then said Nqong from his bath in the salt-pan, ‘Come and ask me about it tomorrow, because I’m going to wash.’

So they were left in the middle of Australia, Old Man Kangaroo and Yellow-Dog Dingo, and each said, ‘that’s your fault.’¹⁴⁸

This is the mouth-filling song
Of the race that was run¹⁴⁹ by a Boomer,
Run in the single burst – only event of its kind —
Started by Big God Nqong from Warrigaborrigarooma,
Old Man Kangaroo first: Yellow-Dog Dingo behind.

Kangaroo bounded away¹⁵⁰,
His back-legs working like pistons –
Bounded from morning till dark,
Twenty-five feet to a bound.

¹⁴⁶ **I wish that I hadn’t.** – Жаль, что я просил. (Мне бы хотелось, чтобы этого не было).

¹⁴⁷ **I’m very empty** – я очень голоден; **to be empty** – разг. быть голодным, проголодаться

¹⁴⁸ **That’s your fault!** – Это ты виноват!

¹⁴⁹ **to run** – зд. управлять, контролировать

¹⁵⁰ **to bound away** – усакаать

Yellow-Dog Dingo lay
Like a yellow cloud in the distance –
Much too busy to bark¹⁵¹.
My! but they covered the ground!

Nobody knows where they went,
Or followed the track that they flew in,
For that Continent
Hadn't been given a name.
They ran thirty degrees,
From Torres Straits to the Leeuwin
(Look at the Atlas, please),
And they ran back as they came.

S'posing¹⁵² you could trot
From Adelaide to the Pacific,
For an afternoon's run —
Half what these gentlemen did —
You would feel rather hot,
But your legs would develop terrific —
Yes, my importunate¹⁵³ son,
You'd be a Marvellous Kid!

¹⁵¹ **to bark** – лаять, рвать

¹⁵² **S'posing = supposing** – Предположим...

¹⁵³ **importunate** – зод. настойчивый, упрямый, назойливый

Questions and tasks

1. Why did the Kangaroo go to the different Gods?
2. How did Ngong make the Kangaroo's wish come true?

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

Текст предоставлен ООО «ЛитРес».

Прочитайте эту книгу целиком, [купив полную легальную версию](#) на ЛитРес.

Безопасно оплатить книгу можно банковской картой Visa, MasterCard, Maestro, со счета мобильного телефона, с платежного терминала, в салоне МТС или Связной, через PayPal, WebMoney, Яндекс.Деньги, QIWI Кошелек, бонусными картами или другим удобным Вам способом.