

Learning by Ear 2010

Series: 'Shall I tell you something? African fables for a culture of peace'

Episode: 07 Dikum Dakum, the magic formula

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SHALL I TELL YOU SOMETHING? AFRICAN FABLES FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE

EPISODE 07: „DIKUM DAKUM, THE MAGIC SPELL”

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CHARACTERS:

1. NARRATOR (male, 40 years old at least)
2. ELEPHANT (male, around 40 years old)
3. SIMBA THE LION (male, about 30 years old)
4. CHAMELEON STAMMERING (female, around 20 years old)
5. HYENA (female, around 20 years old)
6. MAMA TENGA, OLD WOMAN (female, sounding +/- 70 years old)

VOICE FOR MONKEY NEEDED, BUT ONLY FOR A CRY (p. 5, n°20)

INTRO:

Hello and welcome to Episode 7 of our Learning by Ear series "Shall I tell you something? African fables for a culture of peace!". Today we will join our friends the animals as they are looking for food in times of drought. They will learn an important lesson on their way. So, make yourself comfortable, keep your ears open and find out if they will succeed. This episode is called „Dikum Dakum, the magic spell“. Listen in!

1. MUSIC (play as background for the entire script)

2. NARRATOR:

Once upon a time the country of Kabwana suffered from a long and severe drought. The longer it lasted, the more the animals feared for their lives. They hardly had anything to eat. One day, the elephant gathered all the animals together beneath a baobab tree. Being the oldest animal he stood before them and spoke:

3. ELEPHANT:

“Dear friends, thank you for coming. As you know, the situation is critical! If we do not do something soon, we will all die of hunger. So I have an idea. Tomorrow at dawn we will all go and search for food together! As soon as we will have found enough edible fruit, we will share everything in brotherhood!”

4. NARRATOR:

The other animals agreed and the next morning, when the sun arose from its tropical sleep, the whole group set off.

5. ELEPHANT, LION, BIRDS: Sounds of animals (elephant trumpeting, lion roaring, birds chirping and flying, heavy and light steps)

6. NARRATOR:

Simba, the lion and king of the animals, led the way. The elephant posted himself at the back of the procession, accompanied by the long-necked giraffe who was carrying the sharp-sighted chameleon on her head. The chameleon sat there, clinging to the giraffe's horns with her front legs. Simba had ordered her to watch out and to let them know, as soon as she saw some fruit.

The march was long and the sun scorching hot. The procession was moving forward with difficulty when the hyena began to whimper plaintively:

7. HYENA (exhausted):

"Puh, I can't keep going any longer. Let's take a break!"

8. NARRATOR:

Simba the lion soon lost his patience and answered harshly:

9. SIMBA THE LION: Roar

10. SIMBA THE LION (angry):

"That's enough now! No more moaning! You can go home if you want. But you'll have to go alone!"

11. NARRATOR:

At that moment, the chameleon cried out from her observation post.

12. CHAMELEON (excited, stammering):

"Wow, wow, wow! I, I, I, I can see a tree with green, yellow and red fruit. It looks like a Ma- Ma Ma-rula tree!"

13. NARRATOR:

All excited, the other animals could hardly believe it:

14. ALL OTHER ANIMALS (excited):

"Are you sure?"

15. NARRATOR:

Visibly offended, the chameleon answered stammering:

16. CHAMELEON (offended, stammering):

"I- I- If you don't believe in the sharp eyes of a cha- cha- chameleon, you can ca- ca- carry on starving."

17. NARRATOR:

On the lion's orders, a commando of winged species flew in the direction the chameleon had indicated and came back with good news. The chameleon really had good eyes! It truly was a Marula tree full of fruits.

The procession plodded slowly towards the tree. Soon, all the animals congregated beneath the gleaming fruit and their mouths watered. Even the hyena drooled.

The elephant started happily organising the operations:

18. ELEPHANT (happy):

"Mister Monkey, take over. We want you to climb up and get us all the delicious fruits."

19. NARRATOR:

The very agile monkey climbed to the top of the tree. He shook the branches violently, but in vain: no fruit fell down! The gigantic elephant became angry and tried to loosen the fruit with repeated head-butts. But all that happened was the monkey fell out of the tree in terror.

20. MONKEY: Cry of monkey falling and crash landing sound

21. NARRATOR

The elephant was losing his patience and trumpeted in a threatening way:

22. ELEPHANT (angry):

“This tree is bewitched! I will show it what it means to...”

23. NARRATOR:

In this very moment the chameleon said:

24. CHAMELEON

“W-w-wait, e-e-elephant. In the distance I can see a ba- ba- baobab tree under which an old woman is sitting. I think she is eating exactly the the the s-s-same fruits.”

25. ELEPHANT

“Wait here. I will question this woman.”

26. NARRATOR

... answered the elephant and headed towards the baobab tree, where he addressed the old woman:

27. ELEPHANT RUNNING

28. ELEPHANT

“Good afternoon, Madame. Excuse me for interrupting you, but I saw that you are eating these amazing fruits. I and my friends are desperate... “

29. NARRATOR:

The elephant described their circumstances and informed the woman about how the animals were suffering. Mama Tenga, the old lady, was deeply moved.

30. MAMA TENGA:

“I’ve now known this tree for about 100 years. Its fruits are delicious, but you cannot pick them without using the following magic spell. Listen to it well: **(cheerfully pronounced)**
Dikum dakum lakum dinikum fankum fankum bibi saya.”

31. NARRATOR:

The elephant thanked her by trumpeting loudly and plodded heavily away.

32. ELEPHANT trumpeting

33. NARRATOR:

Mama Tenga watched him go, with a mischievous smile on her lips. On his way back, the elephant continually repeated the spell to himself in order not to forget it. But when he got back to the others, it had vanished as if by magic, which created much commotion. The elephant rolled his eyes to the sky in confusion:

34. ELEPHANT

"We need a magic spell. The old lady told it to me, but I was, unfortunately, not able to remember it. I don't know what is wrong with me. Normally I remember everything."

35. SFX: Murmur of disapproval from the crowd (*played by actors*)

The starving hyena was not in a forgiving mood and shouted angrily at the elephant:

36. HYENA

"It is impossible! You are lying! You just want to wait for an opportunity to eat all the fruit by yourself. And by the way, your memory is far from being as good as everyone says! You most probably only have water instead of a brain!"

37. NARRATOR:

The shameless hyena eagerly announced that she wanted to go and get the magic spell from the woman. No sooner said than done. She hastily set off down the road, limping slightly all the way to Mama Tenga. After having properly learned the magic spell, she turned back. The idea of being able to make a fool of the elephant filled her with joy.

However, on the way she tripped over the dead body of a camel. Without hesitating for a second, she threw herself greedily on it and, in a short time, had gnawed every single last bone. Having wolfed down the very last piece, she joyfully gave herself an energetic shake. And in doing so, she also forgot the magic spell.

The hyena's return was not a glorious one. Accusations and reproaches fell on her like rain in a heavy storm. 'Oh no!' 'You too!' 'You're useless.' The rhino and the zebra sneered at the hyena. 'You have betrayed our trust! We will never believe you again!' said the tortoise.

The hyena was not to be intimidated:

38. HYENA

"Ok! Go ahead, and see if you're any better! You slobbery shell face!"

39. NARRATOR:

But the wise elephant had a better idea:

40. ELEPHANT trumpeting

41. ELEPHANT

“Stop! I appeal to your reason my friends! That won't help us. If my memory is correct, the magic spell contains eight words. We will therefore form four groups and will all go together to Mama Tenga. Once there, each group must remember just two words of the spell, and, once we're back, we will recite the whole thing to the tree, one group after the other.”

42. SIMBA THE LION:

“Elephant, your words are full of wisdom!”

43. NARRATOR:

... congratulated Simba the lion and all of them went to the old woman. On arrival, the animals begged the old lady so fervently, that she repeated the magic spell once more. As soon as each group had learned their two words they rushed back to the enchanted tree. They huddled together, closed their eyes and each group declaimed its words in a chorus:

44. Different groups of animals, one after another:

“Dikum dakum lakum dinikum fankum fankum bibi saya.”

45. SFX: Avalanche of fruits

46. ELEPHANT, LION, BIRDS, MONKEY: cries of surprise and joy (elephant trumpeting, lion roaring, birds chirping, monkey screaming etc.)

47. NARRATOR:

Suddenly, an avalanche of marula fruits rained down on them and, crazy with joy, they threw themselves on these delights and all satisfied their hunger. They brought back the rest of their harvest in a triumphant procession.

On the evening of their return home, all the animals gathered together to light a big fire and joyfully celebrated the happy ending to their adventure. And Simba the King thanked them all for their faith in the power of unity.

48. ELEPHANT, LION, BIRDS, MONKEY: Cries of joy (elephant trumpeting, lion roaring, birds chirping, monkey screaming etc.)

49. SIMBA THE LION

“You see, my friends, if we all stand together, we can handle every problem. Elephant, you might be strong like a warrior. Chameleon, you might have eyes like binoculars. And, eh, Hyena, hm, you might eh, stink like hell...”

50. SFX: Laughing crowd (played by actors)

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51. SIMBA THE LION

“But what use are all your single characteristics compared to what we can achieve all together? In the future, my friends, let us always have faith in the power of unity!”

52. NARRATOR

Thus our fable goes to sea, and he who will smell its perfume first, will go to heaven.

53. Music

OUTRO:

Whow! What a happy end for a story that started off so sadly. With these words spoken by the lion, our fable "Dikum Dakum, the magic spell» comes to an end. I hope all of you got the message. No matter who you are, a strong lion or a small chameleon, you are a part of society and together you can create a better world. Even if you are just feeling like a grumbling hyena you have to conquer your weaker self and play a part. Let us know whether you ever tried to handle a tricky situation by yourself but couldn't. Perhaps you only managed it when you asked some friends to help! Send an email to lbe@dw-world.de and tell us all about it.

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Thanks for being with us and don't forget to tune in next time!

END