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Abdulla El Tayib

Michael West

*Stories from the Sands
of Africa*

非洲沙漠上的故事

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內 容 提 要

这本书里收集了五个非洲短篇故事。内容大部分是歌頌人們不畏强暴的勇敢精神、聪明智慧和善良品德，文字簡易流暢，詞汇仅 500 字左右，而且反复出現。适合中学生及初学英语者閱讀。

英語簡易读物

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ZALOAAT AND THE HYENA

A. Zaloat was a little goat. He was not strong, he was not big, but he had three beautiful sisters. The three beautiful sisters went out every morning and every afternoon. They found a very good field where there was a lot of green grass.¹ Zaloat always stayed in the village where there was nothing to eat except bits of paper and dirt and pieces of cloth.² He was very small and he did not grow any bigger;³ but his sisters were getting fatter and fatter.⁴

B. One day Zaloat said to his sisters, "You become fatter every day.⁵ What do you eat?"

The sisters did not want Zaloat to know about their good field.

1. a very good field where there was a lot of green grass — 一片非常好的草地，那里长满了青草。

2. where there was nothing to eat except bits of paper and dirt and pieces of cloth — 村里除了碎纸片，泥土和小布片以外没有什么可吃的东西。

3. he did not grow any bigger — 他总也长不大。

4. were getting fatter and fatter — 越长越胖。

5. You become fatter every day — 你们一天比一天胖起来。

There was a very bad hyena in that field. The three sisters knew that Zaloat loved eating. They said, "He will stay in the field until the sun goes down¹ and then the hyena will come and eat him." So they did not tell Zaloat the truth.² They said, "Oh, we only eat bits of paper and bits of cloth and dirt. We do not find any good food in the places where we go."³

C. Zaloat looked at them. "They are not telling me the truth," he thought; so he said to them, "I do not believe you. Put your foot in your mouth and bring up what you have been eating,⁴ then I shall see what you have been eating."

The sisters did this and he saw that they had been eating rich green grass. But Zaloat had been eating only dirt and bits of paper and cloth. So Zaloat said to them, "Where did you find this rich green grass?"

1. until the sun goes down — 直到太阳落山

2. did not tell Zaloat the truth — 不对 Zaloat 说实话。

3. We do not find any good food in the places where we go — 在我們去的那些地方找不到什么好吃的东西。

4. bring up what you have been eating — 把你們吃的东西吐出来看看。

You must take me to the field of rich green grass."

They said, "Dear brother Zaloat, you love eating. We know that you will not leave the place once you have begun eating,¹ and when night comes the hyena will catch you and eat you."

"You must take me there," he said. "I must go to the place where you eat."

D. So the three sisters took Zaloat to their field and Zaloat began to eat. He ate—and he ate—and he ate, and ~~he~~ did not think of what his sisters had told him about the hyena.² The sun went down and Zaloat was there, eating—and eating—and eating.³

"Come away, come away, Zaloat," said his sisters. "Do come away." But he did not hear them.

1. you will not leave the place once you have begun eating — 你一吃起来，就不願离开那地方了。

2. he did not think of what his sisters had told him about the hyena — 他把姐姐們告訴他的关于鬣狗的事忘得一干二淨。

3. ... and Zaloat was there, eating — and eating — and eating — 而 Zaloat 还在那里，一个劲儿地吃啊，吃啊。

Then the hyena came.

The hyena went to the three sisters and said to the first, "What is that thing in your mouth that makes a noise?"¹

"That is my tongue," said the sister-goat.

"What are those things at the side of your head?"

"Those are my ears," said the sister-goat.

"What are those things like jewels in the front of your head?"²

"Those are my eyes," said the sister-goat.

"And what is that little thing behind you?" said the hyena.

"That is my tail," said the sister-goat.

The hyena looked at her and she was very afraid. He said, "I shall eat you."

E. Then the hyena questioned the second sister-goat in the same way,³ and the second

1. What is that thing in your mouth that makes a noise? — 你嘴里那个出声的玩意儿是什么?

2. What are those things like jewels in the front of your head? — 你脑門前面像宝石似的東西是什么?

3. Then the hyena questioned the second sister-goat in the same way — 然后鬣狗同样地問了第二个山羊姐姐一番.

sister-goat gave the same answers; and the hyena looked at her and he said, "I shall eat you." And it was the same with the third sister-goat.¹

Zaloat was still eating happily. Then the hyena came to Zaloat and he said, "What is that thing in your mouth which makes a noise?"

"That?" said Zaloat. "That is my bugle. Soldiers have a bugle. They blow it when they make war."²

"What are those things at the side of your head?"

"Those are my shields," said Zaloat. "They keep me safe."³

"And what are those things at the front of your head—those things like jewels?" said the hyena.

"Those are the fires of my eyes."⁴

"And what are those things on the top of your head?"

1. And it was the same with the third sister-goat — 第三个山羊姐姐的情况也是这样。

2. They blow it when they make war — 他們打仗的时候就吹起号角。

3. They keep me safe — 它們保証我的安全。

4. Those are the fires of my eyes — 那是我眼里的火。

"Those are my spears," said Zaloat.
"I shall drive those spears into your body
and you will die."¹

Then the hyena was afraid and he ran
away. Zaloat ran after him and drove him
far away.² The hyena never came back to
the field again. So Zaloat and his three
sisters were very happy and they got fatter
—and fatter—and fatter.

1. I shall drive those spears into your body and
you will die — 我要把这些矛扎进你的身子，把你刺死。

2. Zaloat ran after him and drove him far away
— Zaloat 在后头追，把它赶得远远地。

MUHAMMAD ARBAB AND HIS DOGS

A. Muhammad Arbab and his sister Fatimah lived in the country.¹ They lived very far away from people. Every day as soon as² the sun came up into the sky Muhammad Arbab used to³ get up out of bed and go to the forest. He had three dogs which helped him to catch animals in the forest. The names of the dogs were Aradaib, Sasoo and Nimrah. When the sun was hot in the middle of the day⁴ he came home, and ate, and he slept for a little. Then he went out again. He came back to the hut when it was dark and the door was shut. Then Arbab said:

“O sleeping sister open the door.

Your brother is back and will go out no more.”⁵

1. in the country — 在乡下.

2. as soon as — —... 就....

as soon as the sun came up into the sky Muhammad... — 太阳在天空中一升起 Muhammad 就....

3. used to — (过去)惯常.

4. in the middle of the day — 中午.

5. O sleeping sister open the door. Your brother is back and will go out no more — 啊, 睡着的妹妹快开门, 你的哥哥回来了, 再也不出去啦!

B. Now¹ Zaas was a ghoul. He ate men. He lived near the place where Muhammad Arbab and his sister had their hut. Zaas wanted to eat Muhammad Arbab and his sister. Every night he came near the hut and he heard what Muhammad Arbab said to his sister when he wanted her to open the door.²

One night it was very late and Muhammad Arbab had not come back yet, Zaas went to the door of the hut and he said in his ugly voice:³

“O sleeping sister open the door.

Your brother is back and will go out no more.”

Fatimah knew that this was Zaas's voice and she said to him:

“Go away, you may not pass.⁴

Your voice is like the voice of an ass.”

So Zaas went away, very angry.

Every night Zaas came to the door and tried to make his voice sound like the

1. Now — 往往用在讲故事时另起一段的时候。有时当“原来”解。有时没有什么意思。

2. heard what Muhammad said to his sister when he wanted her to open the door — 听见 Muhammad 要妹妹开门时所說的話。

3. said in his ugly voice — 用他那难听的声音說道。

4. Go away, you may not pass — 滾开，不許你进来。

voice of Muhammad Arbab.¹ But his voice was ugly and Muhammad Arbab's voice was soft and sweet.

C. Then Zaas went to a Wise Man² in the village. He said to the Wise Man, "Make my voice soft and sweet like the voice of Muhammad Arbab. If you do not do this I shall eat you." Then the Wise Man was afraid and he said to Zaas, "Show me your tongue and I will see if³ I can do anything for you. Open your mouth and I will see what I can do."

So Zaas opened his mouth. Then the Wise Man worked at it and he worked at it, and after a long time he said, "Now your voice will be soft and sweet like the voice of Muhammad Arbab. But if you eat beetles your voice will become as it used to be.⁴ I know how much you like eating beetles, but you must not eat beetles, or your voice will become ugly again."

1. try to make his voice sound like the voice of Muhammad Arbab — 想法子把他的声音装成 Muhammad 的声音. sound like — 听起来好像...

2. a Wise Man — 术士.

3. see if — 看看是不是...

4. become as it used to be — 变成原来那样.

D. Zaas was very pleased.¹ He ran away. He said, "Now I can eat Muhammad Arbab, or I can eat his sister Fatimah; or I can eat both of them!—first one, then the other."

He hid behind a tree near the hut and waited for the night to come. It was a long, long time. As he sat there hiding, he saw a big fat beetle passing near his foot.

"No," he said, "no, I will not eat it or² my voice will become ugly." He waited.

Another fat beetle came, a fatter beetle than the first one.³ He said, "no, no, I will not eat it."

He sat and waited. He had had nothing to eat for a long time. And then the fattest beetle he had ever seen⁴ came past his foot. He said, "Perhaps just one beetle will not matter."⁵ So he ate it.

1. Zaas was very pleased — Zaas 非常高兴.

2. or — 否则, 不然的话.

3. a fatter beetle than the first one — 比第一只甲虫还要肥的一只甲虫.

4. the fattest beetle he had ever seen — 一只他从未看见过的最肥的甲虫.

5. Perhaps just one beetle will not matter — 也许吃一只甲虫还不要紧.