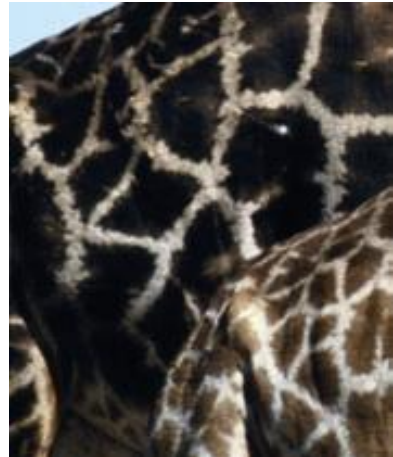


“这很好!”

“This is Good”

一则非洲民间故事
An African Folktale



The story is told of an African king and his close friend, who had grown up together. The king's friend had a habit of looking at every situation positively and remarking, "This is good!"

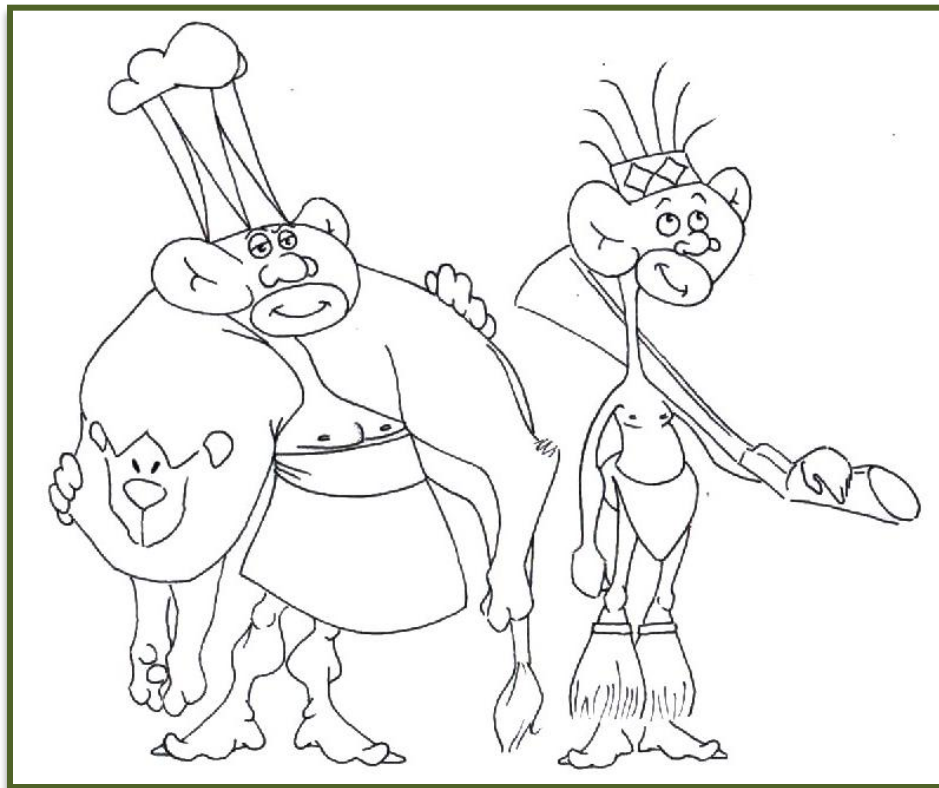
One day the king went on a hunting expedition, and he gave his friend the job of loading his guns and handing them to him. Apparently the friend did something wrong at some point, because one gun misfired and blew the king's thumb off.

"This is good!" the king's friend remarked as usual.

"No, this is *not* good!" the king replied, and he sent his friend to jail.

话说有一位非洲国王，他有一位亲近的好友，两人从小一起长大。国王的这位朋友对任何事，态度都很积极，总是说：“这很好！”

有一天，国王去打猎，他让这位朋友帮他装弹递枪。显然，这位朋友在某个环节上犯了错误，结果猎枪走火，把国王的拇指崩掉了。

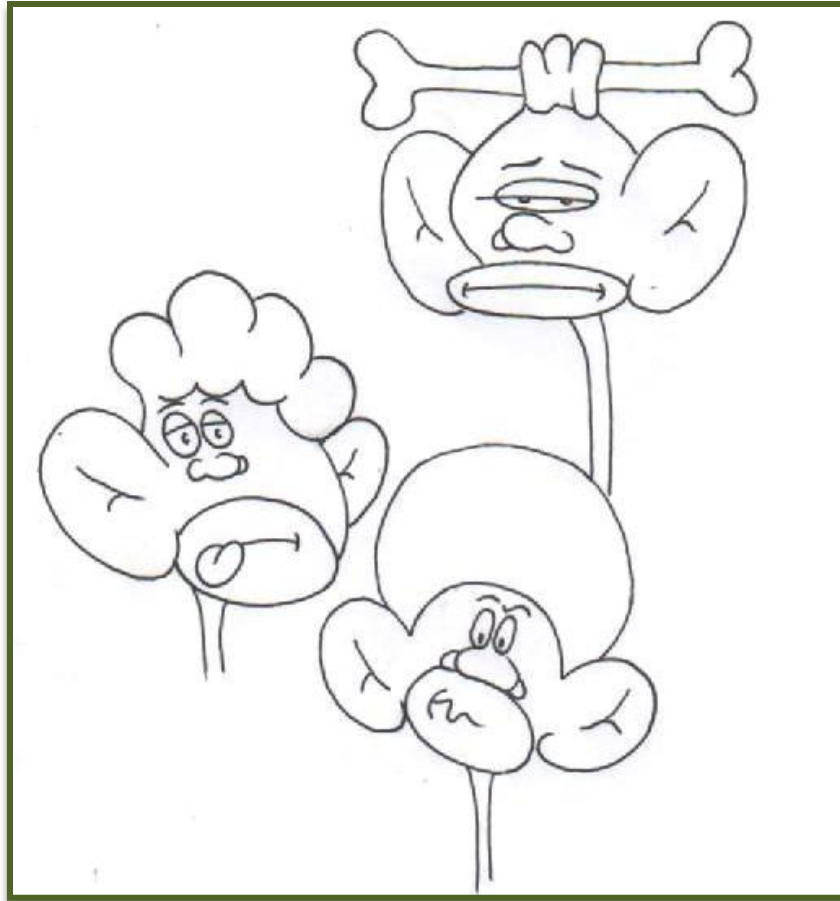


“这很好！”
国王的朋友像往常一样那么说。

“不，这并不好！”国王回答，并把他的朋友关进了监狱。

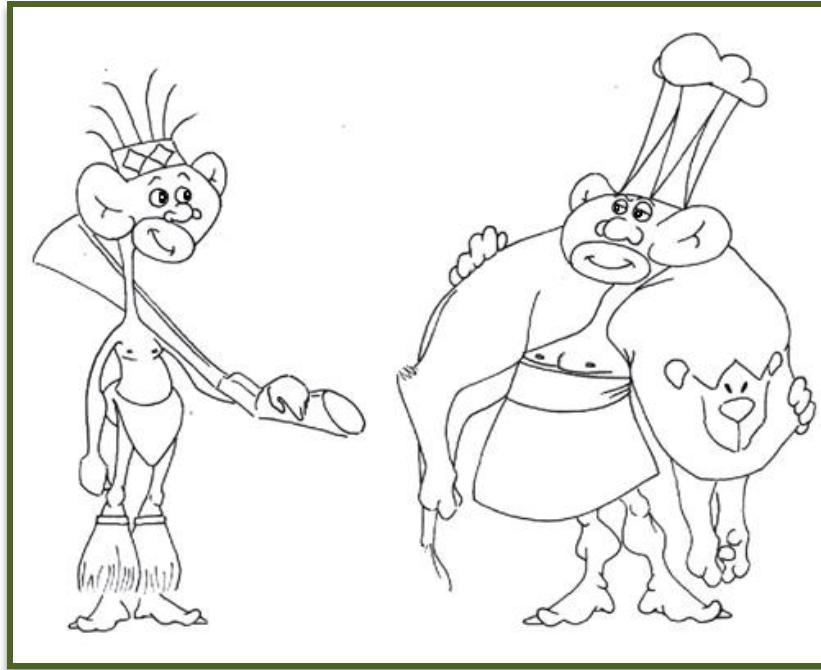
About a year later, the king was hunting in an area that he shouldn't have ventured into. Cannibals captured him and took him to their village. They tied his hands, bound him to a stake in the ground, and stacked firewood around his feet. However, just as they were about to set fire to the wood, they noticed that the king was missing a thumb. The cannibals had a superstition that forbade them from eating anyone who was less than whole, so they untied the king and sent him on his way.

一年后，国王又去打猎，但这次是在一个他不该去的地方。他被食人族捉住，带回村子里去。他们捆住他的双手，把他绑在空地中间的一根柱子上，并在他的脚边堆上干柴。然而就在他们要点火时，他们发现国王少了一根拇指。食人族有个迷信，就是不能吃肢体不全的人，所以他们就放国王了。



As the king traveled home, he was reminded of the event that had taken his thumb, and he regretted the way he had treated his friend. He went straight to the jail and released his friend.

“You were right,” the king said. “It *was* good that my thumb was blown off.” And he proceeded to tell his friend about his brush with death. “I am sorry for sending you to jail for so long,” he said. “That was very bad of me!”



“No,” his friend replied, “this is good!”

“What do you mean, ‘This is good’? How could it be good that I sent my friend to jail for a year?”

“If I had not been in jail,” the king’s friend replied, “I would have been with you.”

国王回家以后，想起失去拇指的经历，就后悔自己错待了那位朋友。他马上到监狱，把朋友放了出来。

“你是对的，”国王说，“我的拇指被炸掉，真是件好事。”接着，他把自己差点被杀的经历告诉了那位朋友。“我很抱歉，把你关在监狱里这么长的时间，”他说：“我那么做真是太不好了！”

“不，”他的朋友回答说，“这很好！”

“你怎么这么说呢？‘这很好？’我把朋友关在监狱里一年，这有什么好？”

“我要是不在监狱里的话，”国王的朋友回答说，“我就会和你在一起打猎，结果可能被食人族吃了。”

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