Eleanor A. Dasi, "Entry on: Why God and Animals Live away from Humans by Farkou ", peer-reviewed by Daniel A. Nkemleke, Emmanuel Ambe Ndonwi and Elizabeth Hale. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2022). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1430. Entry version as of October 31, 2026.

Farkou

Why God and Animals Live away from Humans

Cameroon

TAGS: African Mythologies African Storytelling African Traditions Creation Myths Gods





We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Why God and Animals Live away from Humans
Country of the First Edition	Cameroon
Country/countries of popularity	Cameroon
Original Language	Fali-Kaang
Country of the Recording of the Story for the Database	Cameroon
Full Date of the Recording of the Story for the Databasey	July 29, 2019
More Details of the Recording of the Story for the Database	Tcholaram
Genre	Folk tales, Myths
Target Audience	Crossover
Author of the Entry	Eleanor A. Dasi, University of Yaounde 1, wandasi5@yahoo.com
Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Daniel A. Nkemleke, University of Yaounde 1, nkemlekedan@yahoo.com Emmanuel Ambe Ndonwi, zambe4@yahoo.com Elizabeth Hale, University of New England, ehale@une.edu.au

This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children's and Young Adults' Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.

Creators



Farkou (Storyteller)

Age of narrator: 84 (in 2019)

Social status: patriarch

Profession: Drumming

Language of narration: Fali-Kaang

Bio prepared by Eleanor A. Dasi, University of Yaounde 1, wandasi5@yahoo.com

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Additional information

Origin/Cultural Background/Dating

Fali-Kangu is a name that identifies one of the ethnic groups in the North of Cameroon. They are in Garoua and some parts of Ngaoundere. The name Fali is also used to identify the language spoken by these people. The majority of the Fali are Muslims and practice Islam. As such, they strongly believe in prayers and fasting. They believe in one God, Allah. However, non-Muslim Fali people practice animism and ancestral worship for protection, guidance and blessings. When a Fali dies, after a month, a ceremony (festival of the dead) is organized to help the reincarnation of the person's soul. They believe in a creator god, Faw.

Source:

Encyclopedia.com (accessed: September 24, 2019).

Summary

Long ago, humans and animals all lived in unity under the earth with Kaang, their supreme god and creator. None of them lacked anything. After some time, Kaang began to plan a world on the surface of the earth where he would move all his creatures. He started by creating a beautiful huge tree whose branches spread across the land. After that, he created other beautiful things and all was ready. Then he made a tunnel into the earth right down to where the humans and animals were. He first took a man by the hand and led him through the tunnel up to the world he just created. They sat near the entrance to the tunnel and waited. Shortly afterwards, a woman came up and together with the man, they began to enjoy the wonders and treasures Kaang had created for them. The couple then beckoned on their companions beneath the earth and they started filling up with the curious giraffe taking the lead. They were all amazed at the beauty and wonders they saw. While the birds flew high up the tree branches, chirping in delight, other animals jumped from branch to branch marveling at the beauty of this new world.

When the great god Kaang saw this, he was satisfied. He then called all the humans and animals together and said: "I will tell you the laws of this new world. "You are to live together in peace and listen to each other." And then to the humans, he commanded, "under no circumstances must you make fire; to do such a thing would be to

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bring great disharmony in this beautiful world." With enormous gratitude, the creatures pledged loyalty to Kaang, promising to always acknowledge and respect his orders. Kaang then left them to enjoy their new place but secretly observed them from a hiding.

Everything was fine until the sun began sliding out of view. In absolute amazement, all the creatures assembled and pondered on this abrupt manifestation. The sun eventually vanished leaving the creatures in a terrifying darkness and biting cold. To overcome this distressing situation, they snuggled and shared their anxieties. "What is happening? Will the sun ever return?" they pondered. As the darkness and cold intensified, the creatures wept for fear of dying in the frosty darkness.

Then, one human suggested they start a fire, and the rest of the people agreed, forgetting their commitment to Kaang. They were all carried away by the warmth and the light of the fire that they did not notice when the animals all fled into the wilderness. "Come back, there is nothing to fear!" the humans called out to them but the animals could not understand the language of the humans anymore. All they heard were yells, which scared them even more. It was at this point that the humans remembered the loyalty they promised Kaang, which they have broken, and with it, the harmony with animals. And this was eternal.

Analysis

Like many other people in the world, the Fali-Kaang people also have a story of how the world came to be. The myth does not only attempt an explanation to how living things came to be on earth.

The myth highlights the results of breaking a covenant with a supreme being, which results in humans being alienated from their creator. The people of Fali-Kaang could not keep to their promise of obeying Kaang and so he decided to go away from them forever.

The myth goes further to explain the mystery why animals live away from humans despite the fact that they were created together.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs,

African Mythologies African Storytelling African Traditions Creation Myths Gods

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Characters, and Concepts	
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Animals Disobedience Humanity
Further Reading	Sprout, Barbara, *Primal Myths: Creation around the World,* San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1979. Von Franz, Marie-Louise, *Creation Myths*, Boston: Shambhala, 1995.
Addenda	Place of performance: Tcholaram Occasion: staged Target audience: young teenagers Researcher: Eleanor A. Dasi Assistant researcher: Boubakary Tecna Method of data collection: listening and transcription

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