

THE
HUNTER &
HIS THREE
DOGS

OMOLEWA THE LOST PRINCESS and other stories

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THE HUNTER AND HIS THREE DOGS

There lived a brave hunter in the village of Oriyomi, whose name was Ajani. He lived in a very big mud house alone and he has a large farmland as well. It is known that every brave hunter is expected to have a dog or two that would go with him each time to the forest to hunt, but its not so in the case of this hunter.

Despite his search to get a brave dog, he ends up getting either a domesticated or lazy dog, and so got tired of searching for one.

Not long after he had given up, he got set for hunt one midnight in to the Ajini forest, a very thick and scary forest. In the forest he encountered a bear. This is the first time he is encountering such a beast, so he was not only ready to show his skills this time, but also wanted to play safe. So he climbed up to the tree to hide for the coming beast.

Unlucky for Ajani, the tree is the home to a matured cobra snake. He sat on the tree but not just on the tree but close to the cobra's tail. As he tried to adjust and get set on the tree to pull the trigger of is gun, he mistakenly hit the tail of the creepy snake. Ouch!!!. A mistake, a cobra???'

And as the western tradition saying goes, 'he who hits the cobra's tail must certainly encounter the cobra's fight.

The tensed hunter jumped down the tree immediately, having no idea of what next to do. Two beast at the same time.

Before he could settled own to think, here comes the cobra snake, opening its fierce mouth ready for late time super. The hunter tried in his best not to run but to fight back.

He took a nearby stickstick on his hand and tried to hit the snakes head to get it killed, yet on his last trial, the stick hit the snake and it died, but too late, because the bear was then right too close to the hunter. As he pointed the gun at the bear with courage and fear mixed together, three animals from the nearby bushes jumped out and pounced on the bear. 'What kind of animals could this be? He thought. They are dogs.

In two minutes, the bear had been shattered in pieces, and part of it eaten and blood cleaned. Ajani put down his gun and looked at the dogs in amazement. He pat the dogs and rubbed their hairs with his hands, until they came closer and embraced him.

He packed up the big cobra, and wrapped it round the dead bear and carried the very heavy animal back to the village as the dog followed. It was dawn already.

It was market day and very early, villagers are already getting their goods ready. That day Ajani sold the beast and had a lot of money and fun that day.

When it was night, he fed the dogs with maize and named them. He named them according to their abilities as follows:

Oremokerewu - find 'joy in breaking

Osapakagbemi - swallows any thing edible

Ogbalegbarawe - likes leaking blood.

It was fun and joy for Ajani the whole night as he fell asleep thinking over all that happened in the forest of Ajani the previous day.

A week after, Ajani decided to go hunting again. On getting to the forest, Ajani hunted for Alligators as it is evening. It was a bit freaky, but with the help of his new - got dogs, he got five bits alligators that night. He went back home very early that day. The next day, he took three to market to sell, and left other two at home to be consumed by him and his dogs.

Ajani, the hunter is now getting rich and now ready to become married, so he began searching. He longed to get married to Omolewa the princess, but he does not know the cost so he went searching for someone cheaper. He found Adesewa a beautiful girl, though not as beautiful as the princess. Adesewa loves Ajani, but just for the money he has and how skillful he is as a hunter. She likes the fame of her being the hunter's wife. She is a good trader anyway, but not consistent in her hardwork and honesty as Ajani expected.

So Ajani kept an eye on her by sending his friends, but that wasn't enough as she got missing. Once in a while and no one would know of her whereabouts. 'She seems to be mysterious somehow'. Akin said in of their discussion. 'Well I will manage her if the princess wouldn't come to me' Ajani replied.

Omolewa the princess, is well behaved in her beauty, but the king kept a close look on her. He wants her to get married to a wealthy man a well behaved man most preferred a prince of another village. At this Omolewa is hardly seen except on market day with her maids.

Ajani is not the only man who like to have Omolewa as wife, but Many others, and a lot are bent at having her at any cost. Ajani can't help thinking of her beauty, but any time he remember's the king not letting her to anyone except a wealthy prince, he gets discourage to even approach her.

Through out the week, Ajani decided not to visit the forest for a hunt, intend he went to his farm to cultivate, and get ready for harvest. He has lot of things in his farm, even furniture trees, are there, palm tree, yam, potatoes, and many others.

Ajani had little fun that week. On a faithful morning he woke up as he usually did and started hearing noise from the village square, what has happened? he thought. He picked up his cloth, and headed straight for the square. He began to hear strange things that he never thought could happen.

'Something that has never occurred in the land of Oriyomi an history has just happened today. This village has just been deprived of a worth. The village had a strange visit last night, from whom we knew not and the princess is missing'.

'Ah!!! The whole village explained 'Impossible'. It can be ' thought Ajani'. Am i still asleep? 'He asked himself'.

The king is not happy so are the chiefs. All the guards have searched and searched and found her not, soon the guard would not rest until he has found his daughter. The town crier concluded.

'No, this can't be 'everyone muttered. How did this happen?

Those words 'The princess is Missing' kept on ringing on the mind of Ajani till he reached his house. He fell in thought the whole day. After the thorough search Omolewa was nowhere to be found, but Ajani never noticed that Adesewa was also missing and also nowhere to be found, until her family also exclaimed 'Adesewa mi! My Adesewa!. Did you help me to see her? She said she wanted to fetch water, and now I can't find her! My Adesewa! where are you?!!!'. Her mother started shouting the whole village followed by some villagers.

'What! Adesewa too?' No it can't be. Hope I'm not being targeted?' Ajani murmured to himself.

The peaceful village became turbalant. Meetings upon meetings in the palace, yet no Omolewa, no Adesewa. The groanings of the two families became unbearable, the whole village was no longer at peace, then the King ordered a meeting at the village square.

At the village square, all the villagers were present yomi the king also. There was great silence as the King gave his speech thus, 'Good day to you all. Now in the village of Oriyomi, we are not here to dance or sing or perform any rites as the custom is, but we are here to seek a solution to this negative change that has befallen our village. A week ago two beautys were missing, first was my daughter and then Adesewa, the daughter of Chief Omoloye. I'm not happy with this situation so are the Chiefs. We cannot keep looking as things are going. So I stand here today by the authority given to me by my forefathers, whoever finds and brings back our girls alive, shall be greatly rewarded and if it be a man, shall marry my daughter and his brother shall marry Adesewa. Also in respect of this, I plead that you all remain in your houses till all this has a solution, thank you. The King concluded his speech in tears and left for the Palace.

The village enjoyed no good peace from that time on.

Lots of men tried to search for Omolewa but instead of coming back to the village with Omolewa they only died of wild beasts they met on their way, and some were scared back to the village.

At home that night, Ajani was depressed and so unhappy, he gathered his dogs and composed a song to honour the loss of a friend whom he never proposed to. His song goes thus:

Aja mi o!.....	Aja Ode!
Oremokerewu!...	Aja Ode!
Osapakagbemi!...	Aja Ode!
Ogbalegbarawe!...	Aja Ode!
Aja mi o!...	Aja Ode!

He sang and sang until he and his dogs fell asleep.

The following day, Ajani woke up so optimistic. He got a fully charged energy to go into the forest to seek the love he has ever wanted. He concluded in his heart that what ever it takes he would give it. He vowed also never to return until he has found what he seek. He and his three dogs entered the forest early that morning with courage and confidence.

Ajani entered the forest of Ajini this time to seek omolewa and Adesewa, two beauties he admired. he searched and searched but it seems like no result.

Three days past, but no Omolewa nor Adesewa, instead he and his dogs kept on hunting down animals for food. One faithful day,they encountered a leopard. 'Oh; I have never killed one he said'. He quickly hid himself to kill the leopard. Immediately, his dogs went after the animal.After a long combat, Ajani pulled the trigger and it hit the leopard on the head.

It's dead. The dogs were all injured, Ajani took the meat and roasted it, and they ate it all night. Day after day as they approached the forest much deeper, fierce animals/beasts kept appearing and attacking Ajani and his dogs, but God on their side, they were injured but not dead.

Just as Ajani was about to give into death to take him,he saw a cleared part of the forest ahead of him. "No trees?, he thought. is that an abode to an animal or human?. He continued. He

approached it.

As he got closer to the area, he began to hear the call of a lady for help. Ajani's countenance changed, as he felt fulfilled. he went closer and found out who it was. 'Omolewa! is that you?" he called out". "Please help me get out of here, please save me, please". Omolewa pleaded. 'Sure. I will', Ajani replied.

As Ajani approached her, the ground began to shake. 'What could that be? Earthquake? Ajani asked. 'Look behind you, exclaimed Omolewa. 'What!!!'.Mighty elephants of different sizes had surrounded them, closing up on them. 'They are sent here'. Omolewa shouted. Ajani untied her, and carried her up to the nearest tree as the dogs ran into action. Oremokerewu kept breaking joints, muscles and bones till the last one,while Osapagbemi continued taking meat from the already killed elephants, and Ogbalegbarawe was licking the blood.

Throughout that day Ajani and his dogs had a tough time with the elephants. None of them escaped.

Ajani was full of joy that he forgot he hadn't found Adesewa. The next morning he headed back to the village with the lost princess.

Late in the evening, Omolewa, Ajani and his dogs entered the village, and there was a tremendous shout and expressions of joy. Their princess is back, joy is back into the village of Oriyomi. Not long before the News reached the Palace,'Omolewa is back'. For a while no one noticed the seeker who found her. Ajani was just looking at how everyone was expressing their joy of the returned princess.

At the King's arrival the joy of the people further increased, infact the village of Oriyomi has never experienced such joy before. It was much more than celebrating a festival. At the sight of the King Omolewa ran to meet her father with a hug and cry of joy. The two embraced one another for such a long time. "I've missed you dad", Omolewa commented. I missed you too dear". The king responded.

The beauty of the princess never faded though she had scratches,

cuts, dirt and haven't taken her bath since she was missing. 'Go and tidy up dear, a feast must begin!' the King said to Omolewa.

'Get ready everyone, we must celebrate this with a feast' the chiefs told the villagers. Just then, the King embraced Ajani, the one who brought joy to the village of Oriyomi.

Ajani went back home and also got ready for the feast that evening. The feast was tremendous. Such has never been experienced in the village of Oriyomi.

At the feast, the king honoured the man, brave enough to return the princess back to the village - Ajani the hunter. He spoke this: 'the joy of this village was lost few months ago, and today, a man brave enough went looking for our lost joy and found it. I made a promise earlier that whoever finds my daughter would be rewarded greatly, and now I will fulfill it.' The king called Ajani and Omolewa forward. 'I hereby pronounce you both as the newest couple in the village of Oriyomi' the king declared. At the king's pronouncement, Omolewa ran towards Ajani and embraced him with a big kiss, and the whole villagers clapped, and shout for joy. The new couple were blessed with gifts and honour. They all danced till dawn.

Omolewa is to pack into Ajani's house after it has been furnished and renovated at the king's order. Two days after the feast, Ajani decided to go harvest the produce of his farmland. He left the dogs at home to rest since they are injured. At evening, as Ajani was harvesting the last produce on the very tall palm tree, he had a visitor. Behold, it was Adesewa.

'Adesewa!' he exclaimed, 'when did you arrive and where have you been? We've been looking for you long time ago' He mentioned.

'I've been missing, but you did not look for me. Instead, you went looking for Omolewa so that you can have her as your wife. You never remembered my absence. You longed for her not me. You are cruel. You broke my heart'. Adesewa argued.

Before Ajani could say a word, she had changed into a very mighty elephant wanting to kill him. She was jealous, but Ajani began to

plead: 'please don't be angry. I never intended to. Don't be carried away by jealousy. I will do whatever you ask, just keep me safe!' Ajani pleaded but to the deaf ears of an adamant elephant.

'Help! Help!' but no help. The elephant hit the tree strongly so the Ajani could fall and die. As Ajani was slipping down as the tree shook heavily, he gave up on life. It was then he sang in tears to his dear dogs;

Aja mi o!...	Aja Ode!
Oremokerewu!...	Aja Ode!
Osapakagbemi!...	Aja Ode!
Ogbalegbarawe!...	Aja Ode!
Aja mi o!...	Aja Ode!

He kept on singing as he slips down little by little and no hope of seeing the next morning. 'No more Oriyomi, no more Omolewa, no more love' He thought.

The dogs heard their master singing from far. 'Could he be calling or is he praising us as usual?' they asked one another in the dog language. They couldn't turn deaf ears to their master as he kept singing. 'could He be in danger?' they puzzled. They concluded to send Osapakagbemi to go and spy on him. They asked him to hide in the bush and check if the master is safe in the farm, if not, He should alarm them by whistling.

On reaching the entrance of the farm, Osapakagbemi saw its master far away slipping down the tall tree little by little, and an elephant hitting the tree so hard. Angrily, it whistled for the other dogs' attention. Straight away for battle, the wounded Oremokerewu ran into the farm. It pounced on the elephant, and before Ajani could say 'don't kill', Oremokerewu already had its head. Adesewa died in the hands of three dogs. No more beauty in her but just the hatred of the wounded elephant. Jealousy got her into the mouth of angry Oremokerewu. Ajani lived in fear, joy, and sadness at the same time. He later discovered that she was the one who put the village into mess by kidnapping Omolewa by

her evil powers.

A week later, Omolewa packed into Ajani's renovated house and lived together happily. They were blessed with twins at first birth, and named the boy 'Ajayi' and the girl 'Adelewa' and they all lived happily together. The village of Oriyomi enjoyed peace, though the parents of Adesewa bitter at the death of their daughter with no head, though Ajani never told anyone her evil doings.

An Ancient folktale from Indian .

There were four brothers who were discussing what each of them would like to pursue in life. They said, let us search the earth and find a special science. Each of them went off in different directions to pursue his ambition They agree to meet again in six month. When they gathered, one of the brother revealed that he had discovered how to create flesh from a fragment of bone. Another learned how to make skin and hair appear if there was flesh on a bone. The third was able to create limbs if he had skin and flesh and bone. The other brother knew how to give life to a creature that was complete with limbs.

The four brothers went I into the ' jungle to demonstrate their specialities. They found a piece of bone, and as fate would have it, the piece of bone had ones belonged to a lionlion, though they did not know it. The first brother added flesh to the bone. The second added skin and hair. The third create four limbs for the creature. The final brother gave it the spark of life. The lion rose to its feet, shook his menacing mane and killed all four brothers. He the contentedly vanished into the jungle. It is not right to pursue selfish ambition.

The fastest versus the faithful

Once upon a time the king of a vast kingdom invited the best athletes from his kingdom to compete in a race. The winner will receive a generous sack of gold as his prize. The race was to begin at the gate of the city, make a wide circle round the country side, towards the city to the finish line in the courtyard of the king's castle. Many runners came from all through the kingdom and lined up at the city gate to compete for the sack of gold. At the king's command, the runners started from the city and raced through the country side.

When the runners approached the city gate some hours later, they found a huge pile of blocks blocking their way through the gate.

Most of the runners pushed and crawled their way over the pile of rocks and on into the court yard. But one of the runners refused to join in the fray. He chose instead to begin moving the rocks out of the way for the slower runners far behind. At the bottom of these piles of rocks he found a heavy sack. He picked it up and raced towards the finish line; last. "Your Majesty," he cried, "I found this sack buried beneath the rocks that were piled at the city gate. What shall I do with it?"

The king replied, "that is the sack of gold that belongs to the winner of the race. Since you are the winner you can keep it". The other runners began to murmur, 'but your majesty,' they said, 'he didn't win the race, he came in last'. The king replied "the purpose of this race was not to find the fastest runner in my kingdom, but to find the most faithful servant in my kingdom. This man has clearly won the prize". And then, turning to the runner he said 'well done! You have proven to be a good and faithful servant.'