

THE  
STORY OF  
LITTLE BLACK  
QUIBBA



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# THE STORY OF LITTLE BLACK QUIBBA

by  
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The Story of  
Little Black Quibba.

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ONCE upon a time  
there was a little black  
boy, and his name was  
Little Black Quibba.

And his Mother was  
called Black Flumbo.  
But she was very ill,  
and had to lie in bed.

The Doctor came to  
see her every day, and  
gave her nice medicine





And nasty medicine.



But she got worse  
and worse, till at last  
the Doctor said she  
must die, unless she  
could get twenty man-  
goes to eat every day.



This made poor Little Black Quibba very sad, for he did not know where to find even one mango. However, he took the biggest basket in the house, and set out to see what he could find.



He asked everybody  
he met,

But nobody could tell  
him where to find any.



At last he met a great big Elephant.

“Oh, Mr. Elephant,” said he, “do you know any place where mangoes grow?”

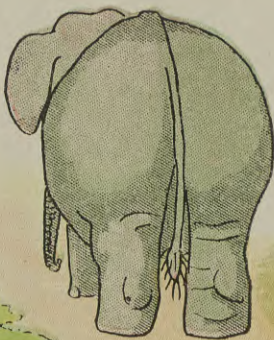
Now this bad Elephant knew quite well, but he wanted to keep them all to himself, so he answered, “No, no,



no. I don't, I don't.  
There are none this  
way."

So poor Little Black  
Quibba turned round  
and went sorrowfully  
back.

And the Elephant  
stood and watched him  
out of sight.



And he went along a  
very long weary road,  
but he could not find  
any mangoes.



At last he met a Snake, and he asked it. "Oh yes," said the Snake, "I'll shew you where there are lots of mangoes."

But he thought to himself, "When I get this nice fat little boy into the jungle, "I'll eat him up."



So he made him turn back again, and led him along the long weary road, till they left all the houses behind, and the jungle began to get thick.



Presently they met three frogs, and they croaked out, "Oh, Little Black Quibba, don't go with that Snake, he eats people."

"Oh no, I don't," said the Snake, "I only eat grass."



But as soon as they  
had passed, the Snake  
made a dart back.



And when Little Black Quibba looked back he could not see the Frogs, and he began to suspect that the Snake had eaten them. This made him rather more watchful.



So they went on together, and at last Little Black Quibba found himself in a splendid mango grove, with hundreds of trees, and thousands of ripe mangoes. Oh, how he jumped for joy.



When suddenly the Snake darted at him, hissing, "Ha, ha! Little Black Quibba, now I can eat you safely!"



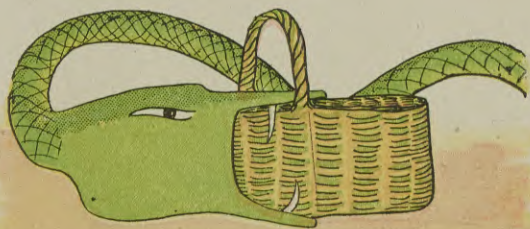
Little Black Quibba  
had just time to jump  
into the big basket as  
the Snake dashed at  
him, and to pull the lid  
down.



Then the Snake tried to open the lid, but there was a loop of string inside, and Little Black Quibba held it firmly shut.



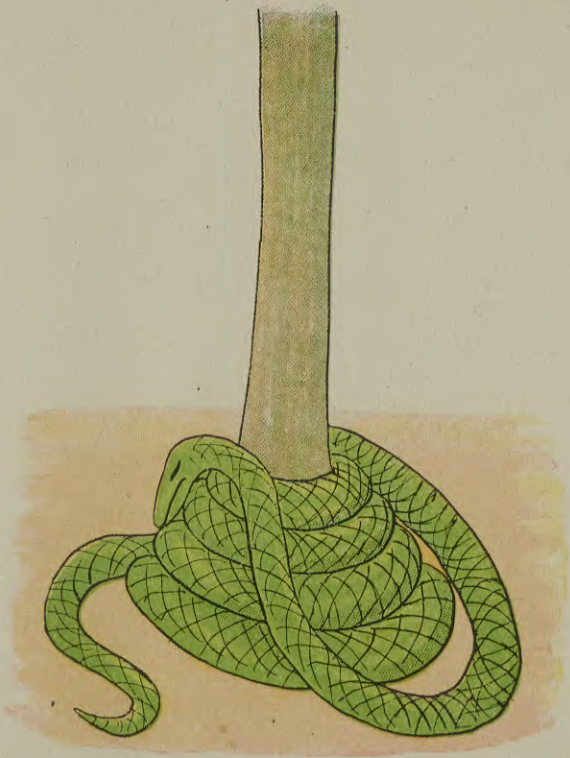
Then it tried to swallow  
basket and all, but though  
it gaped horribly, it could  
not open its mouth wide  
enough to take the han-  
dle in.



So at last it climbed  
up on one of the mango  
trees, and hung the  
basket on a branch, and



curling itself round the stem, it pretended to go to sleep, hoping that soon Little Black Quibba would tire of the basket, and would try to get out.



Presently Little Black Quibba peeped out and was just going to try to get away, when up came the Elephant and said, "Oh! you are stealing my mangoes, I will throw you over the precipice."

"No, no," screamed the Snake, "I am going



to eat him up. Take him out of the basket and give him to me."

"No, I won't," said the Elephant, "you're his friend," and seizing the basket he swung it over his head.

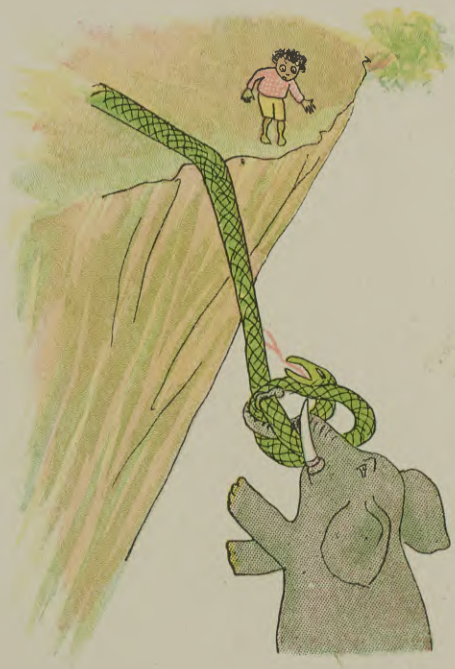
But the Snake twined round his leg, and tried



to drag him back. The Elephant gave a great tug, and fell over the precipice himself, and the basket, with Little Black Quibba in it, caught in a bush on the very edge, and Little Black Quibba scrambled out.



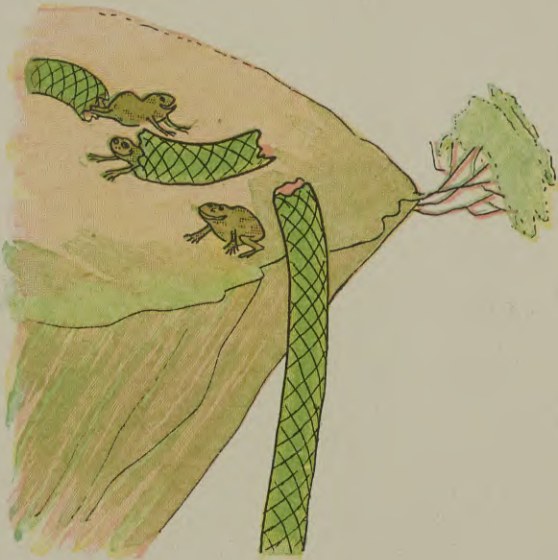
Then the Snake tried to leave go, and the Elephant tried to hold on to him, and they wriggled and twisted, and struggled and screamed till you would have thought there were twenty snakes and a hundred elephants fighting.



And at last they got themselves tied into such a tight knot that neither of them could do anything more. And the Elephant seemed to get heavier and heavier, and pulled the Snake out longer and longer, and thinner and thinner, till at last



The Snake broke with  
a *Snap!* into three  
pieces, and out jumped  
the little Frogs all alive  
and well, saying, “Didn’t  
we tell you he ate peo-  
ple?”



Meantime the Elephant was dashed to pieces on the rocks, far away below.



Then Little Black Quibba bravely scrambled over the Snake's tail, and climbed up the tree, which he shook with all his might, and



Down came dozens of lovely ripe mangoes, all red and yellow, till the ground was perfectly covered with them.



How quickly Little Black Quibba filled his basket. Then putting it on his head he hurried home, smiling for joy.



As soon as he got home, he ran to his Mother, with a big mango in each hand. Even the sight of them made her feel better.



And before the basket was empty, she was just as fat and just as able to jump for joy as Little Black Quibba himself.



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