

Bakame's Gift



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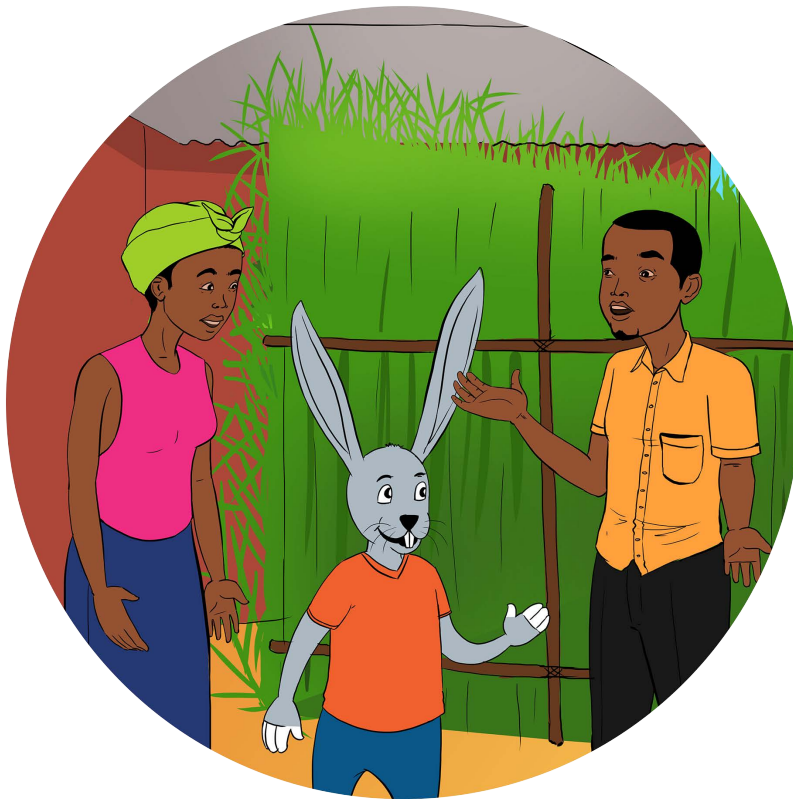
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On Nyarusange hill, there was a special animal called Bakame. Bakame was a friend to all people living in that village. Bakame was an advisor to each person in the village. Anyone that had a problem would seek out Bakame for advice. Even people in conflict would run to Bakame so that he could reconcile them.



One day, Bakame decided to visit his friends at Nyarusange. He was seated in the compound of his house. He thought, “I have to use this week to visit my friends. When I get tired, I will take a break.”



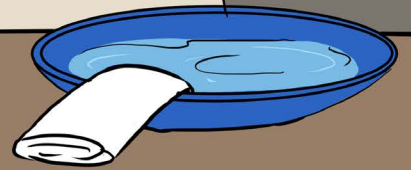
Before he departed, Bakame thought about the gift he would give his friends. It was a special gift. it was not money or any other thing. What is it?



Bakame started with his neighbor, Majyambere. He told him, “I had a gift for you but now I am taking it back.” Majyambere asked why and Bakame said, “It is because of your shabby dressing, next time if I come by and find you well dressed, I will give you your gift,” and Bakame said goodbye and left.



Next, Bakame visited his second neighbor. He found her writing a letter to her cousin living in the US. Bakame greeted the lady and told her that he had brought a gift for her and unfortunately, he was taking it back home with him. The lady asked why Bakame refused to give her that gift. Bakame said he would answer her question via a phone call, of course using her own mobile phone. He left her with his phone number and went.



Bakame continued his visits. He arrived at Nyiraneza's home and found her shaving her children with a razor blade. He had the same message that he was going back with his gift because the family was not ready to receive it. Bakame told Nyiraneza that if he comes back and finds her shaving her children with an electric shaver, he would then give her the gift.



Bakame continued visiting his friends in Nyarusange. Up and down the hills he went with the intention of knowing how they were. All those he visited were curious to receive the gift from him.



Next was Giramata's home. When he arrived, he found Giramata feeding her children on sweet potatoes only. Bakame told Giramata that he had a gift for her but he was taking it back. He said he would only give it to her when he will find her feeding her children on a balanced diet. Bakame said bye and left.



Next Bakame went to Peter's home. He found him with a radio transmitter with dry cells. Bakame told Peter that he had a gift for him but now he was taking it back. When Peter asked why, Bakame said he would give him the gift at night when his house will be lit by electricity.



Bakame concluded his visit at Misago's. Where he found him boiling water on a charcoal stove. Bakame told him that he had a gift for him, but he will get it next time when he finds him cooking using a gas stove.



Bakame went back to see Majyambere and was surprised to find him wearing shoes and a nice suit. Majyambere requested for his gift and Bakame said he had left it with him. He explained that the gift was the advice to ensure personal hygiene.



Next, Bakame was surprised by the call from his second neighbor, asking for the promised gift. Bakame told her that the gift was that phone she now uses to converse with her cousin with ease. The lady was surprised and thanked Bakame for his good advice.



Bakame continued up to Nyiraneza's home where he was warmly welcomed. She told Bakame that they nowadays use electric shavers. Bakame told them that that was the gift he had for them. They escorted him and he left.



From Nyiraneza's home, Bakame headed to Giramata's home. On arrival, he was surprised that they were eating a balanced diet. Bakame revealed the secret behind his gift. Giramata's family got surprised and thanked Bakame for his relevant advice.



The next day, Bakame went to Peter's home. He found Peter and his close neighbors celebrating the big achievement of having electric power. It was therefore a good opportunity for Bakame to explain the gift he talked about some months back. Peter got excited and rewarded Bakame with a cow for his good advice.



Bakame concluded his visit at Misago's where he was warmly welcomed. Bakame then asked Mr. Misago whether he is ready to receive his gift. Without hesitating, Mr. Misago said, "Yes, my dear we are ready! we are now using gas in our kitchen." Bakame said, "The gift I was talking about is the advice I gave you of protecting the environment." Mr. Misago was astonished by Bakame's wisdom.



On the day of giving the cow to Bakame, Peter invited his neighbor Misago to thank him. Both Peter and Mr. Misago told Bakame, “Instead of giving someone a fish to cook, you can rather teach them how to fish. We really thank you for your advice.”



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