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THE HARE AND CROCODILE





A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

The hare depicted as full of mischief once again shows who he is in this relationship with the crocodile. The crocodile, strong as he maybe, still falls to the manipulation of the hare.

Here again, two opposing characters are pitted against each other. The crocodile has physical strength, is trusting and gullible against a physically weak and seemingly friendly hare with hidden agenda full of wickedness and destructive mischief. There is amazing life lessons in this story.

Achiengy



THE HARE AND THE CROCODILE

A long, long time ago the hare and the crocodile were great friends. One day the crocodile crossed the lake to visit the hare, who was very pleased to see him and at once prepared him a good meal. Before the crocodile's departure they agreed that the hare should pay the crocodile a visit in return, but as he could not swim, the crocodile promised to come and fetch him. At the appointed time the crocodile came and the hare sat on his back. When they came ashore on the other side of the lake, the crocodile asked the hare to enter his house and wait while he went out to fetch something to eat. While he was waiting, the hare wandered around the room to see what was there, and discovered that the crocodile had his eggs in the next room.





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This room was very hot in order to keep the eggs warm. It was in this room that the hare was to spend the night and during the night, he decided to feast on the crocodile's eggs. As the eggs tasted very nice, he ate them all. And on finishing an egg, he sang a song.

**Tong onyang', onyang' omera, (X2)
Moloyo tong' duto gi mit' ago ni thup,
Amwonyo, ni thup. amwonyo.**

**The eggs of my friend the crocodile
Are the best I have ever tasted,
I swallow them one by one.**

Since he was enjoying himself very much, he sang so loudly that he was heard by the crocodile. When he was asked to repeat his song, he changed it and sang a song in praise of his friend's house. It went as follows:

**Agoch oyang', onyang' omera, (X2)
Moloyo agola duto gi liet,
Anindie kuok duar nega.**



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**This room of my friend the crocodile
Is the best and warmest of all ?
Here I sleep in great warmth and sweating.**

When the crocodile heard him singing, he asked what was the matter. The hare replied that he was so pleased with the conditions in the room that he was obliged to sing. The crocodile was very pleased with the song.

It was during the ride back home when the crocodile was floating the hare back to his home that the wife discovered that all the eggs had been eaten by the hare. They shouted across the waters to the crocodile that hare had eaten all the eggs.

"Now I shall kill you, because you have eaten all my eggs. 'No, stop!' cried the hare, "You can't kill me because I don't have my heart in my body.

Carry me home and I shall fetch my heart for you. When the crocodile heard this, he quickly swam across the lake with the hare on his back. Arriving at the shore on the other side, the hare jumped quickly into the bush and shouted to the crocodile,

'How foolish you are! Do you really think that anyone can walk about without his heart in his body? And with that he disappeared. Since that day the hare and the crocodile have been enemies.



This is an interesting story that depicts the crocodile as a real foolish and dumb person. Yet, this is not completely confounding as it may seem because a good percentage of people often displays the gullibility of the crocodile. Real life situations shows that most people can fall prey to mischief from those whom they consider friends and who can easily manipulate them without any feeling of compassion.

Friends are not always what they are for they can be jealous and covetous of one's achievements. They can become a stumbling block to one's progress and foment serious trouble in their lives. There is nothing more dangerous than what hare does to his friend the crocodile. In this story, he destroys the crocodile's eggs which is the equivalent of a generation, an age group and essentially a lineage is interfered with and he is unapologetic about it.

It is important in the times in which we live to be curious and attentive to things that can destroy the family and retrench the lineage and family tree. It is a profound story for the times in which we live.