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**THE HARE
AND
GUINEA
FOWL**



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A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

The hare depicted again as full of mischief and evil and in this relationship with the Guinea fowl, his treacherous nature plays out again. The hare is consistently bad and evil to all his friends. In this story, the hare manages to get someone else to die for his crime, **loko dhoch**.

It is a indeed a warning to that unbeknown to you, another person seeming fun can be a death trap. That one should be prudent and keep away from what is unknown and unfamiliar. This story is relevant for the modern youth who consistently get drawn into activities that look like fun but are infact death traps. This is a must read to share with others. There is amazing life lessons in this story.


Achieng



THE HARE AND THE GUINEA FOWL

The hare lived with his uncle, who kept a garden where he grew chicken peas and pumpkins. The hare was entrusted with the care of the garden. He was to oversee that no animals came to destroy the crops when the peas and the pumpkins were ready for harvest, It so happened that while on duty he fed on the ripe crops, but always claimed that the crops had been eaten by animals that came there at night. This went on until his uncle prepared traps for these animals, and hid them in the garden, without telling the hare, for even though he listened to the hare's excuses, he was aware that his nephew was the culprit. He then urged the hare to go and keep watch on the crops, which the hare did. As usual he could not resist eating the ripe crops. He began to wander here and there, up and down the garden, picking up the ripe peas and eating them. Suddenly he stepped into the trap, which caught him by the neck and flung him up into the air, and there he hung by the neck, swinging like a pendulum from a rope which was almost strangling him.





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He was ashamed of himself and did not want to call his uncle, although the home was near enough for any noise to be heard. He struggled very hard to get out of the trap, but all his attempts came to nothing. He was faced with only two alternatives. If he wanted to save himself, he would have to call his uncle and thereby admit that he was the culprit; otherwise, he could only wait for death.

Just when the hare was about to lose hope of escaping from the trap without calling his uncle, he saw a guinea-fowl coming into the garden. So, he pretended that he was just playing, singing and swinging himself back and forth, and this immediately attracted the guinea-fowl's attention.

'What are you doing and how do you manage to remain up in the air with a rope?' asked the bird. The hare went on singing as if he had not heard the question, to further arouse the curiosity of the bird.

The guinea-fowl went on begging the hare to tell him how he had managed to get up there. (The guinea fowl, of course, could not fly). Finally, the hare stopped singing and asked if guinea fowl wanted to play the game, and the answer was "yes".





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So, the hare told him to bend the pole on which the rope was tied so that the hare could come down, and then to untie him from the rope so that he could tie up the guinea-fowl so that he too could enjoy the game. The bird was soon tied to the rope and swung high up in the air as the hare let go of the pole.

When the guinea-fowl began to feel the strain of the rope around his neck, the hare sang to him and encouraged him to swing from side to side. But the more he swung, the greater the pain became. During his agony, the guinea-fowl saw the hare's uncle coming towards the garden. He called to the hare to release him, but it was too late. The hare began to shout, calling his uncle to come and see the enemy who was responsible for damaging the crops. The guinea-fowl protested against this charge, but the hare told his uncle, who was in a state of fury, never to listen to the enemy but to kill it at once, and so his uncle killed the bird immediately.





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LESSONS LEARNT

This story is used to show that the justice system can be so wrong! Things are not always what they are and the wrong man can be killed for a crime as the real offender works for the condemnation of the innocent. The evidence is not always a pointer to the truth and there is always need to search for the truth beyond the evidence presented. When old men expressed themselves in such stories, it is apparent that they are aware of the identity of the wrong-doer, but that the community has failed to get hold of him because he is either too clever or too powerful for them.

It is a revelation to Luos to be alert to the possibility of being drawn into evil by seemingly innocent looking friends who are 'just having fun'. They must be alive to the fact that a person can be drawn into someone's web of deception leading to total destruction. That casual acquaintances and seemingly fun and innocent looking person can be very dangerous. This story is pregnant with lessons!.