

MANTIS AND THE BEE

(A /Xam Folktale)

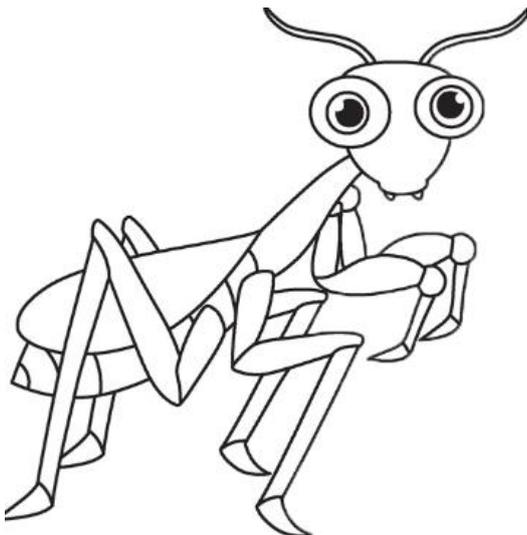
Once upon a time, long, long ago before humans walked the earth... even before the earth was created... everything was grey, cold and lifeless. The goddess of rain, /Awi, ruled with her little brother the god of flame, /Aes, /Awi and /Aes both had great powers. They liked to tease each other and compare powers. /Awi, seemed to always win as she could put out /Aes with her raindrops. One day the two of them were at it again showing off their talents.

With one trying to be better than the other things quickly got out of hand. They were shooting flames and showering rain. /Aes was on top of /Awi and then /Awi was on top /Aes. Rolling around until /Aes was on his knees begging for mercy as his flame became smaller and smaller. "Stop!" he shouted, "don't destroy me!"

Desperate to change /Awi's mind, /Aes created... things. /Awi was excited to play with these things. However, this did not last long because these...things were lifeless. /Awi was disappointed. "I have a great gift for you." cried /Aes. He jumped up and used his mighty powers to create the early earth.

/Aes was very proud. /Awi inspected his creation and was impressed. They looked at early earth with great admiration. It inspired them to play. They tossed it around, throwing it up in the air and rolling it on the ground. Soon they discover that it was also lifeless. /Awi was not impressed.

/Aes had to do something so he grabbed /Awi's stick and showered the early earth with water until it was completely soaked. /Awi was not happy.



/Awi and /Aes were confused and desperate. They were moved by frustration and anger and the beat of their hearts. They danced their feelings searching for a way out. Using all their powers to bring life they called //Kaggen, the Mantis, for help. The gods sent //Kaggen on a journey to find life on the early earth. //Kaggen, considered a hero by the /Xam people, was ready and willing but he also needed help. //Kaggen called on Danis the Bee. Danis with the gift of flight and //Kaggen the gift of sight!

//Kaggen hopped onto Danis's back and off they flew into the unknown, singing and exploring the early earth in search of life.

Uiba si oa, Uiba si oa

Meaning of sound symbols:

! - Knocking on a door

// - Riding a horse

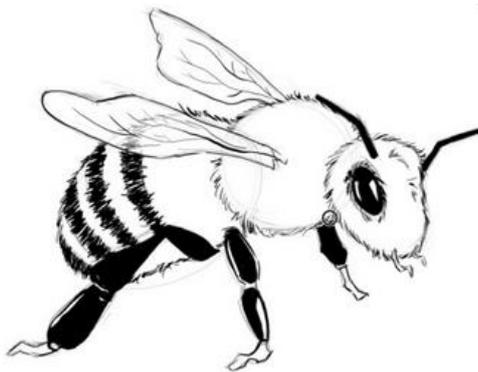
/ - Dripping tap

After flying over early earth for a while but //Kaggen and Danis felt the cold. The gods sent the sun called Sores to provide heat. Sores got closer and closer. His sharp rays were stinging as he became hotter and hotter. //Kaggen and Danis tried to escape the hot rays but Sores followed them. //Kaggen encouraged Danis to use Sores as a source of energy. Sores saw their strength and backed off as they continued on their journey.

The gods sent the mighty wind called /Oaxa to cool them off. However, /Oaxa had a cold laugh. //Kaggen and Danis tried very hard to keep flying but the mighty /Oaxa was just too strong. //Kaggen and Dantis were brave enough to laugh in the face of /Oaxa. Their song encouraged them to be as strong as the wind and to push through!!!

Suddenly the gods sent thunder and lightning called !Gurub tsi nawab! to challenge //Kaggen and Danis by shooting lightning bolts from above. The bolts came at them hard and strong. //Kaggen and Danis had nowhere to hide and they tried to duck and dive and dodge the lightning bolts. Exhausted and weak Danis drew strength from deep within to stand up against !Gurub tsi nawab ! By now though, they were tired and hungry, weak and thirsty. //Kaggen and Danis could barely continue with their journey.

From afar they could see something floating on the surface of early earth. It was a flower and it called out to them. //Kaggen and Danis were so relieved. They prepared for landing, and down they went, holding on tightly to each other....once they got inside the flower, Mantis and Bee gave thanks to the flower.



Bee, though, was feeling very weak now. Mantis looked at his loyal friend and was thankful that they made it so far. Bee became weaker and weaker and they knew that the journey was too much for Bee. In his last moments Bee handed Mantis a gift, a gift from deep within and closed his eyes. Mantis was sad and said goodbye to his friend and thanked him for the gift. Mantis held the gift close to his heart and buried it deep inside. Soon the night came and Mantis went to sleep as the flower closed in on him.

“Sleep, sleep, tomorrow is a new day bringing new hope, new beginnings.”

The next morning with the Sun’s first rays, the flower opened up and its petals were not like before, they were the most beautiful petals you will ever see, beautifully brightly coloured petals and as it opened, from within the flower the first human, the San Man arose. As he stepped out of the flower the water separated and formed beautiful lakes, rivers and oceans and the water gave way for land forming beautiful mountains and rolling hills... with healthy soil for trees and fruits to grow. The once lifeless animals came to life and the air was filled with beautiful sounds.

Flame and Rain were overjoyed in the sky and sang praises for Mantis and Bee. Flame and Rain knew they had to create more humans, family and friends so that the San Man would not become lonely. The earth was no longer dull and grey and cold... It was recreated and full of life and love and beauty.

Fluit fluit ons storie is uit.