

## The yammering yam

There was once a farmer called Kofi. One day he got up early with his dog and went to the fields to dig up yams. As he was tugging up a particularly large yam he heard a voice "Go away and not ready!"

The farmer turned to his dog. "Was that you?" he said.

"Not me," said the dog. "It was the yammering yam. I'm ready for anything."

"Argh!" cried the farmer and off he ran.

*Down to the beach and over the sand.*

"Dogs can't talk and neither can yams."

"Oh yes they can", called the yammering yam.

Next he met a fisherman cleaning his fish in the shade of a palm tree. "What's all the rush?" he asked.

"First my yam told me to go away," said the farmer, "Then my dog talked!"

"But yams and dogs don't talk!" cried the fisherman.

"Oh yes they can!" grinned the fish! "And throw me back in the sea right now!"

'Argh!' cried the farmer and the fisherman too and off they ran, further away from the yammering yam.

They ran through the forest where the mangos grew straight to the hut of a woman they knew. "What's all the rush?" asked the woman as she lay her washing out to dry on a bush.

"First my yam told me to go away," said the farmer, "Then my dog talked!"

"And then my fish told me to throw him back into the sea," said the fisherman.

"But yams and dogs and fish can't talk!" laughed the woman.

"Oh yes they do," cried the woman's clothes! "Now hang me out on a line. This bush is too prickly."

"Argh!" cried the farmer and the fisherman and the woman and off they ran, further away from the yammering yam.

They all ran to a village and went straight to the chief's hut. "What's all the rush?" asked the weighty chief as he sat in a creaky old chair to pass judgment.

"Well," said the farmer... "First my...."

"But yams and dogs and fish and clothes don't talk. Get out of here now!"

When they were gone, the chief muttered. "Talking yams and dogs, fish and clothes! Who ever heard of such nonsense?"

"I have," said the chair!

"Then now you all know," sighed the yammering yam wriggling down in the soil to rest. "That's why you must listen to everybody and everything, and be sure to treat them all with respect."

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