



Senegal | Dakar

“The Dog and the Devil”

Once upon a time ... A long time ago, when you still had time and people didn't waste their time by saving time, there was a village, and in this village there was a family, and this family slept at night in their hut; it was a dark night. But the dog had determined not to sleep; he guarded the house and watched over the slumbers of his friends. Suddenly, the dog noticed the Devil knocking at the door; the Devil knocks and the dog says to him: “Hey, Mr. Devil, what do you want?”

“I'm about to eat the people in this village, and first of all the people in this house; I'll eat the children; I'll eat the women and I'll eat the men.”

“Gooooood”, said the dog, “You can eat whomever you like, Mr. Devil, but first you must count the hairs of my coat, one after the other.” And the Devil said to him: “All right, all right, Mr. Dog”.

And the Devil began to count; he counted the hairs of the dog's coat, one, two, three, four, five, six... a thousand, and the dog turned his head. And the Devil said to him: “Hold still, or I can't keep count”. The dog: “Once again then, Mr. Devil, from the beginning”. So the Devil begins again: one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, one thousand two hundred ...and double-quick the dog wags his tail, moves his body, and the Devil was furious: “Mr. Dog, do hold still!” – “Yes, yes, I'll hold still.”

So the Devil began once again, and again and again, and the Devil began counting again once, twice, thrice, four times, five times, so often that, when the dog raised his head, he saw the sun rising. And the Devil too noticed the rising sun, and he was afraid of the light and made off, and the dog said to him: “My dear Mr. Devil, come as often as you like, and when you have counted the hairs of my coat you can eat my friends”.

The next morning the dog told this story to the people in the hut, and ever since then people have looked for a dog to protect them, especially a dog who is their friend. Now I don't know if the story is true, but the fellow who told me it believes that it's true.

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