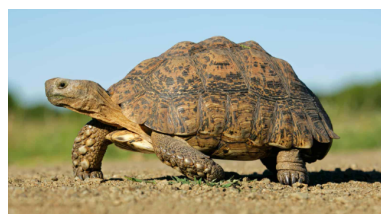


2023 Fred Yiran African Arts Day

A O'Merin Joba ("An Elephant Shall Be Our King") A Yoruba Folklore (Told by Professor Oladele Gazal, St. Cloud State University)



Background

This folklore describes one of the pivotal roles played by the diminutive cunning, deceptive, and deceitful tortoise, a common animal in many Yoruba folkloric renditions. It describes how a comparatively small tortoise tricked a gargantuan elephant into a community to be used for an annual festival on the pretext that the elephant will be crowned a king over the human population. It teaches the important lessons of moderation, the dangers in being over-ambitious and the need to always think more than twice on any matter that seems too good to be true.

Songs

1. A o m'erin joba (An elephant shall be our king)
Refrain: Erelu, Ewele
2. Erin ka re'le o, kowa j'oba (Elephant let us go home so you may be crowned a king)
Refrain: Erin yeye, Erin yeye
3. A o m'erin j'oba (An Elephant shall be our king)
Refrain: Erelu ewele
Iwoyi ola re (By this time tomorrow)
Refrain
Agede a ma kan kere (The knives and cleavers shall be in action)
Refrain
Kumo a ma se kasa (Clubs shall be in action)
Refrain
Eje a ma se bala (Blood will be all over the ground)
Refrain