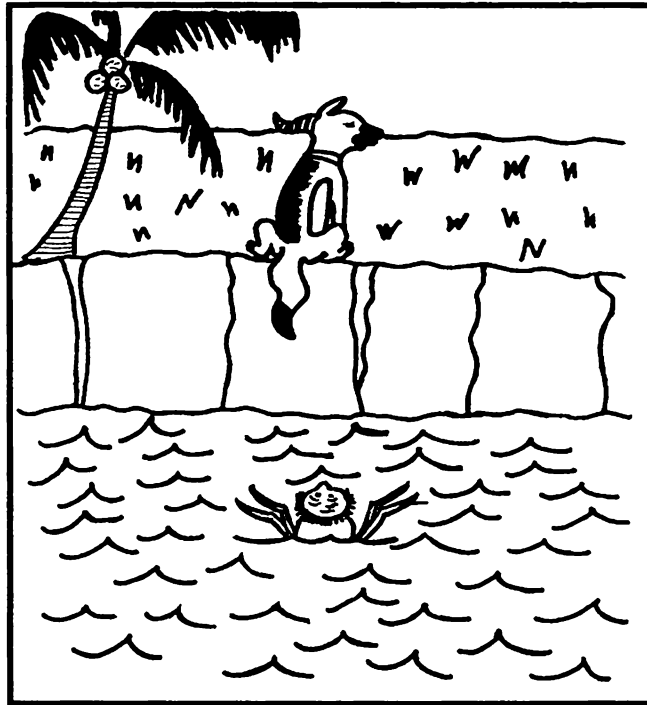


Wai
Nani Goat Tayl
Kungku

(Why Nanny Goat has a Short, Stubby Tail)



Adapted from a narration by

Gladys Stuart

Illustrations by
Leon Hemsley

**[An English translation and a tribute to Gladys Stuart
appear in the back of the book.]**

**Composition and format: Naomi Glock
Revisers: Lorna Wade, Yvette Herrera,
Silvana Woods, Myrna Manzanares
Assistants: Paul and Cindy Crosbie**

**Narrative taken from
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Wai Nani Goat Tayl Kungku

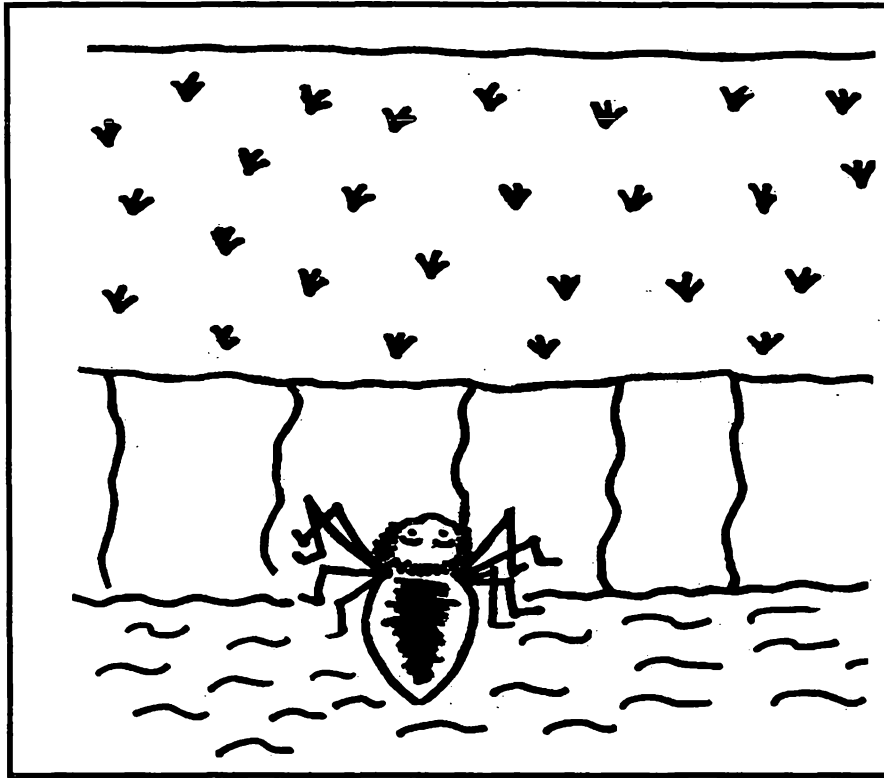
(Why Nanny Goat has a Short, Stubby Tail)

**Adapted from a narration by Gladys Stuart
Illustrations by Leon Hemsley**



Notes:

- **In the translation from Kriol to English, a meaning-based translation was used rather than a literal translation. Note also that in narrative conversation in Kriol, the past tense pre-verbal markers “mi” or “mi-di” are often omitted.**
- **In the Kriol writing system each letter represents just one sound. There are no silent letters. Following is a brief guide to reading some of the more unfamiliar symbols:**
 - ‘long a’ = ‘ay’ as in ‘wayt’ (wait)**
 - ‘long i’ = ‘ai’ as in ‘bwai’ (boy)**
 - ‘long e’ = ‘ee’ as in ‘teech’ (teach)**
 - ‘long o’ = ‘oa’ as in ‘bloa’ (blow)**
 - ‘long u’ = ‘oo’ as in ‘hoo’ (who)**
 - ‘double short a’ = ‘aa’ as in ‘yaad’ (yard)**
 - ‘tr’ – ‘chr’ as in ‘chrai’ (try)**
 - ‘nasalization’ – ‘hn’ nasalizes the vowel as in ‘kohn’ (come)**

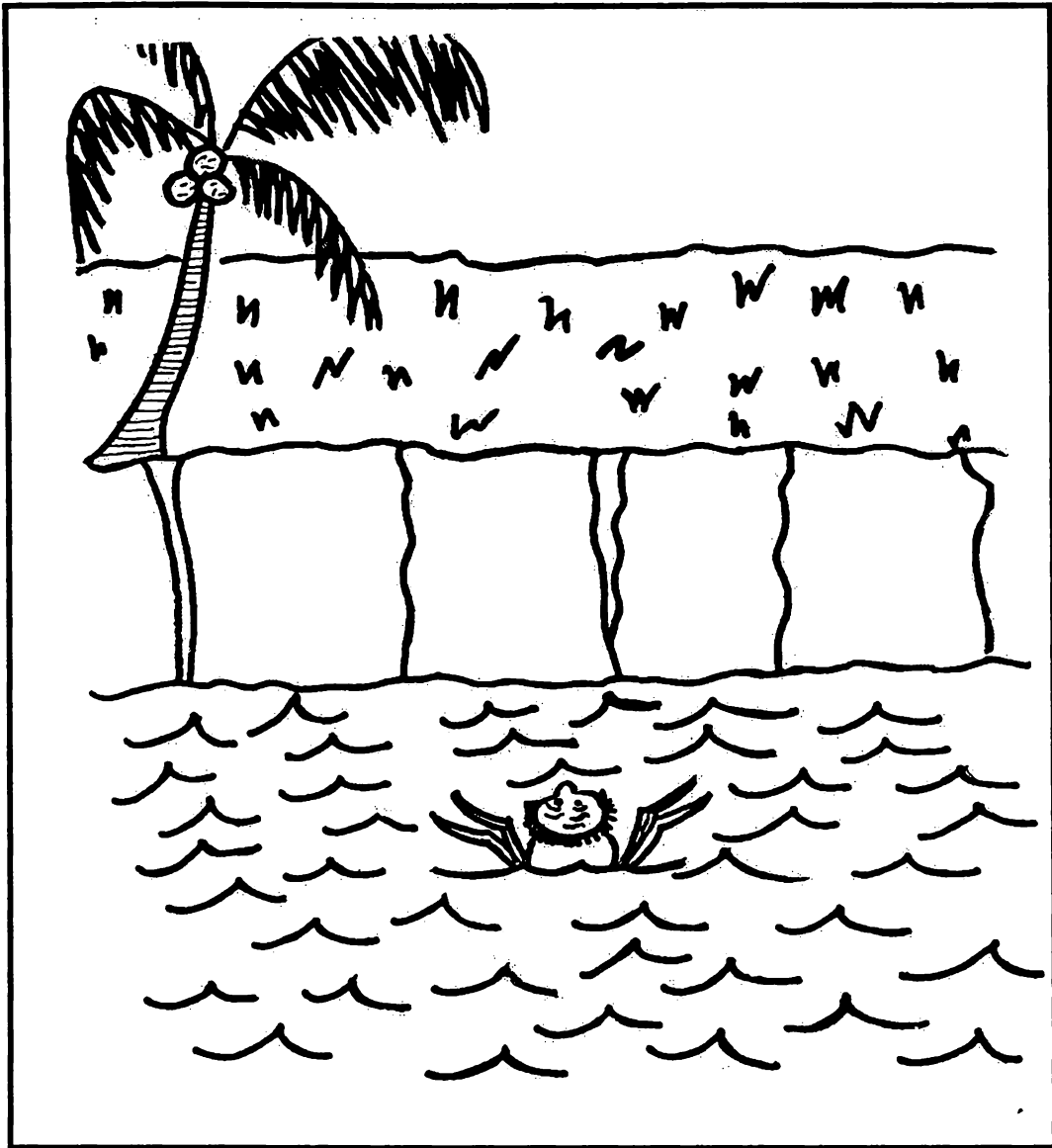


Wai Nani Goat Tayl Kungku

Dis da wahn taim wen taim da-mi taim. Anansi jrap eena di riva. How ih jrap dong eena di riva, evribadi hav dehn oan way fi tel it.

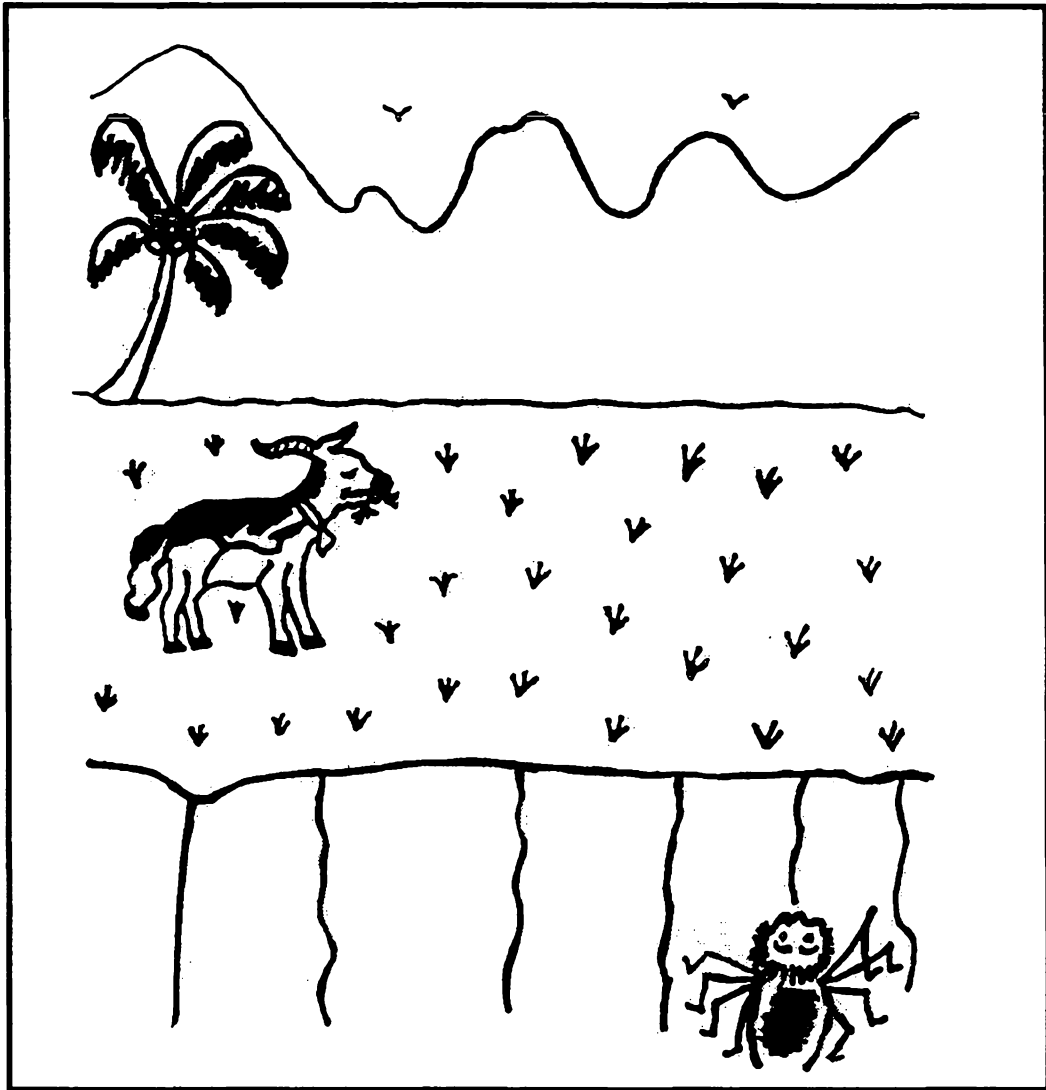
Sohn pipl seh ih mi eena wahn krenki doari an ih ton oava.

Sohn pipl seh ih mi eena di krenki doari, an ih kaal Haligeta "Big Mowt," ahn Haligeta ton oava di doari. Mee noh noa wich wan a dehn da chroo.



Bot weh Ah noa da chroo, Anansi deh da di
benksaid di chrai fi klaim owt. Bot dehn benksaid
deep, yu si. Dehn hai, sohntaim sebm tu ayt tu
nain fut hai. Soh ih di chrai, bot evri taim ih
chrai, ih slip dong bak da di waata.

Den ih si Nani Goat.



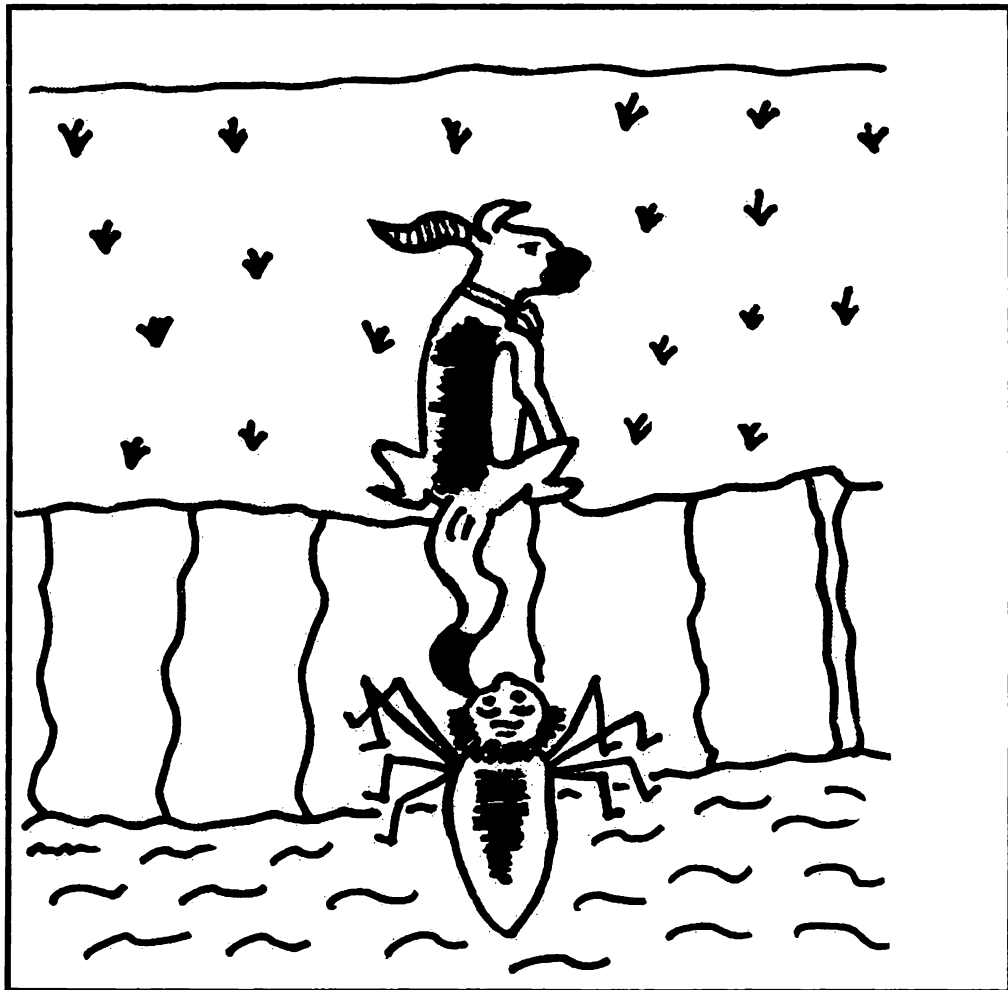
Dehndeh taim deh, Nani Goat yoostu hav wahn lang priti tayl, an ih yoostu laik goh da di rivasaid goh luk pan ih tayl. Ih di ton rong ahn rong fi si ih priti tayl.

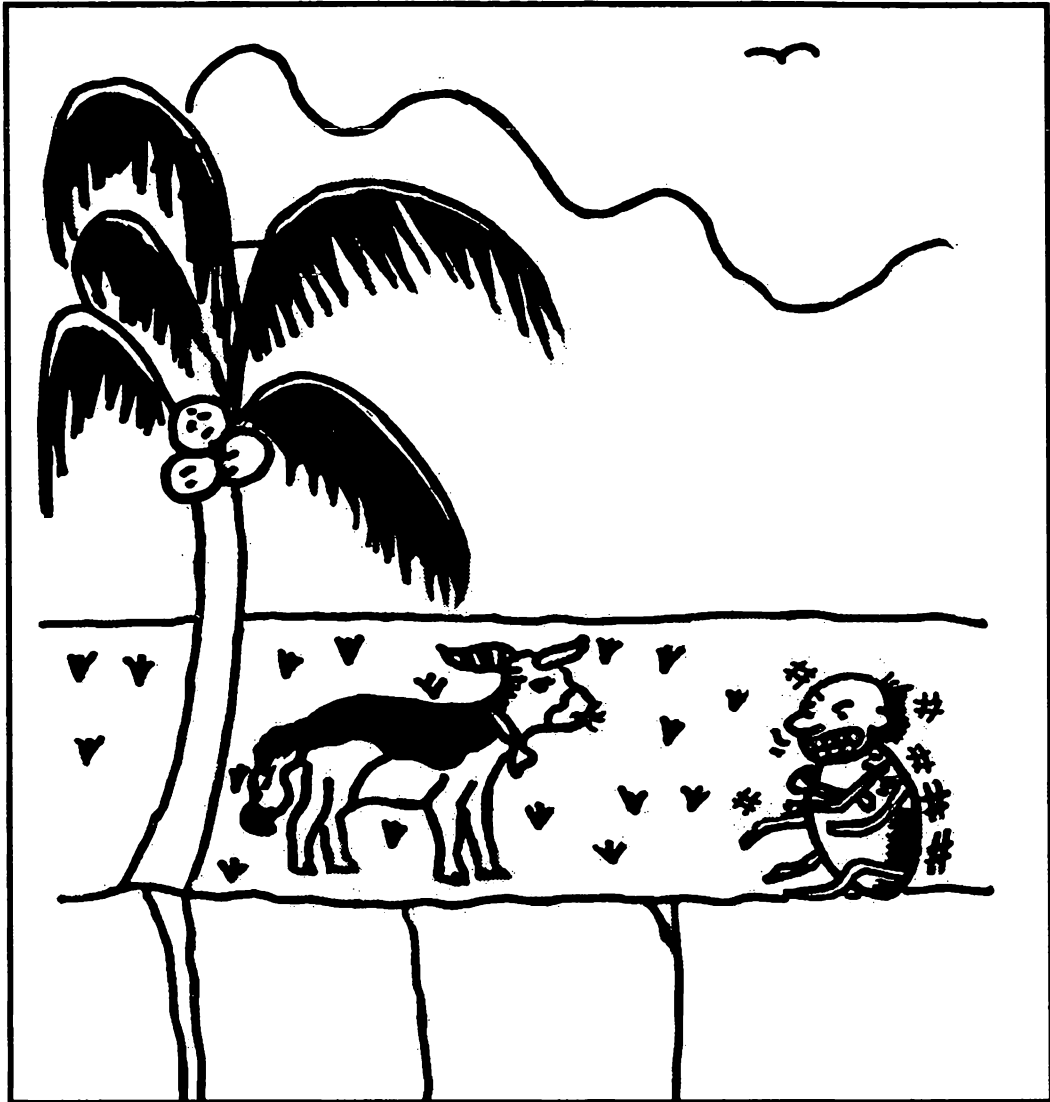
Wen Anansi si Nani Goat, ih hala tu ahn, ih seh, "Nani Goat, Nani Goat, tek mi owt a di riva noh?"

Nani Goat seh, "No, man! Yu noa Ah kyaahn swim."

Anansi seh, "Yu noh hafu noa fi swim, man," ih seh. "Jos put yu tayl eena di riva ahn haal mi op."

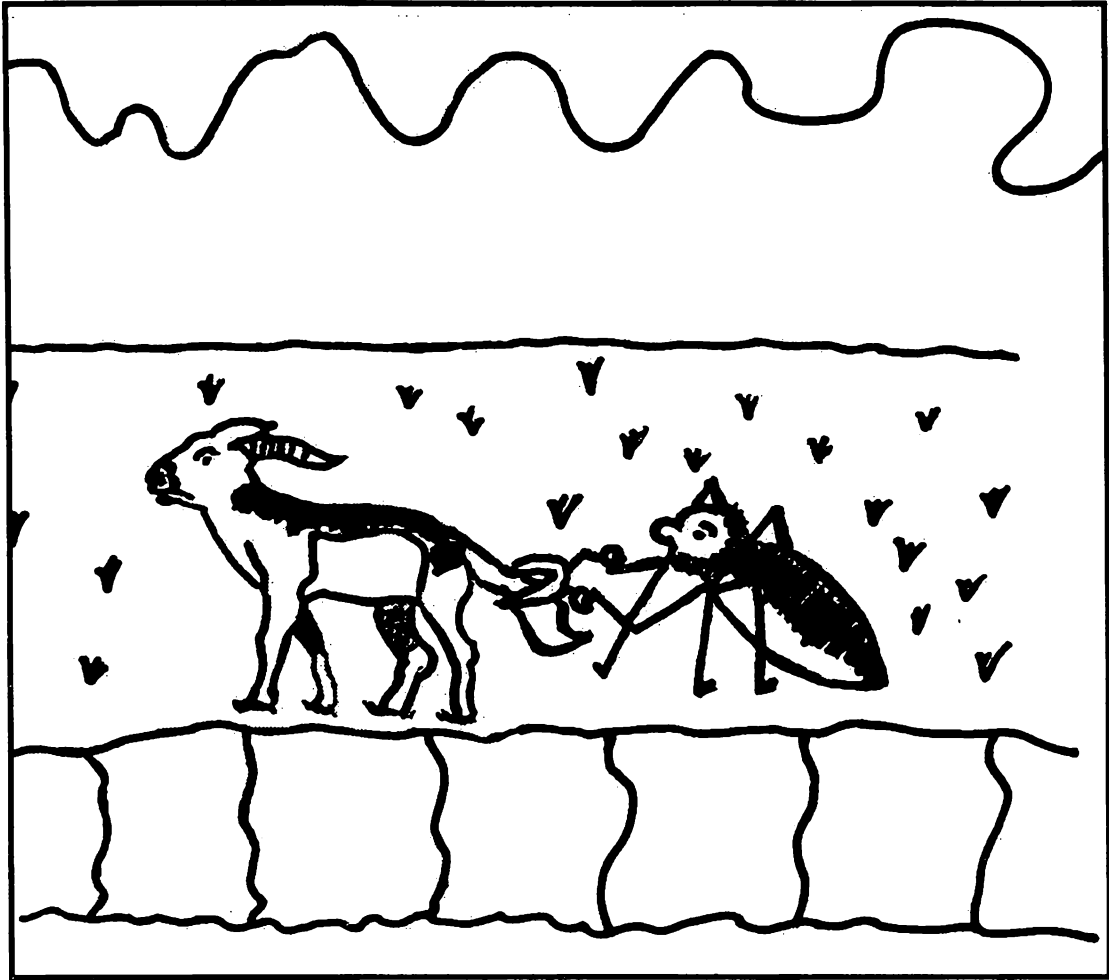
Now Nani Goat kainhaatid. Ih put ih tayl eena di riva, an Anansi grab aan pan it, an Nani Goat haal ahn op.





Wen Anansi get pahn di rivasaid, ih staat tu chrimbl. Ih koal koal.

Ih seh, "Nani Goat, Ah koal, man. Ah koal." Ih seh, "Mi fut dehn koal." Ih seh, "Gi mi wahn pees a yu tayl noh, mek Ah mek too lee saks fi kova mi fut."



Nani Goat seh, "Aarait." Ih kot aaf wahn pees a ih tayl an ih gi Anansi.

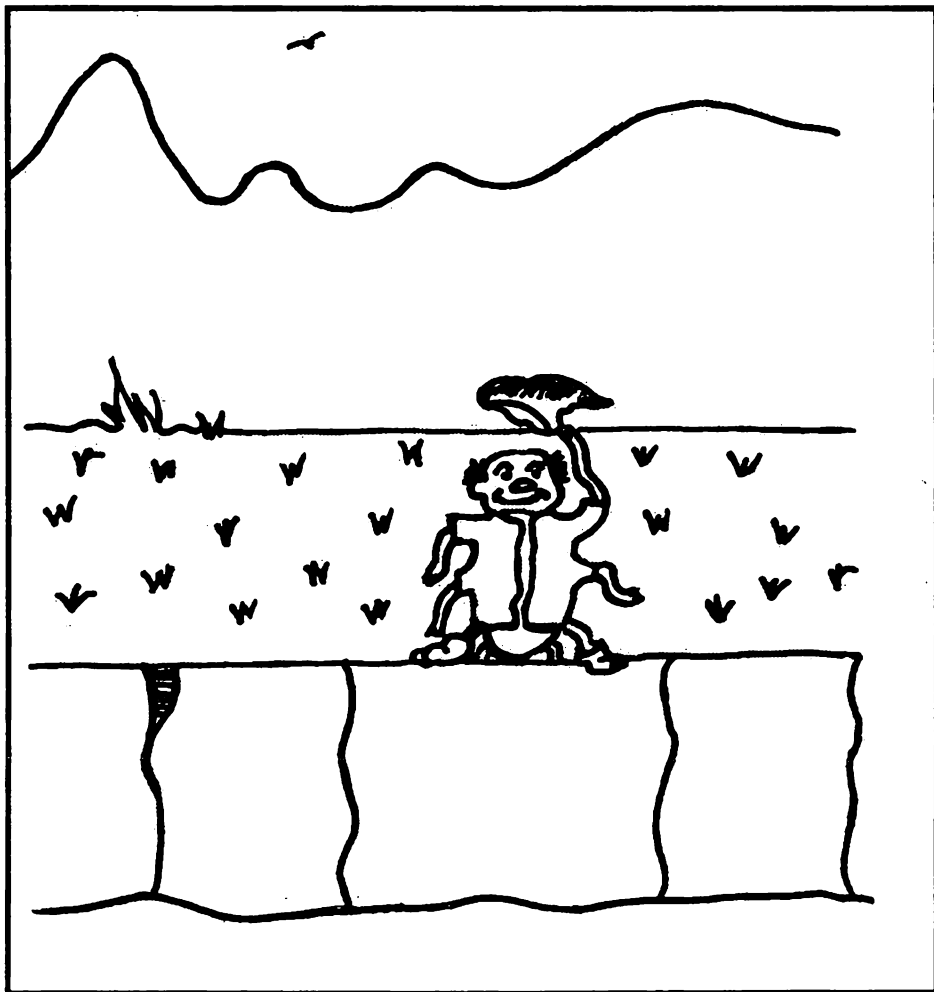
Anansi stil di chrimbl. "Aiy! Ah stil koal," ih seh. "Nani Goat, gi mi wahn neks pees a yu tayl noh, mek Ah mek wahn jekit."

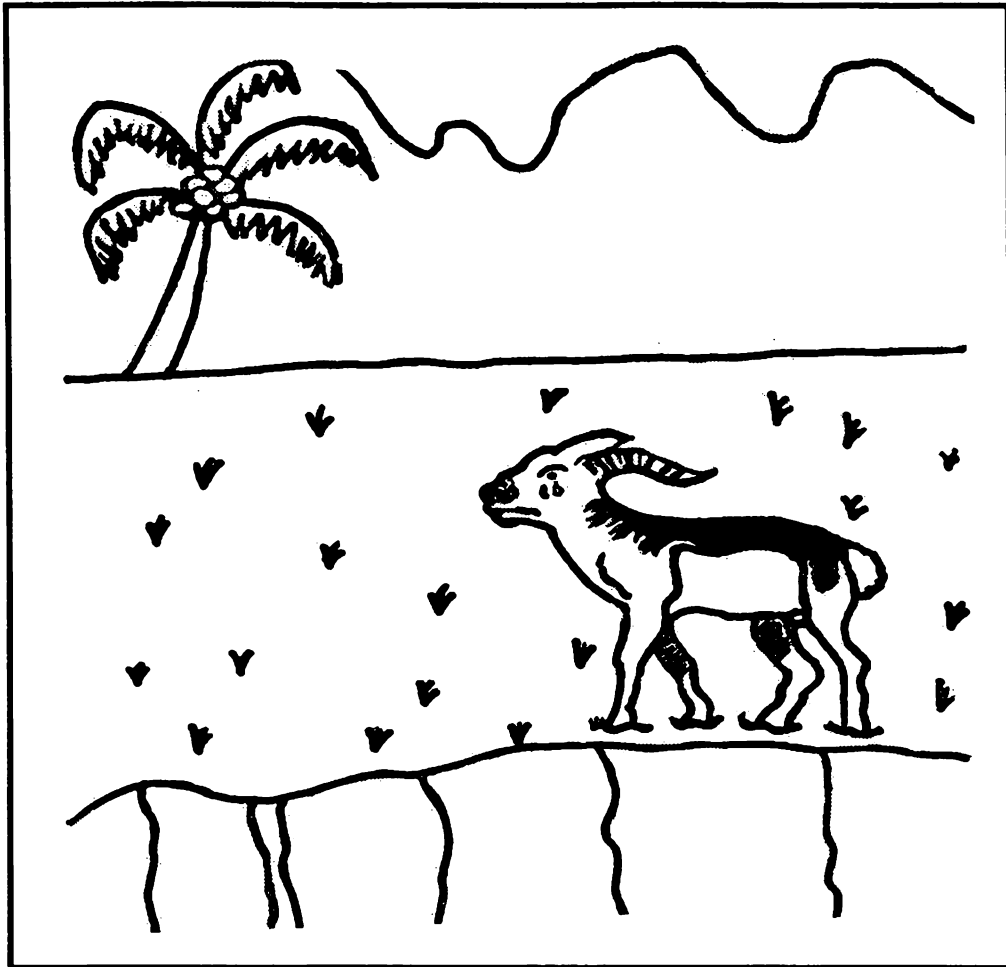
Memba Anansi hav foa han, soh ih kot aaf wahn biga pees a Nani Goat tayl. Ih mek ih jekit, an ih put een ih foa han.

Ih seh, "Hm! Nani Goat, mi hed stil koal, man. Ahn mi ma aalwayz tel mi wen yu koal ahn gah chilz, yu fi kova yu hed. Gi mi wahn neks lee lee pees a yu tayl noh, mek Ah mek wahn kyap fi mi hed."

Soh Nani Goat seh, "Tek ahn, man."

Anansi kot aaf wahn neks pees, an ih mek wahn kyap.





Poa Nani Goat luk rong. Wen ih luk rong, ih si ih tayl kungku kungku. Soh ih krai, "Eehn! Eehn! Eehn! Eehn!"

Ahn fahn da day deh, Nani Goat gah wahn lee kungku tayl. An ih aalwayz deh da rivasaid di ton rong di luk pan ih tayl ahn feel sad.

Bot wahn day ih step pahn wahn pin ahn di pin ben. If di pin neva ben, dis Anansi stoari wudda neva en.

Why Nanny Goat's Tail is Short and Stubby

Once upon a time Anansi fell in the river. Everyone has his own way to tell how he fell in. Some people say that he was in a broken canoe and it turned over. Some say he was in the broken canoe and he called Alligator "Big Mouth," and Alligator turned over the canoe. I don't know what was the true reason.

But what I do know is that Anansi was there at the side of the river trying to climb out. But river banks are deep, you know. They are high -- at times seven, eight, or nine feet high. So Anansi was trying, but every time he would slip back into the water.

Then he saw Nanny Goat.

In those days, Nanny Goat had a long pretty tail, and she used to like to go to the riverside and look at her tail. She would turn around and around, trying to see her pretty tail.

When Anansi saw Nanny Goat, he called out to her. "Nanny Goat, Nanny Goat! Please get me out of the river!"

Nanny Goat said, "No friend. You know that I can't swim."

Anansi said, "You don't have to know how to swim. Just put your tail in the river and pull me up."

Now Nanny Goat was kindhearted, so she put her tail in the river. Anansi grabbed on to it, and Nanny Goat pulled him up.

When Anansi got on the river bank, he began to shiver. He was really cold.

He said, "Nanny Goat, I'm really cold! My feet are especially cold. Please give me a piece of your tail, so that I can make two little socks to cover my feet.

Nanny Goat said, "Alright." She cut off a piece of her tail and gave it to Anansi.

But still Anansi shivered. "I'm still cold," he said. "Nanny Goat, give me another piece of your tail, so that I can make a jacket."

Remember that Anansi has four hands, so he cut off a big piece of Nanny Goat's tail. He made a jacket and put in his four hands.

Then he said, "Nanny Goat, my head is still cold, and my mother always told me that when you get chilled, you need to cover your head. Please give me another tiny little piece of your tail so that I can make a cap for my head."

Nanny Goat said, "Go ahead, man."

Anansi cut off another piece and made a cap.

Poor Nanny Goat looked around. When she looked at her tail, she saw that it was very small. She cried out, "Eehn! Eehn! Eehn! Eehn!"

From that day to this, Nanny Goat has a little stubby tail, and she is always there by the riverside turning around and looking at her tail and feeling sad.

But one day she stepped on a pin and the pin bent. If the pin had never bent, this Anansi story would never have ended.

Gladys Stuart learned many Kriol folktales from her grandmother, who raised her. In school, she developed the keen interest in drama and performance that she continued to pursue as a primary school teacher and a charter member of the UWI Extramural Theatre Workshop in Belize City. She was tutored by many prominent directors from the U.S. and the Caribbean who presented workshops and seminars in Belize. In 1973 and 1975 she attended summer courses in drama in Trinidad, and in 1973 her play, "Dog and Iguana," was performed for the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh. For many years Gladys was a featured personality on Radio Belize, producing commercials and, as "Cousin Winifred," regularly presenting original humorous monologues in Kriol. Her Bahai faith led to her worldwide travels. Sophisticated and cosmopolitan as she was, Gladys never lost touch with the authentic Kriol folk culture in which she had been raised.

Mrs. Stuart passed away in 2002.

— Ervin Beck