

Golu Grows A Nose

Long ago, the elephants had no trunk. There was a baby elephant called Golu. He, too, had no trunk. He had only a bulgy nose as small as a small boot. Golu was full of questions. He asked the ostrich. "Why don't you ever fly like other birds?" He asked his very big uncle the hippopotamus. "Why are your eyes always so red?" Golu's uncles did not answer his questions. They thought the questions were too difficult.

One day Golu met a mynah. He asked it. "What does a crocodile have for dinner?" The mynah advised Golu to go to the Limpopo river.

Golu went home. After the meals, Golu said to his family, "Goodbye. I am going to the great grassy Limpopo river. I'll find out what the crocodile has for dinner." Thus Golu started for Limpopo river to find out what the crocodile has for dinner.

On his way Golu met a python. He asked him also the same question. The python also did not give any reply. However, he quietly followed Golu. When he reached the river, he saw a big log of wood. Actually it was a crocodile. When it winked at Golu he asked. "Have you ever seen a crocodile?" The crocodile told him that it was him. Crocodile shed crocodile tears to show that it was true.

Golu was frightened. Yet he asked the crocodile what he had for dinner. The crocodile said. "Come here, little one, and I'll whisper the answer to you." He said it because he wanted to eat Golu. Golu went near him. The crocodile caught him by the nose. Then he told Golu that today he would be his dinner.

Now the python came to Golu's help. He asked Golu to pull hard. Now both the crocodile and Golu tried to pull each other. Then the python coiled himself round Golu's stomach. He also applied his strength with Golu. In the mean time Golu's nose kept on stretching. In the end Golu was able to free himself but his nose had become five feet long. Golu sat there for two days waiting for the nose to cool and shrink. The nose cooled but did not shrink.

Python said that the long nose called trunk would be useful. With it the elephant could keep the flies away. With it the elephant could put a large quantity of his food into his mouth. The trunk helps the elephant to throw mud or water on his body when it is hot.

Golu thanked the python and went back home.