

Why Pig Has a Short Snout

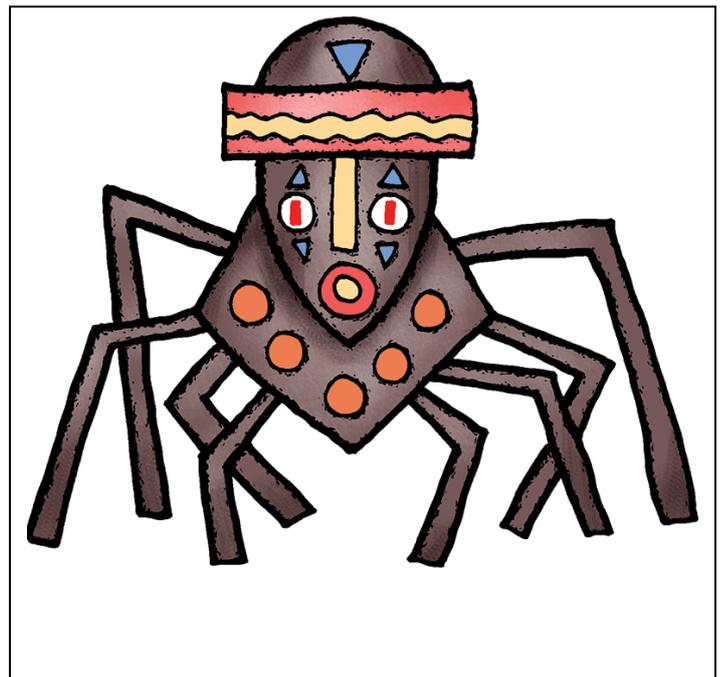
It used to be, not so very long ago, that the pig had a trunk as long as the elephant's. And so proud was he of his great trunk! With it he could suck up water for his very own shower, and he could water the plants in his herb garden. He could snort and blow a scary tune, and he could curl his trunk around and tie it in knots.

In those days, Pig was also a money lender. His success was due to the fact that no one ever made off with his money. With his trunk he would sniff and find the culprit and drag him from his hiding place. Pig was very proud of his useful trunk.

Now, Ananse borrowed some money from Pig to pay for his son's marriage. And because Ananse liked to keep up appearances, he had borrowed a lot to show his worth.

A month passed by, and it was time to pay back Pig. But Ananse, it seemed, had forgotten his debt. "Here I come," said Pig, "with my long trunk to seek and find."

But when he got to Ananse's house, Ananse pleaded for another week.



"You had better have my money," threatened Pig. "Or else you shall have the thrashing of your life." Then he waved his trunk in the air and went off to collect from someone else.

The next week Pig returned. "My money, Ananse. I want my money.

"Now you have startled me," said Ananse, looking down a long bamboo pole. "See, I have dropped your money down my bamboo pole. Now I have to think how to get it out!"

"I'll get it," replied Pig. And so Pig reached deep into the hollow bamboo pole. Pig strained and pushed. When he realized his trunk could go no farther, he tried to pull it out. But he couldn't. He was stuck. He moved his head this way and that, but he was stuck. He wiggled and rolled and banged his head, but he was stuck.

Ananse had gone to hide in his web, and none of the other creatures was willing to help. Finally, with one big shake of Pig's head, the bamboo pole fell off, alas with his trunk. And it never grew back. As for Ananse, he did not pay back Pig, and Pig never bothered him again.

Adapted from The Pot of Wisdom by Adowa Badoe