

#### 4. Cats and Roosters

Once upon a time in Africa, roosters ruled over cats. The cats worked hard all day and at night had to bring all they gathered to the roosters.

The king of the roosters took all the food for himself and the other roosters.

The roosters loved to eat ants, so each cat had a purse around its neck, filled with ants for the king.

The cats did not like this. They wanted to keep the food they gathered but were afraid of the roosters. The roosters told the cats that their combs were made of fire and would burn anyone who disobeyed them. The cats believed them and worked from early morning until night for the roosters.

One night, the fire in Mrs. Cat's house went out. She told her kitten, Fluffy, to bring some fire from Mr. Rooster's house. When Fluffy went into the rooster's house, she saw that Mr. Rooster was fast asleep, his stomach full of ants.

Fluffy was afraid to wake him, so she went home and told her mother.

Mrs. Cat said, "Now that the rooster is asleep, gather some dry twigs and place them near his comb. When the twigs catch fire, bring them home." Fluffy gathered dry twigs and took them to the rooster's house. He was still asleep.

Fluffy put the twigs near the rooster's comb, but they did not catch fire. Mrs. Cat tried too, but the twigs did not catch fire. Then, shaking with fear, she touched the rooster's comb. It was not hot. It was cold and just red-colored.

Mrs. Cat realized the roosters had lied. She told the other cats about the rooster's trick. From that day on, the cats no longer worked for the roosters. The king of the roosters was very angry and said, "I will burn all your houses if you do not work for me!"

But the cats replied, "Your comb is not made of fire. It is just the color of fire. We touched it when you were asleep. You lied to us." When the king of the roosters found out that the cats knew the truth, he ran away. Now, whenever roosters see a cat, they run away because they are still afraid of cats.

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