

The Day the Animals Held a Meeting

By Bubacarr Jallow

One bright morning in the forest, the lion woke up from his nap and growled loudly, “Where are all my shady trees? I’m roasting in the sun!” The elephant splashed into the river and trumpeted, “Oh no! The water is muddy. I nearly sneezed while drinking!” Meanwhile, the monkey swung down from a branch, slipped on a soda can, and shouted, “Humans are leaving trash everywhere! Yesterday I slipped on a banana peel, and it wasn’t even mine!” The wise owl flapped his wings and said, “Enough is enough. We must hold a meeting!”

Soon, all the animals gathered under the giant baobab tree. The parrot was chosen as secretary because he could repeat everything, sometimes too loudly. The tortoise became chairperson because he was slow but very wise. The dog barked, “Order! Order!” whenever things got noisy. But oh, what a funny meeting it was! The goat kept eating the meeting notes, the frog jumped every time someone said “water,” and the monkey shouted, “Bananas for everyone!” while swinging from branch to branch. The animals laughed, but they knew the problem was serious. The elephant raised his trunk and said, “We need clean rivers.” The bee buzzed, “We need flowers to survive.” The lion roared, “We need forests to stay strong.” Then the rabbit hopped forward and added, “Children can help us. They listen better than adults sometimes!” The animals nodded in agreement. Yes, children could be the heroes.

So, the parrot flew to the villages, shouting messages in his silly voice: “Plant more trees! Keep rivers clean! Recycle and reuse! Be kind to animals!” The children laughed at the parrot’s funny squawks but understood the message. Soon, they began planting seeds, cleaning rivers, and caring for stray animals.

Months later, the forest looked alive again. Flowers bloomed, rivers sparkled, and animals danced with joy. The monkey even held a “Banana Festival” to celebrate. The owl declared proudly, “Because children listened, the world is safer for all of us.” And from that day on, whenever kids visited the forest, the animals smiled, knowing their meeting had changed the world.

To conclude, children, what does this story teach us? It shows that even the smallest voices, like the frog who jumped or the rabbit who spoke up, can make a big difference when we work together. The animals remind us that the world is not just ours; it is shared with rivers, trees, birds, and every living thing. It teaches us that teamwork is powerful because when everyone joins hands, or paws, or wings, problems can be solved. It teaches us to respect nature because, without clean rivers, tall trees, and buzzing bees, life cannot flourish. It teaches us about kindness because caring for animals and the environment is also caring for ourselves. And most importantly, it teaches us responsibility—that even as children, your actions matter. matter. Planting one seed, picking up one piece of trash, or helping one stray animal can change the world.

So, just like the animals in the forest, you too can be heroes. Remember: the world we share is a gift, and it is up to us to protect it, together.