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I, RHINO

‘Are you coming on a safari to the buyu tree to hear a story?’ asked the twins, Tali (which means tall and he wasn’t) and Kali (which means fierce and he wasn’t).

Gulu, whose broken leg was in plaster nodded and they wheeled him down from the Jungle Hospital in the wheelbarrow. Behind them came Elizabeti and Yuditi and between them a tall girl named Lutu whose eyes were bandaged. She had been blind for a very long time, like Liso, her friend – but she was short.

Daudi came striding down from the hospital and sat on the stool which Gulu had brought in the barrow.

‘What’s the news of the man who was attacked by Faru, the rhinoceros?’ asked Tali.

‘The news is good,’ smiled Daudi. ‘He will recover; and speaking of Rhino, what is the best thing to do if a rhino chases you?’

JUNGLE DOCTOR'S RHINO RUMBLINGS

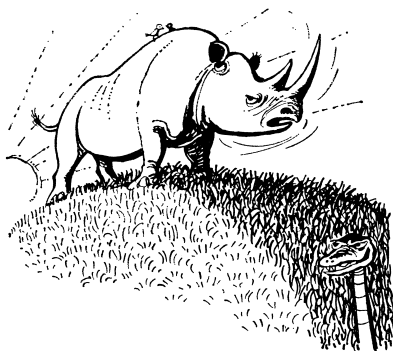
'Run,' exclaimed Elizabethi.

'Climb a tree,' shouted Kali.

'Jump to one side,' laughed Gulu, waving his plaster-covered leg in the air.

'Gulu's right,' laughed Daudi. 'Jump to one side it is. Rhino is big, noisy and thinks very much of himself. Listen to a story of the way he threw his weight around in the jungle.'

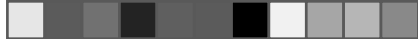
Snake raised his head and hissed with satisfaction. He watched Rhinoceros admiring his huge shadow which the rising sun spread over the grass slope that stretched down to the river.



'You're big and strong and important,' said Snake, so softly that Rhino thought they were his own thoughts. He bored holes in the clear morning air with his large, spiky horn and a deep rumble came from inside him. 'I am big, I am strong, I am important. I AM RHINO.'

Again Snake whispered, '*Nobody* gets in a rhino's way. *Nobody* tells a rhino what to do. He is quite as important as Elephant.'

Rhinoceros snorted and swished his absurd little tail. Its shadow looked threatening and powerful. His voice came through closed teeth. '*Nobody* tells

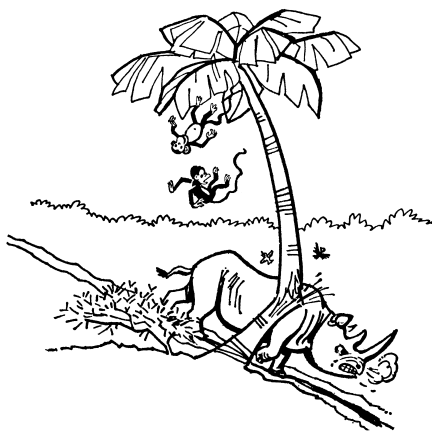


I, RHINO

me what to do. Nobody gets in my way. And as for Elephant ... I'll fix anyone who talks to me about him and what he says or does or promises ...'

He thumped his front feet angrily into a pool of mud.

Snake smirked and thought, 'Rhino may be stupid but he is terribly strong. He can be useful to me.' He licked his lips with his forked tongue and hissed. 'Ah, there he goes.'



Rhino ambled down the path that led to the river. In front of him was the monkeys' palm tree. A massive rhinoceros shoulder crashed into the trunk snapping it like a rotten stick. Toto and Koko, the twin monkeys, landed painfully in the thornbush. Rhino

took no notice. He strode on to a place where he found a lump of granite shaped like an over-sized watermelon. On it sat Jojo, the mongoose, who always loved to ask questions.

Rhino stopped. His red eyes gleamed.

'Are you as strong as an elephant?' asked Jojo's eager voice.

Thunder came from inside Rhinoceros. With one prod of his horn he sent Mongoose head over tail and the stone rolling bounding and bouncing down the slope.



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Dic-Dic, the antelope, jumped for his life as the stone, hurtling past his head, crashed into a much bigger boulder which rolled into the middle of the road.

Rhino saw Boohoo, the hippo, standing quietly in a water lily pond. With a bellow he ran and jumped, landing *splosh* – *splash* – SQUELCH! In the very middle. A wave of brown water hit Hippo in the face.

‘I’m more important than anyone in the whole jungle and don’t you forget it!’ roared Rhino. He put his head down and galloped off to the shade of the coconut palms.

Hippo opened one eye. ‘Most disagreeable beast! More important than anyone – *eh?* Surely he shuts his eyes to Elephant. It couldn’t be that he thinks he ...’

Sliding by in the shadow Snake heard him. Serpent’s eye glittered as he silently followed Rhinoceros. ‘It’s going well,’ he hissed. ‘My sharp brain can use that mountain of muscle to upset some of Elephant’s plans.’

Twiga, Jojo and Dic-Dic stood quietly watching. They saw a movement in the grass.

‘Was that Snake?’ asked Jojo, fluffing up his fur.

‘It was,’ nodded Twiga. ‘The thoughts of his twisty mind are more dangerous than the poison in his teeth.’

Rhino was resting in the shade. Every thought that crossed his mind started with I, or me, or my. Snake glided up to him and with a sneer in his soft

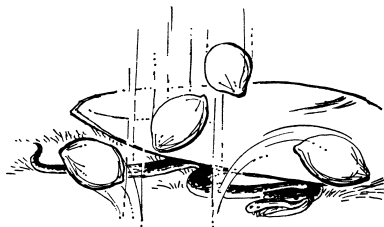


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voice said, 'Did you hear that Elephant has plans to bring joy into the hearts of everyone in the jungle?'

'Tell him to tie a knot in his trunk,' rumbled Rhino, thumping angrily into a palm tree.

Nzoka slithered under a rock to dodge the shower of coconuts. After a while he looked out cautiously and whispered in a voice full of persuasion.



Rhino took little notice for a while then he made a noise that was as close to laughter as he knew how and said, 'Tell me again, Nzoka.'

Twiga and the others heard Snake's hissy voice. 'I saw Elephant on the hillside. Why not topple him over into the river? Prove that your horn is better than his trunk. Show the whole jungle how strong you are.'

Rhino puffed out his chest and stalked up the hill rumbling, 'My mind is working very smoothly today.'

'Carefully,' said Twiga, moving towards him. 'Snake's advice isn't worth following.'

'Me! Listen to Snake!!' growled Rhino. 'I do my own thinking.'

Twiga shook his head. 'He is on his way to trouble.'

Far ahead something great and grey and still blocked the track. A snaky smirk spread over Nzoka's face as he watched. Rhinoceros peered into



JUNGLE DOCTOR'S RHINO RUMBLINGS

the distance. 'Elephant,' he rumbled. Two huge feet pounded the ground.

'Why should Elephant stand where I want to go?'

Snake whispered, 'He's big. He's important.'

'So am I. I'll show him horns are better than tusks,' interrupted Rhino. Waves of heat shimmered around a boulder-covered hill. Below him the sun shone dazzlingly on the waters of the river. There was the colour of fire in his small eyes. The redder they became the worse they worked.

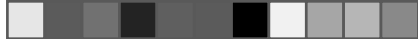
Rhino snorted and ground his teeth. 'Like his hide.' At the top of his voice he roared, 'Out of my way! Get out of my way! You there! Do you hear me? GET OUT OF MY WAY!' His horn pointed directly towards the great, grey something that showed up sharply against the skyline.

Jojo scurried over and stood right in front of Rhino. 'We know you don't like Elephant. But if you think that's ...'

A bellow from Rhino interrupted him. 'Shut your mouth, will you!'

Jojo didn't move. 'Anyone with half an eye can see that that isn't ...'

'Shut up! SHUT UP! SHUT UP!' roared Rhino, moving forward, his eyes fixed on the hillside. His voice was hoarse. 'Turn your back on me, would you? Take no notice of me, *eh*? Sit in the middle of my path; block where I want to go, would you?' He stopped for breath.



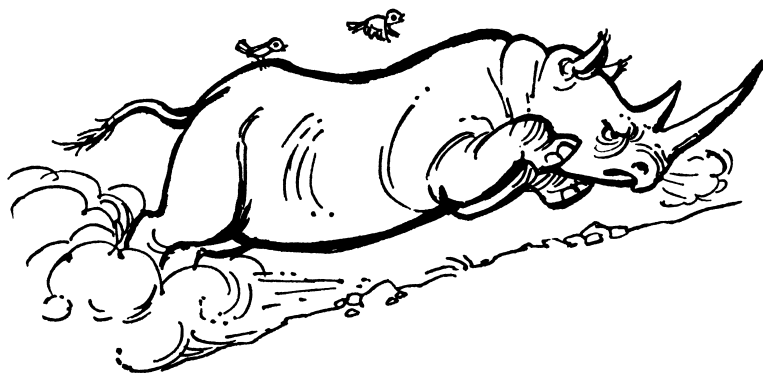
I, RHINO

Snake smiled a scaly smile and thought, ‘Exactly what I want.’

Down went Rhino’s head. Out stuck his horn. He stamped his feet. Dust rose in clouds. The hillside looked red and though he couldn’t see it clearly the grey shape made anger boil inside his head. Rumbling furiously, two tons of temper went tearing up the slope. Closer and closer he thundered. Bigger and bigger loomed his target; grey, solid and very large. Rhino pointed his head at its middle and shut his eyes and hurtled forward – WALLOP! – *U-u-g-g-h-h-h!* into a great, grey, granite boulder.

Stars whirled round Rhino’s head – big, dazzling, exploding stars. He groaned.

Never had there been such a headache in all the jungle.





JUNGLE DOCTOR'S RHINO RUMBLINGS

'Wow!' said Tali and Kali in the same breath. 'Rhino was very stupid.'

'Watch it,' smiled Daudi. 'Rhino certainly was a skinful of selfishness and pride; but be careful, it could easily happen to you if you turn your back on God and shut your eyes to what He says. Anyone who is travelling God's road and has asked the Lord Jesus Christ to be in charge of his life knows where the world's worst headaches and heartaches come from.'

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What's Inside the Fable?

Special Message: Don't ignore God's instructions. God's way is the best way.

Jesus tells the story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector: *Luke chapter 18 verses 9 to 14.*

Also he tells the story of the unwise farmer:
Luke chapter 12 verse 16.

Read also about the King who wanted everything and lost the lot: *1 Kings chapter 21.*

King Solomon said there is a way that seems right to a man but in the end it leads to death. *Proverbs chapter 16 verse 25.*