

WHY TUMBLE-BUG ROLLS IN THE DUNG

There was Mr. Anansi and Tumble-bug. There was a young lady, was the king daughter. Her father said who come with a jar of money will get that young lady to marry.

Tumble-bug get a jar of money.

Anansi get a jar and couldn't get no money to put in it; get some cow dung and some horse dung, fill up the jar.

And after them was going up to the young lady, them catch to a shop. And the two jar favor one another. And Anansi said, "Brer Tumble-bug, let we go in the shop, go get a drink." And Anansi said, "Must buy a bread, come." And as he come out, him take up Tumble-bug jar and left for him jar. And Tumble-bug take up Anansi jar.

And when them go up to the young lady in the king yard, Anansi said, "Master, must bring a clean sheet, go throw out money out of jar!" And he throw out money — wa-a-a-a-a!

And as Tumble-bug throw, him throw out horse-dung and cow-dung. Anansi said, "Take it up, take it up, take it up, you nasty fellow, carry out the miss's yard!"

That is why you see Tumble-bug roll in filth today today.

Story Title: Why Tumble-Bug Rolls in the Dung

Storyteller: William Forbes, Dry River, Cock-pit country.

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Process: I have removed the eye-dialect, along with editing for punctuation and paragraphing.

Story Notes from Author (Beckwith): Compare Tremearne, 261; FL 21:498 — 499; Christensen, 96-98; and note to number 35 in this collection.

Additional Notes: The phrase "today today" [until this day, until now] resembles the Gullah "there there."