

UniqueID: 202103272055

Author: George Schwab

Title: Bulu Folk-Tales

Published: JAF 1914 - 1919 - 1922

Available at JSTOR [1914](#) - [1919](#) - [1922](#)

Description:

Osen: A small squirrel of two species, *Sciurus Isabella* and *S. itmniscatus*. It begins to scold loudly on the approach of any person or animal, and continues as long as the intruder is in sight. It scolds especially loudly when an animal is under the tree in which it happens to be. This fact is taken advantage of by hunters.

Akpwe: the large horned viper

It happened thus. Akpwe and Osen 2 made a great friendship with each other, even living together. In the course of time, Osen had three children. Now, Akpwe ate Osen's children. Then Osen had three more, after four rainy seasons had passed. The first was named Mine'e; the second, Mintene; and the third, Abutan. Osen thus to Akpwe, "If you again eat my children, I'll kill you." Then went Osen out to work in the forest. When he had gone, Akpwe ate the child named Mine'e. When Osen returned from the forest, he found that Akpwe had eaten Mine'e. Then Osen asked him, "Where is the child?" — "I don't know." Osen again went to the forest, and returned only to find that Akpwe had eaten Mintene. Again asking "Where is the other one?" Akpwe answered, "I don't know." For a third time Osen went to the forest, finding Abutan missing when he returned. Then went Osen to Akpwe, and, accusing him, said, "You have killed Mine'e; you have killed Mintene, and also Abutan,1 and also Abutan, and also Abutan!" Then heard Man, who was passing, the talk Osen was talking. So he went to look under the tree. There he found Akpwe, and slew him. Thus did Akpwe pay the penalty for eating Osen's children.