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**Author:** Mervyn W. H. Beech

**Title:** The Suk: Their Language and Folklore

**Internet Archive:** [Always available.](#)

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**Description:** Beech conducted his research in the [Baringo district](#) of Kenya; you can find out more about the Suk/Chok people at [Wikipedia](#).

## 9. THE ELEPHANT AND THE RHINOCEROS

The rhinoceros and the elephant fell out and fought a battle. And the elephant wounded the rhinoceros with his tusks. So the rhinoceros said, 'I am beaten, I will no more eat of your trees: I will go away.' So he went afar and ate of the tops of the trees only, but did not strip off the bark as the elephant does.

Now the dung of the rhinoceros was hard, like that of the elephant. And one day the elephant's child was lost, and it followed the rhinoceros's dung, thinking it was its mother's. And the elephant followed her child, and came up with it just as it reached the spot where the rhinoceros was feeding. And the elephant was angry with the rhinoceros and beat him again, and said, 'See to it in future that your dung is not hard like mine, so that my children be not deceived.'

And ever since then the rhinoceros has been compelled to scatter his dung with his horn. And that is the reason why you always see it as it is.