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**Description:** These 60 folktales and other materials were collected from Ila speakers in what is now Zambia; you can read more about the Ila people at [Wikipedia.](#)

NOTE. — The Cheetah or Chitah, or hunting leopard, has great resemblance to the leopard as regards the skin, but is not nearly so fierce an animal. This tale is supposed to account for the differences and likenesses.

Leopard became distinct from Cheetah. Leopard bit the ox of a chief and after biting it, smeared the ox's blood upon Cheetah. Next morning when the people examined their cattle they found one missing, and they said: "Call Cheetah and his brother Leopard, so that we can ask them about the killing of the chief's ox." On their arrival the people said: "Leopard!" He answered: "What's the matter, chief?" Said the chief: "One of the oxen is missing." Leopard said: "As for me, chief, I haven't seen it." And Cheetah said: "I also, chief, I haven't seen it." Presently Leopard answered again, saying: "Such being the case, you will find that whoever has blood on the mouth and hands is the one who saw your ox." Thereupon the chief looked at the mouth and hands of Leopard. As soon as he turned his eye upon Cheetah he saw the blood on his mouth and hands. So he sent that same brother of his, Leopard, to seize him, and he said: "Now, you, Leopard, shall be fierce towards men and animals. And you, Cheetah, you shall bite calves, so that the owners of the cattle shall kill you." Now to this day, when Cheetah finds a calf he bites it. At the same time Leopard also still bites calves and men too. They did not become altogether distinct. Since they did not become distinct in their colourings, Leopard and Cheetah, if you say: "Run away, Cheetah," it will be a Leopard that runs. If you say: "Run away, Leopard," it is Cheetah that runs. Because they are similar in their markings.