

UniqueID: 202103271732

Author: John Roscoe

Title: The Baganda

Published: 1911

Internet Archive: [Always Available](#)

Description:

W/iy the Bats hang Head downwards and only Fly by Night

In the beginning of the world the King called the people together to receive their chieftainships. He sent out messengers to call them, and among others he sent the dove to call the moon, and the bat to call the sun. Each messenger was given a certain time to go and return, so that they might all arrive together. The dove went and called the moon and brought her, and the King said, "I will give you the office the sun should have had, namely, that of shining by night to rule it, and when you first shine people will beat their drums and blow their trumpets; they will also bring out their fetiches for you to see them, and the fetiches of twins. These are the honours I give you." After giving the moon her office and honours the King waited for the bat to bring the sun, but as he did not come he sent the dove to look for her and bring her. The dove went and returned with the sun; then the King said, "Because you have delayed so long I have given to the moon the office I meant to have given to you. Now I will give you the office of showing people the way to walk about." It was on this account that the sun hated the bat, because he loitered on the way when sent to call him, and outran the appointed time given by the King. The sun said to the bat, "Never look upon me again, neither you nor your children, because when you do I will kill you." On this account the bat always rests with his head downwards and looks at the ground and never flies during the daytime.