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Title: [Fifty Hausa Folktales](#)

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Description: Told by Private Ba Guddu of the 1st Northern Nigeria Regiment, in Jemaan Daroro, northern Nigeria, circa 1909

The Spider Has a Feast

The Spider was seized with hunger but he had nothing to eat. So he said, "Very well," he must make a plan. He said he would summon all the beasts of the forest to mourn his death. When they had all assembled, he would jump up with a "boop" so that the big ones would be frightened and trample on the small. Well, the Elephant was told that the Spider had died, the Buffalo was told, the Roan Antelope was told, the Hartebeests was told; amongst the small ones also the Gazelle was told that the Spider had died, the Oribi was told, the Duiker was told, the Reed-Buck was told, the Hare was told, the Jerboa was told, the Francolin was told.

So they all came and assembled at the house. Each one who came looked at his eyes and started crying, and said, "Alas, the Spider is dead."

All the animals here cried until only the Francolin was left. She was more knowing than they. When she came, she watched and saw the eyeball bright, so she flew up on a tree and began to sing.

As for the Spider, he had put an axe close to his head. The Francolin was going to put the small ones on their guard. She said, "Jerboa, Hare, the Spider is dead, but if a man dies in his town, does one eye blink? Does he put an axe by his head?" She said, "Jerboa, Hare, run away." She flew thus - turrrrrr.

As she arose, the spider heard and saw that the other animals were about to flee, so he jumped up: "boop!" When he appeared, the Elephant, the Buffalo, the Rona Antelope, and the Hartebeests ran away, and they trampled on the Gazelle, the Reed-buck, the Hare, and the Jerboa, and killed them.

Then the Spider came and took the meat. He said he had been cunning enough to get meat.



[Francolin](#)