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Description:

17. MAURITANIA: The Magic Silk Cotton Tree. (Wolof tale.) First wife jealous when second wife has boy. She decides to kill him. She buries boy in shallow grave. Duck sees and rescues him. Takes him to live in silk cotton tree. Hunter sees him, thinks he's monkey. About to shoot, he sees it's boy. He tells Chief. People argue; finally they decide to cut down tree. Boy sang to duck, duck used magic to enlarge tree. Next men poisoned the duck. The tree fell. They took boy to chief. Boy's mother claimed him; diviners revealed truth. Duck survived but lost her magic. She cried for her lost boy. That's why ducks don't like to neaten trees.