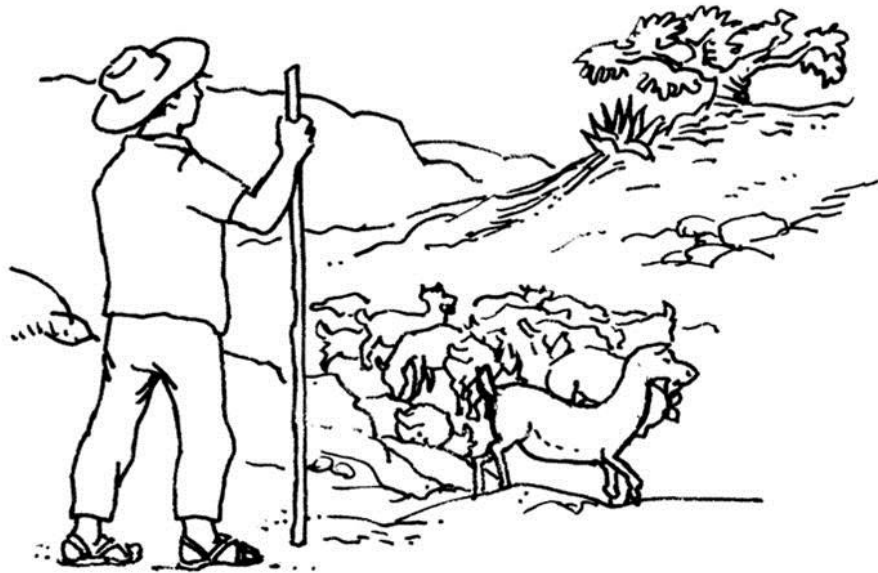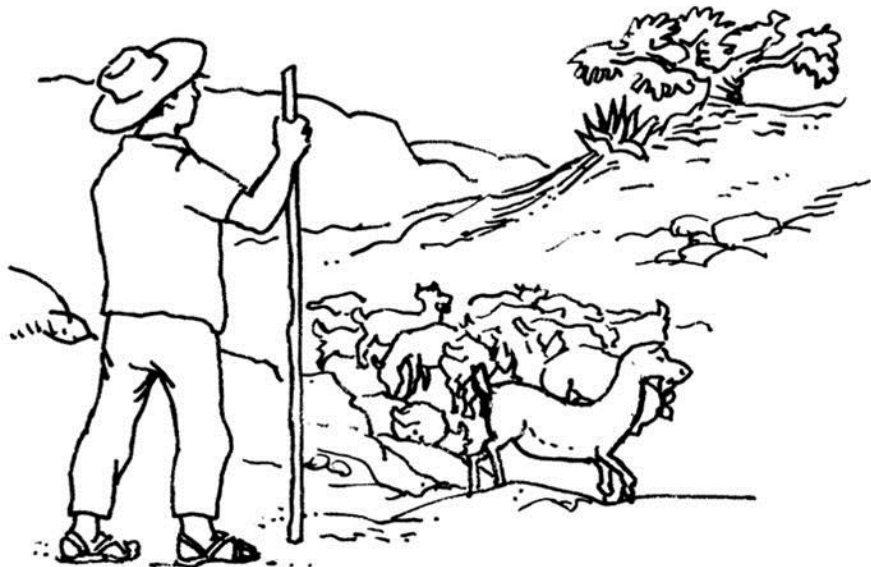# The Boy Who Turned Bad Luck into Good

Yankuri Malgwi

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Edited by Karon Harden

STELLAR
American University of Nigeria

The Boy Who Turned Bad Luck into Good (English)

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Dedicated to
my dad, Yusuf H. Malgwi,
my mum, Jummai Malgwi,
and my friend Fauzia Ibrahim

In a small village in Nigeria, there lived a boy called Musa. Musa was ten years old.

Musa was an intelligent young boy who was always hopeful and confident about the future.

Musa was fascinated by computers and wanted to learn how to use them and become a computer engineer. His father, on the other hand, was worried that Musa's dream of living and working in the big city would draw him away from his family and heritage.
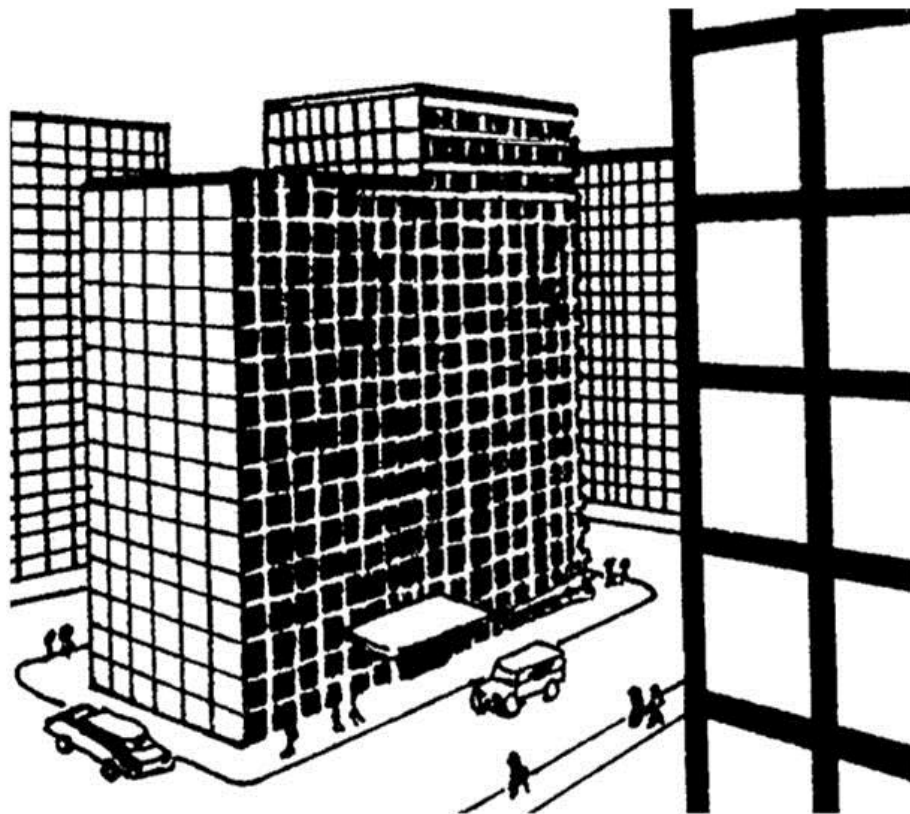
Musa's father was Mr. Tunde, a good man with a big farm and plenty of animals.

Every Saturday, when Musa's

brothers and sisters were home from school, Musa's father would gather them all to go to the farm with him to plant some crops and feed the animals.

Musa never loved going to the farm, but he went anyway out of respect for his father. There he learned many things from his father about how to take care of the crops and animals.
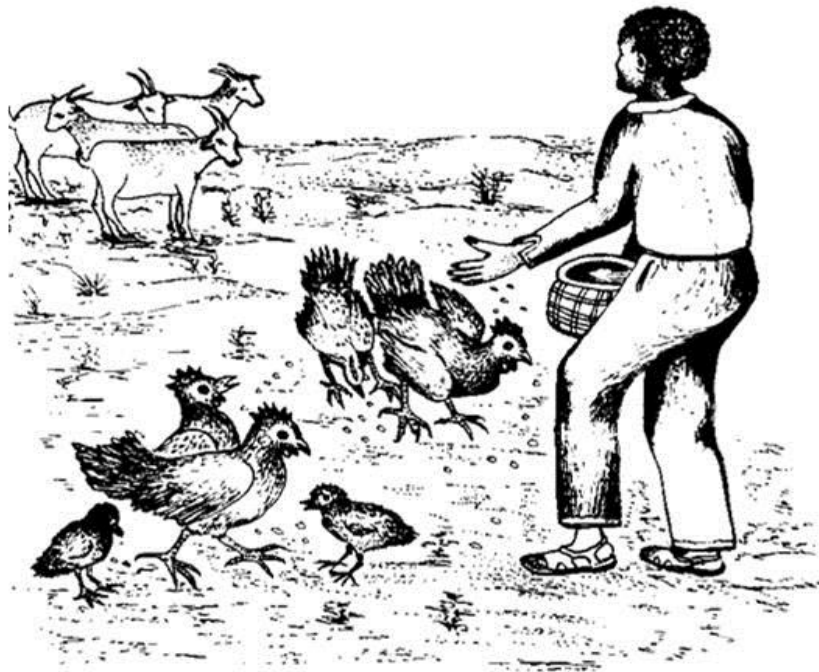
His father always stressed the importance of the land and hard work, but Musa still dreamed of the big city.

One day, Musa's father had the opportunity to travel to England. He went away for a very long time and never returned.

With no news from their father, Musa and his whole family were very sad and feared for the worst.

One year, two years, three years passed, and Musa's father never returned. In the meantime, the family struggled to maintain the farm without their father.

After the third year, someone came with the news that Musa's father was dead.

What?! When she heard the news, Musa's mother started crying and fell to the floor. All the children were crying too. The whole family was in shock.

There was nothing to do but accept their fate.

Some days later, they made a burial arrangement for the father, but without a body because the body had never been recovered.
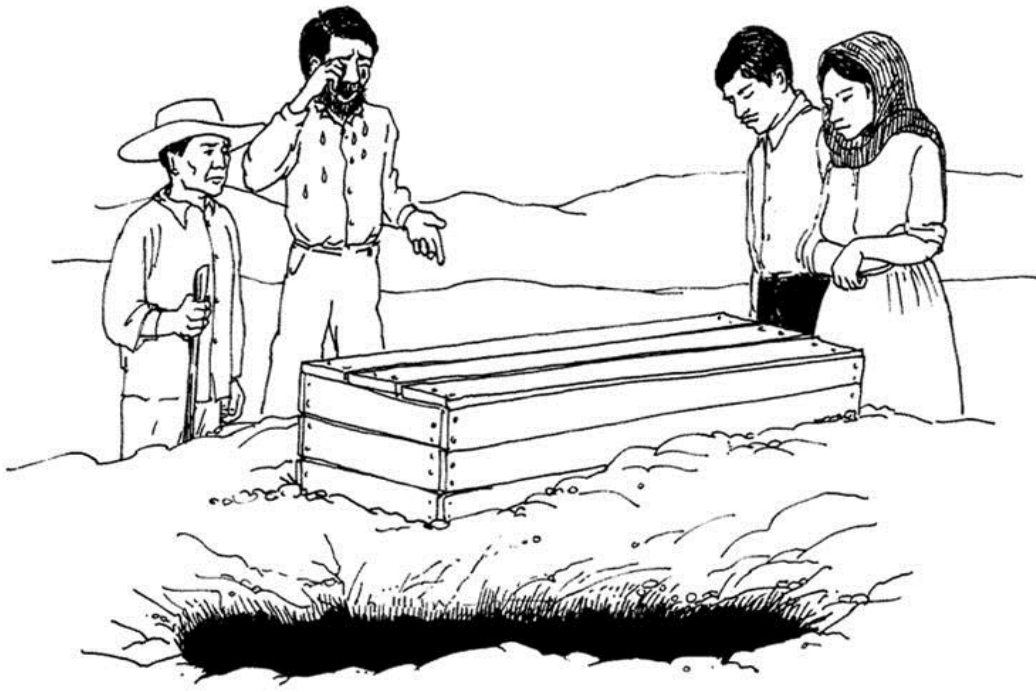
A year after the death of Mr. Tunde, it was time for Musa to enter the senior secondary school, but unfortunately there was no money to send him to school.

Musa's mother tried her best to raise money for all her children's schooling, but she

just could not do it all alone.

Musa knew that if he did not go to senior secondary school, his dream of becoming a computer engineer would never happen. But he saw how his mother was suffering to look for money, so he decided to stop schooling for awhile to raise money for his family and his education.

He started farming every day and rearing animals and selling them .

Because Musa had knowledge of reading and writing from primary school, he took the time at night to read some books on agriculture and the rearing of animals so as to improve all of his skills.

He learned all about different farming techniques and

fertilizers, and treatments, and he practiced these in his fields. He learned how to protect his animals against diseases and help them grow faster and fatter. As he got a little money, he didn't buy anything for himself but saved as much as possible to buy more supplies and equipment.

It wasn't easy, but he worked day and night. He also had good luck with the weather and no major disease outbreaks in those years.
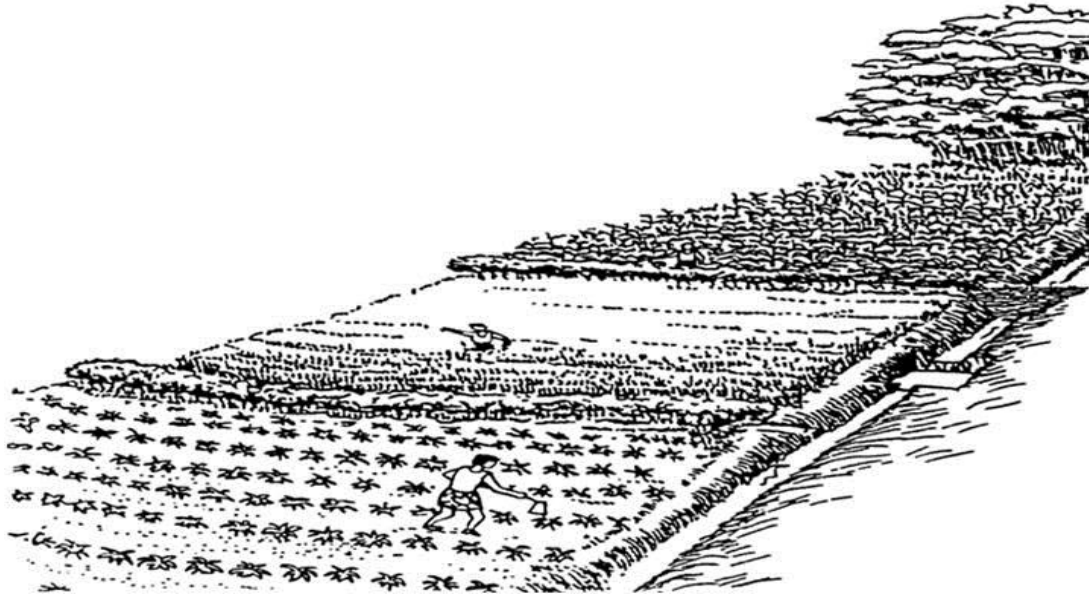
So after two more years, the family farm became even bigger than before, and the animals were plentiful again.

People from the neighboring towns near and far started coming to his place to buy crops and animals from him because the quality was good.

Soon the farm was so big that Musa had to start hiring other people to work for him.

An investor from London even came to Musa's mother to ask for her permission to have a partnership with Musa. She agreed and soon Musa started selling his farm products internationally and became richer and richer.

He sent all his brothers and sisters back to school even though he had no time to return himself.

One day, Musa, his mother, brothers and sisters, and other people were at their home preparing a ceremony to mark the anniversary of their father's death.

They looked up and saw a man coming towards their house from afar.

As he came closer, they were shocked to recognize their father, Mr. Tunde! What?!! All of them jumped up and started shouting and running this way and that thinking surely it was a ghost.

But it wasn't a ghost! Their father pleaded with them to come back.

Cautiously they returned with wide eyes and sent word to call the other villagers.

Meanwhile, Musa's mother brought him food and drink. After Mr. Tunde ate and rested, the whole village gathered around him, and he started telling them the story of what happened to him.

He explained that while in London he was attacked by group of bandits and lost everything he had.
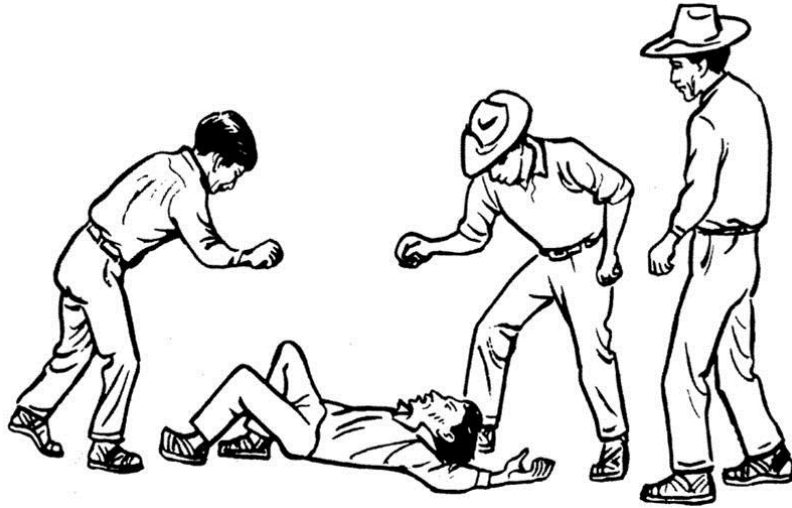
With tears, he told them how he was then falsely accused of a crime he did not commit, but he could not prove his innocence. So he was locked up in prison for five years.

After being released from prison, he tried looking for a job so as to get some money to return to Nigeria.

But it was not easy to get a job there or even a house to live in or food to eat. No one wanted to help him because he had been in prison, so they thought he was a bad man.

Finally he got work on a farm because he had knowledge of farming.

He slowly made friends among the other workers because they saw he was honest and hardworking. He saved all his money so that he could return to Nigeria. At last he saved enough money for the journey home.

And that was his story.

After he finished telling them what happened to him, they all thanked God and hugged one another with tears on their faces.

Musa slaughtered a cow and the whole town feasted and danced. He was so happy to see his father after more than five years without him.

The next day after Musa's father had rested, he called Musa and asked him to show him around the farm.

While they were walking around, Musa's father said, "This is all very impressive, but what about your dream to be a computer engineer in the big city?"

Musa replied, "That would be nice, I am sure, and maybe one day I will, but you were right — I can also make a good life for myself right here at home. Here I have my family and friends and land and animals — and now even my father has returned. What can the city give me that is worth more than that?"

Musa's father was very pleased and proud of him and said, "My son, you have become a man."

Check Your Understanding!

1. What was Musa's dream when he was young?

2. Why did Musa stop schooling?

3. How did Musa make money for himself and his family?

4. What happened to Musa's father?

5. What do you think Musa will do next?

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