

Dialogue Sample from AFRICAN TALES OF EARTH AND SKY
(as told by Mmoatia-the-Fairy-Men-Never-See)

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*[As the play begins THREE VILLAGERS find
their fufu, pawpaws and sugarcane missing.]*

VILLAGER #1

Why, why did I pound yams and plantains for fufu all the day in
this hot Sun - only to turn my back and find my fufu gone?

VILLAGER #2

Why, why did I plant and tend and carry this heavy jug of water -
only to return to my bushes and find my pawpaws gone?

VILLAGER #3

Why, why did I fall asleep with my sweet stalk of sugar cane -
only to wake empty-handed and hungry?

(MMOATIA, who is invisible to VILLAGERS,
enters, happily rubbing her stomach and
licking her lips.)

MMOATIA

(Addressing each VILLAGER)

Why? Why? Why? Why, you did it all for me, Mmoatia-the-Fairy-
Men-Never-See!

VILLAGER #2

Afua, Kwesi, did you see anybody?

(VILLAGER #1 and VILLAGER #3 shake their
heads "no.")

MMOATIA

(To audience)

They saw nobody.

VILLAGER #1

Kwadwo, Kwesi, did you hear anybody?

(VILLAGER #2 and VILLAGER #3 shake their
heads, "no.")

MMOATIA

They heard nobody.

VILLAGER #3

Afua, Kwadwo, did you smell anybody?

MMOATIA

What?! Take that, you hyena!

(MMOATIA pinches VILLAGER #3.)

VILLAGER #3

Aaagh! Who did that?

(To VILLAGER #2)

It was you that pinched like the beetle!

VILLAGER #2

What? Me? Why should I pinch you, Kwesi? Has the Sun gone to your head?!

VILLAGER #1

Stop, I tell you! Quiet, quiet!

(VILLAGER #1 sniffs, following scent.)

VILLAGER #1 (Continued)

I smell ... fufu!

VILLAGER #2

(Sniffing)

And I smell ... ripe pawpaws!

VILLAGER #3

And I smell sweet sugar cane!

VILLAGERS #1, #2 and #3

Mmoatia!!!

(VILLAGERS #1, #2 and #3 circle MMOATIA. As THEY grab for her, SHE ducks, causing VILLAGERS to grab each other. Realizing their mistake, THEY continue to furiously grab the air, hoping to catch MMOATIA,)

VILLAGER #3

Why can't we catch Mmoatia?!

VILLAGER #2

Why can't we see Mmoatia?!

VILLAGER #3

Why are we Humans plagued with Mmoatia-the-Fairy-Men-Never-See?!

VILLAGER #1

Come, let us make a plan to rid ourselves of this nuisance.

VILLAGER #2

This menace.

VILLAGER #3

This ... this ... this ...

(Unable to find the word)

... this Fairy!

(VILLAGERS #1, #2 and #3 exit angrily.
MMOATIA doubles over with laughter and
then sings "MMOATIA'S SONG.")