
Contents

Introduction	1
1. THE BLEEK FAMILY, THE IXAM NARRATORS AND KHOISAN FOLKLORE	3
1a. The Bleek Family	3
1a.1. Wilhelm Heinrich Immanuel Bleek	3
1a.2. Lucy Catherine Lloyd	5
1a.3. Dorothea Frances Bleek	8
1b. The IXam Narrators	10
1b.1. !IKabbo	10
1b.2. !Han+kasso	12
1b.3. Diä!kwain	14
1b.4. The IXam Bushmen	16
1c. Khoisan Folklore	19
1c.1. Khoisan Folklore, a Survey	19
1c.2. Some Basic Observations on Oral Folklore	22
2. CELESTIAL BODIES AND NATURAL PHENOMENA (KH 1-199)	27
2.1. The Moon and the Hare	27
2.2. Some Children Threw the Sleeping Sun-Man into the Sky	31
2.3. The Stars and the Milky Way	33
2.4. †Kagara and !Hâunu, Who Fought Each Other with Lightning	36
2.5. The Son of the Wind	39
3. !KAGGEN THE MYTHICAL TRICKSTER (KH 200-399)	44
3a. !Kaggen the Tricky Trickster	46
3a.1. !Kaggen Assumed the Form of a Hartebeest	46
3a.2. Trickster Cut off a Part of his Body to Serve as Food for his Family	48
3b. !Kaggen the Fool	51
3b.1. !Kaggen and the Cat	52
3b.2. !Kaggen and Eyes-on-his-Feet	52
3b.3. !Kaggen and the Meerkats (Suricates)	54
3b.4. !Kaggen and the Ticks	55
3b.5. !Kwammang-a Visited “the Other One”	56
3b.6. !Kaggen and Cagn	57
a) Cagn and the Eagle	58
b) Cagn, the Cagn-cagn and the Ants	58
c) Cagn and the “Thing” in the River	59
3b.7. !Kaggen and Mother Proteles	61

3b.8. !Kaggen and the Magic Bird	64
3b.9. !Kaggen and the Korotwiten Bird	65
3b.10. !Kaggen and Ku-te-gaua	65
3b.11. A Visit to the Lions' House	67
a) Child Notices Eye of Person Hidden in Bag/Bundle	69
b) !Kaggen's Magic Flight	70
3b.12. !Kaggen and !Kwammang-a Visited the Bees	71
3c. !Kaggen the Tragic Hero	73
3c.1. !Kaggen Secretly Created an Eland; it was Killed	73
a) The Maluti Tradition	77
b) The #Khomani Tradition	79
c) The Eland Creation Story	81
3c.2. The Baboons Play Ball with the Eye of !Kaggen's Son	82
a) The Maluti Tradition	85
b) The Northern Namibian Traditions	86
3d. !Kaggen the Liberator and Helper	88
3e. !Kaggen the Transformer	89
3e.1. The Anteater's Laws	89
3e.2. !Kaggen and the Ticks' Possessions	91
3e.3. The Trickster as a Transformer	93
3f. !Kaggen in the Present World	94
3g. !Kaggen and Related African Mythical Tricksters	97
3g.1. Further Tricksters	97
3g.2. Lords of Animals	99
4. ANIMAL STORIES	101
4a. Animal Trickster Tales (KH 400-599)	101
4a.1. Jackal and Hyena	101
4a.2. The Tortoise and the Lions	104
4b. Non-trickster Animal Stories (KH 600-799) (The Origin of Animal Characteristics)	105
4b.1. The Lion and the Field Mouse	106
4b.2. The Honey-badger's Small Stunted Feet and Lengthy Claws	106
4b.2. The Crow's Story	106
4c. Conflicts Between Animals of the Present World in an Undefined Past	107
4c.1. The Lion Jealous of the Voice of the Ostrich	108
4c.2. The Hyena's Revenge	109
4c.3. Further Khoisan Tales about the Origin of Animal Characteristics (Etiological Tales)	109

5. HUMAN DRAMAS UNDER ANIMAL MASKS	111
5.1. The Song of the Bustard	111
5.2. The Hyena's Revenge	111
5.3. The †Nerru and her Husband	112
5.4. The Story of the Ostrich Hen	114
5.5. The †Nuturu	114
5.6. The Mason Wasp and his Wife	116
5.7. The Wild Dog (Silver Jackal ?) Who was Niggardly to his Wife	117
5.8. The Story of !Gwai	118
5.9. The Story of !Kukenlulunu	119
5.10. The Honey-badger and the Girls	122
5.11. The Vultures, their Elder Sister, and her Husband (Present Human Problems under Animal Masks)	123
6. THE LIFE-THREATENING FORCES OF THE OTHERWORLD, MAGIC TALES (KH 800-999)	127
6.1. The Jackal and the Quagga	128
6.2. The Lioness and the Girl Biting-torn-away	132
6.3. Ddi-xerreten, the Lioness, and the Children	137
6.4. The Aardvark/Anteater, the Springbok and the Lynx	139
6.5. The Lions and the Two Women	141
6.6. The Young Woman Whose Breast was Caught in the Cleft of a Rock	146
6.7. The Blue Crane's Story	149
6.8. The Old Person, the Child and the Attacking Lion(s)	151
6.9. The Young Man Who was Carried off by a Lion	156
6.10. Foulmouth, the Blue Crane and the Girls	160
6.11. The !Kain-!kain Bird and the Girl in the Puberty Hut	163
6.12. The Kwai-kwai Bird, !Kaggen and the Children	164
6.13. The Striped Mouse, the Longnosed Mice and the Agama	166
6.14. The Striped Mouse, the Longnosed Mice and the Beetle	169
6.15. The Striped Mouse, the Longnosed Mice and the Wildebeest	169
6.16. !Kaggen Invited the All-devourer	171
6.17. !Kaggen and the Elephants	176
6.18. The Wife of the Dawn's-Heart Star, Jupiter	178
7. NOVELLISTIC TALES AND LEGENDS (KH 1300-2299)	184
7a. The !Korana Conflicts	184
7a.1. The Boy and the Enemies	185
7a.2. The Two Brothers Who were Chased by !Korana Warriors	186
7a.3. Bat-eared Fox Charmed a !Korana Man to Fall Asleep	188
7a.4. !Kannan Warned her People in Vain	188

7b. Man and Animals	189
7b.1. Man and Lions	190
7b.2. The Bushman and the Lion in a Cave	191
7b.3. A Hunter Brought Home a Lion Cub and Kept it as a Dog	194
7b.4. The Little Child and the Lion	196
7c. Man and Supernatural Beings	198
7c.1. !Khwa	198
7c.2. The Water Bull	199
7c.3. The Water Snake	201
8. HEROES AND MONSTERS	205
8.1. Representatives of Evil	206
8.2. Heroes and Heroines	208
8.3. Children	210
Conclusion	215
Appendix: A. Traill: The Didactic Story of the Two Young Gemsbok	219
Bleek/Lloyd Tales Discussed, Survey	222
References	225

INTRODUCTION

The following investigation intends to make a small contribution to the study of the !Xam traditions which Wilhelm Bleek and his sister-in-law Lucy Lloyd documented between 1870-1884. The two researchers, primarily Lucy Lloyd, took down nearly 13 000 pages of !Xam texts. They were dictated to them by Bushman prisoners and their family members who lived with them in their home in Cape Town. After many vain attempts Lucy Lloyd succeeded in finding a publisher for a volume of these texts with literal translations and notes, *Specimens of Bushman Folklore* (1911), while her niece Dorothea Bleek published a popular collection of trickster tales, *The Mantis and his Friends* (1923), and a series of reports on !Xam folk belief in *Bantu Studies* 5-10 (1931-1936). The published texts remained in the hands of a few specialists, the manuscript collection unnoticed in the Jagger Library of the University of Cape Town. In the 1970s and 1980s, mainly through the work of Roger Hewitt and David Lewis-Williams, the collection came to the attention of researchers of various disciplines. Special conferences in Cape Town in 1991, 1997 and 2011, devoted solely to the Bleek/Lloyd collection, encouraged studies and stressed its importance. These endeavours were rewarded when the complete collection was digitized and, in 1997, was entered into the UNESCO Memory of the World Register for Documentary Heritage.

During the last decades a number of fundamental works, mainly based on a meticulous study of the unpublished manuscripts, appeared:

Roger Hewitt's general analysis with an emphasis on the trickster figure !Kaggen paved the way (1976 MS version, 1986a print).

David Lewis-Williams opened our eyes for the symbolic dimension of the tales, traced connections with trance experiences of healers and edited a substantial number of unknown texts (1980; 1981; 1983; 1996; 1997; 2000; 2004; 2013a; 2013b).

Janette Deacon portrayed the narrators and studied traces of their lives in their home area in the Northern Cape (1986; 1994; 1996a; 1996b; 1996c; 2002).

Mathias Guenther compared and edited Nharo and !Xam folktales and trickster traditions (1989; 1994; 1996a; 1996b; 1999; 2002).

Helize van Vuuren studied the interrelationship with Afrikaans language and literature (1994; 1995; 2003; 2008; 2013).

Alan James gave !Xam texts poetical form and carefully annotated them (2001).

Andrew Bank reconstructed in detail the context how the tales were taken down at the home of the Bleek family (2006).

Pippa Skotnes, the Director of the Lucy Lloyd Archive, Research, and Exhibition Centre at the University of Cape Town, organized the special exhibition *Miscast* and the voluminous accompanying catalogue (1996), created the impressive *Claim to the Country* (2007) and has to be thanked for the digitizing of the complete notebooks.

Michael Wessels addressed the manuscripts from a literary point of view (2007; 2010; 2011).

Jeremy Hollmann published an extensively annotated reprint of D. Bleek's articles in *Bantu Studies* 1931-1936 and studied the IXam astrological mythology (2005; 2007).

José Manuel de Prada-Samper worked on the editing of the original notebook texts, devoted a special study to the complex representation of lions in IXam lore, and collected tales among the IXam descendants (2009; 2011).

The Bleek/Lloyd collection has been regarded as standing apart from general Khoisan folklore, "... the beliefs centring in the Mantis among the Cape Bushmen have no parallel further north" (Schapera 1930, 398-399). It has been accepted that the tales deviated from African traditions as to plots, characters, structures and understanding of genres. In my paper for the 1991 conference I pointed out that at closer inspection many of the tales had, however, related variants in further Khoisan folklore. The present investigation continues this approach. I intend to compare a selection of types, characters and representations of genres in the Bleek/Lloyd collection with further Khoisan tales. By discussing individual tales and using different approaches I hope to show in which way they are linked to further Khoisan lore, and in which way they differ. The aim is to offer a broad basis of comparative material for further Khoisan research and to study in some more detail the character of the IXam tales. I would like to trace more precisely what makes them so distinctive. Special attention will be given to the magic tales because until now they have been rather neglected and often misunderstood. This book is intended to be a bridge between anthropology and folkloristics.

The idea for this study arose during the revision of my *Catalogue of the Khoisan Folktales of Southern Africa* (2013); this catalogue will serve as one of the tools for the analysis which follows. Furthermore, I will bring in my experience of extended fieldwork among Nama and Damara between 1960 and 1997, when I listened to, and documented, a great number of narrators. I will refer to this frequently.