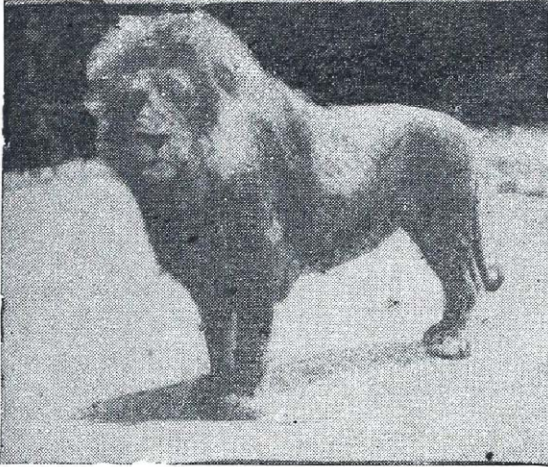


AMONG THE WILD ANIMALS OF EAST AFRICA

True Stories Related by a Young Traveler

VIII. THE LION HUNTERS OF TANGANYIKA



Simba, the King of the Jungle

"SIMBA! SIMBA!" the Tanganyika natives called to each other and threw more brushwood onto the fires. "*Simba! Simba!*" (Lion! Lion!) The flames leaped high into the air and lightened up the environs of the camp very clearly. Enormous old trees with low-hanging branches, overgrown with vines and moss, formed a wall behind the natives who were grouped around the fires.

The roaring of *simba*, the lion, "king of the jungle," broke the quietness of the African night. His roar sent a shiver through the animals of the plains, and herds of striped zebras and great wildebeests galloped over the plains in wild fright. The lion had left his hiding-place in the jungle and had made ready to hunt his prey.

For several nights a lion had attacked the cattle herds of the Masai natives, and now the warriors had come out to hunt and kill him. They had been unsuccessful in finding the hiding place of the king of the jungle until this afternoon. Then one of the natives had found the place

where the lion kept himself during the hot daytime.

But it was late in the afternoon, and it would have been dangerous to attack the beast at that time because there was not light enough for spearing. Therefore the chief had ordered them to camp and wait for the morning. They would keep fires burning all night, for the flames held the wild animals of the jungle at a safe distance from the camp.

The men were grouped about the fires. Skins of leopards and lions were slung around their shoulders, and each one held a long spear in his right hand. Each man had his shield lying close at hand. Strange signs were painted on the outside of each shield; each family had its own sign which told a story of glory about the family's warriors.

The roaring of the lion sounded farther and farther away, and finally died out completely. The *simba* was hunting during the night, and would return tired but satisfied to his hiding place early in the morning.

At dawn the chief called his men. To a strange rhythm they danced their warrior dance which gave them courage and strength. They shouted the word *simba* again and again in their different songs, as they swung their spears over their heads and yelled wild threats at the lion. Finally they marched toward the place of the lion's lair the day before.

The wide plain stretched before them; but at the edge of the jungle was a large thorn thicket where the lion had made his lair under the shadow of the red-

thorn trees. Carefully the warriors encircled the thicket. They moved through the high, dry grass, ready to pursue the lion if he should try to escape.

Lions do not attack human beings at once. They always give two warnings first and try to escape the hunters. But if the hunter persists in his attack, the lion becomes dangerous and tries to kill his enemy.

When the Masai warriors had closed the circle around the thicket, they started again to sing their threatening songs with high-pitched, screaming voices. They struck their shields with their spears in the rhythm of their song, and called for *simba*.

Suddenly the lion, a large male with a great mane about his head, appeared at the edge of the thicket. He took a look at the approaching men and then quickly disappeared. After a few moments, he appeared on the other side of the thicket, but found there also the encircling line of shouting men.

When he saw himself thus trapped, the lion gave a loud and angry roar. With all the fury of a great wild beast he broke through the lines of the Masai warriors. With a powerful leap he came out of the thicket straight toward several of the warriors. The men threw their spears at the lion, but missed. But the natives did not let him escape. They pursued him and again closed a circle around the animal. Some followed the

lion, others ran to cut off his retreat, and others threw their spears at him.

The animal became furious and gave his second warning. Then he made a break through the line in another direction. Again he tried to escape the warriors, but unsuccessfully. Again the men pursued and encircled him. They meant to kill the great animal.

When the lion could find no way out, he stood his ground ready to fight his enemies. He was ready to defend his life with all his strength; he was ready to fight until he or his enemy should be killed.

At first the lion crouched. Then he leaped in a roaring fury of wrath and attacked a young warrior. The man threw his spear, but it merely grazed the lion. Now this warrior was without a weapon and the furious lion was upon him. The warrior knew his danger and threw himself on the ground. By the time the lion reached the man, the warrior was holding his shield tightly over his body, and was completely

covered. The savage beast clawed and tore at the shield, but the man held on the handle from the inside.

At once the other warriors attacked the lion with their long spears. Blood streamed from the animal, which was still clawing at the shield. Presently he gave up trying to get to the warrior beneath the shield and attacked another man. But the animal was weakening from the loss

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East African Warrior

DVORAK

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Out on the plains of the midwestern part of the United States Dvorak went to visit a colony of Bohemian immigrants. Some people say that the loneliness of these country-men, living in a foreign land, inspired the composer to write the haunting melody of this *Largo* in his *The New World Symphony*. By all means hear it played by an orchestra or on a phonograph (there are excellent phonograph records of this symphony) whenever you have an opportunity.

Dvorak should have been happy in America, where he was appreciated, but homesickness drove him back to Prague to spend the last years of his life composing and directing the conservatory of music there. He died in 1904.

Dvorak wrote a beautiful sacred composition called *Stabat Mater* which you should hear when possible. You should also hear his short composition *Humoreske*. He wrote in all five symphonies, some symphonic poems, chamber music, and lovely songs, which are popular in the best sense, for they are beloved by the people.

You should remember

ARCHIMEDES

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in addition their greatest inventor. He was first to realize the enormous power that can be exerted by means of a lever. He also invented the compound pulley, and a spiral screw for raising water and other substances which is still called "Archimedes' screw."

Now for the famous story about Archimedes: When Syracuse in Sicily, the native city of Archimedes, was besieged by the Romans, the Romans took the city, after a siege of three years. It is said that what particularly angered the Roman soldiers was that when they burst into his house, Archimedes was absorbed in the study of geometrical figures which he had drawn on the sand. To the soldier who interrupted him, he merely said, "Don't disturb my circles." Archimedes was slain in the massacre which followed.

these things; (1) the proper spelling and pronunciation of the name Dvorak (*dvor-zhak*); (2) that he is considered the greatest Bohemian composer; (3) that he wrote the famous *New World Symphony*.

THE WOODEN HORSE

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two sons, crushed them to death.

"Surely this is a punishment for the priest's sacrilege against the sacred gift," cried the Trojans.

Since the gates were not wide enough, a breach was made in the wall, and the Horse was brought into the city. Then there was rejoicing. All men went to sleep, secure in the belief that the gods were kind.

But while they slept, the Greek who had been captured—for so it had been planned—drew the bolts from the door of this "gift to Athena," and out came the hidden Greeks. Then a fire was lighted as a signal to the ships, which had turned back to sight of land. Soon thousands of Greek warriors swarmed in the streets of Troy.

All night the slaughter continued, and by morning only a mass of smouldering ruins marked the place where once had stood the proud city. The Trojan king's headless body lay on the seashore. So perished the Trojans except the few who escaped.

A REVIEW

1. What do you know of ancient Greece? (See the encyclopedia.)