

Mrs. Crane's Dance



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In Seruka village, there was a little girl called Gaju and among the three sisters she was the last born of the family. Gaju had a dream of dancing with her elder sisters, although she didn't know how to dance.



Gaju used to see her elder sisters dancing with the cranes in the valley. She was always excited to go with them when they went to fetch water. One day, a crane asked Gaju why she never dances with the others.



Gaju told Mrs. Crane that she doesn't know how to dance. Mrs. Crane told her that she would be happy to teach her how to dance, if she gave her the most special gift. Gaju went back home thinking that it was going to be easy to find the most special gift for Mrs. crane.



Early in the morning, Gaju took a basket and filled it with the best sorghum and went down the valley. When Mrs. Crane saw her, she exclaimed, “Gaju, the most beautiful Gaju, may I ask you something?”

“I spend all my days in the fields full of grains of all kinds, what do you want me to do with your sorghum?” Mrs. Crane continued. Gaju turned around and went back home.



The next morning, Gaju gathered the best milk she could find and put it in a jug and went back down in the valley.



As soon as Mrs. Crane saw her, she jumped up and asked: “Gaju, the most beautiful girl, I spend my mornings and my evenings with the shepherds, I never go thirsty or lack milk even for a second. What do you want me to do with your milk?”



When Gaju realized it wasn't going to be as easy as she thought it would be, she asked Mrs. Crane, "Every morning when my sisters come down here, you dance with them without asking for anything. Why do you ask me for such a special gift?"



Mrs. Crane smiled and answered, “There is not a single day your sisters come down here without the most special gift.” As confused as she was, Gaju turned and went back home.



When she got home, Gaju asked her sisters what the most special gift they give Mrs. Crane was so that she can dance with them. Her sisters told her that they never give Mrs. Crane anything.



Gaju was now even more confused than she was before. Then, she approached her grandmother and asked her about the most special gift the crane wanted. Her grandmother told her that the most special gift even her sisters didn't know about; was the song they sing every morning on their way down the valley.



The next morning, Gaju woke up early and made her way down to the valley. As she walked down, she sang the song just like her grandmother had told her:

“Dance for me Mrs. Crane,
dance for me.

The most beautiful and
the most elegant.

Dance for me Mrs. Crane,
dance for me.”



As soon as Mrs. Crane saw her, she spread her wings and started dancing. Gaju started imitating Mrs. Crane's moves, one by one. When Mrs. Crane spread her wings, Gaju would raise her arms too.



In a few days, Gaju could dance as she always dreamed. She finally realized her dream and danced with her sisters whenever there was a party or a family gathering.



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