People Never Get Old

A Story by
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The village of Kamba had never experienced such a severe drought before. River Kamba had dried up. Cattle, goats, sheep and donkey were dying from hunger and thirst. The people of Kamba dug shallow wells on River Kamba until they too dried out. Wild animals and birds which had survived on water from the shallow wells dug by the people of Kamba on River Kamba also began to die from thirst.

The people of Kamba came together and dug a very deep well outside the village a short distance away from River Kamba. One day boys and girls of Kamba went to fetch water from the well. They were surprised when Chapungu the eagle, swooped down on them making a strange and frightening noise. They picked up their clay pots of water and rushed home but he did not leave them alone until they had got into the village. Chapungu flew up into the deep blue sky making the strange and frightening noise.
That night the boys and girls of Kamba went to consult VaZindoga, an old man who lived alone at the edge of the village. They secretly brought him some water. It was a common belief in the whole village that VaZindoga was an evil old man whom children of the village had to avoid. Other people said that he lived so long because he was a witch who killed other people and ate their vital organs which gave him long life. Parents insisted that no child should eat anything given by VaZindoga. The elders said that he was a useless old man waiting to die. But the children of Kamba had found out that VaZindoga was a kind and wise old man who liked to tell them stories and to explain many customs and traditions of the Kamba people. This is why when ever they had seen a strange thing, they sneaked out at night to go and consult him. He often explained the meaning of strange happenings by telling them stories, riddles and proverbs and always ending up saying to them."Don’t tell your parents that you have been here. Don’t tell them that I spoke to you."