

No Woman Can Eat Goat Meat in Rwanda

By MUKAHIRWA Aline



There once was a man who raised many goats, and one day he got married to a woman. After many years, there was a famine, and the man and his wife had to eat their goats. The famine continued, and soon the goats became few.

The man came up with a trick to eat the remaining goats on his own. During the night, while his wife was sleeping, he cut his long beard and glued it on his wife's chin. When the wife woke up, she felt the hair on her chin and thought it was the grass from their bed.

She tried to take it off, but she couldn't because it hurt. She cried, and her husband woke up and asked her what was the matter. She showed him her chin, and the husband cried too.

He said, "That is a beard! I think it is caused by the goat meat that you always eat." He then told her, "It is a taboo for women to eat the meat of goats. It will make you grow a beard or a tail like that of a goat." This made the woman weep.

The husband forbade his wife to go outside and told her that he was going to look for the treatment to make the beard go away. He went into the forest and found plants that got rid of the glue and made the beard come off her chin. The woman swore never to eat the goat meat again.

That was the greediness of man.