

Glossed Text

See p. 77-79 in:

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Recorded August 2006. 2 minutes 48 seconds

Informant, Odette Prescod relates her version of a popular West Indian tale entitled: Trouble made the monkey eat pepper.

Chobl meik i mubngki iit pepa dis ool woman
trouble CAUS DEF monkey eat pepper DEM old woman
Trouble made the monkey eat pepper. One day, an old

wan dei i bin a tubng kubm fram tubng wid
INDF day 3SG PST PROG town come from town with
woman went to / was coming from town with

a jaa a molasiz an yo no wa, i stombl
INDF jar PCL molasses and 2SG know what 3SG stumble
a jar of molasses and do you know what? She stumbled

pan a chii an i faal. I molasiz breik uhp.
on INDF tree and 3SG fall DEF molasses break up
on a tree and fell. The molasses jar broke.

So dis mubngki de in i chii an i a si di
so DEM monkey LOC in DEF tree and 3SG PROG see DEF
So a monkey was in the tree and he saw the

woman wa hapn tu evriting we di woman du.
woman what happen to everything REL DEF woman do
woman/ what happened to/ everything the woman did.

So di woman tek a piis a di bakl fram di
so DEF woman take INDF piece PCL DEF bottle from DEF
So, the woman took a shard from the

molasiz jaa an bin a skreip ubp di molasiz
molasses jar and PST PROG scrape up DEF molasses
molasses jar and was scraping up the molasses

bikaa shi bin a go hoom go mek subm peistriiz
because 3SG PST PROG go home FUT make some pastries
because she was going home to make some pastries

so wen piipl paas bai bai shi, shi go ge dem
so when people pass by by 3SG 3SG FUT give 3PL
so that when people came to her house, she would offer

fō iit. Aal di woman kod se sii wat chubbl
COMP eat all DEF woman could say see what trouble
them. All the woman could say was 'see what trouble

haat oovateiken mi? Poo ting. Nau mubngki na no
hath overtaken 1SG poor thing now monkey NEG know
hath overtaken me?' Poor thing. Now, the monkey did not
know

wa chubbl miinz. I so frontin, i kubm dubng
what trouble means 3SG so inquisitive 3SG come down
what trouble meant. He was so inquisitive that he climbed
down

aut a di chii go aaks di woman we chubbl
out PCL DEF tree go ask DEF woman where trouble
from the tree and asked the woman where trouble was.

de. So shi, di woman ge ubm di daireksban,
LOC so 3SG DEF woman give 3SG DEF direction
So she, the woman gave him the direction,

be be he, gyubl if yo bei we shi du. Wen di
laughter girl if 2SG hear REL 3SG do when DEF
laughter, girl, this is what she did. When the

mughnki go bai di daireksban di woman ge ubm,
monkey go by DEF direction DEF woman give 3SG
monkey went in the direction the woman gave him,

bei wa hapn: i miit uhp pan subm piipl in di
hear REL happen 3SG meet up on some people in DEF
listen to what happened: He met some people in the

vilaj. So di piipl an dem plan uhp fo plei a
village so DEF people PL plan up CMPL play INDF
village. So the people thought of a trick to play

jook pan ubm: if i waa chubbl i go geh chubbl.
joke on 3SG if 3SG want trouble 3SG FUT get trouble
on him: If he wants trouble, he will get trouble.

He, he, he, gyubl yebs. Hei we de du. De go bai dis
laughter girl yes hear REL 3PL do 3PL go by DEM
Laughter, girl, yes. Listen to what they did. They went to the

man hu ha subm pubpi, he he, an aut a di
man REL have some puppy *laughter* and out PCL DEF
house of a man who had some puppies, *laughter*, and they

faiv bags, de pot faiv pubpiz in de. Mubngki waa
five bags 3PL put five puppies in there monkey want
put five puppies in five bags. The monkey wanted

plenti chubbl, yo si, hi hi. Yeh gyubl, yeh. So hei
plenty trouble 2SG see *laughter* yes girl yes so hear
plenty of trouble, you see, *laughter*. Yes, girl, yes. So, listen

we de du. De pot di faiv puppi in di bag
REL 3PL do 3PL put DEF five puppy in DEF bag
to what they did. They put the five puppies in the bags,

an dem, so wen i kuhm i go tingk a tu/
PL so when 3PL come 3PL FUT think FOC two
so that when he came he would think that there were two/

molasis de insaid di bag an dem. So wen i
molasses COP inside DEF bag PL so when DEF
there was molasses in the bags. So, when he did

rich nau, at a subtn pleis i bin fil so taiyad,
reach now at INDF certain place 3SG PAST feel so tired
reach a certain place he felt so tired

gyubl i sit dubng tub res. So i waa chubbl nau
girl 3SG sit down CMPL rest so 3SG want trouble now
that, girl, he sat down to rest. He was really looking for
trouble,

i opn i bag an dem. Lo an bihool, we i
3SG open DEF bag PL lo and behold REL 3SG
so he opened the bags. Lo and behold, what he

kod si in di tu, in di bag an dem, a tu
could see in DEF two in DEF bag PL COP two
saw in the two, in the bags were two big

big ai an subm tiit a ram ubp tu im. I se
big eye and some teeth PROG charge up to 3SG 3SG say
eyes and some teeth charging up to him. He said

laad hav muksi, bub bub, gyubl yebs. An hei wa
Lord have mercy laughter girl yes and hear REL
'Lord, have mercy' laughter, girl, yes. And listen to what

hapn nau: i drap i bag an dem an rubn,
happen now 3SG drop 3SG bag PL and run
happened then: He dropped the bags and ran,

he, he, ha, ha. I kyaa iivn fain nowe fo rubn.
laughter 3SG can-NEG even find nowhere CMPL run
laughter. He couldn't even find anywhere to run to.

Aal i ha tu du waz rubn ubp in a gru-gru
all 3SG have to do COP-PST run up in INDF gru-gru
All he could do was climb up a gru-gru

chii. Wel, yo no gru-gru chii ha plenti kashi in
tree well 2SG know gru-gru tree have plenty spine in
tree. Well, you know that the gru-gru tree has a lot of spines

de. Yo no wa kashi is? Yeh gyubl, priklz,
there 2SG know what 'kashi' COP yes girl prickles
Do you know what spines are? Yes girl, prickles,

nidlz. I had no oda chois bub tu rubn ubp in
needles 3SG had no other choice but to run up in
needles. He had no other choice but to climb up

di cbrii. An i pubpi an dem de dubng de
DEF tree and DEF puppy PL LOC-COP down there
the tree. And the puppies were down there

a baak wuf, wuf. Hi kyaa geh no reskyu, hi
COP bark ruff ruff 3SG can-NEG get NEG rescue 3SG
barking: ruff, ruff. He could not find an escape, he

kyaa jubmp aut i chii. Wen i rich ubp tu di
can-NEG jump out DEF tree when 3SG reach up to DEF
couldn't jump down from the tree. When he reached the

tap a i chii, hei wa hapn: i pook i
top PCL DEF tree hear REL happen 3SG poke 3SG.POSS
top of the tree, listen to what happened: He poked his head

bed in a jakspania nes. Hi, hi, gyubl, yebs,
head in INDEF jack-spaniard nest laughter girl yes
in a jack-spaniard nest. Laughter, girl, yes,

ha, ha. Yeh, if yo si i ai an dem: muhngki
laughter yes if 2SG see 3SG.POSS eye PL monkey
laughter. Yes, you should have seen his eyes: The monkey's

ai an dem swel ubp, ha, ha, ha. Wa, muhngki kod
eye PL swell up laughter what monkey could
eyes were swollen up laughter. What could the monkey

du nau i kyaa kubm dubng. Afta i pubpi
do now 3SG can.NEG come down after DEF puppy
do now? He couldn't come down. The puppies then

an dem so taiyad, i iivnin kubm nau, dem redi
PL so tired DEF evening come now 3PL ready
became rather tired. When evening came, they were ready to

fō go hoom, bikaa dem so hubngri. Jakspania
CMPL go home because 3PL so hungry jack-spaniard
go home because they were very hungry. The jack-spaniard

kubm dubng / di pub / di di di mubngki kubm
come down DEF pup / DEF DEF DEF monkey come
came down / the pup / the, the, the monkey came down,

dubng, wid i jakspania ai an dem. If yo si
down with 3SG.POSS jack.spaniard eye PL if 2SG see
with its swollen eyes. You should have seen

i ai an dem. Dem big, i kyaa ivn si
3SG.POSSEye PL 3PL big 3SG can.NEG even see
its eyes. They were so big that he couldn't even see

god aut-a dem. Gyubl, he he he he. Wen i piipl
good out-PCL 3PL girl laughter when DEF people
through them. Girl, laughter. When the people

an dem rialaiz wa hapn de juhs sit dubng an
PL realize REL happen 3PL just sit down and
realized what had happened, they simply sat down and

laaf at mubngki. Mubngki waa trouble. Ha ba haa.
laugh at monkey monkey want trouble laughter
laughed at the monkey. The monkey wanted trouble.

Laughter.