



# Ansa and Bansa

- A folk tale from Pakistan



Once upon a time, there was a big dark jungle near a little village in Pakistan.



In that village lived a mama goat with her two kids, Ansa and Bansa.



One day, mama goat had to run some errands around town, which would take her a while. She asked her two kids to promise that they would not open the door for anyone but her. And so they promised.



Mama goat left for town, and Ansa and Bansa were home by themselves.



The house was very quiet and Ansa and Bansa felt a little afraid.



'KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK!' There was a knock on the door. 'Who is it?' asked Ansa and Bansa.



'Ahmmm! It's me, your mama who's back from the town! Let me in!'





Ansa said: 'This does not sound like mama.' Bansa said: 'You're right, it does not sound like mama. But who else can it be? Let's open the door and see.' They opened the door a little bit, and saw right there: A big dangerous lion who started pushing its way in.



The lion managed to push the door all the way and enter the house. It opened its big wide mouth and swallowed both Ansa and Bansa.



It was scary and pitch dark inside the lion's belly. 'Mama, we are in the lion's belly, come and help us! Mama, please!' they shouted. But no matter how much they shouted, mama goat could not hear them. She was far, far away. And the lion dawdled back to the jungle, dragging its huge and heavy belly.



Mama goat got back home in the evening. She looked around the empty house. It was so quiet. She called her children. There was no answer. She thought: 'What could have happened?'. Mama goat was alarmed, and she decided to go to the town. She walked and walked and walked, and she did not stop until she felt the warmth of the blacksmith's fire.



The blacksmith was hitting red-hot iron with his big hammer. Mama goat asked him: 'Mr. Blacksmith, in return for my milk, can you make me two sharp horns of iron?' The blacksmith agreed, and soon enough, he had made her two sharp horns of iron which she wore on top of her own horns.



Mama goat set out for the jungle wearing her new sharp horns. She walked and walked and walked.



Until she saw: A big and scary wolf! Mama goat asked the wolf: 'Have du eaten my Ansa, and have you eaten my Bansa? If you have, get ready for a fight!' The wolf answered: 'Oh no, I have not eaten your Ansa, and I have not eaten your Bansa. I guess we don't need to fight then.' 'I guess not,' said mama goat and walked away. And she walked and walked and walked.



Until she saw: A big and scary bear! Mama goat asked the bear: 'Have du eaten my Ansa, and have you eaten my Bansa? If you have, get ready for a fight!' The bear answered: 'Oh no, I have not eaten your Ansa, and I have not eaten your Bansa. I guess we don't need to fight then.' 'I guess not,' said mama goat and walked away. And she walked and walked and walked.





Until she saw: A big and scary lion, with a huge belly! Mama goat asked the lion: 'Have du eaten my Ansa, and have you eaten my Bansa? If you have, get ready for a fight!'



The lion answered: 'Rooarrrr...  
Yes, I have eaten your Ansa, and I  
have eaten your Bansa. Come  
on, fight me!'



The lion and mama goat leapt at each other. Mama goat stabbed the lion in the belly with her two iron horns, tearing his belly open.



Out of the belly popped Ansa and Bansa, and they were safe and well.



Mama goat hugged both her kids and took them home.



Mama goat made Ansa and Bansa promise that they would never ever open the door for anyone except her.

And that is how the story ends.



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