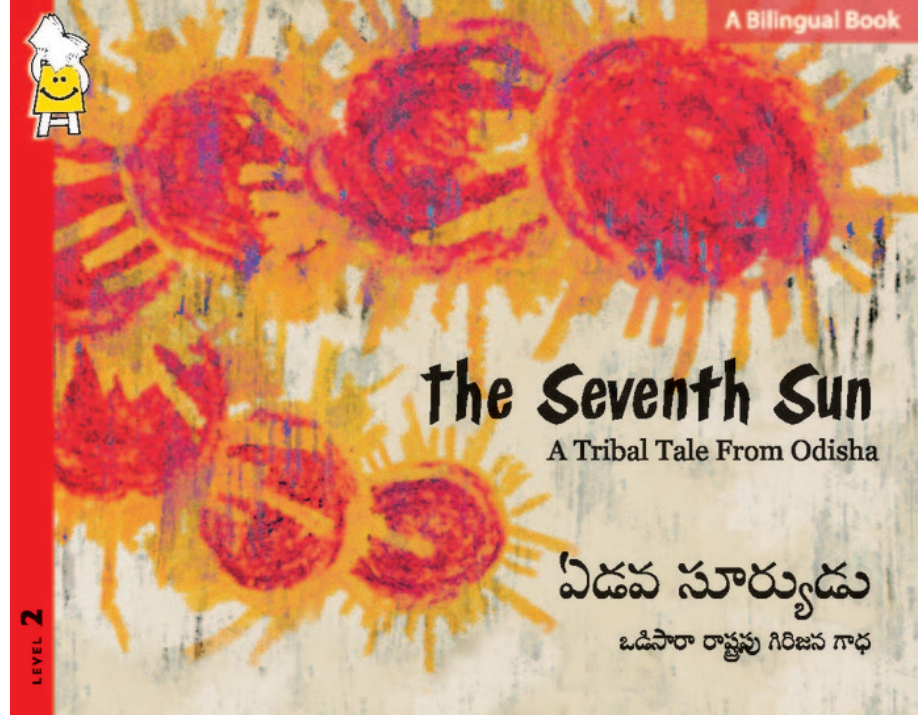
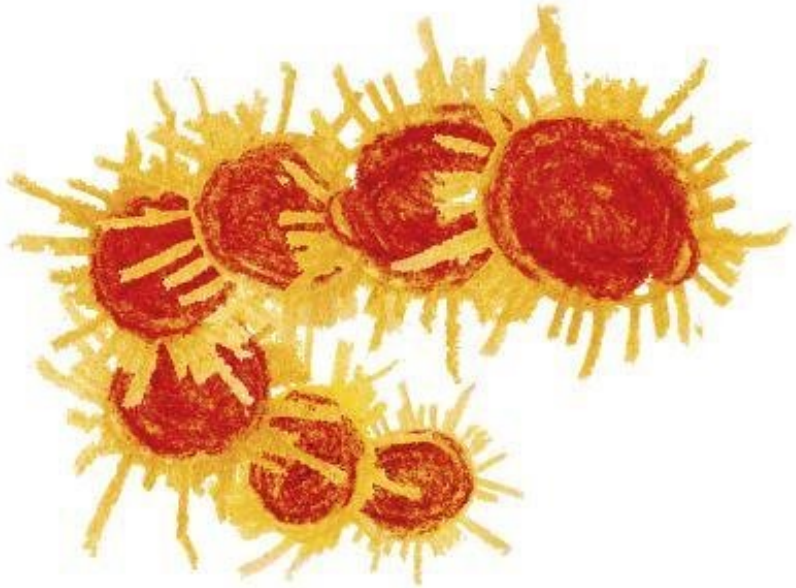


The seventh sun: A tribal tale from Odisha, India

Indian Folktale
English



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Long, long ago there were seven suns in the sky.

Their rays made the earth so hot that human beings could not bear it.

So, the seven brothers belonging to a tribe called the Munda decided to kill the suns.

They shot arrows at them and were able to kill six of the suns.





The seventh sun hid behind a hill.

Now, with the suns gone, there was darkness everywhere.

The deer could not see the tigers, the elephants bumped into trees, the rabbits walked over the lions and there was confusion all around.





To find a way out, the animals decided to have a meeting.

A rabbit told them about one of the seven suns who was still alive and hiding behind a hill.

But who would be the best one to call out to the sun?

"I will call out to the sun," said the lion, for he was the king of the forest.

"Sun, sun, please do not run away from us. Come back in and shine on us," roared the lion.

But the sun did not listen to him.





The elephant called out next.

He raised his trunk and trumpeted, "Sun, sun, please come back," but the sun did not listen to him.

The beautiful peacock danced and pleaded, "Sun, sun, please come back," but the sun refused to come out.

One after the other, all the animals called out to the sun, but he did not listen to any of them.

Finally, a rooster offered to call the sun. Everybody laughed. The lion was a fair leader. He said, "The rooster should be allowed to try."





The rooster stepped forward and gently crowed, "Kookoodokoo - koo."

To everyone's surprise, the sun peeped out a little from behind the hill.

The rooster crowed again, this time a little boldly,
"KookoodoKOO-KOO..."

The sun came up a little higher. The rooster crowed for the third time. This time it was louder and bolder,
"KOOKOODOKOO-KOO..." and the sun rose high and bright.

There was light everywhere.

The animals were delighted and the humans felt relieved.





The animals asked the human beings not to kill the sun and they agreed.

Ever since that day, when the rooster crows in the morning, the sun rises and shines in the sky.

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