

The Story of Lightning and Thunder

Nigerian Folktale

A long time ago, there was a mother sheep named Thunder. She had a son named Lightning, who was a ram. Thunder and Lightning lived amongst the people of the earth.

Whenever the ram was naughty, he would burn houses and damage farms. After he did these things, his mother would scold him in a very loud voice, “Boom, boom!” But Lightning did not care and did not listen to his mother. Finally, he did so much damage that the people complained to the king.

So the king ordered Thunder and her son, Lightning to leave town and live in the bush. This did not do much good. The ram was still naughty. He would burn the forest and sometimes the fires spread to the people’s farms.

Again the people complained, so the king banished Lightning and Thunder from the earth. Ever since, they have lived in the sky.

Now when the naughty ram, Lightning is angry, he charges the sky in a bolt of light, and you can hear his mother scolding him in a powerful voice, “Boom, boom!” Sometimes, when the mother is away from her son, you can still see him charging in the sky, but his mother's voice cannot be heard.

(205 words)

