

FULL PERFORMANCE TRANSCRIPT

AN ANT NEVER BORROW, AN ANT NEVER LEND

Told by Fay Chung

An oral storytelling archive transcript

04:51

ENGLISH + JAMAICAN PATOIS

FAMILY · HERITAGE · COMMUNITY

AN ANT NEVER BORROW. AN ANT NEVER LEND.



ABOUT THIS TRANSCRIPT

This transcript accompanies Fay Chung's recorded performance of *An Ant Never Borrow, An Ant Never Lend*, an Anancy story remembered from childhood visits to Clearmont, Jamaica.

The wording follows the recorded performance. Fay's supplied script has been used as a reference for Jamaican patois, character names and culturally specific terms. Punctuation and paragraph breaks have been added only to improve readability.

ACCESS NOTE

The timestamps are section markers designed to help readers navigate the recorded performance.

FULL TRANSCRIPT

00:01

There is a village in Jamaica, twenty miles from Montego Bay and six miles from Lucea, called Clearmont.

As a child, I used to visit my uncle during summer holidays.

My auntie was a great storyteller. In the late evenings before dusk, my cousins and I gathered around for folktales.

00:40

An ant never borrow.

An ant never lend.

00:49

Anancy borrow Monkey money, so tell Monkey fi come Wednesday.

01:01

When Monkey come, Anancy knock him stomach, seh, "Broad enough, yu can knock it."

So Monkey ketch him and beat him.

01:21

Next day, Monkey come. He seh, "Mudder Anancy, weh yu son?"

She seh, "Brer Monkey, yu murder him yesterday. Don't know if him dead."

01:40

Monkey call one rooster-cock, cut de craw, tek out Anancy and beat him.

02:00

When him gone, Anancy seh, "Ma, yu going mek Brer Monkey kill me?"

“Yu know wha yu do, Ma? Put on yu pot. Dig out de fire ashes. Put mi in deh. Mek up de fire. Put on de pot.

“I will see if dat fellow Monkey will find mi when him come.”

02:36

Nobody knew Monkey was an Obeah man.

02:44

When Monkey come, he seh, “Morning, Mudder Anancy. Weh yu son?”

Mudder Anancy said, “Massa, dese two days yu beat him and don’t know wha him do.”

03:07

Monkey go inna de kitchen, tek off de pot, dig out de fire ashes, tek out Anancy and beat him.

03:22

Another Obeah woman tell Mudder Anancy, “Yu going to let Monkey kill yu son? Yu can twist rope?”

De old woman seh, “No mi trade.”

She seh, “Twist one rope.”

03:45

“When yu look pon one end, yu see a whole string a ants. Put Anancy pon it.

“When Monkey come, Anancy will be on de rope.”

04:07

“When Monkey climb up on de rope, holler loud and Anancy cut de rope.”

While de rope cut, Monkey tumble down, broke him neck.

04:24

But if Anancy was on de house, holding one end of de rope, who cut de rope?

Anancy.

04:40

An ant never borrow.

An ant never lend.

— END OF TRANSCRIPT —