

## **How Frog Went to Heaven**

How Frog Went to Heaven by Aaron Shepherd illustrates the importance of perseverance and courage. The story of Frog demonstrates the significance of perseverance in achieving success.

Once upon a time in Angola, there was a young man named Kimana who dreamed of marrying the Sky Maiden, the beautiful daughter of the powerful Sun Chief. To achieve his dream, Kimana sought the help of various animals in the forest, including rabbits, antelopes, and hawks, but they all refused to assist him.

Desperate and disheartened, Kimana finally asked a Frog. The Frog lived near a well, where the girls from Heaven who served the Sun Chief descended to Earth to fetch water from the well. Every day, they used Spider's web as a bridge to fetch water. The Frog agreed to assist him in his quest for the Sky Maiden's hand. Kimana doubts the possibility of a frog ascending to Heaven. However, the Frog remained resolute, emphasizing that he could achieve anything if he tried.

The Frog hid in a jug that the girls lowered into the well. He took Kimana's letter in his mouth and placed it on a bench. The Sun Chief found the letter and was perplexed by the unusual offer, so he consulted his wife, the Moon Lady. She suggested that he sought the opinion of the Sky Maiden. The Sky Maiden was amused by Kimana's proposal and decided to test his sincerity by requesting a wedding gift as evidence.

The Frog delivered the wedding gift--a purse of money-- to Heaven. Although the Sun Chief was surprised by Kimana's success, he continued to challenge him. He asked Kimana to come to Heaven.

The Frog accepted the challenge on behalf of Kimana without hesitation. The Frog used his wit and made everyone in Heaven sick by spitting into the water jugs, causing them to become ill when they drank it. The Sun Chief consulted with the spirit doctor. He discovered that the illness was caused by an evil spirit that resembled a frog.

The Sky Maiden finally decided to descend from the sky with the girls the next day. The frog appeared before her and informed her that it could aid in her search for her husband. The frog then reminded her of the many times it had displayed bravery and loyalty. The Sky Maiden was touched by the frog's dedication. She chose to marry the frog instead of Kimana. They returned to heaven together, leaving Kimana behind.

The story of the Frog inspires us to believe in ourselves, regardless of the odds against us. It underscores the power of persistence and bravery in overcoming obstacles and achieving our dreams. Also, it demonstrates how steadfast devotion and loyalty can have a profound impact on others and bring unexpected blessings into our lives.