

Story #498 (Tape #16, 1974)

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The Rooster and the Dog Start a Village

One day a rooster met a dog beneath a tree. It said to the dog,
"Let us start a village here."

"How can we do that?"

"Well, I shall crow, and you can bark, and in that way we can
start a village here."

"Let us build a house--eh?"

"Yes."

To start a village meant to them to build one house. As soon as
this was completed, the rooster flew up into a large tree, secured
itself on a branch, and began to crow. The dog went to the other side
of the tree and lay down.

While the dog was lying down there on the ground, a fox heard
the rooster and came there. It wanted to eat the rooster. It looked
and saw that the rooster was at the top of the tall tree. How could
one climb up there? It said, "'Son, brother, how did you come here?
Why did you come here?'"

The rooster said, "We shall establish a village here."

"Would you accept me," asked the fox, "if I wanted to be your
neighbor?"

"Why, of course," said the rooster. "Our elder," it continued, "is sleeping over there. Go and talk to him. If he is willing, let him accept you."

When the fox went to that place, near the dog, the dog attacked it and caught it by the tail before it had a chance to ask if they would accept it. The fox pulled and the dog pulled, the fox pulled and the dog pulled, and the tail broke. The fox leaped to safety at one bound. It said, "You'll establish a village, my ass--by breaking tails like this."