

An Arab Tale: “The Friend of a Friend of a Friend”

(* Djuba is a wise fool in many stories)

One day a friend who was a hunter came to visit Djuba. “I brought you a rabbit I caught. It will make a fine dinner.”

Djuba made a rabbit stew and they had a feast. The very next day a stranger came to Djuba’s door.

“Who are you?” asked Djuba.

“I am the neighbor of your friend the hunter who brought you the rabbit yesterday.”

So Djuba invited him in and fixed his dinner. “I have made a stew from the leftovers of the rabbit,” he said, and the stranger ate well.

The next day another stranger knocked on Djuba’s door.

“Who are you?” asked Djuba.

“I’m a cousin of the neighbor of the friend who brought you the rabbit day before yesterday,” said the man.

“Come in,” said Djuba. He brought the man a pot of hot water.

“What’s this?” asked the man.

“That,” said Djuba, “is water boiled in the very same pot as the rabbit of my friend who is the neighbor of your cousin.”