

THE SOUCOUYANT

One morning, at about two o'clock, a farmer got up when he heard strange noises in his pen in the backyard.

He went out to see what was wrong and on looking closely at his animals he saw something black against the neck of his best cow. Blood was dripping down the side of the neck. He recalled that he had seen dried blood on another cow the morning before.

As he walked up to the animal, a ball of fire arose and darted outside. He rushed out and saw it flying away.

He realized that it was a Soucouyant that used to suck the blood of animals and people in the village. Every few months this happened and much death and sickness were brought about through loss of blood.

In the morning, he told his neighbours about the Soucouyant. As they were afraid that more damage to life would be done by the creature, they decided to protect the village.

That night the head of every house kept watch.

The farmer hid in his pen and just after midnight the Soucouyant flew in. The man made a noise and she flew away. He called out to the neighbours and they all began following the ball of fire as it flew through the air.

Word was passed on and on and people kept tracking the flame until it started to descend.

It landed at an old shack at the edge of the village where a wicked old woman lived. She used to shout and curse any child who came near her house and they were afraid of her.

Many persons were in time to see the old lady putting on her skin – for the Soucouyant always takes it off before going out at night to seek food.

Now, the farmer and his friends planned to destroy the creature.

The next night, they waited at her house until she returned from her trip. They had rubbed salt and pepper inside the skin.

When the Soucouyant returned and put on her skin it began to burn her very much so she started to hop about and sing:



“Kin, Kin, you don’t know me!

Kin, Kin, you don’t know me!”

Then they pushed her inside a barrel which they nailed up. Then they rolled the barrel to the pond nearby and dumped it into the water.

From then on no animal or person in that village was ever attacked by a Soucouyant.