

The Quest

By

Choconut

NARRATOR

Not very long ago, there was a small village in the heart of Nigeria called Choconut Town. Choconut Town was a happy village, where everyone was always joyful and eager to lend a helping hand. They were a tightly-knit community. What made Choconut Town unique was the fact that the entire village was made of chocolate. From the roads, buildings, and tools, everything was made of chocolate.

The chocolate from Choconut Town was widely sought after because it was more delicious than any other variant in the world. Fortunately or unfortunately, as the case may be, the recipe for this delicious chocolate was known by only one person.

ChiefChoco was a wise old Orangutan. He was the village chief and keeper of the secret choconut recipe. This recipe had been passed down through time from Parent to Child. But ChiefChoco had no children to pass on the recipe to. So he took the villagers as his children, and they became his family. Never had the village of Choconut seen a more benevolent and kind chief.

Now, ChiefChoco was old and advanced in years. His time on earth was coming to an end slowly, but he had a plan in place. He gathered the animals of Choconut town to reveal his grand plan.

CHIEFCHOCO

My children, as you can see, I am old and weak. And I need to choose someone to take over from me. I have a quest for anyone who considers themselves worthy. But remember, before you go on this quest, you must be brave and must stay true to your heart. Because you will be tested along the way.

NARRATOR

The animals pondered on what ChiefChoco had said. ToktokChoco, a very fast talking squirrel, GosloChoco, a slow but cheery sloth and NomNomChoco, a perpetually hungry and grumpy hippo stepped forward. They were followed by Two Lions, Mistachoco and Sistachoco, brave and inseparable siblings.

CHIEFCHOCO

Only one person can go on this quest. I have a small task for you. There are five jars of Choconut

(MORE)

CHIEFCHOCO (cont'd)  
hidden in five places at the edge  
of the village. You have to go in  
search of a jar each, and the first  
person to return, and drop it in  
this basket will be the chosen one.

NARRATOR

TokTokChoco, GosloChoco, NonNomChoco, Mistachoco and Sistachoco braced themselves and got ready for the race of their lives. As the whistle was blown, they took off in different directions to get their jars of choconut.

Several minutes later, the villagers spotted a figure running down to the village from the eastern entrance. At the same time, another person was running down from the northern part of the village. As they got closer, it became clear that it was Mistachoco and Sistachoco racing for the finish line with a jar of choconut each.

They reached the finish line and dropped the bottle in the basket at the same time. It was a tie. Several moments later TokTokChoco and NonNomChoco also arrived with their jars in hand. Meanwhile, GosloChoco had not even gotten to the edge of the town, he was only halfway.

The villagers waited in silence for ChiefChoco's verdict. Who was he going to pick? How was he going to determine the winner? After conferring with the elders for a few minutes, ChiefChoco cleared his throat and addressed the villagers.

CHIEFCHOCO  
We have a tough decision to make here. As we all saw, there is a tie between Mistachoco and Sistachoco. These two have been inseparable since birth, and it would seem like they are not ready to be separated just yet. I hereby announce the winners of the task, they are the chosen ones for the quest. Our very own Mistachoco and Sistachoco.

NARRATOR

The villagers rejoiced as ChiefChoco gave the two lions a scroll and a gold chain each. The chain had the Choconut Symbol boldly inscribed on it.

CHIEFCHOCO

Take, this will be your guide on your journey. Guard it with everything you have and follow the directions like your life depends on it. It will lead you straight to the recipe.

SISTACHOCO

Yes ChiefChoco

MISTACHOCO

Yes ChiefChoco

NARRATOR

The two lions bowed in respect and left to make preparations for the long journey ahead of them.

Upon opening the scroll, the two lions saw that it was a map to guide them on their quest for the recipe. Filled with drawings of hills, valleys, rivers and deserts, they realized that they had a very long journey cut out for them. But being adventurous and brave creatures, they were excited at the thought of the adventures that lay ahead.

The next day, very early in the morning, before the sun had risen, Mistachoco and Sistachoco set out on their journey. Going by the directions on the map, they followed a narrow path out of the village until the glossy brown chocolate colours of Choconut town gave way to the multi-coloured land of the flowers.

Sistachoco gazed in awe at the Calla Lillies, Celosia, Crown of Thorns, Hibiscus, Ixora and Mussaenda.

SISTACHOCO

Awww, this is so beautiful.

MISTACHOCO

Very beautiful, but we can't stay here forever.

NARRATOR

The two lions headed back to the narrow path and continued on their way. The land of the flowers gradually gave way to a dry and hot arid land.

They came across a caravan going to Zaria and joined it to see how far it will go along their route. After all, it wouldn't hurt to have a little company.

By the third day, after surviving a sandstorm and the cold nights, they arrived at a big gate. It was the entrance to a very big and busy town. The downside was the gatekeeper only allowed those who were able to play and win any game he presented them with.

GATEKEEPER

So, you know the rules, are you ready to play?

MISTACHOCO

What game are we playing?

GATEKEEPER

Solve the puzzle in ten minutes.

NARRATOR

And the wall beside the gate opened up to show a jigsaw puzzle. Mistachoco and Sistachoco stood still as they studied the puzzle before them.

GATEKEEPER

Your time starts now, remember, ten minutes.

NARRATOR

The two lions kept looking at the jigsaw puzzle, trying to make sense of it, when suddenly, after 5 minutes, Sistachoco exclaimed.

SISTACHOCO

I know what it is!

MISTACHOCO

What is it?

SISTACHOCO

It's a picture of the land of the flowers.

MISTACHOCO

The one we passed through on our way here?

SISTACHOCO

Exactly.

NARRATOR

And Sistachoco and Mistachoco got to work rearranging the puzzle. As they fixed the last one in place, there was a loud creaking sound as the big gate opened before them.

GATEKEEPER

I can see you have solved the puzzle in 9 minutes. Hmmm. Welcome to the City of Kano.

NARRATOR

Mistachoco and Sistachoco entered the city and the first thing they saw was the busy market, with customers haggling with the traders everywhere you looked.

They also noticed some imposing figures on the horizon, on a closer look, they discovered that they were groundnut pyramids, very similar to the ones in the treasure map. Mistachoco and Sistachoco looked at each other in glee as they set out to explore the groundnut pyramids.

After passing through the dusty streets, the two lions arrived at the groundnut pyramids. Just in front of it was a large expanse of land filled with short green plants in full bloom adding some colour to the brown hues of the city. Beside it was a field with Elephants at work, some were extracting the groundnuts from the root of the plants, while the others stacked the groundnuts into the pyramids with their trunks.

The two lions watched in awe as the Elephants worked in perfect harmony and precision, they didn't notice the Elephant that came to stand beside them.

MR GIWA

God, how you have grown. The last time I saw you, you were still very tiny.

NARRATOR

The two lions looked at each other in surprise.

MISTACHOCO

Who are you?

MR GIWA

How is ChiefChoco these days?

SISTACHOCO

You know ChiefChoco?

MR GIWA  
He's my very good friend.

SISTACHOCO  
Oh

MISTACHOCO  
Interesting.

MR GIWA  
Yes, welcome to Kano and the  
wonderful groundnut pyramids. Come  
have some groundnuts, I am sure you  
won't mind that now?

MISTACHOCO  
Thank you, Mr...?

MR GIWA  
Oops, my bad. I am Mr Giwa, and it  
is great to finally meet you. Let's  
go inside, it's so hot out here.

NARRATOR

Mistachoco and Sistachoco followed Mr Giwa into his house, and he offered them a large platter of groundnuts which they dug into. After they had rested from the long journey, Mr Giwa took them on a tour of the pyramids.

They finally got to meet the workers they had admired from a distance.

Eventually, it was time for Mistachoco and Sistachoco to continue on their quest. They bade Mr Giwa and the workers goodbye as they set out following directions from the map. And so, they began their journey to the next stop on the map. The dry arid land gave way to the savannahs, which then gives way to the grasslands as they moved down south. Before long, they got to a river and needed to cross over to continue with their quest.

SISTACHOCO  
Hmmm, a river. it's flowing too  
fast. Do you think we can swim  
across?

MISTACHOCO  
No, it's not safe. We need to find  
another way.

NARRATOR

The two lions looked around for anything that could help, Sistachoco called out to Mistachoco.

SISTACHOCO

I think I've found something.

NARRATOR

Mistachoco checked with Sistachoco, she had found a rod with a piece of rolled cloth dangling from it.

MISTACHOCO

Is there a message or something on it?

SISTACHOCO

There's a piece of paper that reads; "Down the riverbank and into the waters, hope rises if you wait!"

MISTACHOCO

Is that like a riddle or what?

SISTACHOCO

Probably, we just need to find out what it means.

MISTACHOCO

So it said, "Down the riverbank and into the waters, hope rises if you wait!"

SISTACHOCO

Do you think we should take this literally?

MISTACHOCO

Hmmm, I can't think of any other way we can interpret it right now.

NARRATOR

And so Mistachoco and Sistachoco went down to the riverbank, waded into the water and waited. As dusk approached, the tide became low as the waters receded and the fast moving river became shallow enough for the two lions to wade across.



MISTACHOCO

What an interesting way to cross  
the river.

SISTACHOCO

I know right, I'm glad we found the  
riddle to help us.

NARRATOR

The two lions crossed to the other side of the river and  
resumed their journey as they entered the forest.  
After wandering in the forest for some time, they noticed  
they were going round in circles.

SISTACHOCO

This is the second time we are here  
today.

MISTACHOCO

I wanted to say the same thing, is  
the forest playing a trick on us?

SISTACHOCO

That's what it looks like, what  
does the map say?

MISTACHOCO

It shows that we are to go west.

SISTACHOCO

Where is the west, then.

MISTACHOCO

Wait, the sun rises in the east  
right?

SISTACHOCO

...and sets in the west.

MISTACHOCO

Yes, so the sun rose from here this  
morning, this is east.

SISTACHOCO

...and that means west is there.

MISTACHOCO

Yes

NARRATOR

And so, the two lions headed west. Soon after they came upon a large clearing, with houses scattered around. On further inspection, they discovered it was a farm settlement where giant trees with large yellow fruits were cultivated. Mistachoco and Sistachoco were admiring the trees, wondering what kind of fruit it was, when they heard a voice behind them.

MR RABBIT

And who or what are you looking for?

NARRATOR

The lions turned and saw a rabbit sitting on a tree branch.

SISTACHOCO

We...we are...

MISTACHOCO

Sorry for...

MR RABBIT

Never mind, any friend of ChiefChoco is our friend. You are very welcome here.

MISTACHOCO

And how do you know we are sent by ChiefChoco?

MR RABBIT

The necklaces you are wearing. Only ChiefChoco wears it, but I can see that you are the new custodians of the secret recipe. How is the wise old orangutan these days?

SISTACHOCO

You know so much for someone far from Choconut Town.

MR RABBIT

Well, I have my ways. By the way, I am Mr Rabbit, and you are?

MISTACHOCO

I am Mistachoco and this is my sister, Sistachoco.

MR RABBIT

It is a pleasure to meet you, welcome to the Great Ondo Forest.

SISTACHOCO

Thank you, Mr Rabbit.

MR RABBIT

You must be tired after your long journey, why don't you come in and have a cup of delicious chocolate.

MISTACHOCO

Yes, that would be nice, we are famished.

NARRATOR

Mr Rabbit led them to his house and entertained them, then they rested from the long journey.

Mr Rabbit took them on a tour of the farm. They saw how the cocoa seed was extracted from the giant yellow fruits, the seeds were then dried and processed into a paste or powder which could then be prepared and turned into the delicious chocolate drink they had.

And finally, it was time to continue on their journey. After a brief rest, Mistachoco and Sistachoco headed back to the road to resume their journey.

MISTACHOCO

Thank you for your kindness, Mr Rabbit.

MR RABBIT

You are welcome, please feel free to visit anytime.

SISTACHOCO

We will definitely visit, bye.

NARRATOR

Back on the road again, the forests gradually gave way to a big city called Lagos. It was so busy, with so many cars and vehicles on the road. Everyone seemed to be in a rush, it was as if they were running out of time and had to do as much as they could before time ran out.

The serene calm of the forest was replaced with the honking of different vehicles. It was so noisy you couldn't even hear your thoughts. They kept searching for a way to get to their destination, when Mistachoco saw a bus with the Choconut symbol engraved on it. He tapped Sistachoco on the shoulder and pointed in the direction of the bus. They both approached the driver.

MISTACHOCO

Please, where is your bus going to?

BUS DRIVER

Lekki

NARRATOR

Mistachoco and Sistachoco heaved a sigh of relief as Lekki also happened to be the location of their last port of call on the map.

They boarded the bus which took them to Lekki. Some hours later, they finally arrived at their destination after a long and stressful commute.

The map led them to a small and beautiful house in the heart of Lekki. Sistachoco pushed the door handle but it was locked. They searched everywhere but did not find any key, evening came and they had not found the key yet.

While observing the keyhole on the door, Mistachoco noticed a 1+1 sign on the keyhole, he brought out the map and saw the same sign next to the choconut symbol. He checked his chain and saw the number 1 at the back of the pendant.

MISTACHOCO

Sistachoco, can I see your chain.

NARRATOR

As SistaChoco gave him her chain, he noticed the same sign behind it.

Mistachoco placed the two pendants together and there was a metallic clicking sound as the two pendants were joined together, forming a key.

SISTACHOCO

Whoa, you did it. Is that the key to the house?

MISTACHOCO

Let's see.

NARRATOR

Mistachoco inserted the key into the keyhole and it opened up to reveal a very beautiful and cozy house.

Upon entering the house, the aroma and scent of the entire house reminded them of Choconut Town. And on the table, they saw a bowl of Groundnuts and another bowl of Chocolate, with a small book titled CHOCONUT RECIPE beside it.

Finally, they had gotten a hold of the secret Choconut Recipe, the Quest for the recipe was not in vain. The two lions let out a big roar of happiness. And from then on, Mistachoco and Sistachoco decided to share the special recipe with the rest of the world. Now you too can taste the choco and .....SPREAD THE ROAR.