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**Title:** The markhor had no brain (Sharaas som mhasta ne shial'a)

I heard that one lion had grown old. Perhaps it had grown **very very old**. Then, it didn't even have any food for it. There was no food whatsoever for it. It was **not even able** to hunt anything here and there. To such a degree was it old!

Then, a **fox** going there **said** to it, "Hey lion", it said "I have come for you, I have ordered this one medicine!"

"Aha! What medicine have you brought?"

"**A markhor, a very young markhor** for you. Indeed, if you ate the markhor's **brain**, you would become very young again," the fox said to it.

"Who will bring this medicine (i.e. the markhor) for me?"

"I will. But will you be able to control it (the markhor)?" asked the fox. "Can you beat it? Can you eat it?"

"Surely, if you brought it (here) I could."

"You cannot do that, you have become very old!"

"No, no I can't" said the lion. And the fox left (to get the markhor).

So, the fox **went** to that small dangerous path, where the markhor was passing by. It said to the fox, "Hey fox, cunning fox, where are you going?"

"**I am coming** for you."

"For me? What are you planning to do?"

"The lion **has become** very old. Now, it was the lion's own thought, whatsoever that was: that whatever kingdom it has got that one exactly, it (the lion) will give to a very was strong animal. Amidst them you are the strongest animal [lit. biggest one]. **Anywhere we go walking, you are able to walk**. You only **are able to** climb even up to the mountain. To this kind of (strong) animal, the lion is giving his kingdom. Its (the lion's) own words are on its mind. Exactly all those words it is giving from the deep of its heart. From the deep of its heart it is giving all those promises", said the fox. "It has not chosen **another** animal to give its kingdom to, but you only", said the fox.

Then, that very markhor walked **behind** the fox. So, that task (to persuade the markhor to follow it) was fulfilled. Then, when the markhor went there (where the lion was), "Go near the lion!" said the fox. "**Go near it**. It cannot hear. **He cannot see** very well, either."

Then, going closer to the lion, the markhor said, "Lion, sir, what were you saying? Hey king, sir, what were you saying? **Talk to me**, why did you invite me?" said the markhor. Like that spoke the markhor. But the lion made no sound. Then the markhor went closer. When it did so, the lion **gave it a scratch with its claws**. When the lion did that, the markhor moved sideways like this and the lion reaching the markhor's ear, it cut it. Then the markhor ran away.

When the markhor left, the fox said to the lion. "Hey, you were not able (to catch the markhor). Now, what shall I do **with you**? **I had told you**, you cannot grab it and it is beyond your control!" said the fox.

"No, no, if you brought it now I would hit it to the ground and eat it. Now, bring it here for one more time."

"Hey, why should it come back here again now? **You have cut its ear**."

"No, no, whatever! Bring it here! Anyway, you have told me, you have ordered a medicine for me!" said the lion.

The fox went away. Walking, walking, walking **far away**, finally, it came to a small narrow path. As it was going along this path, it came up from **behind the markhor and called it**. The markhor turned around angrily toward it (the fox). "You! Now, down the mountain will I surely throw you! You were lying to me! You are responsible for the lion's cutting my ear [lit: **you have cut my ear through the lion**]!" "Hey, I heard you are crazy, aren't you? The lion cannot hear, neither can it see! Going close to it, speak. Doing like this, go near it" said the fox. "Then as the lion was reaching you with its paws and nails, your ear was cut by itself because you moved **sideways**". Again lying to the markhor, the fox took it off to a distant place. Again it lied to it. It lied to it. And the markhor believed. Trusting the fox, it went away with it.

When the markhor approached the lion, the lion was making no noise. It was just lying there. "Hey, sir, why have you invited me, lion sir? Why have you invited me? For what reason have you invited me? What conversation has ever been between us?" asked the markhor. Silence. "Move, go near it (the lion)" said the fox. "A little bit more close to it, go! Go a little bit closer to it!" Then, "what were you saying into my ear? Why did you invite me?" asked the markhor. No sooner did it ask that than quickly grabbing it **from under its throat**, the lion **cut its throat** and became happy indeed **with the markhor's blood**. It **started drinking its blood** and after cutting its head off, it threw it away. The fox on the other hand, putting its small paw (into the markhor's head) quickly took out the brain from the head and

ate it all without leaving anything (inside the head). Having eaten it and wiping the hairs from around its snout as well as its mouth, the fox just waited there.

While the fox was standing nearby, the lion well satisfied with the markhor's blood, it now took the markhor's head from over there toward itself and broke it, beating it with a stone. After breaking it, it saw that there was indeed no **brain** inside (the head).

"Hey, why did you eat the brain?" it asked the fox.

"There was no brain with it" said the fox.

"Hey, you are lying to me again. How come there was no brain? How come it (the markhor) was walking (it was moving about without any brain)? You are driving me crazy" said the lion. It became very angry with it (the fox).

The fox said to it, "You have become crazy and you are driving me crazy! One time grabbing it (the markhor) you had cut its ear. Remember? **If it had any brain would it have come close to you for a second time?** It would have gone away. So it had no brain [lit: there was no brain with it]", said the fox. Then the lion became so embarrassed that it believed the fox's words. So the fox had made the lion believe it.

Now, my tale is finished.