

Why Spiders Hide in Corners As Adapted by Dr. Mike Lockett

There are stories of Anansi the Spider that tell how skillful and clever he was. There are also stories about how lazy and greedy Anansi the Spider could be at times. There are stories about how Anansi got his shape. But this story tells why Anansi hides in corners.

Anansi was a very skillful farmer. He worked alongside his wife and son to clear a patch of land that was bigger than they had ever farmed before.

They planted the field with sweet potatoes, corn and beans. The crop was huge. Anansi was pleased when he saw all the corn and beans and knew the sweet potatoes would be just as nice when they were dug up. Suddenly, Anansi became greedy. He did not want to share such wealth with anyone, including his own wife and son.

He called his wife and son when the crops were ripe and ready to harvest and said, "We have all worked hard to prepare these fields and to grow these crops. Let us now harvest the crops and put them into our barn. When that is done, we all will need some rest. You and our son should go home to our village to rest for a few weeks. I must travel far away from home on business. When I return home, we will all come to the farm and enjoy a great feast."

Anansi's wife and son thought this was a good idea and went straight back to the village. This left Anansi to his mischief. He built himself a comfortable hut in the jungle near the farm and began to feast on the harvest by himself. He slept during the heat of the day and came out at night to gather food and prepare it for himself. He did not want to share with anyone!

為什麼蜘蛛要躲在角落

有些故事在談論蜘蛛阿南西是多麼的聰明有才能；有些故事講到阿南西有的時候是如此的懶惰貪婪；也有些故事說到阿南西外型的由來；但是這個故事是要敘述為什麼阿南西要躲在角落。

阿南西是個技術非常好的農夫。他和他的妻兒一起清理一塊比他們耕種過還要大的土地。

他們在這塊土地上種植了地瓜、玉蜀黍和豆子。這些農作物是如此的巨大。阿南西很高興的看到長成的玉蜀黍和豆子，他知道當他把地瓜挖起來時，地瓜也會長得跟玉蜀黍和豆子一樣漂亮。但是阿南西開始變得很貪心，他不想和任何人分享他的財富，即使是他的妻兒他也不願意。

當這些農作物已經成熟準備收成時，農夫把他的妻兒叫過來對他們說：「我們之前很努力的耕農，現在我們來收割這些農作物並將他們放到穀倉裡。完成後我們就可以好好的休息。你和我們的兒子應該回到在村莊裡的家好好的休息幾個禮拜。我要離家去談生意，當我回來時，我們再一起到田地享受豐盛的大餐。」

阿南西的妻兒都覺得這個主意很不錯，於是他們就直接回到村莊裡的家。阿南西在田地附近的叢林裡蓋了一個舒適的小屋。在那裡他獨自一人享用收成物。他在一天當中最熱的時候睡覺，晚上為自己準備食物。他不想和任何人分享他的食物！

Before very long, Anansi's son began to feel guilty for resting while his father was away working. He traveled back to the farm to weed between the rows and prepare the fields for the next season. As he worked he passed by the barn and noticed that large amounts of the food had disappeared. He thought robbers had stolen the harvest.

Anansi's son returned to the village and told the people what had happened. The villagers made a stick figure and covered it with straw to make it look like a man. Then they covered the straw with sticky, sticky, sticky, icky, icky, icky, yucky, yucky, yucky tar. They carried the tar man out to the field to wait for evening. Some of the men remained with Anansi's son to watch and help him catch the thieves.

Anansi was not aware of what had happened and came out of his hiding place to eat more food. He saw the figure of a man standing in his field and raced right over to him. He said, "This field belongs to my family. Get out of here. When the tar man did not move and did not speak, Anansi hit the figure with his right hand

Anansi's hand was stuck tight to the figure. "How dare you grab my hand? I'll hit you again. Anansi hit the figure with his left hand. It also became stuck in the tar. Anansi kicked it with his foot. The foot became stuck. Then he kicked it with the other foot. Soon Anansi was not even on the ground. He was hanging in the air, stuck to the tar man in the field. And there he stayed until daybreak.

Anansi's son and the villagers came out of hiding and ran to where they had left the figure in the field. They came with sticks and clubs to punish the robber. They were all surprised that the thief was really Anansi. The villagers all laughed. But Anansi's son was ashamed of his greedy father.

不久後，阿南西的兒子因為父親離家工作，而自己在家休息感到過意不去。他回到了田地開始拔草，整理農田準備下個季節的播種。這段時間他經過了穀倉發現大量的食物都不見了。他以為強盜偷了他們的收成物。

阿南西的兒子回到村裡告訴大家發生了什麼事。村裡的人用稻草覆蓋在一個棒子上，讓它看起來像個人。他們再將噁心黏答答的柏油黏在稻草上。大家將沾滿柏油的假人帶到田地，等待夜晚的來臨。一些人和阿南西的兒子留下來幫他抓小偷。

阿南西渾然不知道發生了什麼事，他走出了躲藏的地方準備吃些東西。他看到一個人影站在他的田地上，於是他衝過去說：「這塊田地是我們家的，請你離開。」但是沾滿柏油的假人沒有動也沒出聲，於是阿南西用他的右手打假人。

阿南西的手緊緊的被黏在假人身上。「你竟然敢抓住我的手，你不怕我再打你嗎？」阿南西這次用左手打假人，但是他的左手也被柏油黏住。阿南西開始用一隻腳踢，結果腳也被黏住，於是他用另一隻腳踢，結果他整個身體都被柏油黏在假人身上直到白天。

阿南西的兒子和村民從躲藏的地方出來，拿著棍棒跑到他們放假人的地方來抓賊。大家看到那個賊就是阿南西都很驚訝，不禁大笑一番。但是阿南西的兒子對父親的貪婪感到羞恥。

Anansi was so embarrassed that he had been so selfish and greedy that he turned into a spider and ran away to hide. He went from one spot to another. Whenever anyone saw Anansi, they laughed at him. This happened time after time until Anansi finally went to hide in the dark corners of the ceiling where he was not likely to be seen. That's where he can usually be found to this day.

Note: This story was adapted from Why Spiders Are Always Found in the Corners of Ceilings in **West African Folktales** by William H. Barker, 1917.

阿南西因自己的自私貪婪感到羞恥，於是他變成了一隻蜘蛛躲了起來。他躲來躲去。每個人看到他都取笑他，直到阿南西跑去躲在黑暗天花板角落，讓別人看不到他。一直到現在，你還是可以在這地方看到阿南西。