

## Why Male Mosquitoes Do Not Bite – A Philippine Folktale

As Adapted by Dr. Mike Lockett

A long time ago there lived a very wise and wonderful man. He was so smart and so wise that other humans did not always like to be around him. So he went to live among the animals. They often appreciate wisdom more than people do. The man acted as a judge whenever the animals had an argument or disagreement.

"Judge, Judge," complained the Bird. "What am I to do? Each night the Frog makes so much noise that I cannot sleep. He screams all night long."

"Bring me the Frog," demanded the Judge. "We will find out why he is disturbing you."

Before long, the Frog was standing before the Judge. "Frog," demanded the Judge, "Why do you scream all night long and disturb the Bird's sleep?"

"Your honor," said the Frog respectfully. "I cry out every night to protect myself from the Turtle. The Turtle carries his house on his back. Whenever he comes near me, I am afraid that his house might fall on me and hurt me."

"I see," said the Judge. "I understand why the Frog cries out at night. It is the Turtle's fault that the Frog cries and screams all night and keeps the bird awake. Bring me the Turtle."

It did not take long until the Turtle was brought before the Judge. "Turtle," demanded the Judge, "Why do you make the Frog afraid by carrying your house on your back?"

"Your honor," stated the Turtle. "I have to carry my house with me to protect it from the Firefly. The Firefly is always lighting his fire. I am always afraid that the flames will destroy my house."

## 為什麼公蚊子不會咬人 – 菲律賓民間故事

很久以前，有一位非常有智慧的人。他是如此的聰明有智慧以致於很多人都不喜歡他。所以他和動物們住在一起。這些動物比人類更能欣賞聰明才智。每當動物之間有爭執時，這個人就成了牠們的法官。

「法官啊法官，」鳥兒抱怨著：「我該怎麼辦啊？每天晚上青蛙都製造很多噪音，害我都不能睡覺。牠整晚都在叫。」

「把青蛙帶過來，」法官說：「我們來找出牠為什麼要打擾你。」

不久後青蛙就站在法官面前。「青蛙啊，」法官問：「為什麼你要叫整晚打擾到鳥兒的睡眠呢？」

「法官大人啊，」青蛙恭敬地說：「我整晚哭叫是為了要防烏龜。烏龜將牠的家背在身上，牠每次靠近我時，我就很害怕牠的家會掉到我的身上傷到我。」

「我了解，」法官說：「我知道為什麼青蛙會叫整晚。青蛙一直哭叫讓鳥兒整晚無法睡覺都是烏龜的錯。把烏龜帶過來。」

不一會兒烏龜就被帶到法官面前。「烏龜啊，」法官問：「你為何把房子背在身上而嚇到青蛙呢？」

「法官大人啊！」烏龜開始說明：「我把房子背在我身上是為了要防螢火蟲。螢火蟲總是點著火，我很怕火焰會把我的房子燒掉。」

"I see," said the Judge. "I understand why the Turtle is afraid of the Firefly and must carry his house around on his back. It is the Firefly who scares the Turtle who has to carry his house on his back, which scares the Frog, who cries and screams at night and keeps the Bird awake. Bring me the Firefly!"

Very shortly the Firefly was brought before the Judge. "Firefly," demanded the Judge, "Why do you frighten the Turtle by playing with your fire?"

"Your honor," the Firefly answered politely. "I only light my fire to keep the Male Mosquito from biting me and poking his dagger-like mouth into my tender body. He keeps threatening me."

"I understand why the Firefly carries his fire," said the Judge. "It is the Male Mosquito that threatens to bite the Firefly and poke his dagger-like mouth into the Firefly's tender body that causes him to light his fire, which scares the Turtle who carries his house and frightens the Frog causing him to cry and scream at night and keep the Bird awake. Bring me the Male Mosquito." So the Male Mosquito was ordered to appear before the judge in court.

"Mosquito," demanded the Judge, "Why do you threaten to bite the Firefly and poke your dagger-like mouth into his frail tender body?"

But the Male Mosquito had no answer. He only said, "Buzz!" So the Judge grabbed the Male Mosquito and put him in a jar for three whole days. During those three days, the Male Mosquito lost his voice. Never again could any Male Mosquito sing and buzz as their sisters do. And never again did the Male Mosquito bite anyone or any animal.

Look out, though, because Female Mosquitoes still can bite!

「我了解，」法官說；「我終於知道烏龜為什麼把牠的房子揹在身上，那是因為螢火蟲嚇到烏龜，所以導致青蛙一直哭叫讓鳥兒整晚無法睡覺。將螢火蟲帶過來。」

螢火蟲很快的就被帶到法官面前。「螢火蟲啊，」法官問：「你為什麼要玩火而嚇到烏龜呢？」

「法官大人啊，」螢火蟲很有禮貌的回答：「我點火只是為了防止公蚊子咬我並用牠如劍般的嘴巴叮我的身體。牠一直威脅我。」

「我知道為什麼螢火蟲要點火，」法官說：「那是因為公蚊子威脅要咬螢火蟲並用牠如劍般的嘴巴叮螢火蟲的身體，導致螢火蟲要點火，也因為如此，烏龜被嚇的揹著牠的房子到處走，造成青蛙哭叫整晚讓鳥兒無法安眠。將公蚊子帶過來。」所以公蚊子被命令出庭到法官的面前。

「蚊子啊，」法官問：「你為什麼要威脅要咬螢火蟲並用你如劍般的嘴巴叮牠的身體？」

但是公蚊子沒有回答。牠只是嗡嗡的作響。於是法官抓住蚊子將牠放進罐子裡整整三天。在這三天裡，公蚊子失去了牠的聲音。公蚊子從此之後再也無法像牠的姊妹一樣唱歌或嗡嗡作響。也無法叮咬任何人或動物了。

小心，母蚊子還是會咬人喔！

*Note: Adapted From "The Animals Go on Trial" in Once in the First Times, 1949, stories retold by Elizabeth Hough Sechrist and attributed to Filopino Popular Tales, by Dean S. Fransler, 1921.*