

Python on the Road



Anansi owed
Python a debt.
Now Python sat
on the road at
his door, set to
eat him up.





'Anansi owes me a meal,' said Python.
'And that meal is Anansi.' His throat was wide and dark. Anansi had to think fast.

'Wait!' said Anansi. 'Python is king of the wood. A king should not eat like the small snakes that roam.' Python held still.



'I go to get red
rope for Nyame,'
Anansi said with
a boast. 'It can
hold each knot a
king could tie.' He
held up the red
rope.





Python was proud
and quick to gloat.
But no one had
named him the king
who ties the knot.
'Tell me of this
knot,' said Python.

'The knot has loops,' said Anansi. 'A long snake can do all six. Small snakes moan and give up.' 'Show me!' said Python.



Python made a loop.
'Loop one! Loop two!
Loop three!' said
Anansi. Python was
full of **boast** with
each loop. He did not
see his tail loop
round his own long
self.





'Now the last loop,'
said Anansi. Python
bent his long neck
and made it. 'A king
ties the knot!' Python
said. Then he tried
to slide down the
road. He could not
move.

Python shoved and pulled with a groan, but
the red rope held tight. 'Anansi! Set me free!'
Python roared. But Anansi ran down the path.
'A king alone can free the knot!' he cried back.



Python took a deep
breath and let out
a roar. 'Anansi
cheated a debt!' It
rolled through the
wood. 'Tell Nyame
the Sky-God!
Anansi is a cheat!'





Anansi stopped on the road.
If Nyame heard he truly
cheated, he could lose his
tales for good. So Anansi
went back. He untied the
loops.

'I did not cheat,' he said.
'Python tied a knot no beast
has tied. That tale clears the
debt.' Python thought a long
time. 'Yes,' he said at last.

Python let Anansi go free. The debt was paid, not with a meal, but with a grand tale. It spread through all the wood. Anansi still boasts he beat Python. Python says he was not fooled. The best knot of all was the one Anansi tied with words. And the red rope? Anansi kept it. Anansi can use good rope.





Python on the Road

Anansi owes fierce Python a debt, and now Python is coiled on the road, ready to eat him up. But how can one small spider outwit a snake long enough to swallow him whole? When Python starts to boast about being king of the wood, Anansi spins a clever plan involving a red rope and the perfect royal knot. Will the trick hold, or will Python break free with a mighty roar? This Bookbot story practices the 'oa' sound with words like 'road', 'boast', 'roam', 'gloat', and 'groan'.

Reading Skills: <oa>

boast, gloat, groan, moan, road, roam, roar, throat

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