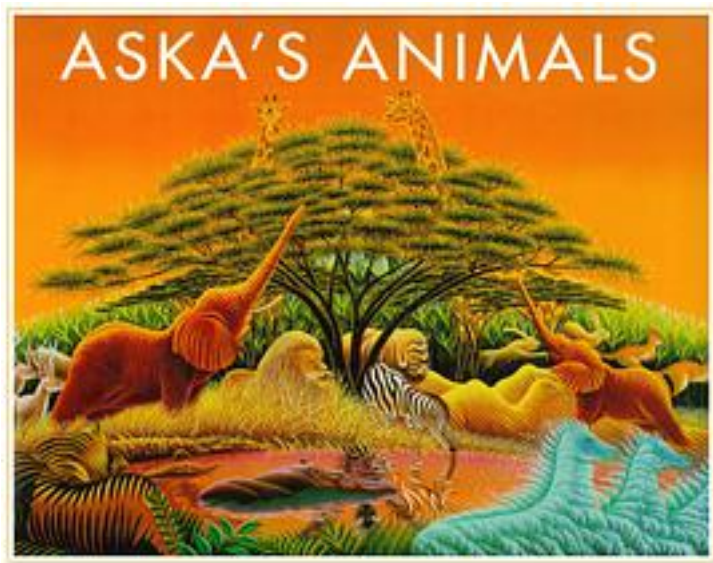


Aska's Animals



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著者:Warabe Aska

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Aska's Animals by Warabe Aska, with poetry by David Day

'David Day's poetry underscores the mythical quality of the paintings: Where did the animals come from? Why were they created as they are?'

'Where did the animals come from?

What god or spirit shaped them?

It's a guessing game for you and me,

Imagining how the beasts began.'

01- 'The first horses were made of sea foam.

They rode their waves to the beaches

Then broke loose and dashed for shore.

Wild horses, raging with pride -

Look how much of the untamed sea

Is within them still.'

02- 'Branching antlers are a clue

To the mysteries of the deer.

Gentle, fleet-footed, leaping with delight,

They were once tree spirits

That were restless for flight.'

03- "'In dreamtime," the kangaroo explained,

"We were made of gum tree sap and red clay.

Then, we were hidden away in caverns far below."

"So, we leapt and thumped and shook the earth

Until the rock ceiling cracked.

And out we sprang, like a river in full flow."

04- 'Racing over grass like frantic ghosts,

Hares go mad in the moonlight.

For the moon was once the skylight door

Through which the first hares toppled.

Each night they chase it, hoping to return home.'

05- 'Sand-coloured and humped like the dunes,

Camels rest beneath a pale moon.

The first camels were shaped by a lonely song

Of the wind whispering over shifting sands.'

06- 'Hunters of the hot grasslands

The golden lions make their stand -

Shaggy-maned and fierce as that first pride

Forged long ago in the glowing furnace of the sun.'

07- 'There can be no doubt about hippopotamuses,

Those happy, lazy, yawning monsters.

Shaped out of great lumps of muck by childish gods,

Then left to bake in the sun,

Hippos are monuments to the glories of mud.'

08- 'The sun looked down on paradise.

One glance turned the forest pool to liquid gold.

Then, a gentle breeze stirred the pool to life,

And the first tigers rippled into the world.'

09- 'Elephants in joyful celebration

Trumpet loudly in praise of light.

Watch in wonder as the gates of heaven open.

At the moment of creation, could they have been

Anything less than trumpeting angels

With wide wings instead of those huge ears?'

10- 'The trouble with contemplating giraffes

Is that watching them can wear you down.

Who made them so high?

The truth is, giraffes were invented by forest pygmies

To stop the tall trees stealing all their sunlight.'

11- 'The story of the musk ox is simply absurd:

One day, a herd of haystacks suddenly sprouted legs,

Then, standing up, marched north in search of snow.'

12- 'After the age of volcanoes, the lava flows
Cooled their stony fingers in the sea.
Time and lapping water shaped these rocks.
While the god of crocodiles watched, and gave them life.
One look at the crocodile's smile tells
What all his victims know:
The crocodile's heart is still made of stone.'

13- 'When zebras come to drink at dusk,
Watch the rippling dance of shadow and light.
It's easy enough to understand
How this water music came galloping to life.'

14- 'The first polar bears were as light as snowflakes.
In bright flurries, they fell glittering from the sky
Onto mountain tops, where they gathered and grew.
Then, huge and unstoppable as an avalanche,
They roared down the mountains, and toppled into the sea.'

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