

Why Hyenas Are Always Laughing

By Sean Gregersen

A long, long time ago, there were a pack of very serious hyenas. Everywhere they went, they would never smile or laugh. Whenever another animal tried to be silly around them, they would just growl.

One time a cheetah ran circles around them very fast trying to make a small dust devil. The cheetah started to laugh at the dusty hyenas until one of the hyenas bit cheetah's tail. The cheetah yelled, "Ouch, you grumpy bumpies, I was just playing around." Cheetah went sprinting away.

Another time, a small group of hippos snuck out of the water during the night. They quietly went up to the pack of sleeping hyenas and the hippos shook their bodies. Water sprayed all over the pack of hyenas. Since the hippos were so big, the hyenas could only just yell at the hippos. The hyenas chanted, "big fat mucky yuckies, go back to your waterhole." The hippos had their laugh and finally got bored of the hyenas. The hippos went back into the river.

One day the pack of hyenas was very, very hungry. Down by one of the main waterholes, the hyenas heard a whole bunch of laughing and singing. With gurgling stomachs, the grumpy hyenas went to check it out and stop all the fun. There

above the water hole was a large group of baboons playing in the giant trees.

The baboons started singing silly songs about hyenas. They sang, “hyenas so serious, makes me so delirious, always so grouchy, makes my brain say ouchy, why don’t you smile and run away from here for miles.” This made the hyenas very angry.

The baboons began hanging down from the tall tree limbs sticking out their tongue and singing their song over and over. One baboon climbed down another baboon that was hanging from a branch and together like a chain started singing the song while swinging back and forth. The other baboons thought it looked fun, and soon several chains of 3 or 4 baboons were hanging from tall branches in the tree. They were swinging back and forth while taunting the hyenas.

All of a sudden a large gust of wind blew across the savannah and blew the chains of baboons off the branches and into the thick sticky mud at the edge of the water hole. The baboons were stuck! The hungry hyenas quickly rushed in and ate the baboons.

Just after one of the hyenas had got full, the hyena started laughing hysterically. Soon another joined the laughter. Not long after that, the whole pack of hyenas started laughing hysterically at how stupid the baboons had been. The hyenas

kept laughing and laughing and couldn't stop. So now whenever the hyena gets hungry, which is often, or they think of baboons they start laughing hysterically and are no longer so serious.