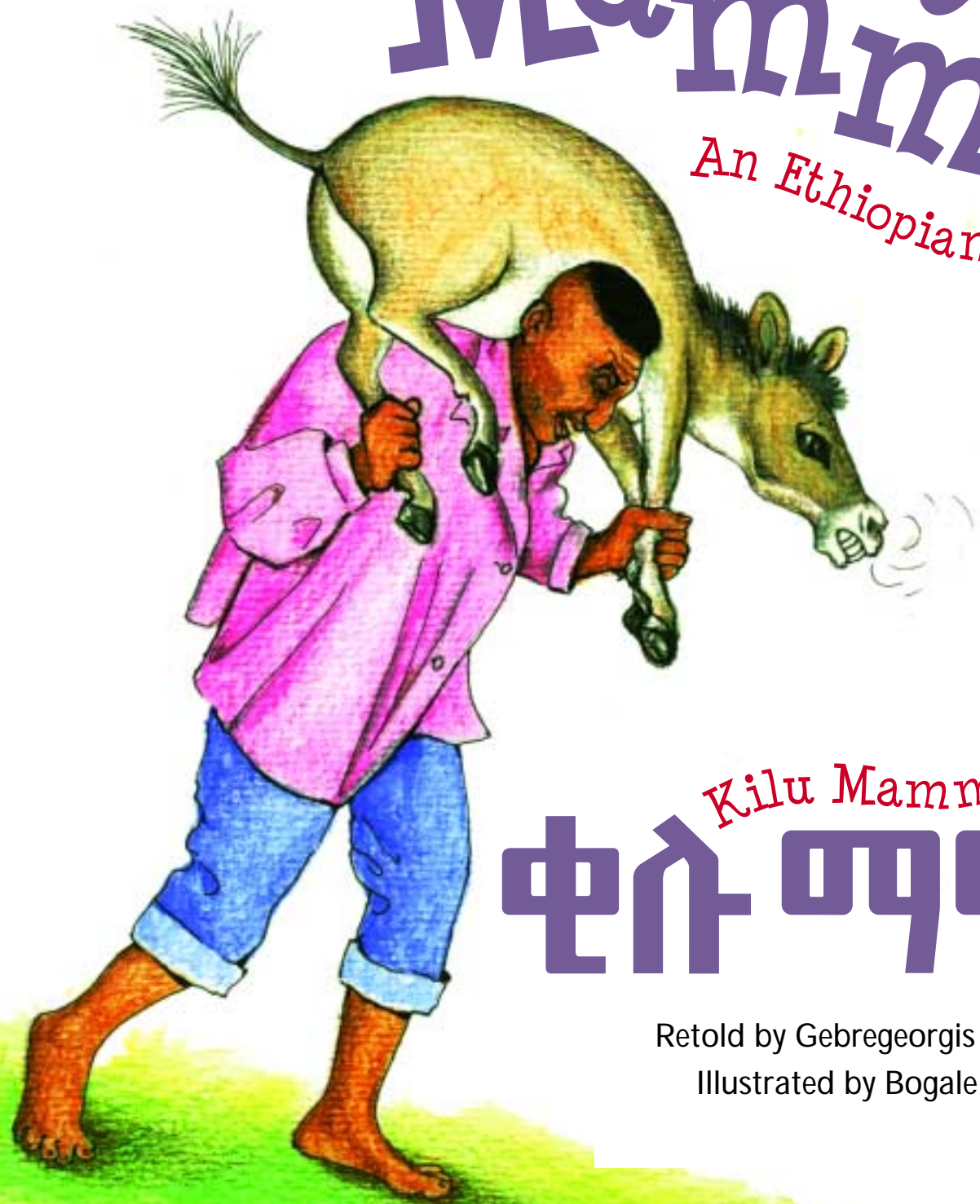


# Silly Mamma

An Ethiopian Tale



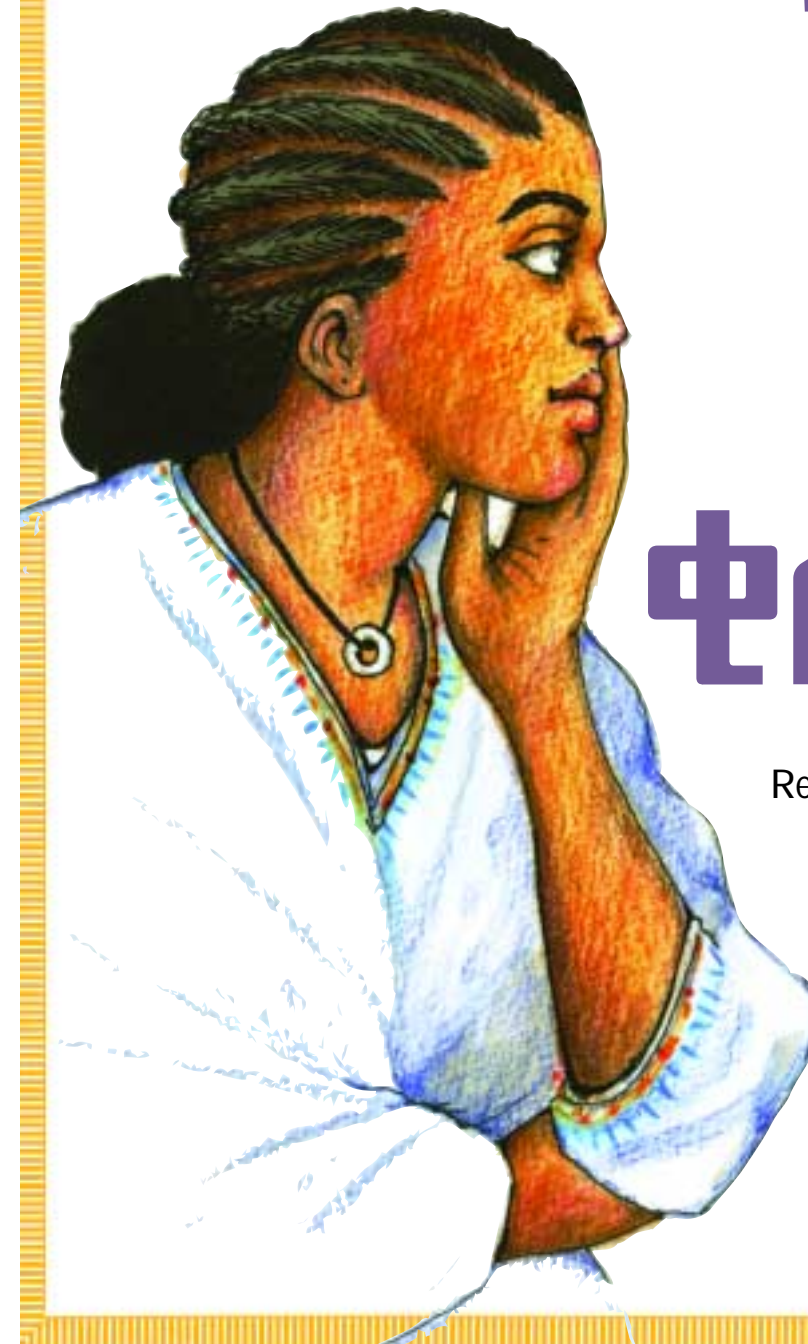
Kilu Mamma  
ቂሉ ማሞ

Retold by Gebregeorgis Yohannes

Illustrated by Bogale Belachew

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AFRICAN SUN PUBLISHING

for Ethiopian Books for Children  
& Educational Foundation

To my children Kaleb & Alula and all the children of Ethiopia –GY

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### Before you begin:

In Ethiopian storytelling tradition, it's customary for children to sit wide-eyed, in front of the storyteller.

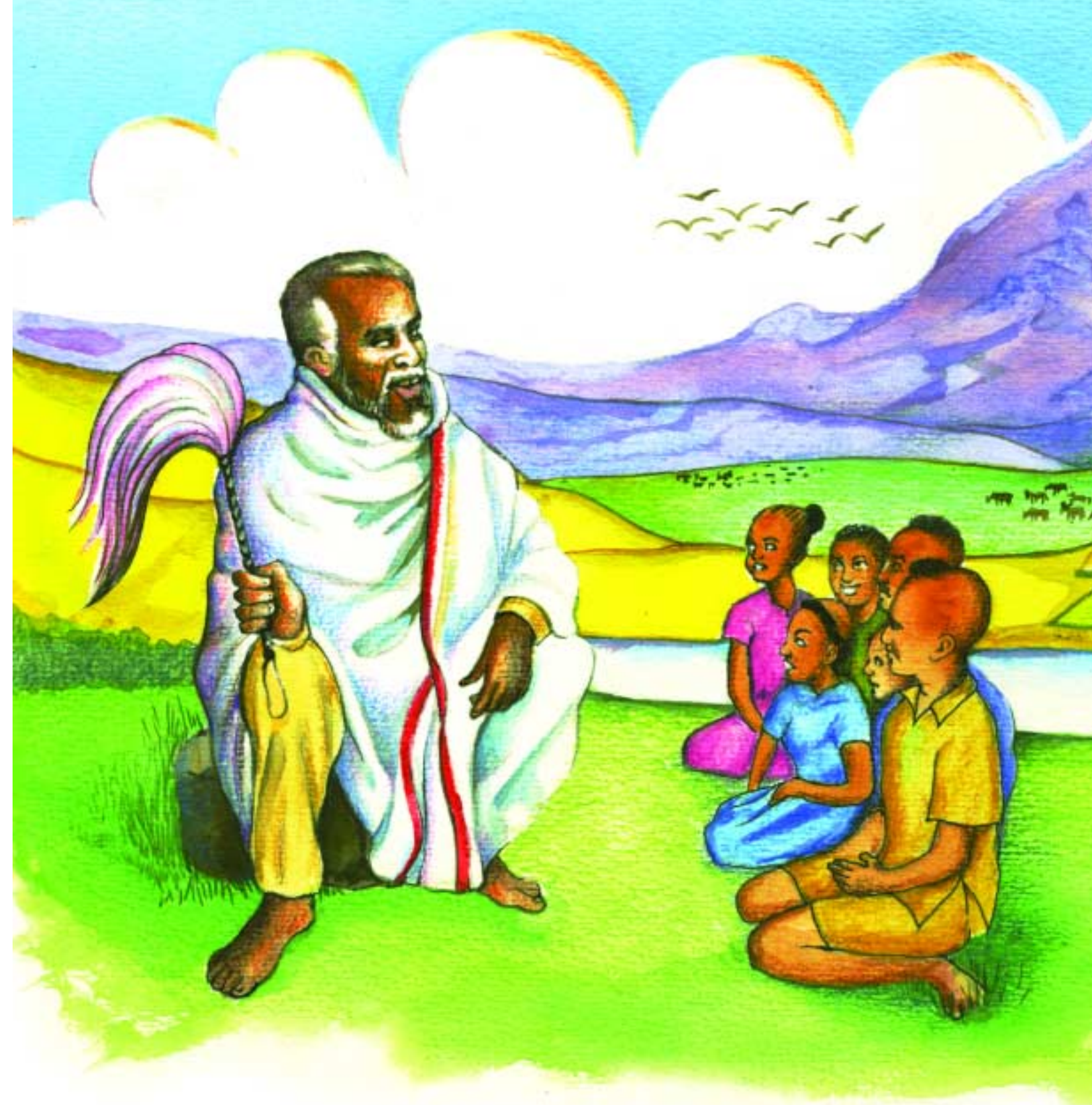
The storyteller starts by saying, "Teret! Teret!" (which means: "A story! A story!")

The children reply, "Ye lam beret!" (This literally means: "a cow's pen," but when used in this way means that they want told to them as many stories as could fill a cow's pen.)

Or sometimes children reply, "Yemeseret" (This literally means: "of the foundation;" meaning stories that are deep in the culture or tradition.)

Only then does the storyteller start telling, and telling and telling, late into the starry night until the children are sleepy.

*Glossary in back of book.*



*"Teret! teret!"  
"Ye lam beret!"*

ተረት! ተረት!  
የላም በረት!



A long time ago, in Ethiopia, there lived a boy called Mammo. Mammo and his mother *Weizero* Terunesh lived in a small *tukul* on the outskirts of a town.

በድሮ ጊዜ በኢትዮጵያ ሀገር የሚኖር ማሞ የሚባል ወጣት ነበር። ማሞና እናቱ ወይዘሮ ጥሩነሽ የሚኖሩት ከአንድ ከተማ ትንሽ ወጣ ብሎ በአንድ ደላሳ ጎጆ ነበር።

Weizero Terunesh made a living doing odd jobs, baking *injera* for other people, collecting and selling firewood.

Mammo, however, did not work because his mother was afraid he could not hold down a job.

ወይዘሮ ጥሩነሽ የሚተዳደሩት በሰው ቤት እንጀራ በመጋገር፣ እንጨት እየለቀሙ በመሸጥና ሌላም ያገኙትን ሥራ ሁሉ በመሥራት ነበር።

ማሞ ግን ምንም ሥራ አይሠራም፣ እናቱ ሥራ መቆየት አይችልም ብለው ይፈሩ ነበር።



At the same time Mammo had a very big appetite. He ate three pieces of *injera* mixed with sauce for breakfast and six *injeras* with meat sauce and yogurt for lunch and dinner. Mammo was very strong and handsome. His mother was always happy seeing Mammo eat. But sometimes she worried about what would happen to her son, because Mammo was very foolish.

ከዝያም በላይ ማሞ የምግብ ፍላጎቱ በጣም ብዙ ነበር። ለቀርስ የሶስት እንጀራ ፍትፍት፣ ለምሳኛ ለራት ደግሞ ስድስት ስድስት እንጀራ በሥጋ ወጥ፣ ከቅልጥም፣ ከአይብና እርጎ ጋር ነበር የሚበላው። ማሞ በጣም ጠንካራና ቁመናው ያማረ ጉብል ነበር። እናቱ ትልቁ ደስታቸው ማሞ ሲበላ ማየት ነበር። በልቶ የሚጠግብ አይመስላቸውም። ግን በብርቱ የሚያሳስባቸው ጉዳይ ቢኖር የማሞ ቁልነት ነበር።

