



PETIT POUCE AND HIS DOGS

A Louisiana Folktale

Adapted and Retold by Dianne de Las Casas

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Once there was a little boy named Petit Pouce. He had three dogs named Miblé, Toumadaie, and N'Daye.

One day, Petit Pouce said to his mama, "Mama, I'm going hunting in the woods. I am leaving my three dogs tied up. If I don't come back soon, let my dogs go and they will find me.

Petit Pouce's mama said, "Yes, son." Then she laid down for a nap. She slept so soundly that she forgot all about poor Petit Pouce. When she awoke, it was late and he was not home. So she untied the dogs and set them free.

Meanwhile, Petit Pouce saw a turtle and a snake helping a BIG SCARY man chop down a tree.

Chop, Chop, Chop
Chop, Chop, Chop

The BIG SCARY man saw Petit Pouce and said, "Come here, boy. I could use a boy like you to do all my work!"

But Petit Pouce ran and jumped in a tree. He used his slingshot and hit the BIG SCARY man in the middle of his BIG SCARY head. This made the BIG SCARY man MAD! So he began chopping down the tree with help of his turtle and his snake.

A zouinga, a zouinga, tou la la.
A zouinga, a zouinga, tou la la.
Chop, Chop, Chop
Chop, Chop, Chop

Petit Pouce remembered his dogs. So he called them for help.

Miblé, Toumadaie, and N'Daye!
Your master needs you right away!

Petit Pouce heard his dogs barking in the distance. The BIG SCARY man chopped faster and faster until the tree began to fall. So Petit Pouce jumped down and climbed into another tree. The BIG

Petit Pouce and His Dogs, a Louisiana Folktale
Retold by Dianne de Las Casas
Page 2

SCARY man followed Petit Pouce. He began chopping down the second tree with help of his turtle and his snake.

A zouinga, a zouinga, tou la la.
A zouinga, a zouinga, tou la la.
Chop, Chop, Chop
Chop, Chop, Chop

Petit Pouce again called his dogs for help.

Miblé, Toumadaie, and N' Daye!
Your master needs you right away!

Petit Pouce heard his dogs barking a little closer. The BIG SCARY man chopped even faster and faster until the tree began to fall. So Petit Pouce jumped down and climbed into a third tree. The BIG SCARY man followed Petit Pouce. He began chopping down the third tree with help of his turtle and his snake.

A zouinga, a zouinga, tou la la.
A zouinga, a zouinga, tou la la.
Chop, Chop, Chop
Chop, Chop, Chop

Petit Pouce again called his dogs for help.

Miblé, Toumadaie, and N' Daye!
Your master needs you right away!

This time, Petit Pouce heard his dogs behind the tree. The dogs jumped on the BIG SCARY man and he began to fall. He fell so hard that he turned into a BIG NOT-SO-SCARY rock. The turtle and the snake ran away, never to be seen again.

Petit Pouce and his three dogs went home. From that time forward, Petit Pouce never traveled anywhere without his dogs.

Miblé, Toumadaie, and N' Daye!
[Bark like big dogs. Arf. Arf. Arf.]