

# WHY THE SUN AND THE MOON LIVE IN THE SKY

An African tale

Adapted by Carole L. Cooney

**Setting:** The Earth and the Sky

**Characters:**

**Narrator**

*Zuvan* – the Sun

*Buziba* – the Water

*Cherika* – the Moon

(The italicized words are the African names for the sun, water and moon.)

**Narrator:** Once upon a time the sun and the water were great friends. They lived side by side in peace on the earth. The sun always visited the water. Then one day the sun was puzzled.

**Zuvan:** Why hasn't Buziba come to visit me in my home? This is very strange. I must talk with him about this.

**Narrator:** And so, the sun travelled to the water's home with a big question.

**Zuvan:** Buziba, why don't you ever visit me at my home?

**Buziba:** Well, Zuvan, your home is not big enough for me and all of my water creatures. We are so huge that we would drive you out of your house.

**Zuvan:** I still would like to have you visit me and my wife, Cherika. What can I do to make this happen?

**Buziba:** If I am to visit you and Cherika, you will have to find a huge space and build gigantic walls around it and a sturdy roof to cover it. I must warn you that it must be a tremendous size as my sea creatures are many and they take up a lot of room. Can you do this?

**Zuvan:** Yes! Buziba. I shall start immediately!

**Narrator:** Zuvan told his wife, Cherika, of his plan and she was very happy. And so, the sun kept his promise and built a huge building with gigantic walls and a sturdy roof. When it was completed, he and his wife asked the water to come and visit him the very next day.

**Zuvan:** The building is complete, Buziba! It is time for you to visit!

**Buziba:** (shouting) Zuvan! Cherika! Is it safe for me to enter your building?

**Zuvan:** Yes, my friend.

**Cherika:** Please come in!

**Narrator:** Zuvan and Cherika stood to the side as the water and sea creatures began to flow into the building. When the water was knee-deep, Buziba called out loudly.

**Buziba:** (shouting) Zuvan, is it still safe for me to continue flowing into your building?

**Zuvan:** Absolutely!

**Cherika:** Please bring in all of your lovely sea creatures!

**Narrator:** When the water reached half-way up the walls, Buziba called out again.

**Buziba:** Are you sure it is safe for my sea creatures and me to continue flowing in?

**Cherika:** Zuvan is a marvelous builder, Buziba. I'm certain the walls will hold you safely.

**Narrator:** And so, the water rose and rose higher and higher and higher, until it exploded the roof, pushing the sun and the moon far up into the sky.

**Zuvan:** Buziba, I have failed you, but you have done a wondrous thing. Cherika and I have a new home in the sky and we love it here. Thank you, Buziba!

**Narrator:** And so, the water remained on the earth. The sun and the moon happily floated in the sky... forever.