

**COWABUNGA FLY-CAMP**  
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**SAFARI POETRY:**

Safari Truths  
What I Have Learned from the Warthog  
Africa is -  
Cycle of the Bush  
Lessons from Safari  
A Prayer of the African Bush

**SAFARI TRUTHS**

by Gary K. Clarke

Any place that has no keys is a good place.  
Any place you can reach only by a dirt air strip is a good place.  
Those who travel light shall be rewarded.  
Things are seldom lost on safari, just temporarily misplaced.  
As soon as three people are served a meal, they may proceed to eat.  
No journal this day, no sleep this night.  
Any place where you can see giraffes while brushing your teeth is a good place.  
You can never have enough pictures of zebras.  
Any place you can hear hippos and hyenas from your tent at night is a good place.  
Everything is forgiven on safari.  
You're not on vacation, you're on safari.  
Safarist, know thyself.  
Safari is a State of Mind.  
Life is one big Game Drive.

**WHAT I HAVE LEARNED FROM THE WARTHOG**

by Ruth Biggs,  
while on safari in Tanzania, February 1999

Be yourself, no matter how strange or unlovely you may appear to others.  
Be about your business with fortitude and gratitude.  
Fall on your knees from time to time in the presence of God's abundance.  
Walk with dignity, holding your flag as high as a signal for those who follow you  
through the tall grass.  
Guard your family well.  
Be proud of who and what you are.  
Regard the earth as your friend.

## **AFRICA IS --**

by Gary K. Clarke

If you think Africa is -  
Wild animals. Beautiful people. Great Valleys. Huge Mountains. LBJs in your bird  
book. Open savannahs. Dense forests. Flat tires. Spectacular lakes. Dramatic  
deserts. Craters and volcanoes. Warm beer. Cold Beer. Fantastic flowers.  
Baobab and acacia trees. Chocolate mousse. Picturesque markets. Meandering  
rivers. Cold showers. Hot showers. Primitive villages. Modern cities. Potholes.  
Torrential downpours. Double rainbows. Tented camps. Hot water bottles in the  
beds. Luxury lodges. A million laughs.

You're right! COWABUNGA!

## **CYCLE OF THE BUSH**

by Gary K. Clarke

It was the time of Africa.  
It was time of darkness, when silence speaks, when in the quiet of the night you can  
hear your blood coursing through your veins.  
It was the time of first light, with the howl of hyena and trees in silhouette.  
It was the time of life, with hippos in the river and spoor on the trail.  
It was the time of wind and sunlight and dust.  
It was the time of thirst, with elephant drinking and bathing at the waterhole.  
It was the time of grandeur and immensity, in the sky and on the plains.  
It was the time of long shadow on the kopjes and the mountains.  
It was the time of night sounds.  
It was the time that always was.  
It was Africa.

## **LESSONS FROM SAFARI**

by Gary K. Clarke,

(written with *The One Minute Manager* Ken Blanchard, Carlos Arbelaez and friends while on safari in northern Tanzania)

- To be more conscious of consumptive use and waste of precious resources, especially water.
- To be more accepting of climatic conditions: sun, wind, clouds, rain, even mud.
- To eat more fruits and vegetables, and a healthier diet in general.
- To live life more in the cycles of nature with less t.v. and artificial interruptions.
- To have more campfires and family and social activities.
- To be more aware of nature; to participate and appreciate; to take up birdwatching back home.
- To never again take paved roads for granted.
- To convince your spouse to serve hot tea or coffee in bed each morning.

## **A PRAYER OF THE AFRICAN BUSH**

by Gary K. Clarke, whilst on safari

I have eyes

to see the glorious sunset... and enchanting moonrise.

I have ears

to hear the beautiful birdsong.

I have a nose

to smell the pure air... and the smoke of the campfire.

I have a tongue

to taste the precious water.

I have skin

to feel the warm sun... and the cool breeze.

I have hands

to touch the magnificent acacia and baobab trees.

I have feet

to walk upon the beloved earth.

I have life

to be one with nature: zebra and impala, elephant and hyena.

I have friends with whom to share these wonders.

Truly I am blessed.