

# An Unusual Pachyderm

By Reverend Mel

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When I was a young boy I lived in a small town, where most people worked on farms for a living. Every day I walked to school, I would pass cows, sheep, and fields of corn. My walk would also take me past Dr. Wadada's house. A large white home with multi colored windows, made from old glass bottles.

Most people in our town thought the doctor was strange. They felt because he was different that he may be dangerous. Most parents would not let their children talk to the doctor. My parents however, felt that Dr. Wadada was unusual but harmless.

My adventures in the wonderfully wild world of Dr. Wadada.

On Fridays after school I was allowed to go and help the doctor on his new, and wonderful inventions. You see, Dr. Wadada was a Recycle Inventor. He would gather all sorts of things from the local junkyard that people thought were trash and use it to make something new.

In his barn he had all sorts of things like typewriters, car doors, and old fans. One of the things he made was a washing machine, using an old trash can, butter churn, and sump pump. He soon had clean clothes. He also had a basketball he made out of old shoe leather.

But it was the doctor's elephant that I liked the most. Although it was not a real elephant, it was still a site to see. He had used an old hot water heater for the body. Then covered it with rubber from old tires, for that tough rubbery skin feel. The trunk was an old hose from a vacuum cleaner, the tusks were two legs from a broken table and for the tail he used an electric cord from a table lamp. Instead of legs he put shiny chrome wheels on his pachyderm. Dr. Wadada had even used an old bilge pump from a boat so that his elephant could suck up water and spit it back out, just like the real thing.

My Friday afternoons as always, were filled with wonder, at lunch I would try to imagine what new and incredible things the doctor could be working on. Was it a toaster, made from a lamp that someone threw away and an old biscuit tin? Or may be he was making a wagon out of a refrigerator and the wheels from a car. Whatever it was I knew that on Friday the doctor would be sure to show me.

One day while I was helping Dr. Wadada I asked him why the other people in town did not like him. He told me that most people in town did not understand why he made such strange things. He also said that he did not worry about what other people thought because he still had me for a friend. That made me feel better but, I still wanted everyone to accept the doctor.

The town's opinion of the doctor changed the day he saved the library. It all happened on a cool fall day as I walked home from school. I was looking at the blue sky with its feathery white clouds and the golden sun slipping in out of the branches of the trees, when I saw smoke coming from our town library. I ran over to see what was happening. Already a lot of the townsfolk were there. I looked around but I did not see the fire truck, so I asked some of the people standing on the sidewalk with me why the fire department had not shown yet. Mrs. Gellato who owned the ice cream store across the street told me that the fire truck was broken.

Upon hearing of the fireman's dilemma I ran to Dr. Wadadas house to see if he could help. When I told him about the fire, the doctor quickly grabbed his elephant and the two of us started pushing it towards town. When we arrived Dr. Wadada put the elephant's trunk in the town fountain, and plug its tail into an outlet in the ice cream store. He then switched his unusual looking pachyderm on, as the towns' people watched in amazement this wild looking creation of the doctors started sucking the water out of the fountain. When his elephant was completely full of water Dr. Wadada switched the pump into reverse and the water started gushing out of the elephant's trunk. He quickly swung the trunk around aiming the water at the red hot flames, within a few minutes the fire was out.

The people who were there to witness the doctors heroic deed still talk about it today.