The father of all rhino was once walking through the forest when he met an elephant and they had a fight. The rhino got the worst of it, and ran away with flaps of bleeding skin, all hanging down. After a while he met a porcupine and said to him: 'Lend me one of your needles so that I can sew up my skin.'

'All right,' answered the porcupine, 'but you must be sure to give the needle back to me tomorrow.'

Rhino do not have thumbs, [at this point Meru wiggled his right thumb about] so his stitching job was not very neat and he had some places where there was too much skin, so he just put it together as best as he could, ending up with ridges. By the time he had finished he had forgotten all about returning the needle. Then one day he met the porcupine again.

'Where's my needle?' asked the porcupine.

The rhino couldn't remember, and thought he must have sewn it up inside himself. Ever since then he has been looking for it to return it to its owner and kicks his dung in case it has come out. ✺