



Level 3

The King of Mkolokolo

Author: Ntombikayise Malaza

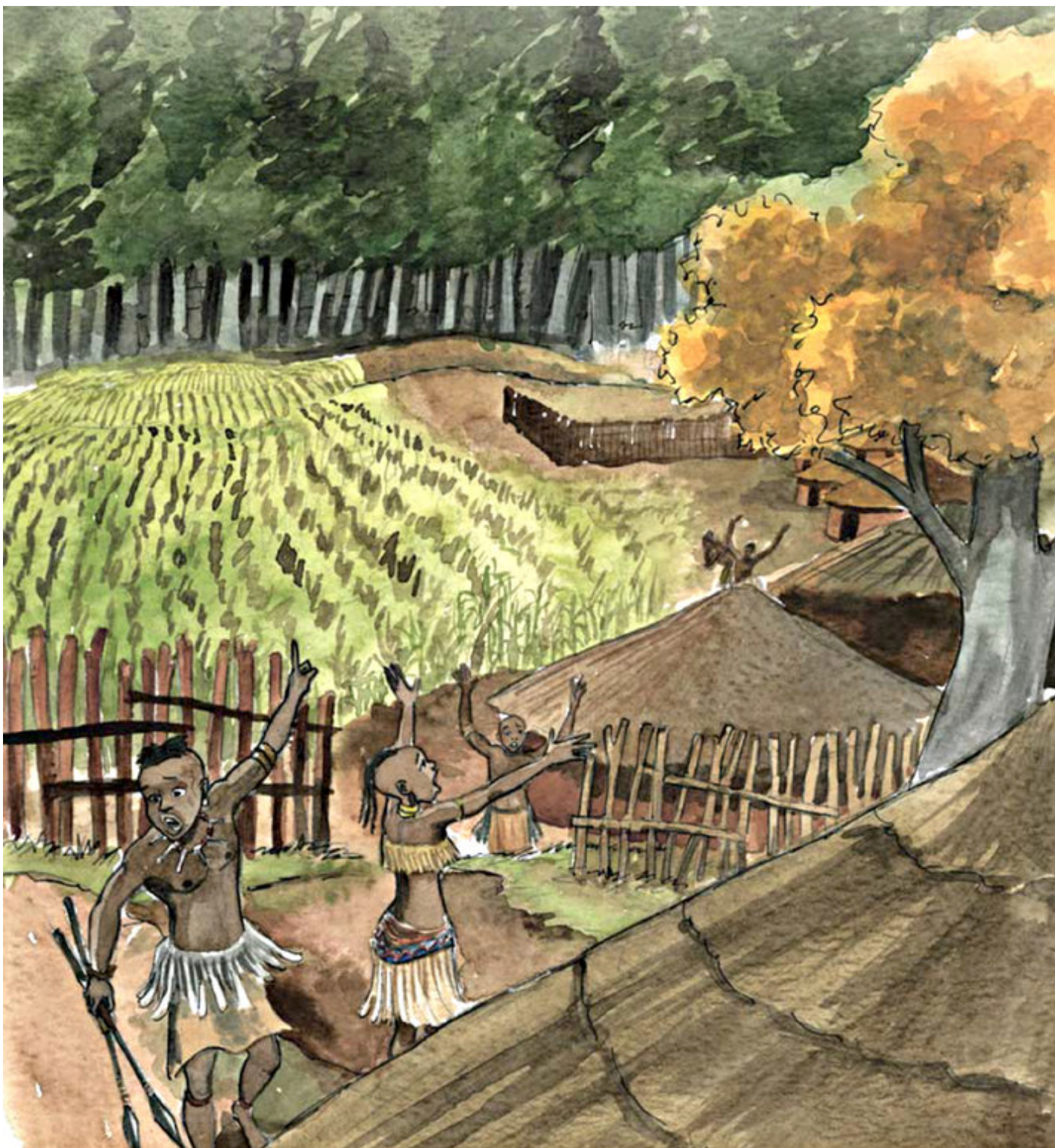
Illustrator: Vusi Malindi

Translator: Alisha Berger



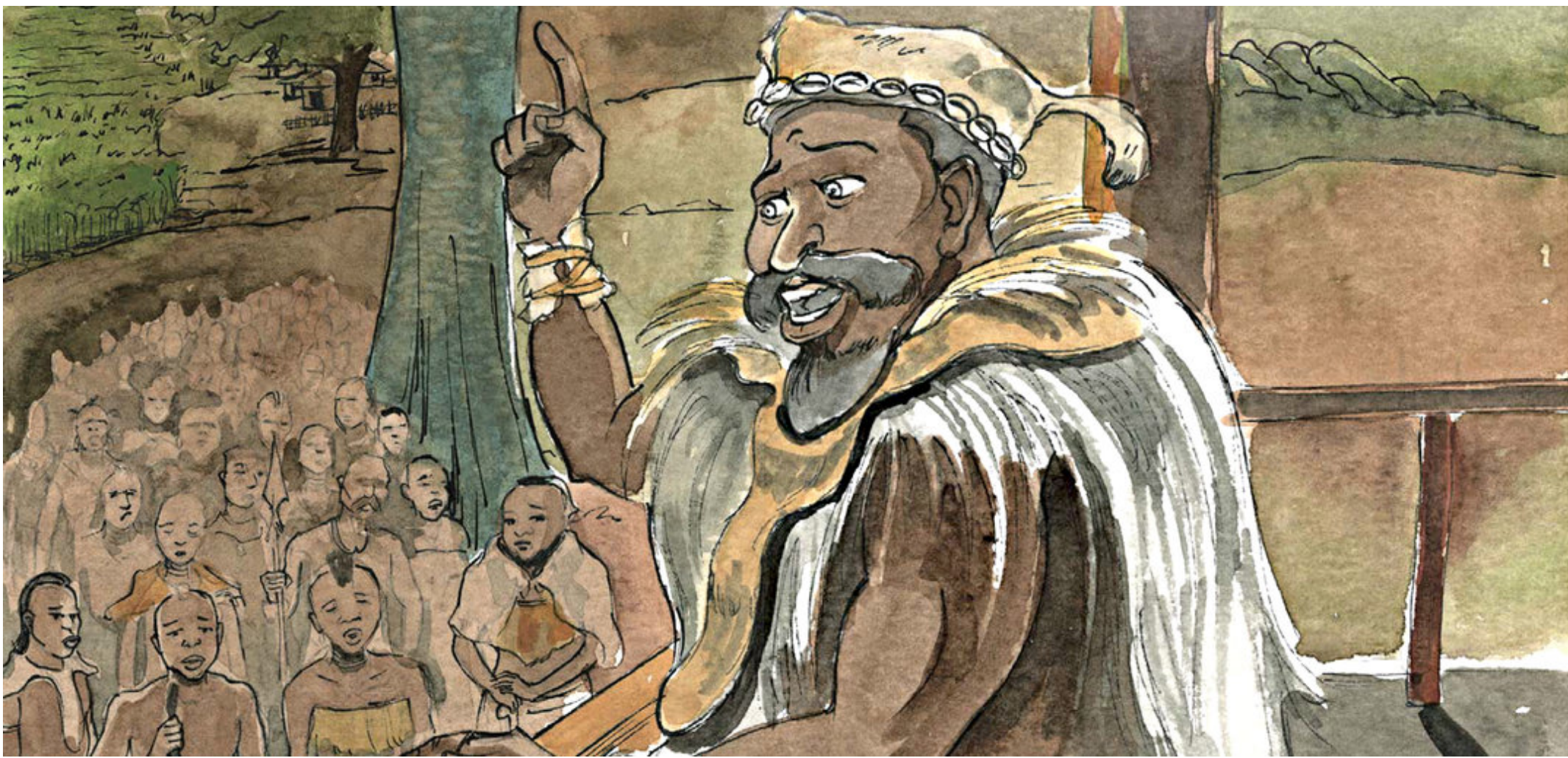
The King of Mkolokolo was a rich man. He had everything that his heart desired, but he was not happy.

He was worried about his people.



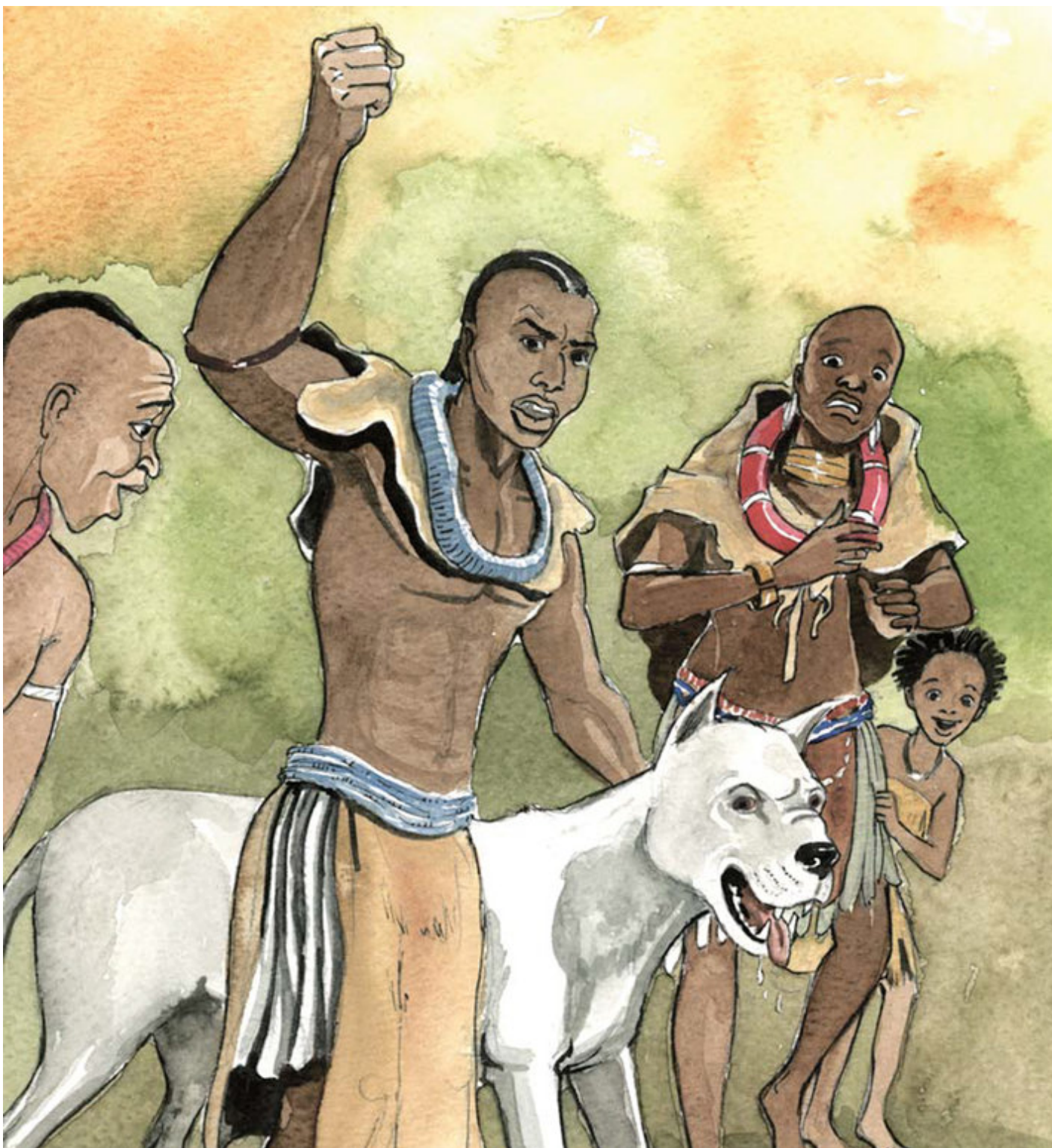
The people of his village,
who worked in the fields,
had started disappearing.

The king was afraid that the
snake of Mkolokolo was
back.



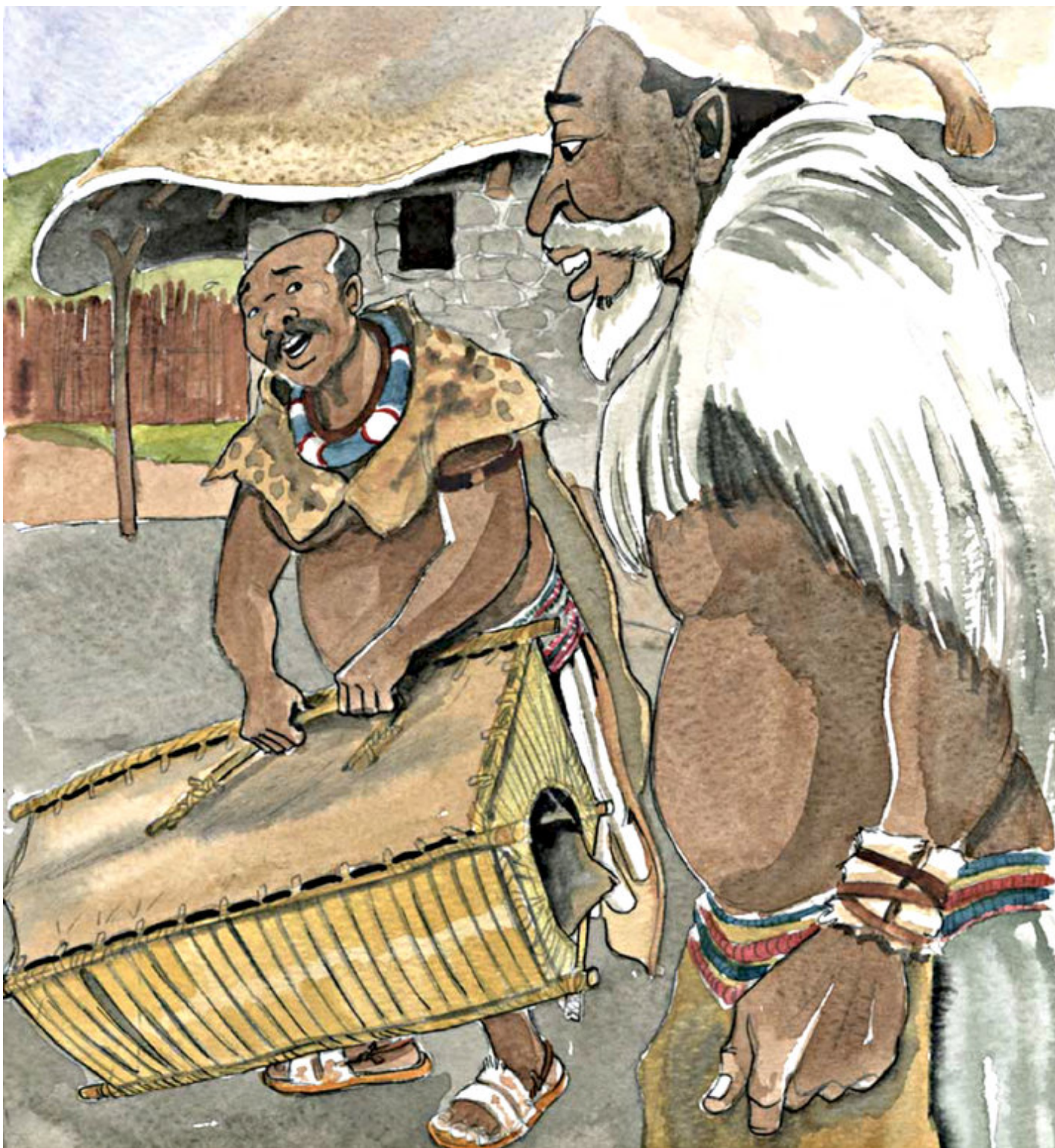
He called a village meeting. He called grandfathers and grandmothers, mothers and fathers, and boys and girls.

Everyone came to hear what he had to say.



“I will catch that snake!”
shouted one man in the
crowd.

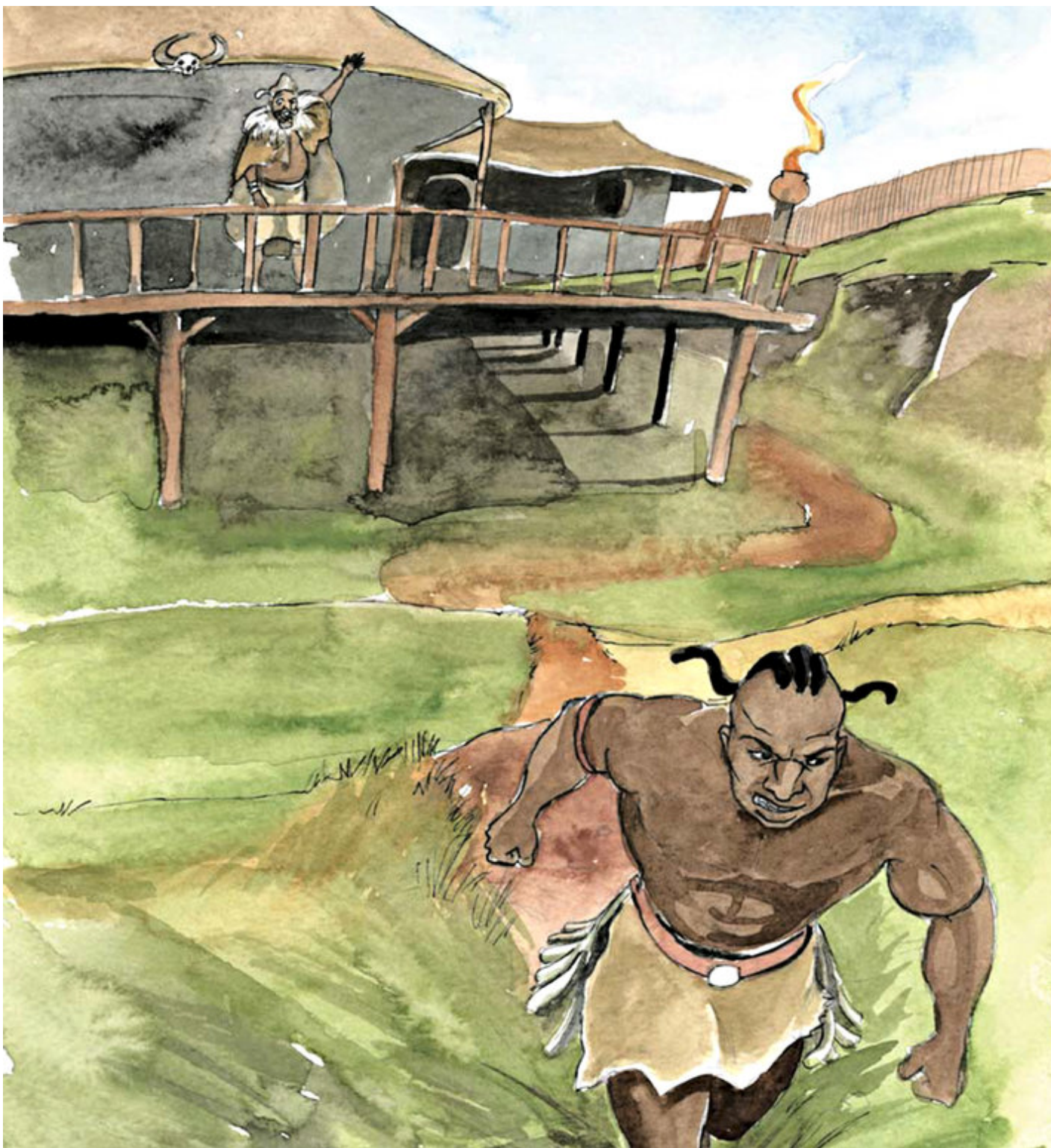
His name was Sello, and
next to him was his big dog.
Sello and his dog went to
the fields. They never came
back again.



A few days later, Tjuma the farmer arrived at the king's *kraal** with a big cage. "I will catch that snake!" he told the king confidently.

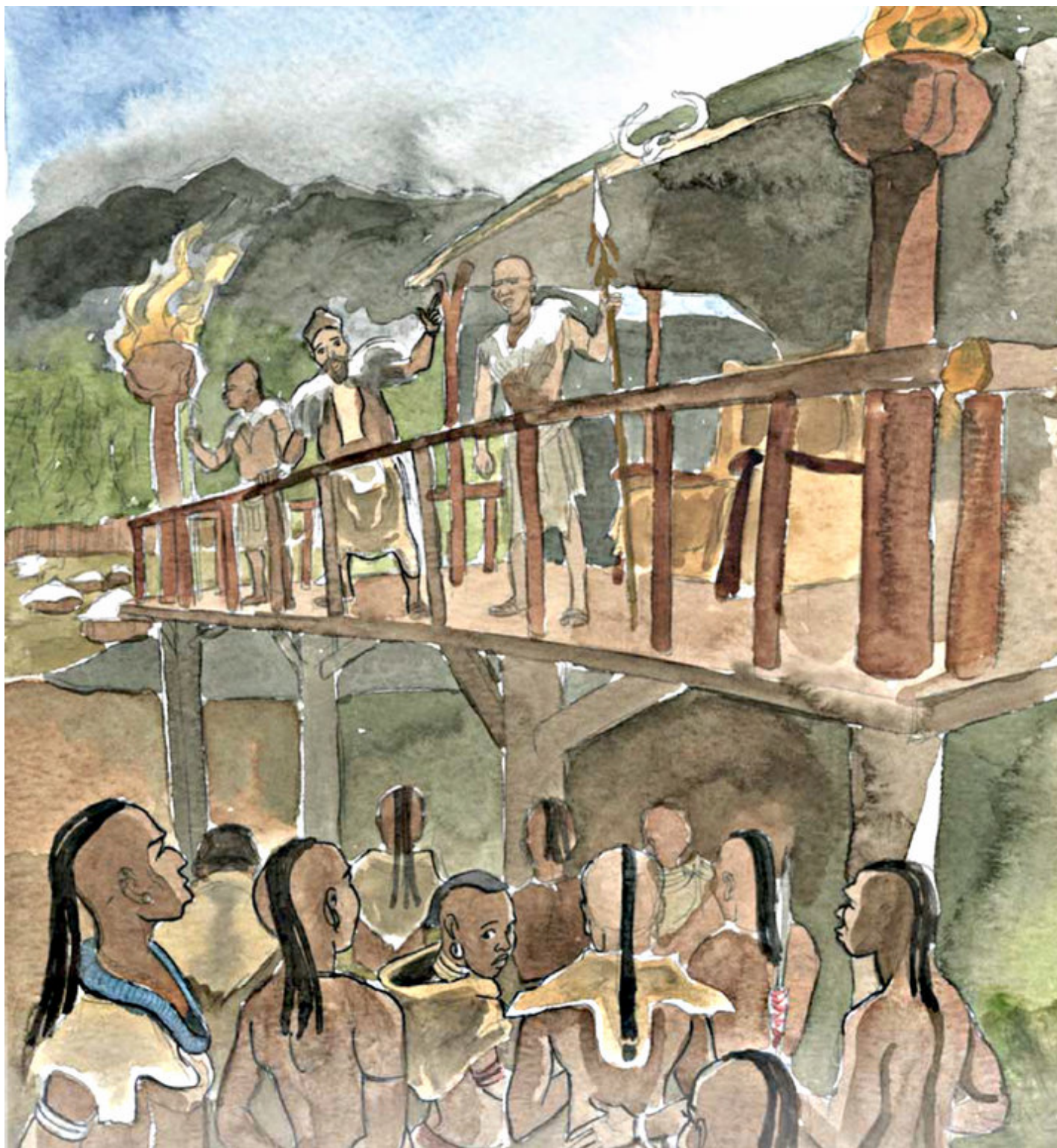
Tjuma went to the fields with his big cage. He never came back again.

**A native village or collection of huts*



A few weeks later, Heshane, who was a well-known rugby player, arrived at the palace.

With a deep voice he told the king, "I can catch the snake." Heshane went off into the field showing off his strong muscles. He never came back again.

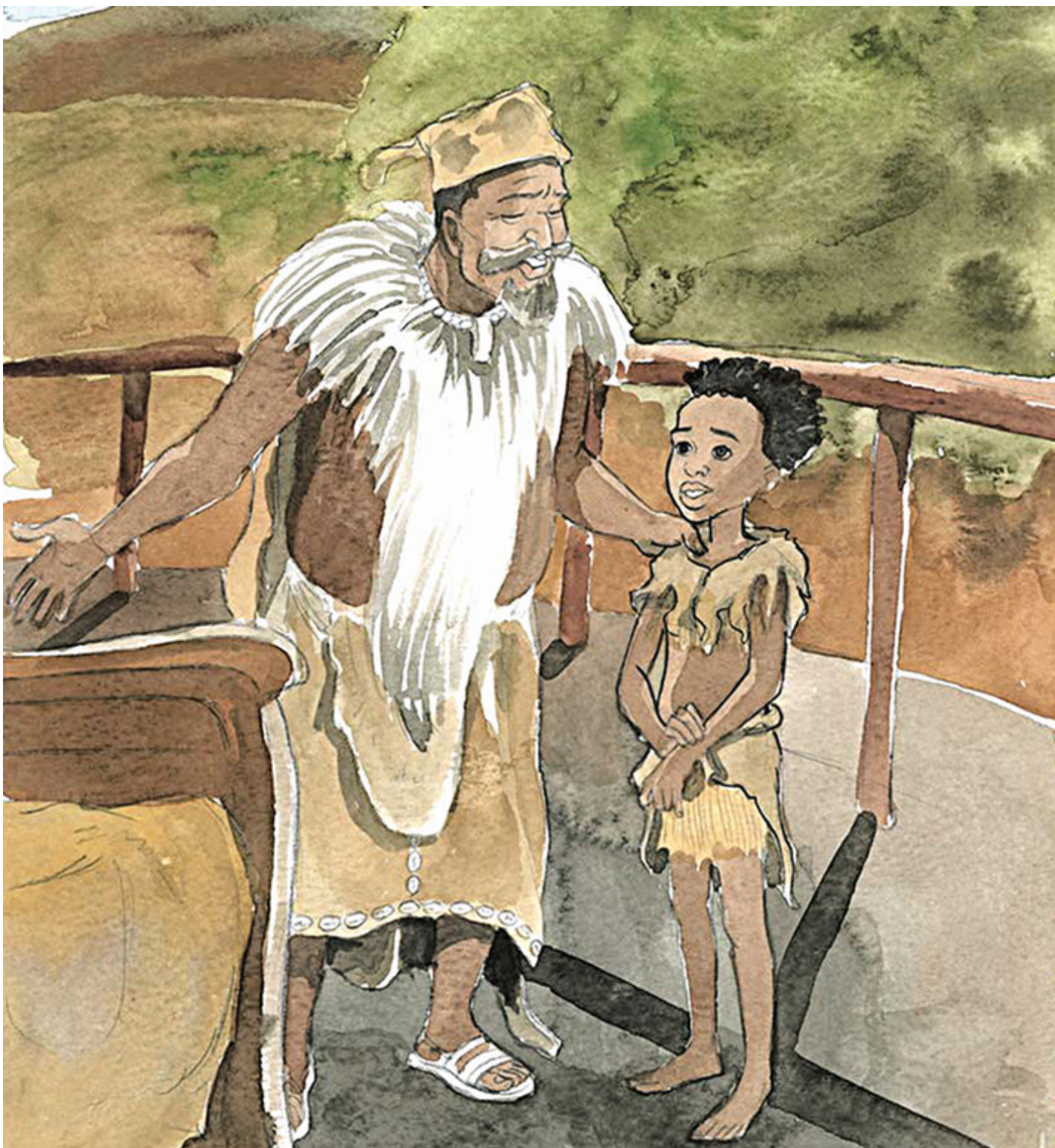


The king called another village meeting. He called grandfathers and grandmothers, mothers and fathers, and boys and girls.

Everyone came to hear what he had to say.



"I will give my throne to anyone who catches the snake of Mkolokolo," declared the king.



The crowd roared with laughter. No one could believe that a small girl like her could accomplish such a huge feat.

But the king reassured her: "If you catch the snake, I will surrender my throne to you."



The following morning, the girl left her hut while it was still dark.

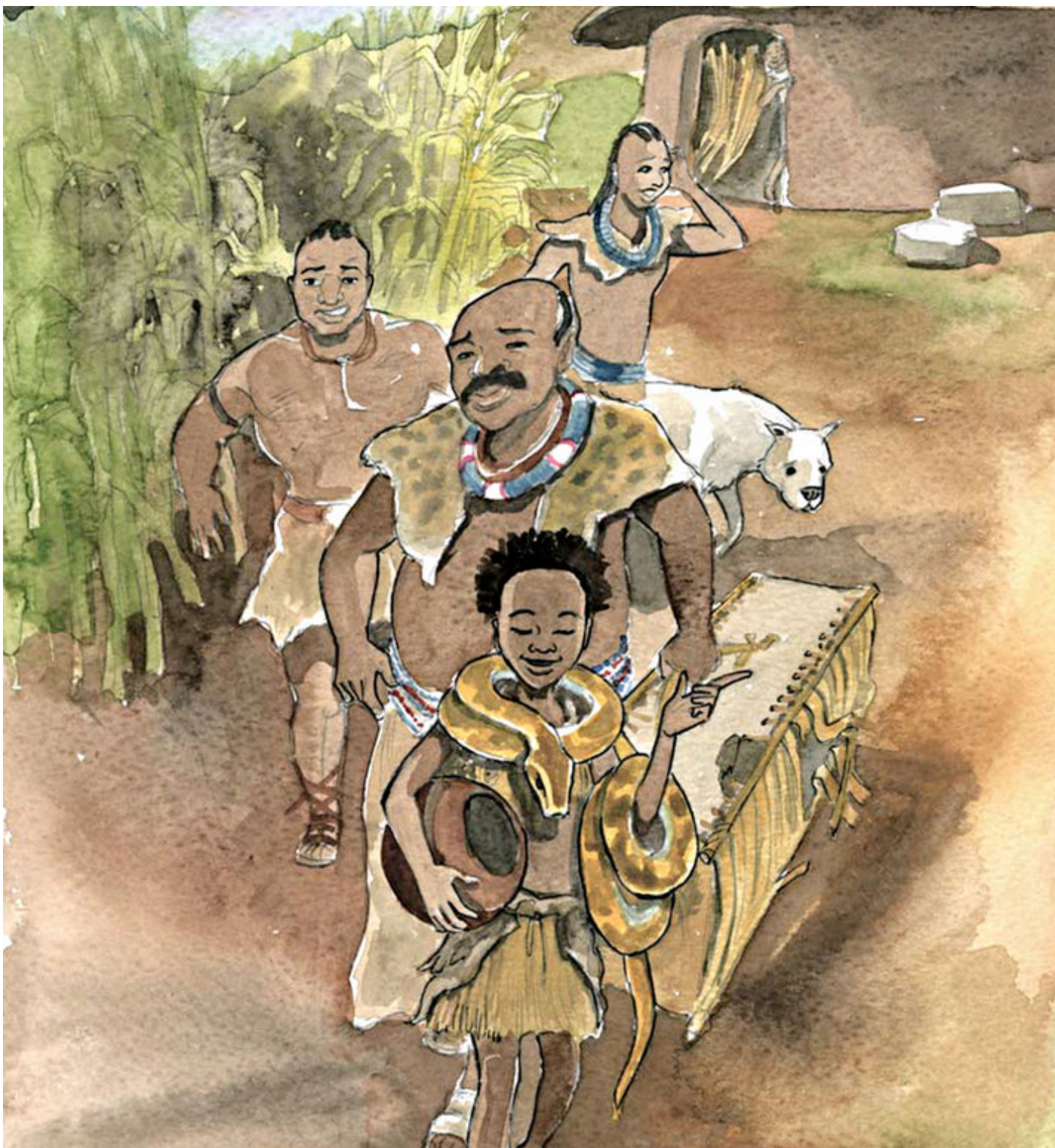
She carried a clay pot full of porridge on her head and left for the fields. The whole village waited for her to come back.



When the sun was about to set, the people in the village heard a loud sound coming from the fields.

“SHW-SHW-SHW!”

They all fled and hid, but peeped through the windows and key holes. They were terrified of the snake!



From the field emerged the small girl with her torn clothes, shoes with holes, and her dirty hat, carrying an empty pot in one arm-- and the snake on the other!

She was followed by Heshane, Tjuma, Sello and his dog, and all the other people in the village who had disappeared.



The king asked her how she had managed to catch the snake.

She said, "I became its friend."

The girl was made Queen of Mkolokolo and the snake became her pet.

Story Attribution:

This story: The King of Mkolokolo is translated by [Alisha Berger](#). The © for this translation lies with Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Based on Original story: '[Inkhosi yase Mkolokolo](#)', by [Ntombikayise Malaza](#). © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Other Credits:

This story 'The King of Mkolokolo' has been published on StoryWeaver by Room to Read.

Images Attributions:

Cover page: [A man sitting on the porch with a table of fruits and a jug in a circular frame](#) by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: [A man sitting on the porch with a table of fruits and a jug](#) by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: [A man and woman shouting outside a field](#) by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: [A man talking excitedly to a crowd of people](#) by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: [A man standing near a dog and talking angrily](#) by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: [A man talking to the king holding a cage](#) by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: [A angry man walking away from the king](#) by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: [A group of men look over at the guards standing outside a hut](#) by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: [A man pointing excitedly at a chair with a crown](#) by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: [A child talking to a group of men](#) by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Images Attributions:

Page 11: [A man asking a boy to sit on a chair](#) by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 12: [A girl holding a pot on her head](#), by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 13: [Men hiding in the field outside a hut](#), by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 14: [A boy with a snake around his neck leading a group of men](#), by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 15: [A boy sitting on a throne with a crown on his head](#), by [Vusi Malindi](#) © Room to Read, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

The King of Mkolokolo

(English)

The King of Mkolokolo offers his crown to anyone who can capture the snake that is tormenting his village. Mighty villagers from across the land take on the challenge. But what happens when a small girl asks for her turn?

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.



Pratham Books goes digital to weave a whole new chapter in the realm of multilingual children's stories. Knitting together children, authors, illustrators and publishers. Folding in teachers, and translators. To create a rich fabric of openly licensed multilingual stories for the children of India and the world. Our unique online platform, StoryWeaver, is a playground where children, parents, teachers and librarians can get creative. Come, start weaving today, and help us get a book in every child's hand!