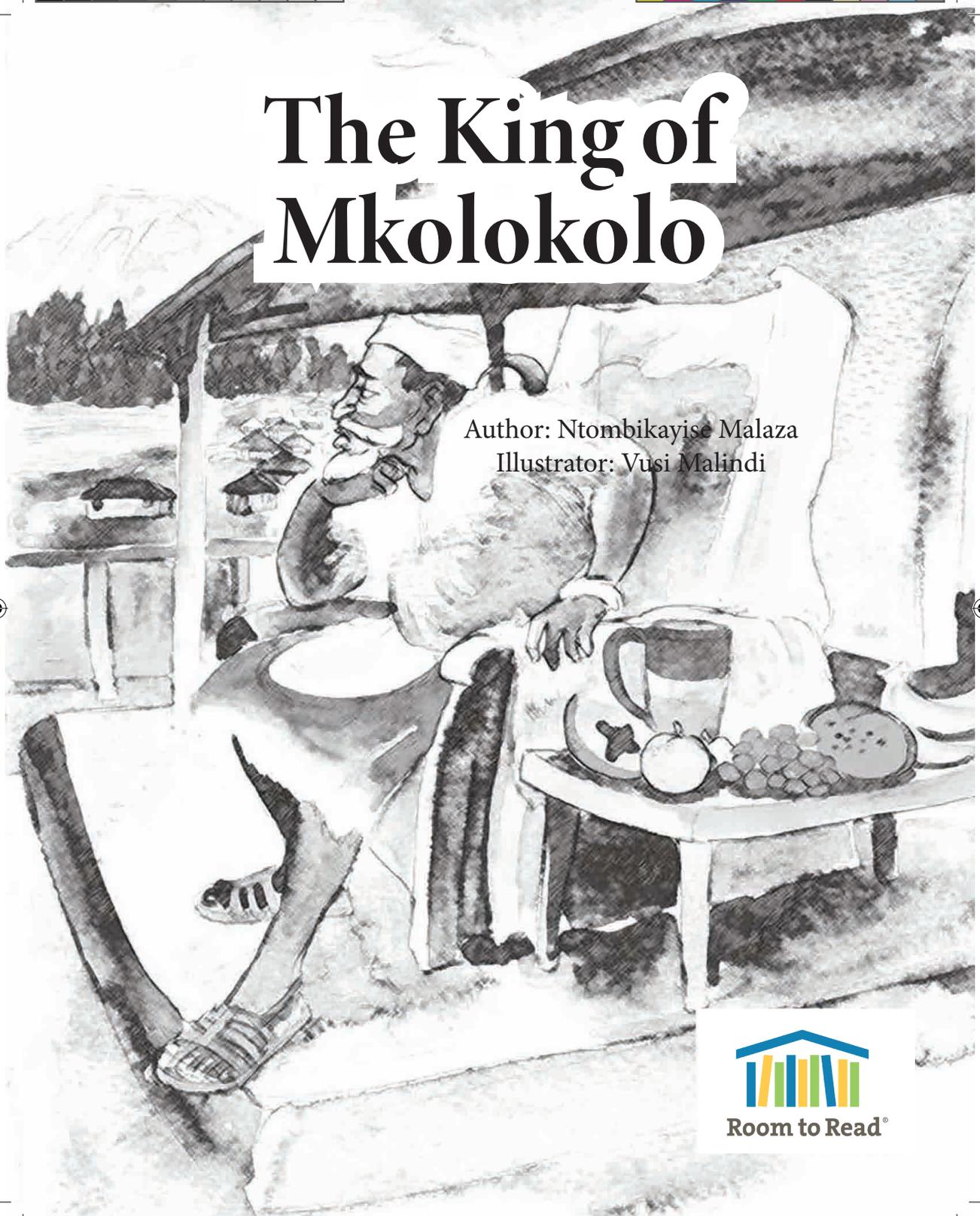




The King of Mkolokolo

Author: Ntombikayise Malaza
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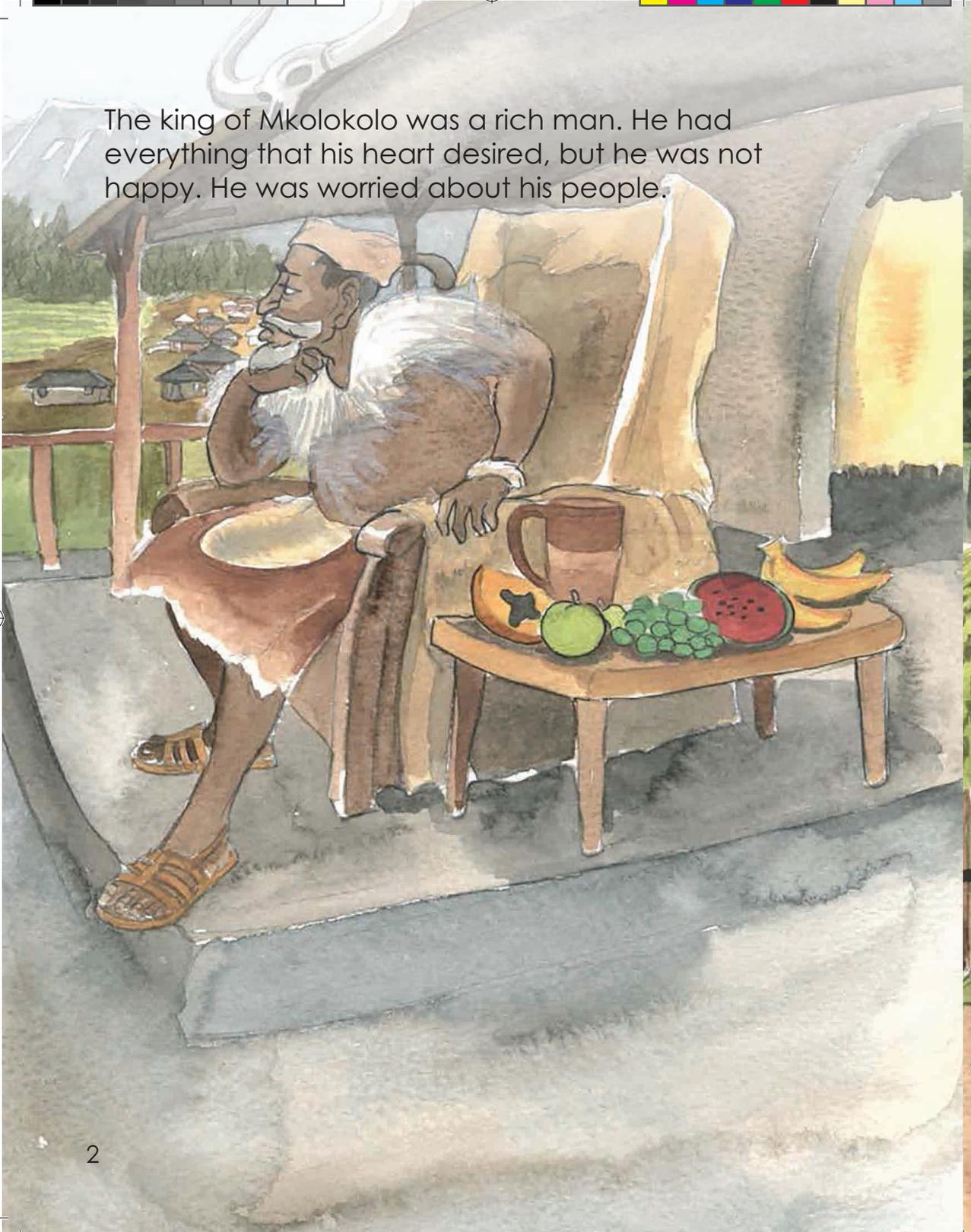


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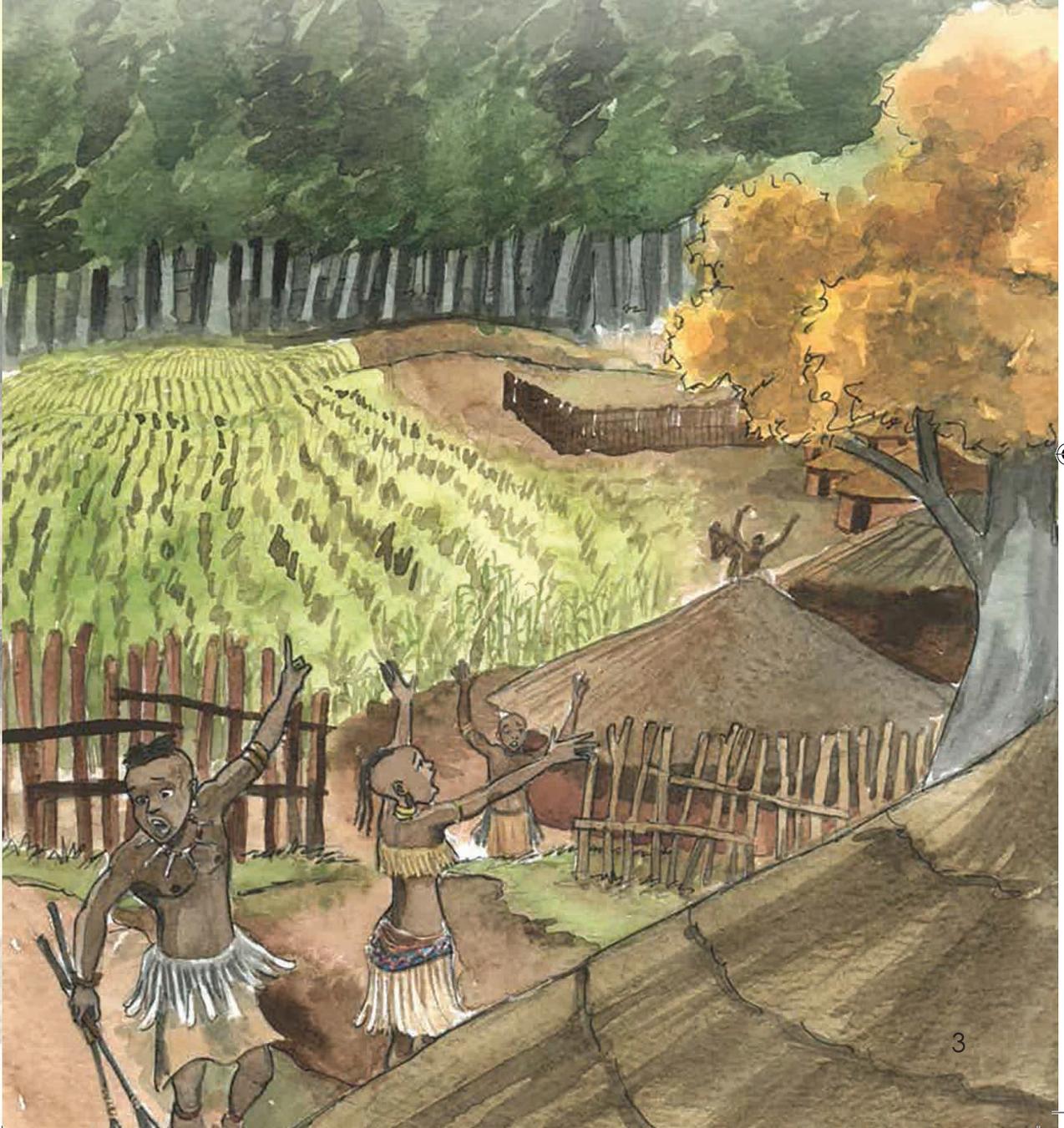


The king of Mkolokolo was a rich man. He had everything that his heart desired, but he was not happy. He was worried about his people.



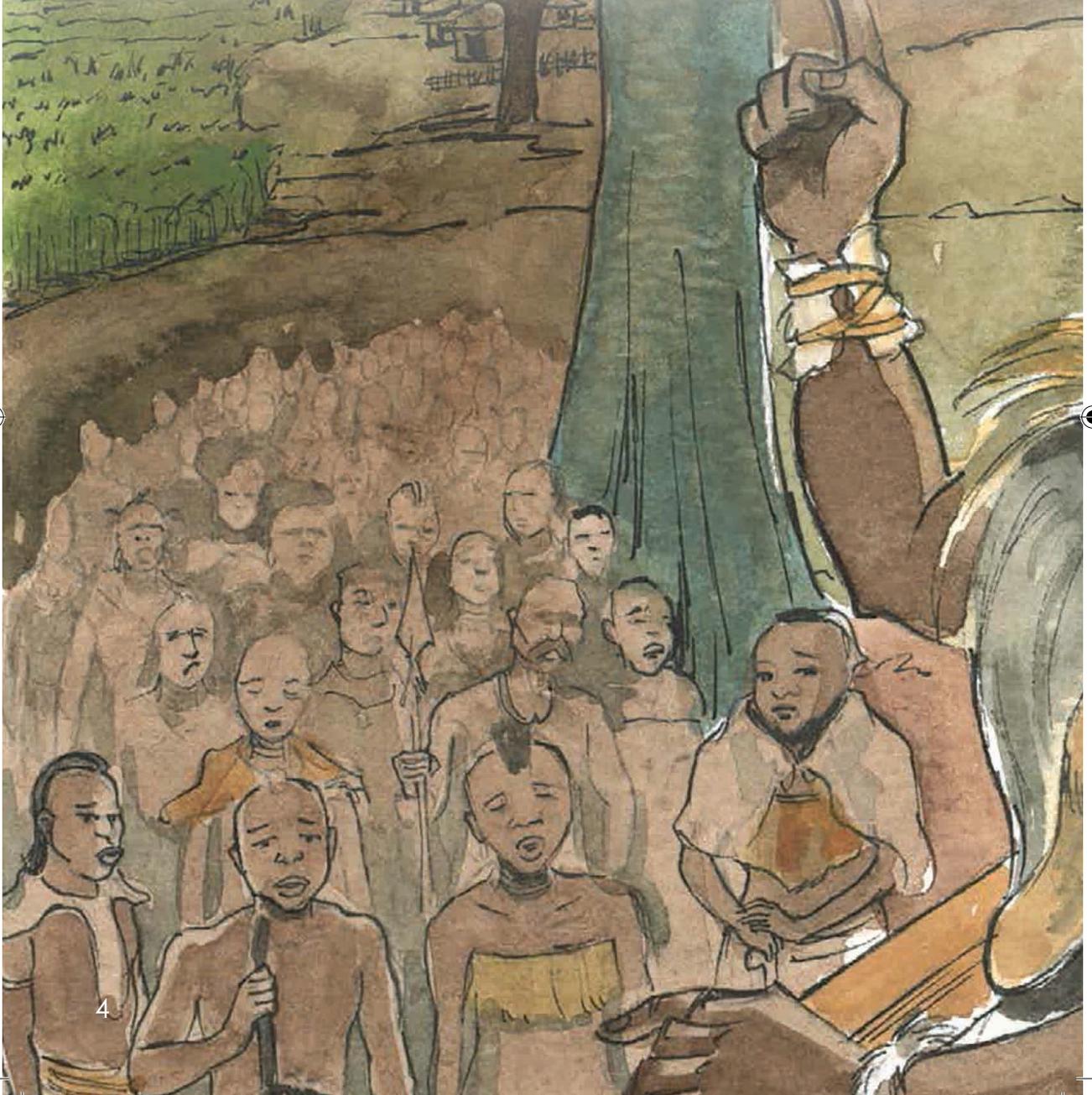


The people in the village who worked in the fields had disappeared. The king was afraid that the snake of Mkolokolo was back.



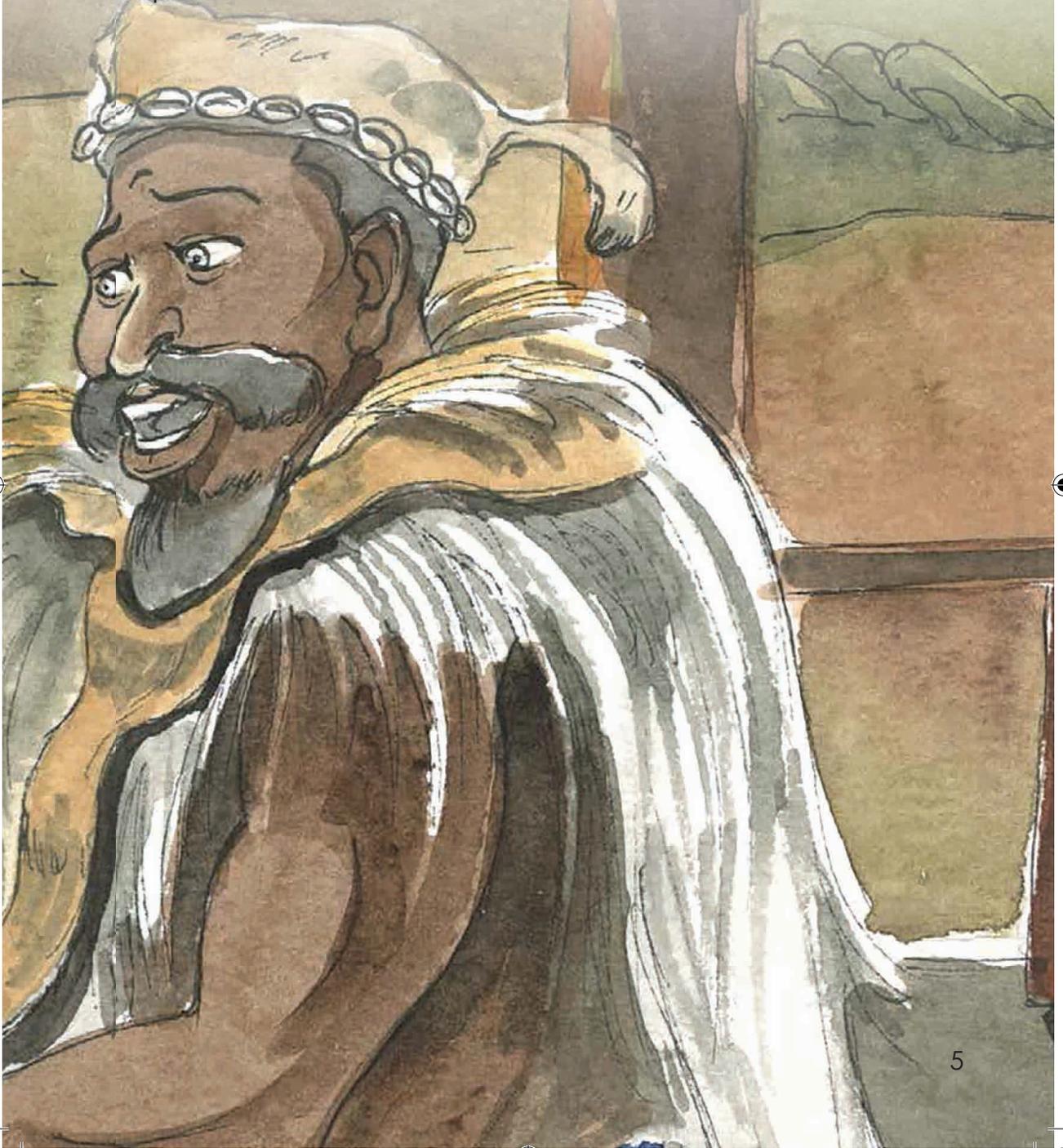


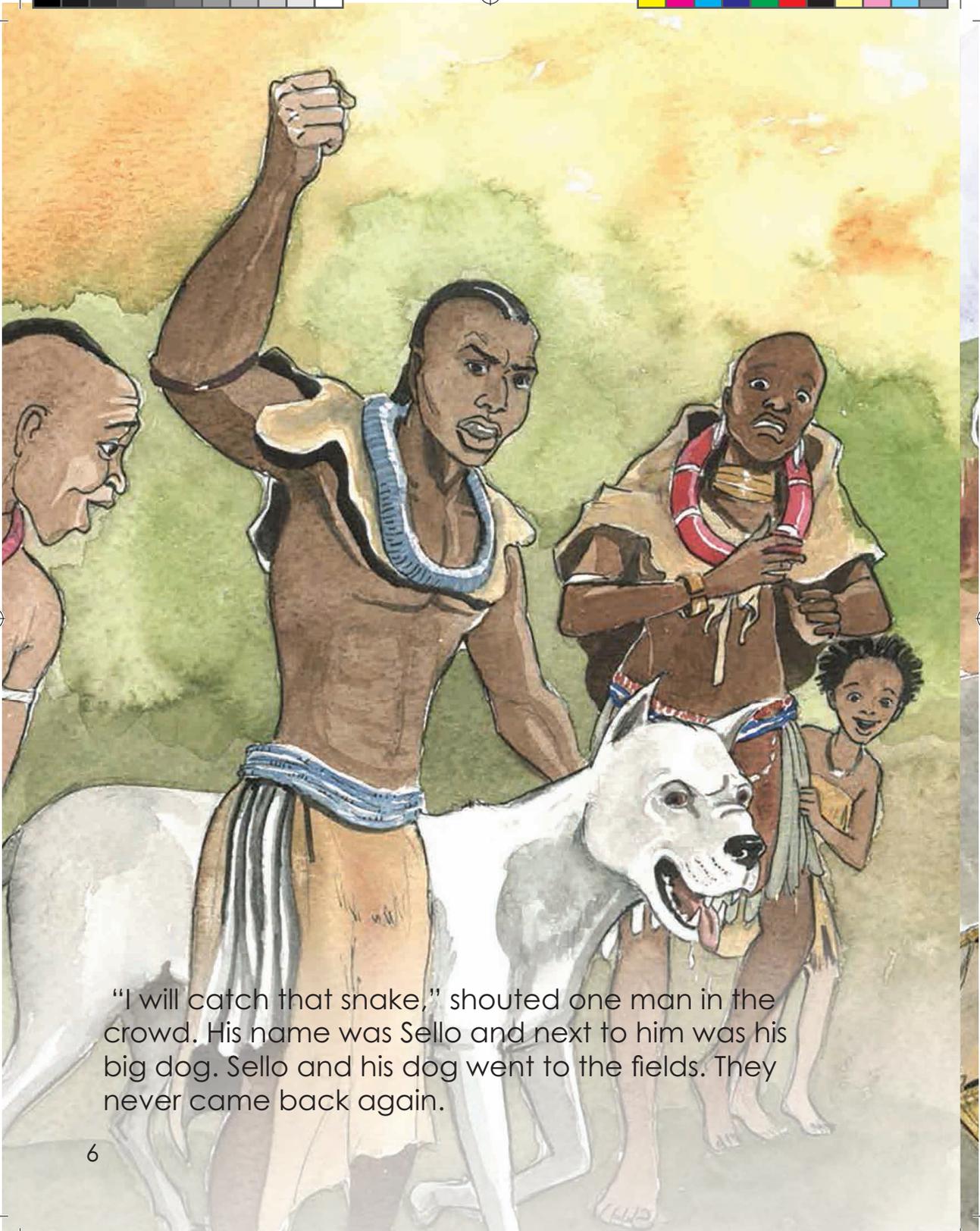
The king called a mass meeting of all the people in the village. He called grandfathers and grandmothers, mothers and fathers, and boys and girls. Everyone came to hear what the king was going to say.





He promised a gift to whoever could capture the snake.



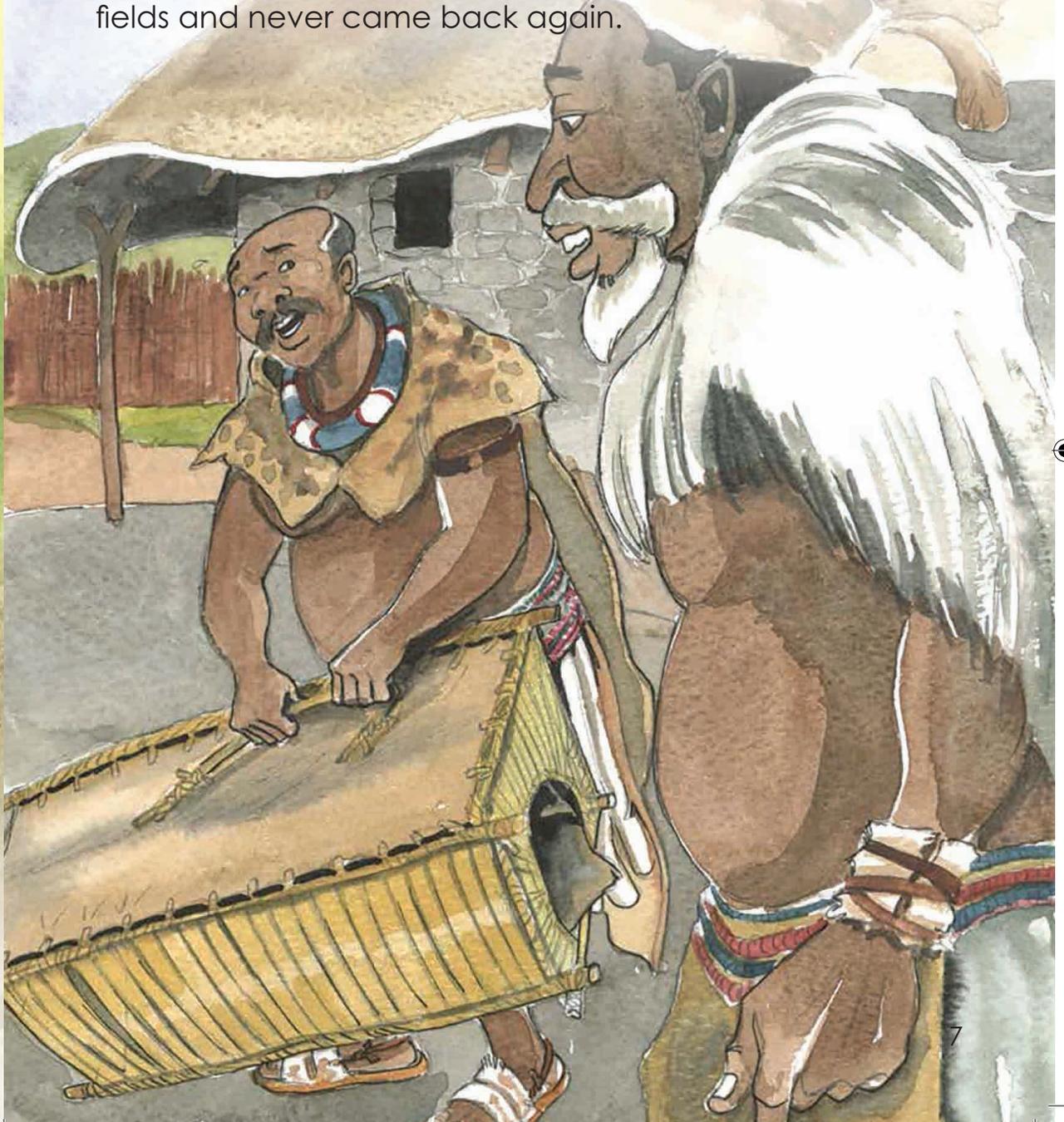


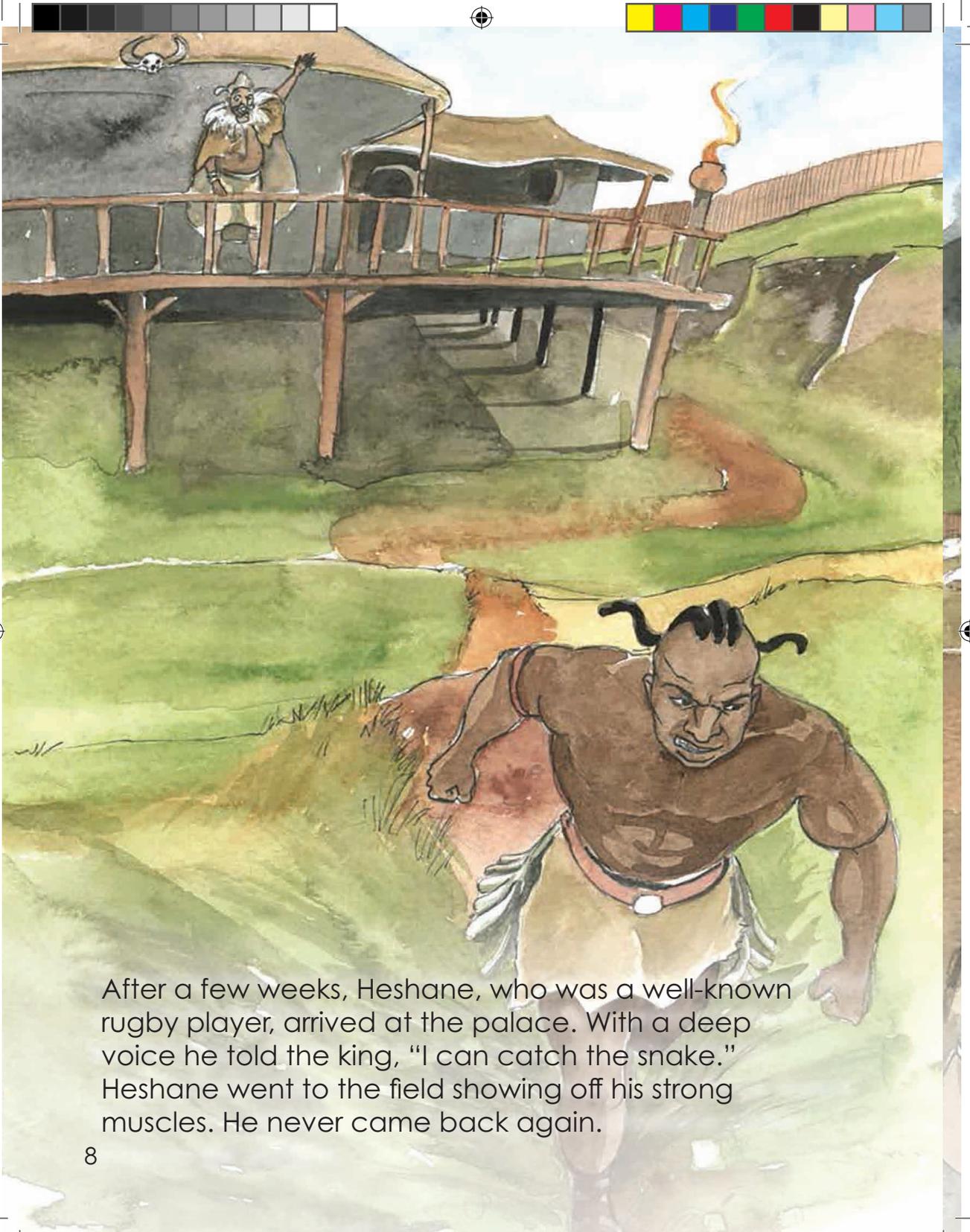
"I will catch that snake," shouted one man in the crowd. His name was Sello and next to him was his big dog. Sello and his dog went to the fields. They never came back again.



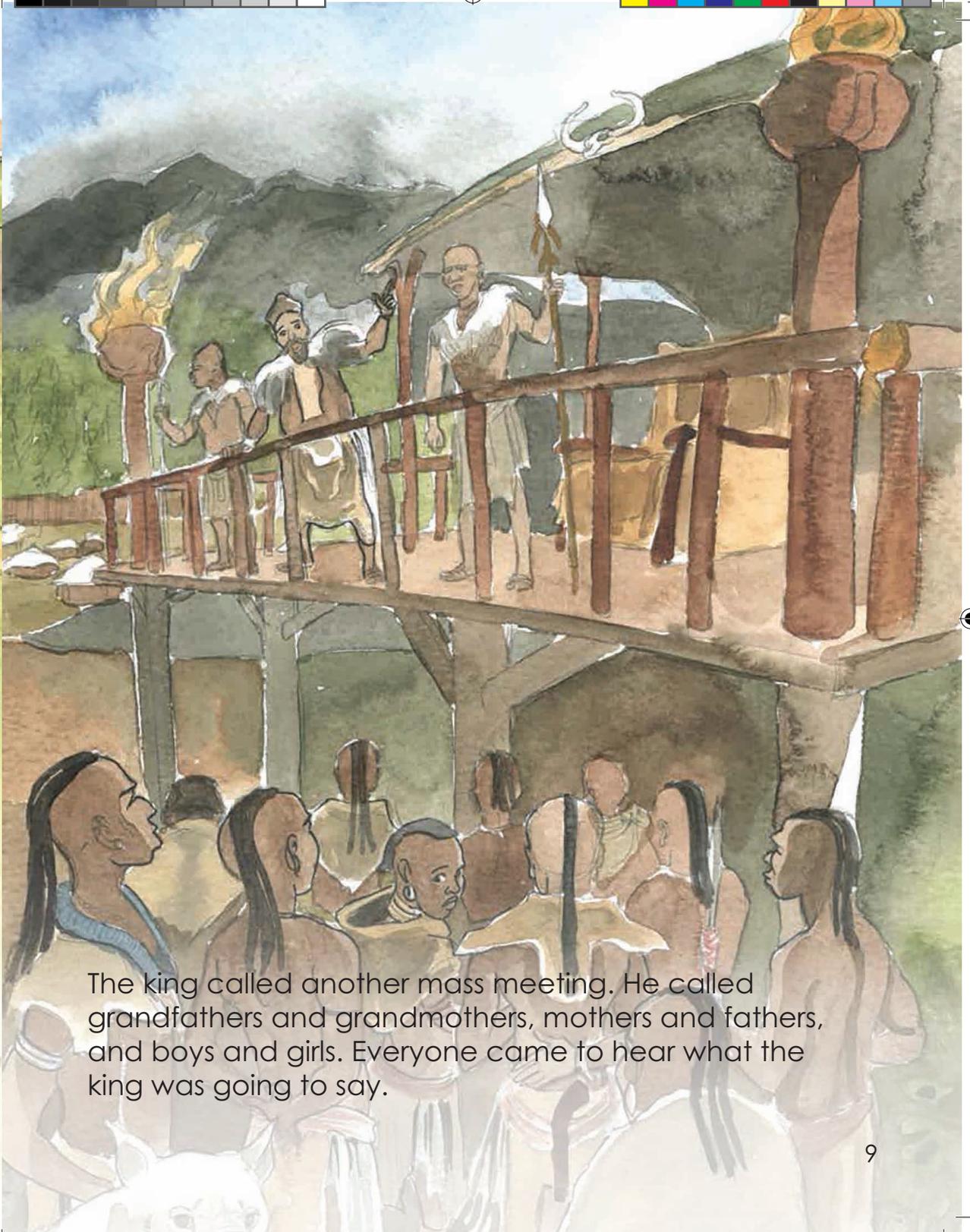


After a few days, Tjuma, the farmer arrived at the king's kraal with a big cage. "I will catch the snake," he told the king. Tjuma and his cage went to the fields and never came back again.



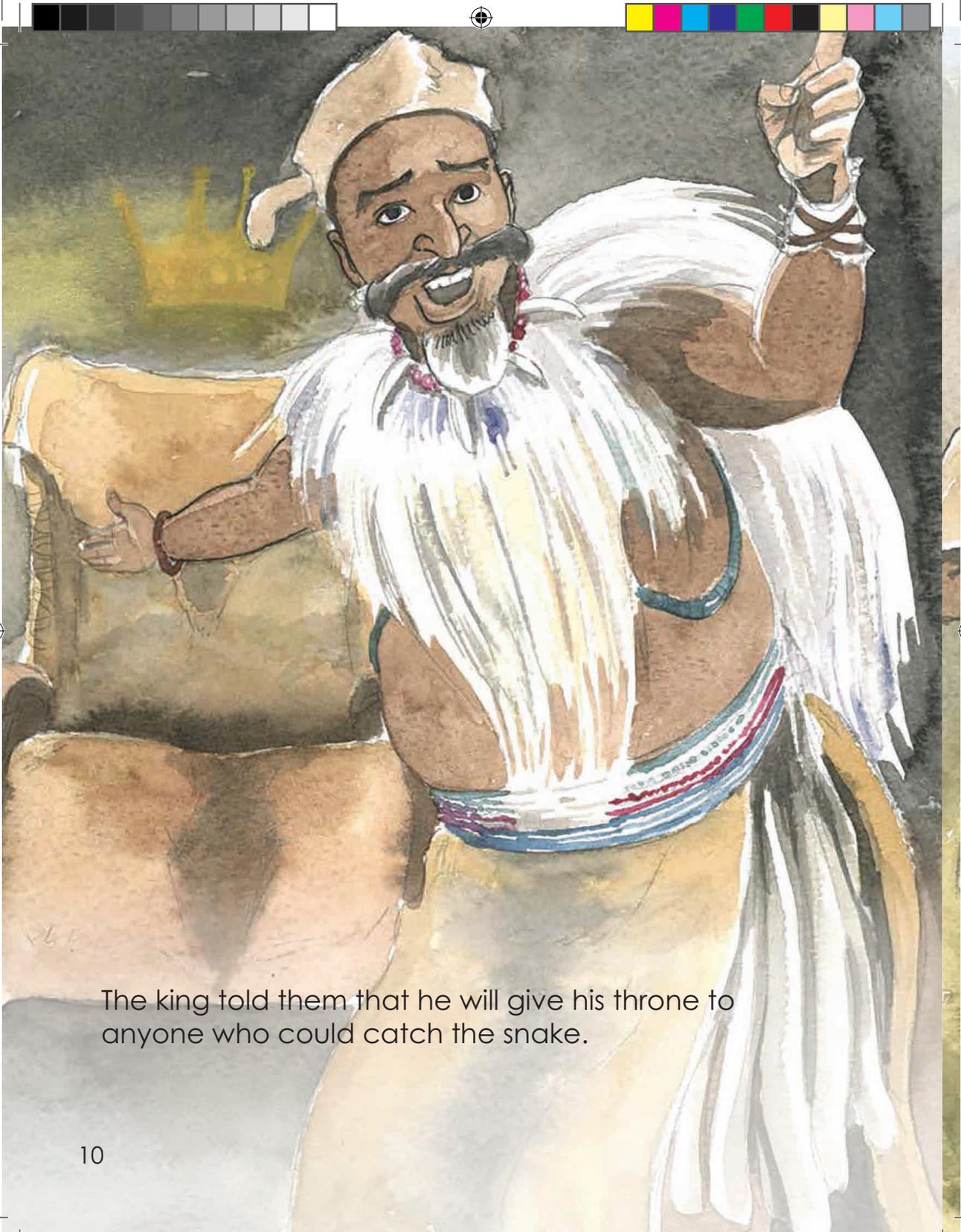


After a few weeks, Heshane, who was a well-known rugby player, arrived at the palace. With a deep voice he told the king, "I can catch the snake." Heshane went to the field showing off his strong muscles. He never came back again.



The king called another mass meeting. He called grandfathers and grandmothers, mothers and fathers, and boys and girls. Everyone came to hear what the king was going to say.

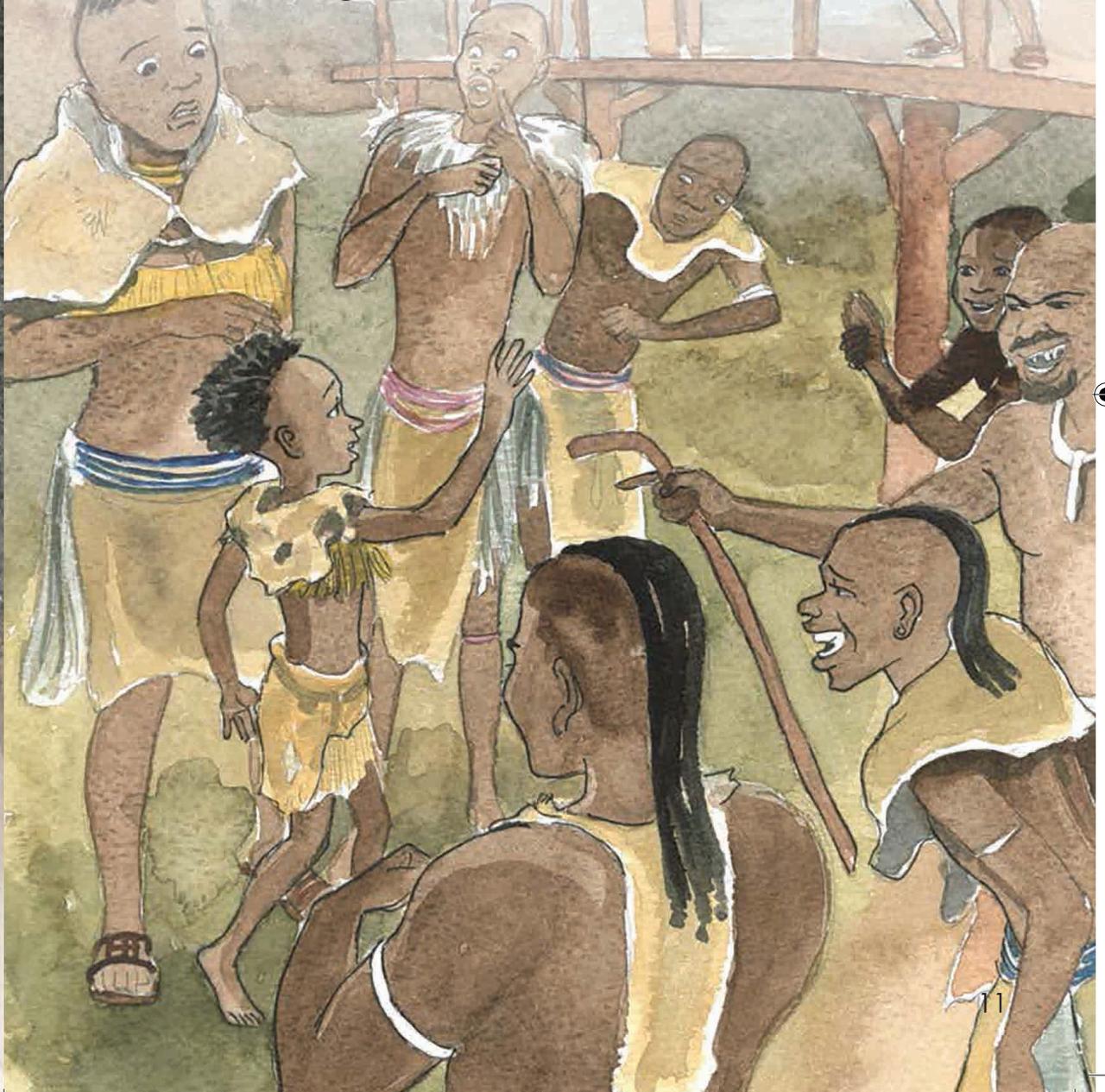


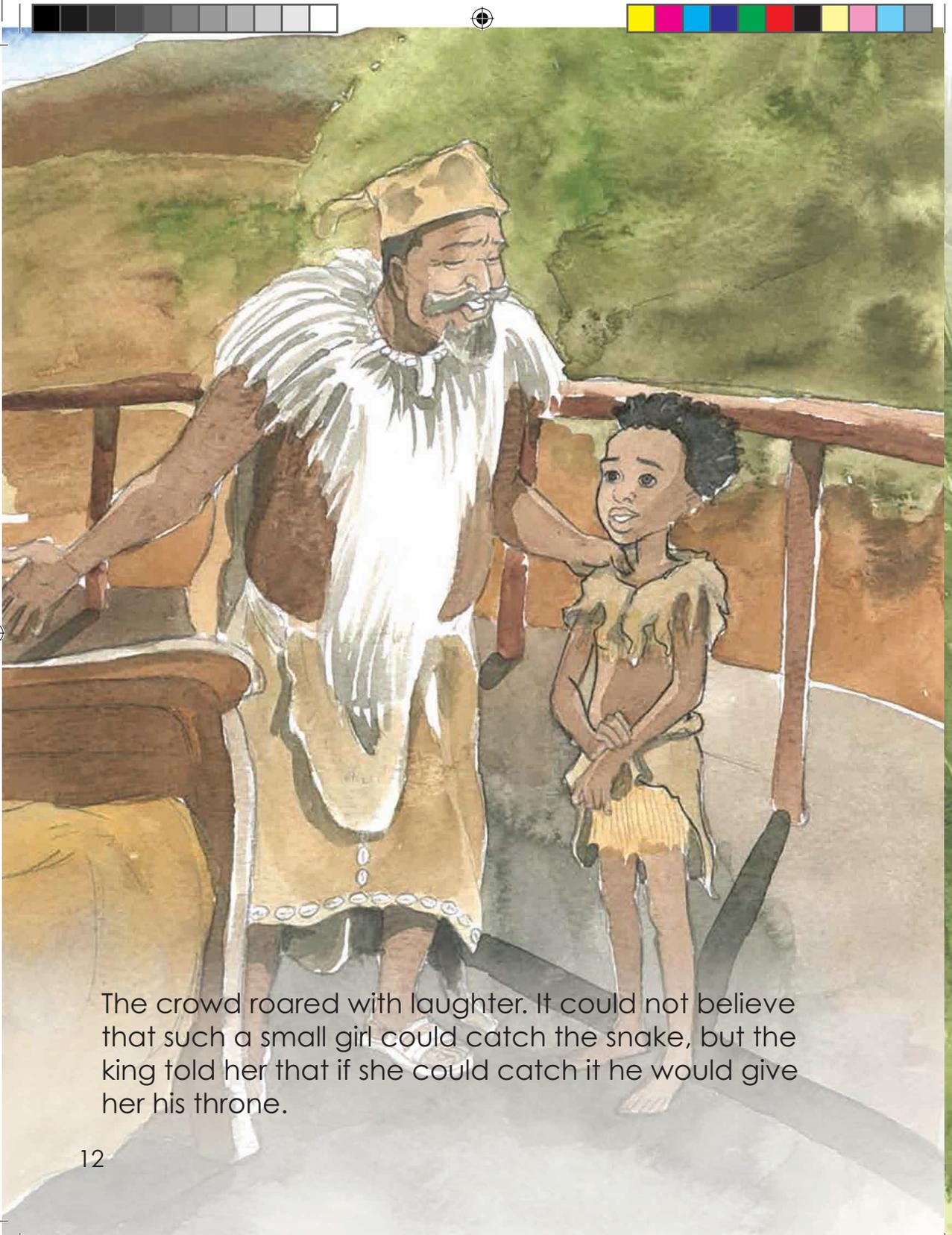


The king told them that he will give his throne to anyone who could catch the snake.



A soft voice was heard coming from the crowd. The king looked to see who was speaking and saw a small girl coming towards his throne. She was wearing torn clothes, shoes with holes, and a dirty hat. She told the king, "I can catch the snake."



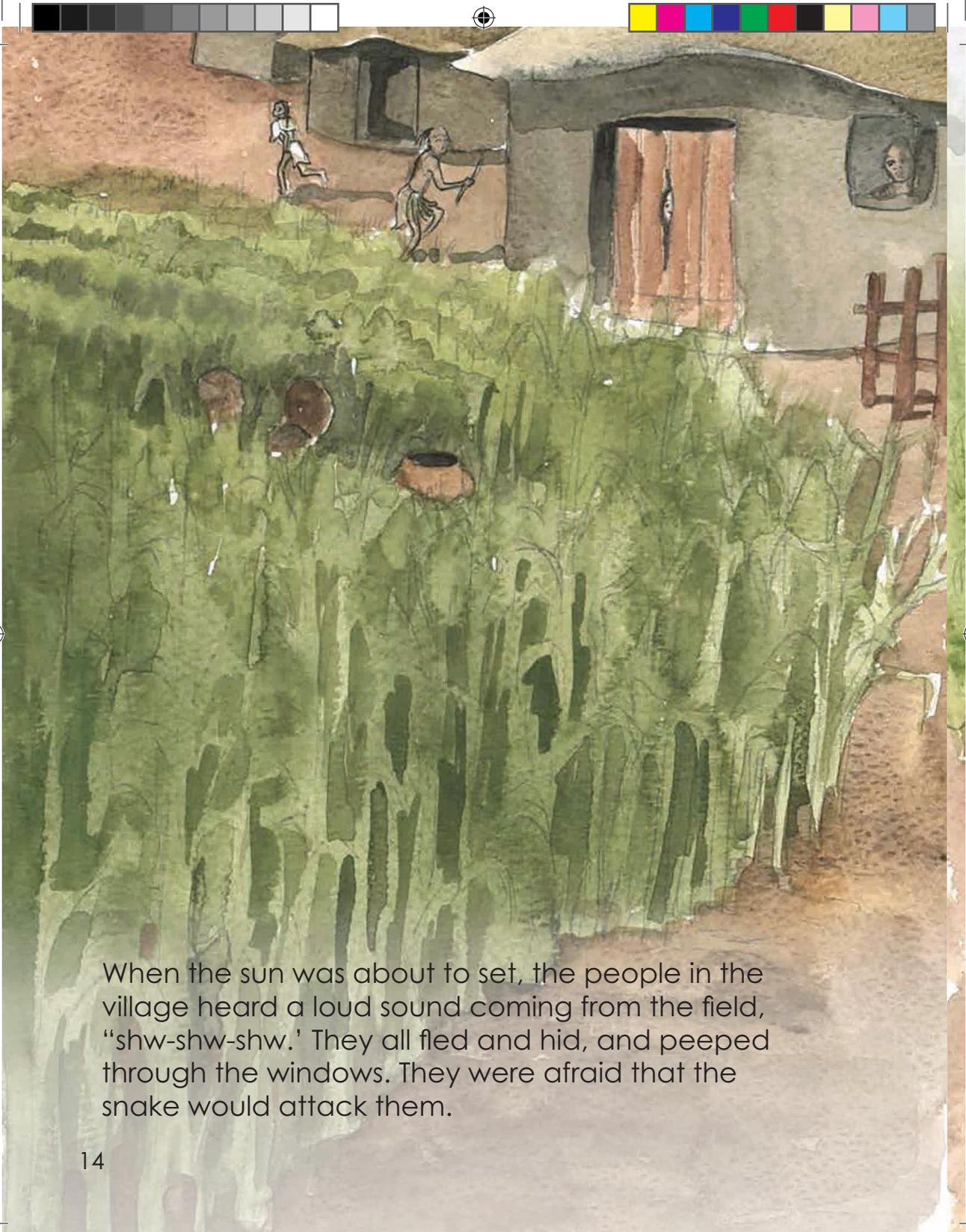


The crowd roared with laughter. It could not believe that such a small girl could catch the snake, but the king told her that if she could catch it he would give her his throne.



The following morning she woke up while it was still dark and carried a clay pot full of porridge on her head, and left for the fields. They 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 field, "shw-shw-shw." They all fled and hid, and peeped through the windows. They were afraid that the snake would attack them.



From the field there came the small girl with her torn clothes, shoes with holes, and her dirty hat carrying an empty pot with one arm, while on the other arm she carried a snake. She was followed by Heshane, Tjuma, and Sello and his dog, and all the other people of the village who had disappeared.





The king asked her how she caught the snake and she replied, "I became its friend."

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

