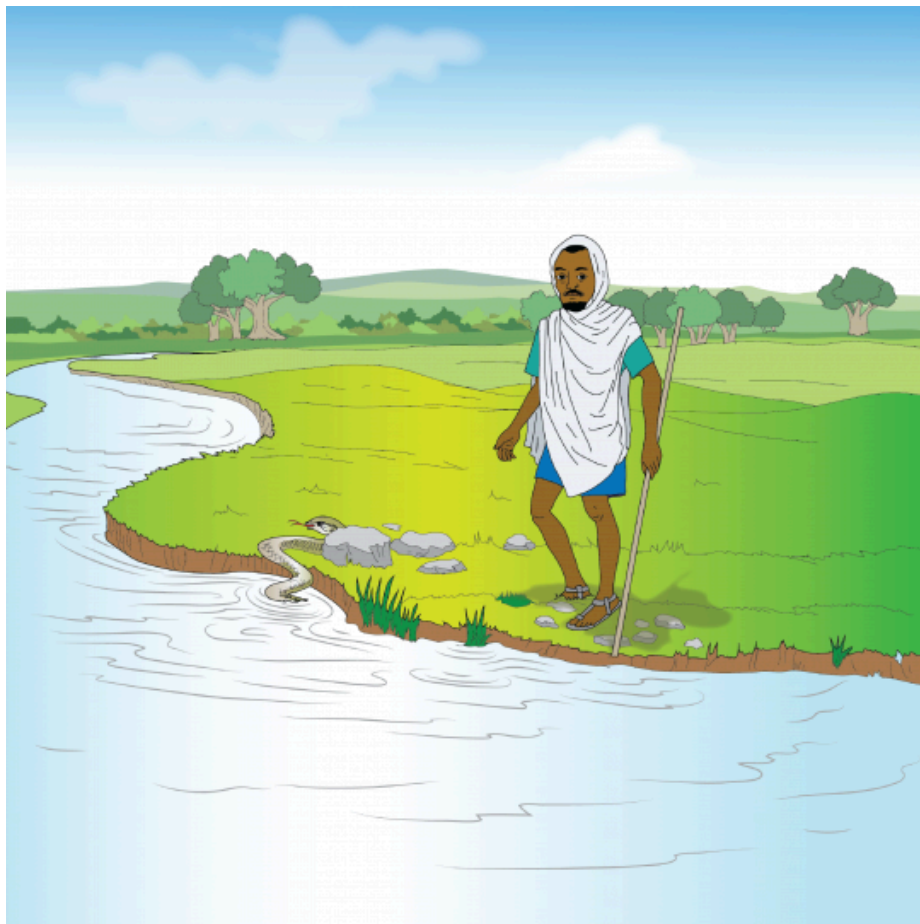




# Quarrel between people and snakes

Tshepiso Mogaswa  
Adonay Gebru





Long time ago, there was a young man called Mosimane.

He was a polite and loving person. He used to enjoy going to relax at the river.

One day when Mosimane was at the river, he met a snake.



“Hello snake,” said Mosimane. “Hello sir,” replied the snake.

The snake told Mosimane that it could make him rich. The snake asked Mosimane to carry it on his head to its preferred place.

The snake looked trustworthy.



Mosimane had a good personality. He agreed to carry the snake on his head.

They crossed the river together.



On the other side, the snake asked Mosimane to become its friend, as snakes don't have friends.

The man agreed without hesitation.

They continued and came across Mr Hyena.



"Hello, my people," called Mr Hyena. "Hello, Mr Hyena," answered Mosimane and the snake at the same time.

"Where are you two going?" asked Mr Hyena.

"We go where I wish to go," replied the snake. Mr Hyena was surprised.



“Do you get a handsome reward for carrying that snake on your head?” Mr Hyena asked Mosimane.

Mosimane never said a word about what the snake promised him.

Mosimane and the snake went on with their journey.





Mosimane was growing tired of carrying the snake. They came across Uncle Jackal near a shady tree.

Uncle Jackal stared at the snake curled around the man's head. He could not believe his eyes. He began to laugh.





Snake shouted at Uncle Jackal, "Why are you laughing? Laughing can cause conflicts!"

"The snake and I are best friends!" Mosimane told Uncle Jackal.

Uncle Jackal thought for a while, then he began talking very softly.



"Snake, get off my head so that I can hear Uncle Jackal properly," said Mosimane.

He continued, "Snake, I carried you across the river to the other side. I carried you this far. Where is my reward? I thought we were friends."



Uncle Jackal asked, "Don't you know that snakes are untrustworthy?"

The snake saw that Mosimane was upset and it slithered away into the forest.

Mosimane went home and told people about the snake. Until this day, snakes are not trusted by anyone.



Ulwazi Lwethu is a Zenex Foundation funded and initiated project to develop a series of graded and leisure African language readers and teacher support materials. This project is targeted at teaching and supporting learners in the Foundation Phase to improve their home language reading and understanding. The readers have been originated in nine African languages in collaboration with Molteno Institute for Language and Literacies, Nelson Mandela Institute for Education and Rural Development, Room to Read South Africa, and Saide. All resources are developed as Open Education Resources (OER).



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

*The Ulwazi Lwethu readers and storybooks have  
been quality assured and approved by DBE.*

Your attribution should include the following:

Title: Quarrel between people and snakes

Author/s: Tshepiso Mogaswa

Translator/s: Tshepiso Mogaswa

Illustrator/s: Adonay Gebru

Assurer/s: African Storybook

Language: English



© Zenex Foundation - Saide 2025 (Updated Edition)

CC BY includes the following elements:

BY – Credit must be given to the creator

