

## **Kgosi Mothupi Le Morwadiagwe**

### **King Kayanja and his daughter**

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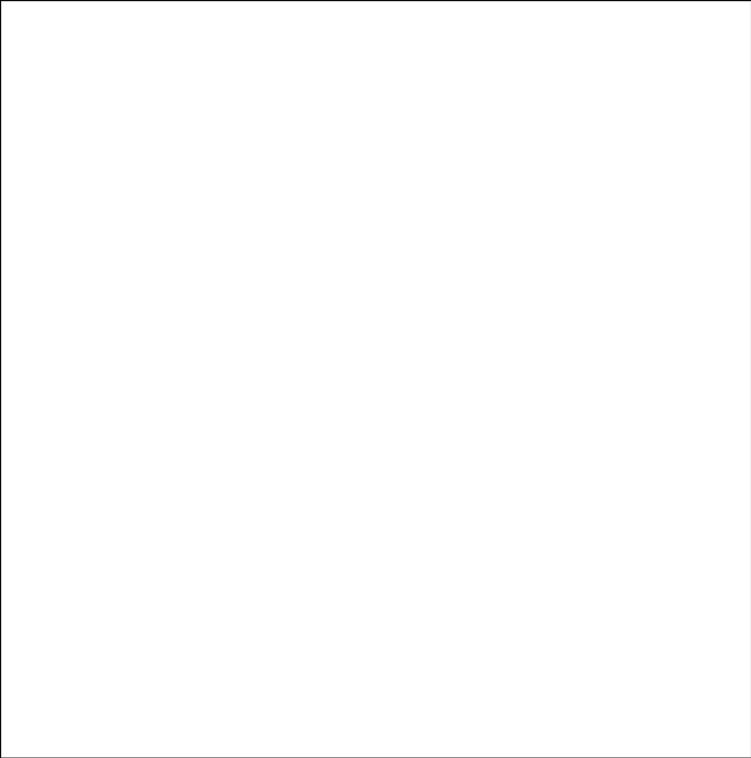
 Lorato Trok

 Tswana / English

 Level 4

(imageless edition)

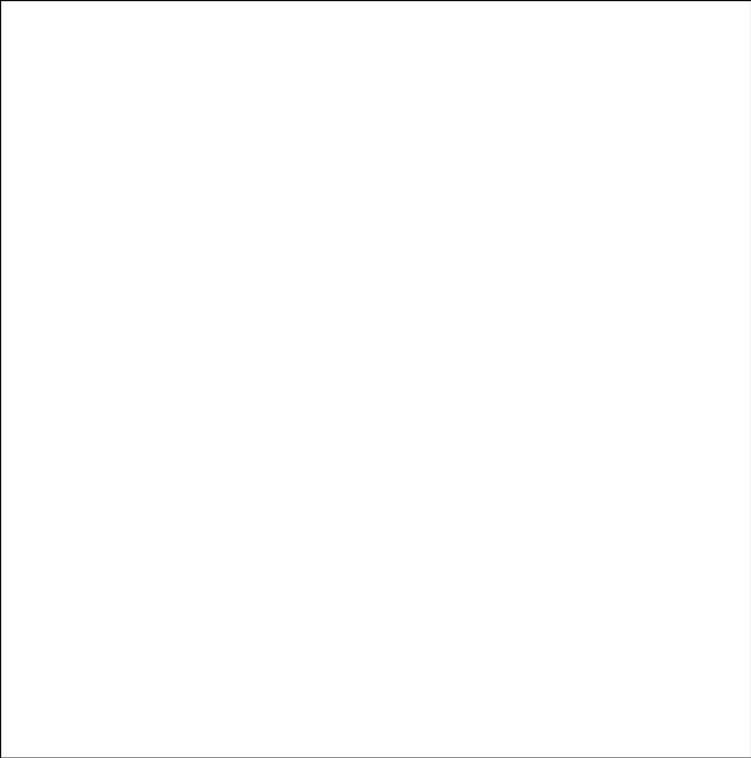




Bogogolotala go ne go le kgosi e bidiwa Mothupi. O ne a dula mo ntlong ya segosi le mmakgosi le morwadiabona, kgosigadi Dineo. Kgosigadi Dineo o ne a le bontle jwa go tshwana le naledi, mme banna botlhe ba motse ba ne ba batla go mo nyala. Kgosi Mothupi o ne a batla magadi a a thibang letsatsi.

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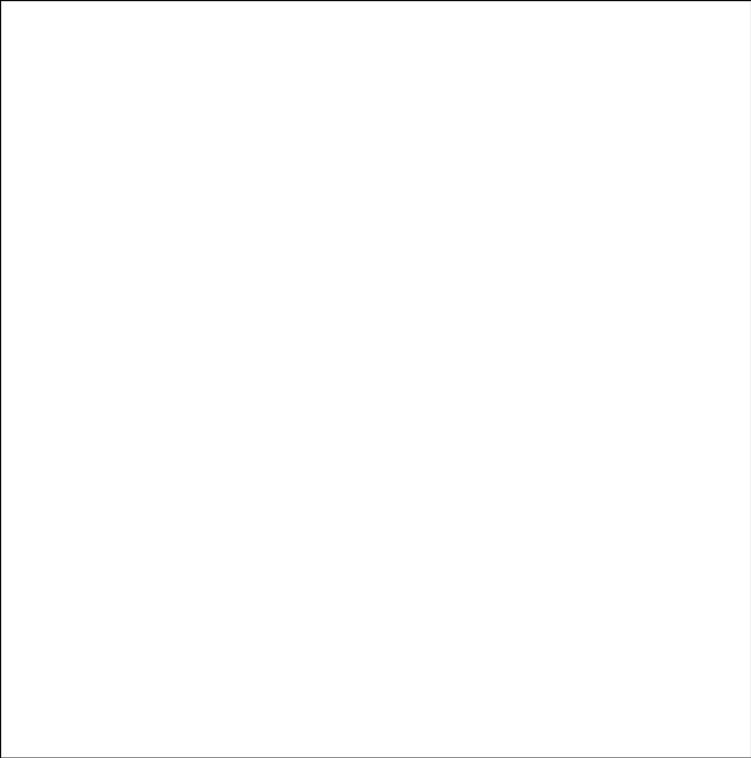
Long, long ago there was a king called Kayanja. He lived in a palace with the queen and their daughter, princess Apenyo. Princess Apenyo was such a beautiful young woman that every man wanted to marry her. But king Kayanja demanded a very high bride price for the princess.



Gaufi le ntlo ya segosi go ne go dula kgosana nngwe e bidiwa Moroka o mogolo. O ne a bidiwa o “mogolo” ka gonne o ne a obamelwa ke batho botlhe ba motse. Fa o ne o sa mo obamele o ne a go tthagisetsa kotsi! E ne e se kgale mosadi wa ga kgosana Moroka a tlhokafetse ka ntlha ya malaria. Kgosana o ne a batla mosadi yo mongwe.

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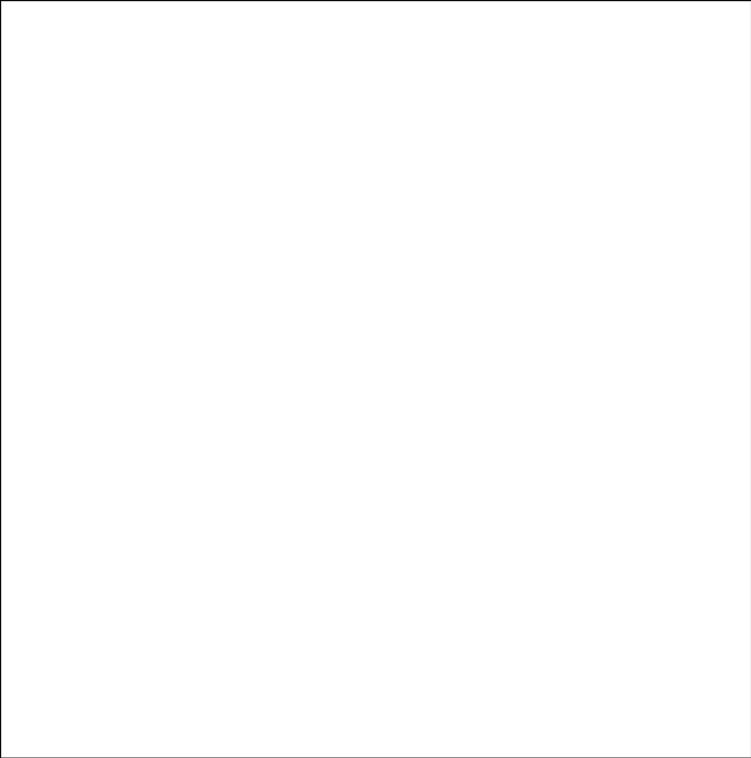
Near king Kayanja’s palace lived a chief called Aludah the Great. He was called “the Great” because everybody in the neighbourhood obeyed him. (He was very violent to anyone who disobeyed him!) Chief Aludah’s wife had recently died of malaria and he wanted another wife.



Ka jalo kgosana e e nonneng ebile e tsofetse e, e ne ya etela Kgosi Mothupi ka maikaelelo a go ntshetsa kgosigadi Dineo magadi. Fa banna ba babedi ba ba ntse ba bua, mothusi wa mo ntlung ya kgosi, Phemelo, o ne a utlwa puisano ya bona. Phemelo le kgosigadi Dineo ba ne ba utlwana thata.

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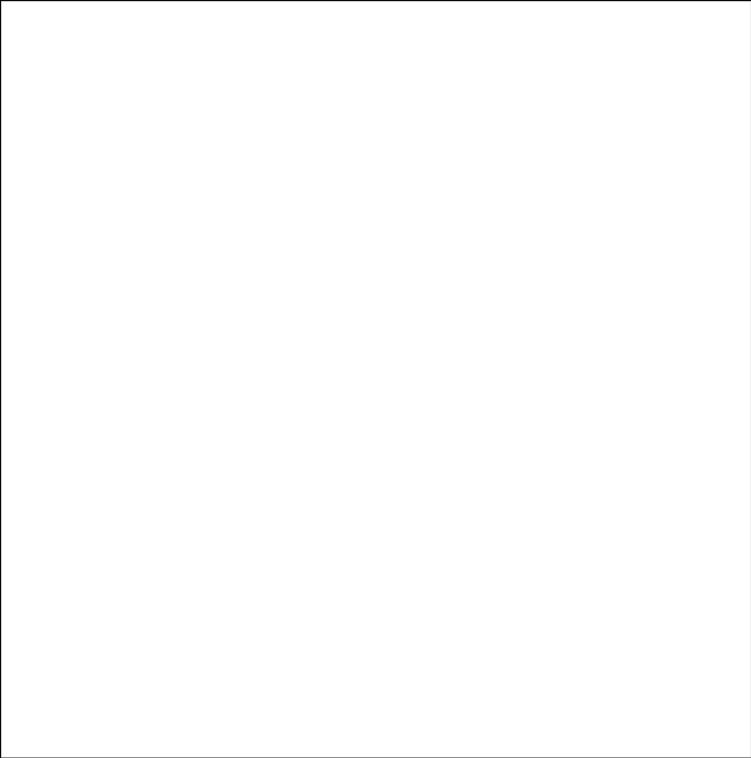
So the fat old chief went to king Kayanja to offer bride wealth for the young princess. While the two men were discussing the price, the maid Kakembo overheard their conversation. Maid Kakembo was very close to princess Apenyo.



Kgosana Moroka o ne a dumelana le Kgosi Mothupi gore o tla mo fa bontlhabongwe jwa khumo ya gagwe, go akaretsa le nalata, e le yona e neng e le karolo ya magadi. Dipaakanyo tsa lenyalo magareng ga kgosana Moroka le kgosigadi Dineo di ne tsa dirwa mo sephiring. Kgosi e ne e itse gore morwadie a ka se itumelele kakanyo e.

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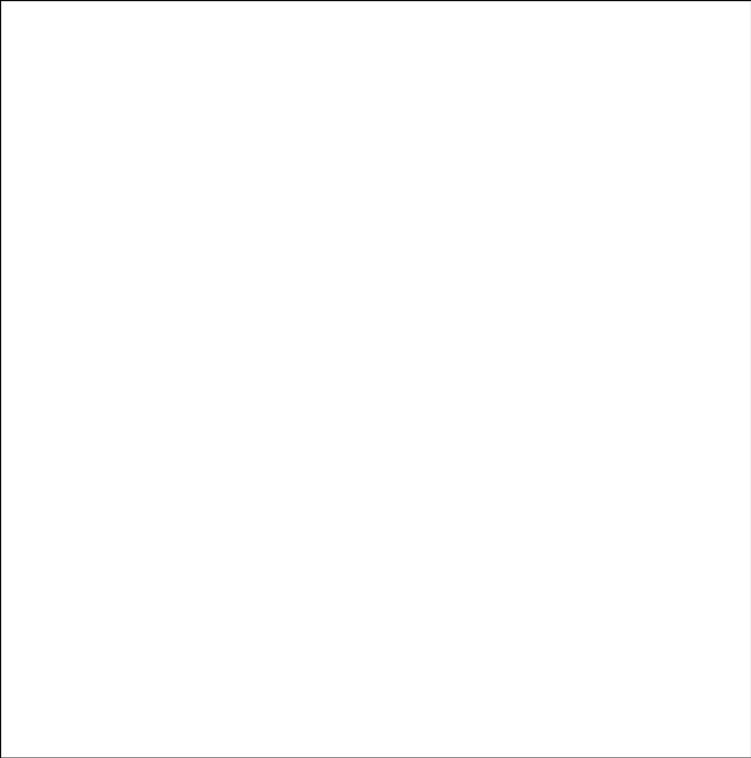
Chief Aludah agreed to give half of his wealth to king Kayanja, including a needle, which was also part of the bride price. Preparations were made in secret for the wedding between chief Aludah and princess Apenyo. The king knew that his daughter would not be happy with this decision.



Beke pele ga lenyalo la segosi, Phemelo ne a ya kwa go Dineo. “Kgosigadi ya me e e rategang, rrago o rulagantse lenyalo la gago le kgosana Moroka, mme lona le tla diragala mo sebakeng sa beke.”

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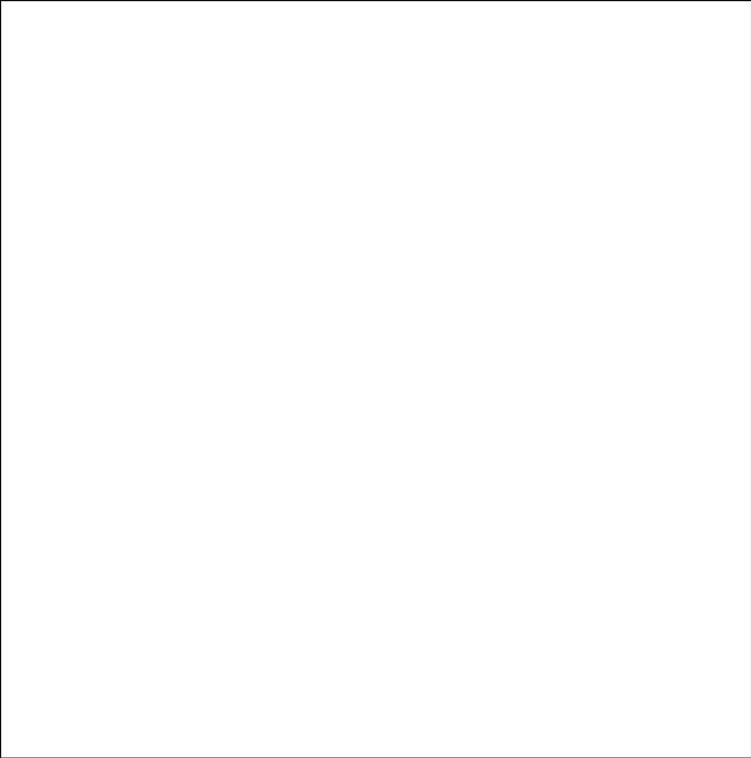
One week before the royal wedding day, maid Kakembo approached Apenyo. “My dear princess, your father has organised your wedding with Chief Aludah, and it will take place in one week,” said Kakembo.



Kgosigadi Dineo o ne a maketse mme a sa itse gore a dire eng. Jaanong a akanya, “Ga ke na go nyala kgosana Moroka, monnamogolo yole yo o nonneng. Le eseng! Ke tshwanetse ke etele Lefika ke bone gore a ka se thuse pele go nna thari.” Lefika e ne e le lekau la ga kgosigadi Dineo.

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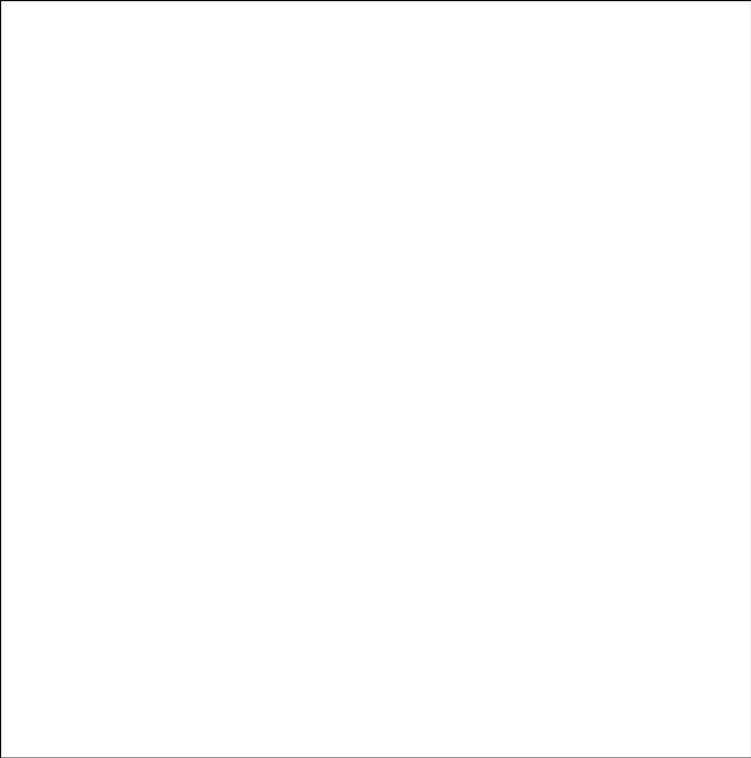
Princess Apenyo was shocked and at first didn't know what to do. Then she thought, “I will never marry chief Aludah, that fat old man. Never! I must hurry to Trevor and see what he can do before it's too late.” Trevor was princess Apenyo's boyfriend.



Bosigo joo, Dineo a ngwega mo ntlong. Fa rragwe a ka itse gore o ya kae, o tla tenega thata. O ne a taboga mo gare ga sekgwa se se kitlaneng, se se lefifi se na le mmitlwa le matlapa, go fitlhela a goroga kwa go Lefika. O ne a fitlha a lapile, a tshwerwe ke tlala le lenyora.

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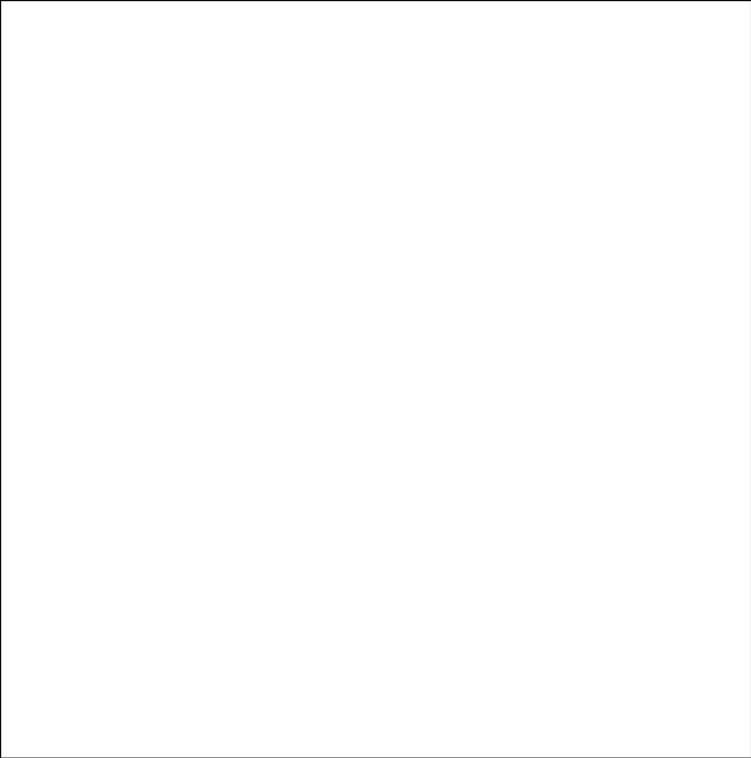
That night Apenyo crept out of the palace. If her father discovered where she was going he would be very angry. She ran through the thick, dark forest over rocks and shrubs, until she finally reached her Trevor. When she arrived at his house she was tired, hungry, and thirsty.



“Moratiwa, goreng o tlile o le esi kgakala jaana ka nako e?” ga botsa Lefika. O ne a mo siela metsi mme a mo tlogela gore a ikhutse. Lefika o ne a sa kgone go itshoka fa a ntse a emetse Dineo gore a bue.

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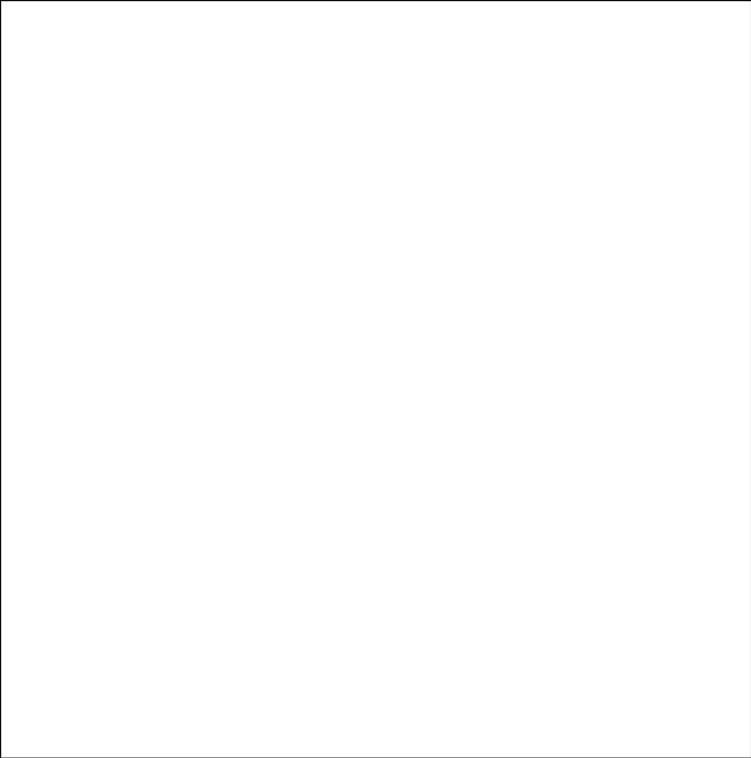
“My love, why have you run all this long distance alone and at such a time of night?” asked Trevor. He fetched drinking water for her and allowed her to rest. Trevor could not settle down while he waited for Apenyo to talk.



“Kgosigadi ya me e e rategang, bothata ke eng?” Lefika a botsa. Dineo a hemela kwa godimo mme ka kutlobotlhoko a re, “Rre o batla go nnyadisa kgosana Moroka yo mogolo. Mme nna nka se kgone go nyala monna yole. Lefika, ke batla go nyalana le wena le fa o le modidi. Ke ikemiseditse go sotlega. Ke a go rata.”

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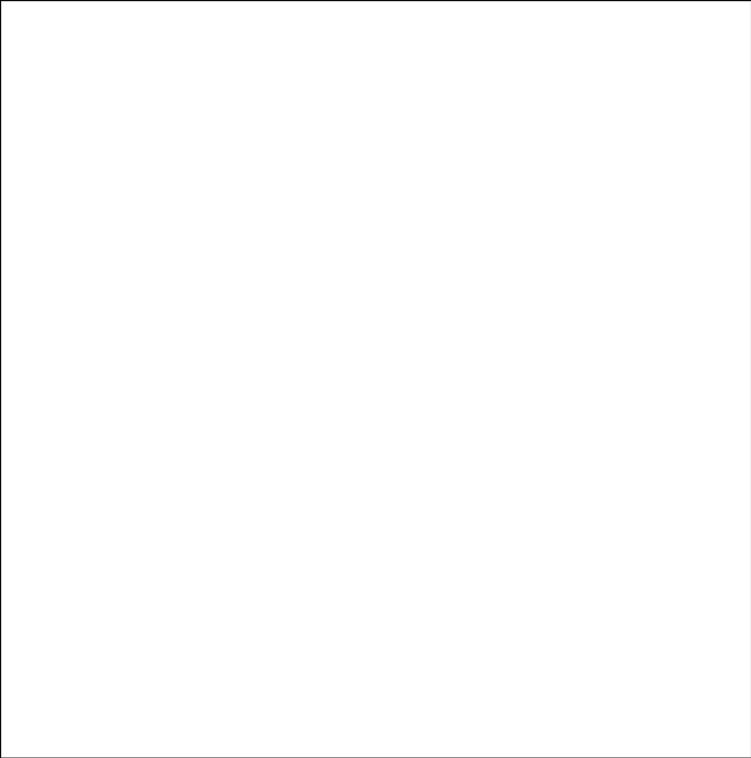
“My dear princess, what is the problem?” asked Trevor. Apenyo breathed heavily and said sadly, “My father wants to marry me off to chief Aludah the Great. But I can’t marry that horrible man. Trevor, I want to marry you even if you are poor. I am ready to suffer. I love you.”



“Fela kgosigadi, ga ke na sepe se nka se fang rrago, o a itse gore ke mosimane wa modidi,” Lefika a lela. “Ke a itse, ke wena fela monna yo nka nyalanang le ena,” ga araba Dineo. O ne a akanya mme morago ga nako a re, “A re tsamae re ye kwa go Thabang monna wa mokoro gore a re tshedise noka. Ka mokgwa oo, re ka tshaba mme rre a ka se tlhole a re bona.”

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“But princess, I have nothing to pay as your bride price, you know I’m a poor boy.” cried Trevor. Apenyo replied, “I know, but it’s only you I can get married to.” She thought for a while and said, “Let’s go to Kategga the boat man to sail us to the other side of the river. That way we can escape and my father will never find us.”



Kwa ntlong ya segosi, Kgosi Mothupi o lemogile gore kgosigadi Dineo ga a teng, mme a laela bathusi ba gagwe gore ba mmotle motse otlhe. Badisa ba kgosi, masole le baagi botlhe ba motse ba ne ba batla gotlhe mme ba se bone kgosigadi Dineo. Ba ne ba boela kwa kgosing mme ba mmolelela gore ga ba a bona Dineo gope. “Tsamayang lo ye go mmatla kwa nageng,” Kgosi Mothupi a ntsha molao. O ne a tenegile.

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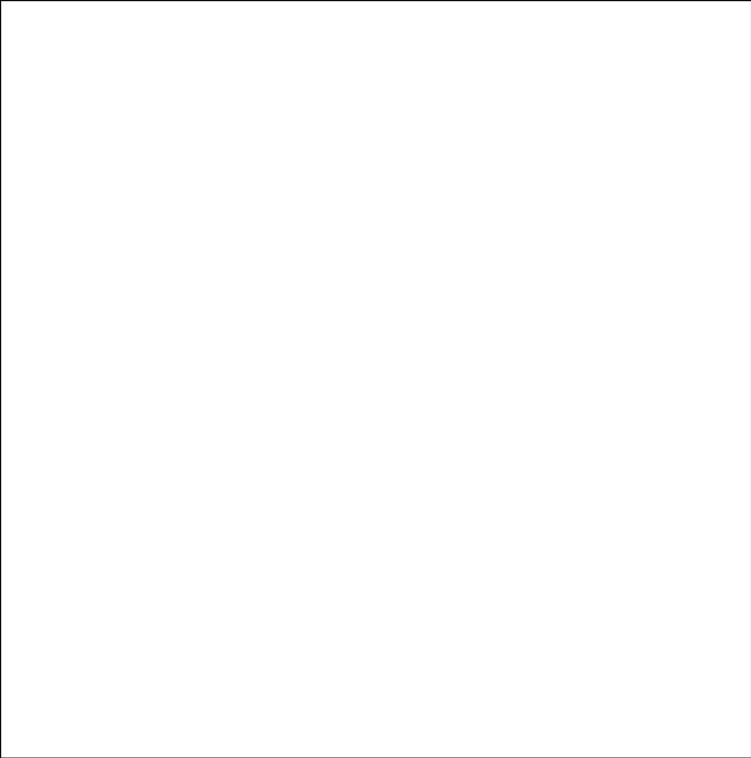
Back at the palace, king Kayanja had discovered Princess Apenyo’s disappearance and ordered his subjects to search for her everywhere in the village. The king’s guards, soldiers, and everyone else searched, but they couldn’t find Princess Apenyo. They went back to the King and told him Apenyo was nowhere to be seen. “Then go to the bush and search,” King Kayanja ordered. He was very annoyed.



Fa kgosigadi Dineo le Lefika ba itlhaganelela kwa ditshitshing tsa noka, go ne ga thiba maru a mantsho. Go ne go tla pula ya matlakadibe.

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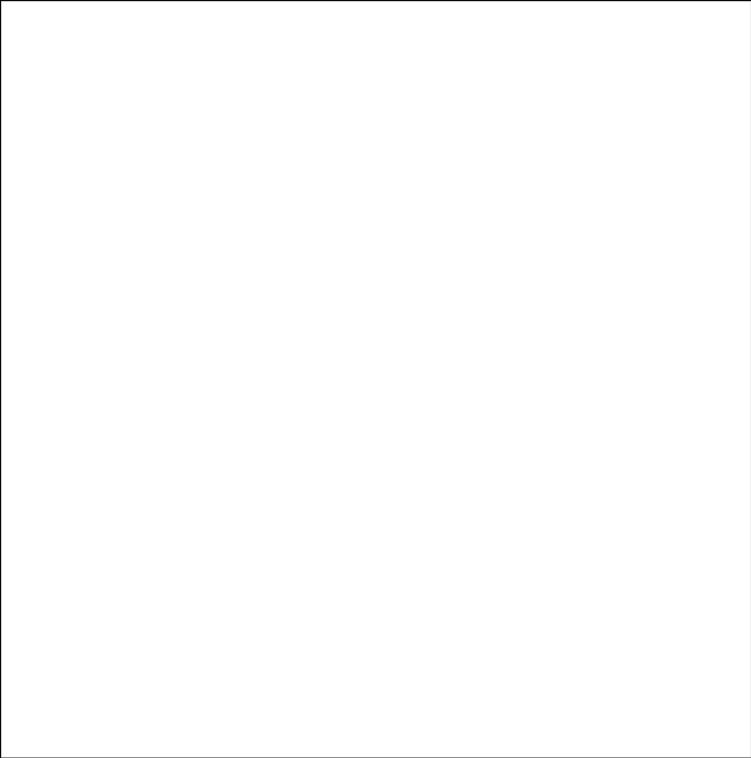
As Princess Apenyo and Trevor hurried to the riverbank, dark clouds began gathering in the sky. A heavy storm was coming.



Thabang rramokoro o ne ntse a baakanya mokoro wa gagwe fa baratani ba ba tla mo go ena. Lefika o ne a kopa Thabang gore a ba tshedise noka. Thabang o ne a gana, a tlhalosa gore go tla pula ya matlakadibe mme ga go a sireletsega.

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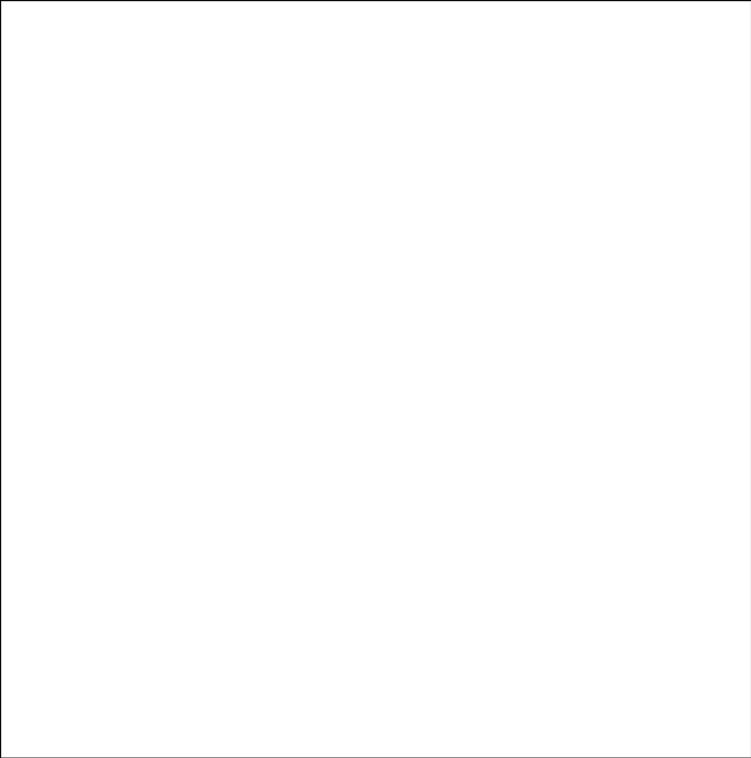
Kategga the boatman was mooring his boat when the young couple approached him. Trevor asked Kategga to row them across the river. Kategga refused to accept, explaining that a heavy storm was fast approaching, and it would be too dangerous.



Lefika o ne a pateletsa mme a tlhalosetsa Thabang mabaka a bona. O ne a tsha legago mme a le fa Thabang. Fa Thabang a utlwa mathata a bona mme a bona legapa le lentle, o ne a ba utlwela botlhoko. O ne a dumela go ba tshedisa noka maemo a loapi a ntse a sa dumele.

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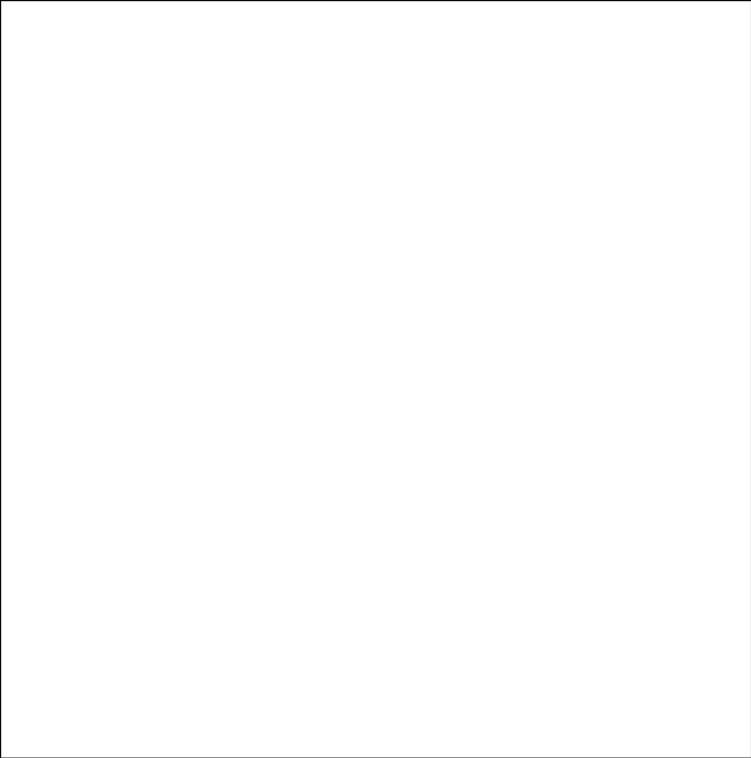
Trevor insisted and explained to Kategga why they must cross. He then put his hand deep in his pocket and took out a cowrie shell to give to Kategga. When Kategga heard their story and saw the beautiful shell, he felt sorry for them. He agreed to row them across the river in spite of the weather.



Thabang o ne a gogela mokoro gaufi le bona, mme a re ba palame. O ne a simolola go kgweetsa mokoro wa gagwe ka baratani ba. Fa Kgosi Mothupi le kgosana Moroka ba fitlha kwa ditshitshing tsa noka, ba ne ba bona batho ba bararo mo mokorong. Ba lemoga gore baratani ba bašwa ba tshabile.

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Kategga pulled the boat near the bank and told them to get in. He then picked his oars and began rowing. When king Kayanja and chief Aludah reached the bank, they saw the three people in the boat. They realised that the young lovers had escaped.



Diphefo tse di bokete di ne tsa fekeetsa mokoro mme Thabang o ne a palelwa ke go o laola. “Boa tswée-tswée. Ke go itshwaretse. Nka se lo otlhae.” Mme go ne go setse go le thari. Mokoro o ne wa fetoga mme boraro jwa bona ba nwela mo metsing a a bogale. Go tloga ka letsatsi leo, moagi mongwe le mongwe wa motse wa ga Kgosi Mothupi o ne a letlelewa go nyala motho yo a mo ratang, mohumi kgotsa modidi.

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Heavy winds rocked the boat and Kategga could no longer control it. King Kayanja shouted: “Apenyo, please come back! I have forgiven you and will never punish you or Trevor.” But it was too late. The boat tipped over and the three people were thrown into the wild water. They all drowned. After that day, everyone in king Kayanja’s kingdom could marry anyone they wanted, rich or poor.



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Illustrated by: Natalie Propa

Translated by: Lorato Trok (tn)

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