



## A curse or a blessing!

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English

It has been raining for three days.  
There is water everywhere.

There is a problem.

The only bridge linking Napetet village with the  
shopping centre has been carried away by water.





To make it worse many houses have been washed away by floods.

Only permanent houses remain standing.

We had waited for the rains!

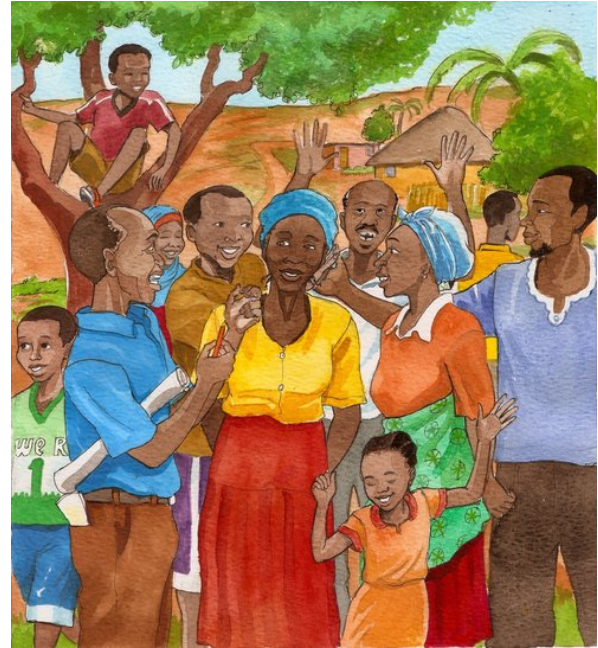
What seemed a blessing in the beginning is now a disaster for villagers.

Everybody had prepared their farm for the planting season.

Now, we cannot even do that!

Before this terrible situation, Lomongin, the famous rain-maker in the area, was seen consulting his gods.

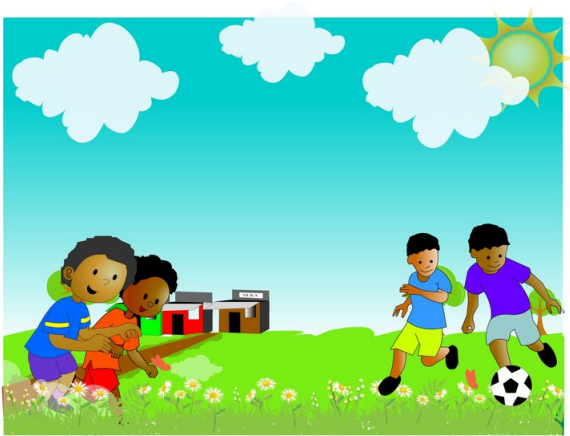
People gathered outside his home anxiously waiting for a message of hope.





When he came out of his house, he assured people that the creator was going to answer their prayers.

That they will have enough rain for their crops.



Children played outside as we waited for the rains.

Later that day, we saw big white clouds in the far east.

I knew they were rain clouds.

People were still thinking about what the rain maker said. Mother shouted loudly, "There! The clouds are now dark." Suddenly, heavy rain poured.



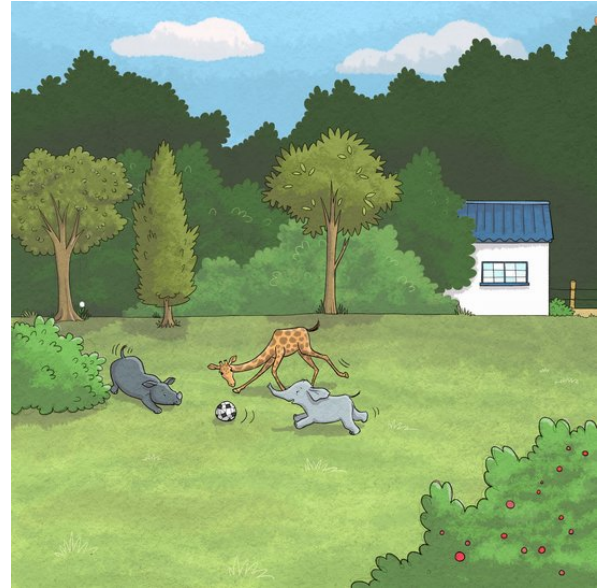


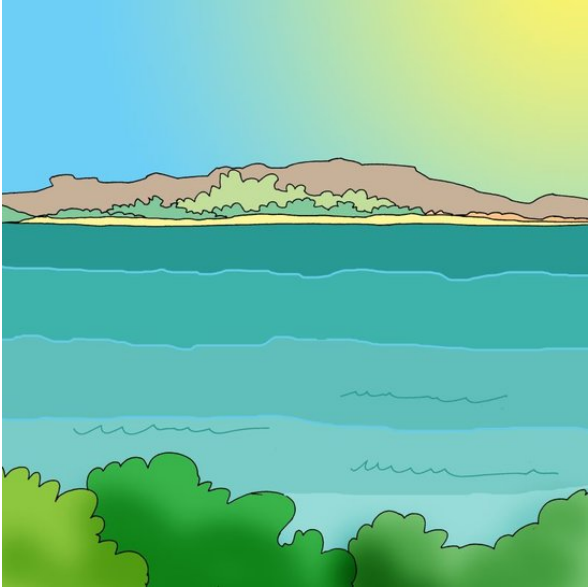
Some people had left their homes and their farms thinking that the rain would stop.

The rain took many days.

Animals played in the grass.

People waited anxiously for the rain to stop but it rained and rained.





People of Napetet had longed for rain but now they did not want it any more.

Some had no homes. They had no bridge to cross on.

Only few wanted more rain so their dams could fill up.

People of Napetet village also had a new problem!

They saw crocodiles swimming everywhere.

This had never happened before. The villagers were confused.





They could not go for shopping as all the shops were across the river.

Children couldn't go to school because most schools were across the river.

There was grass everywhere.

Then, grasshoppers began eating leaves.



What should have been a blessing, was a big loss to Napetet residents. Lomongin, the rain-maker, was disappointed as well!

The only person who was happy was Kapuus with his nine cats!



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The story of how a local rain-maker's prediction of the coming rain ended up in the villagers' disappointment.

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