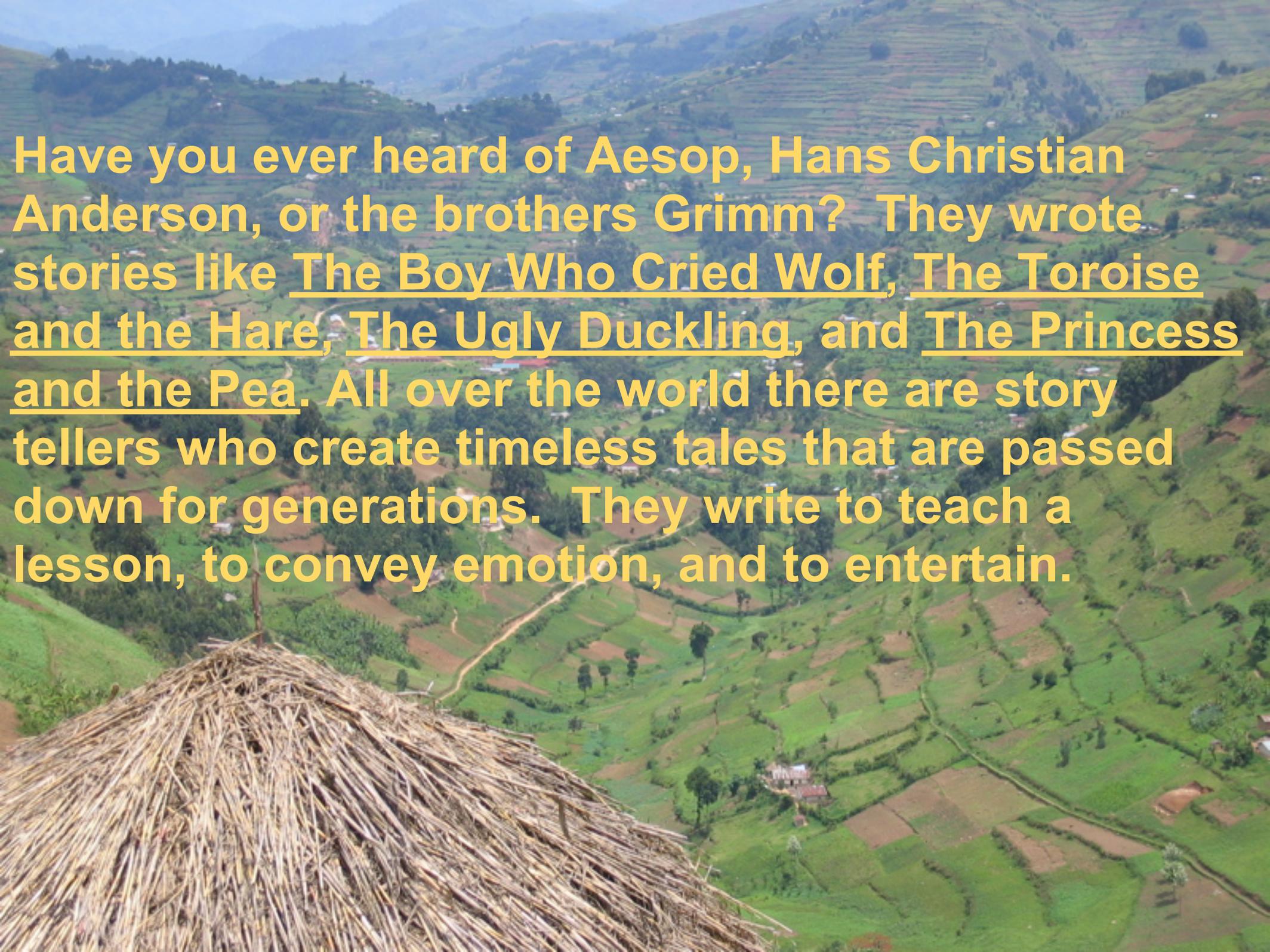
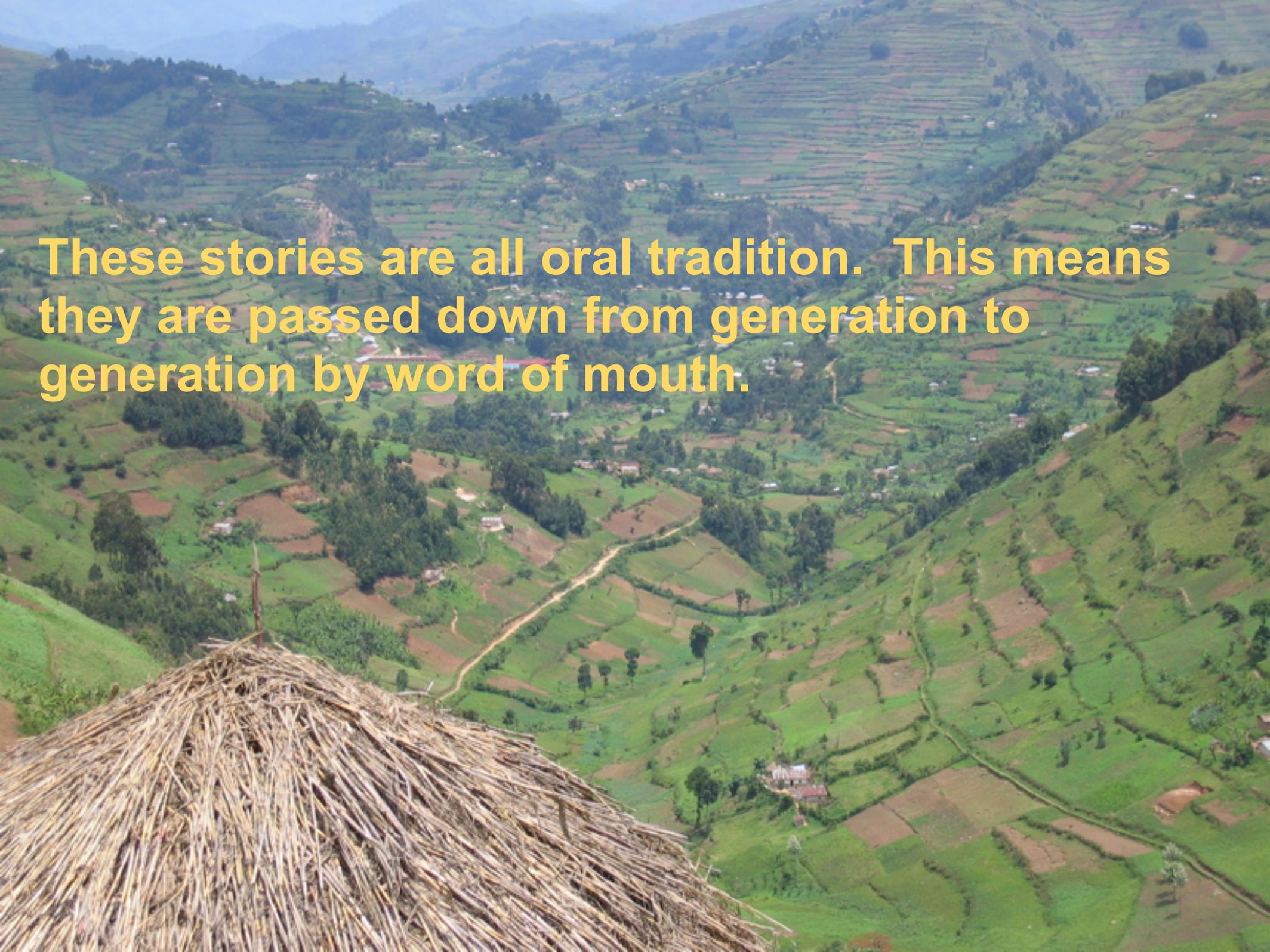
An aerial photograph of a lush green valley with terraced fields and a thatched roof in the foreground. The valley is filled with green fields and small houses, with a dirt road winding through it. The hills in the background are also green and terraced. The sky is blue and hazy.

Writing Your Own Ugandan Fable

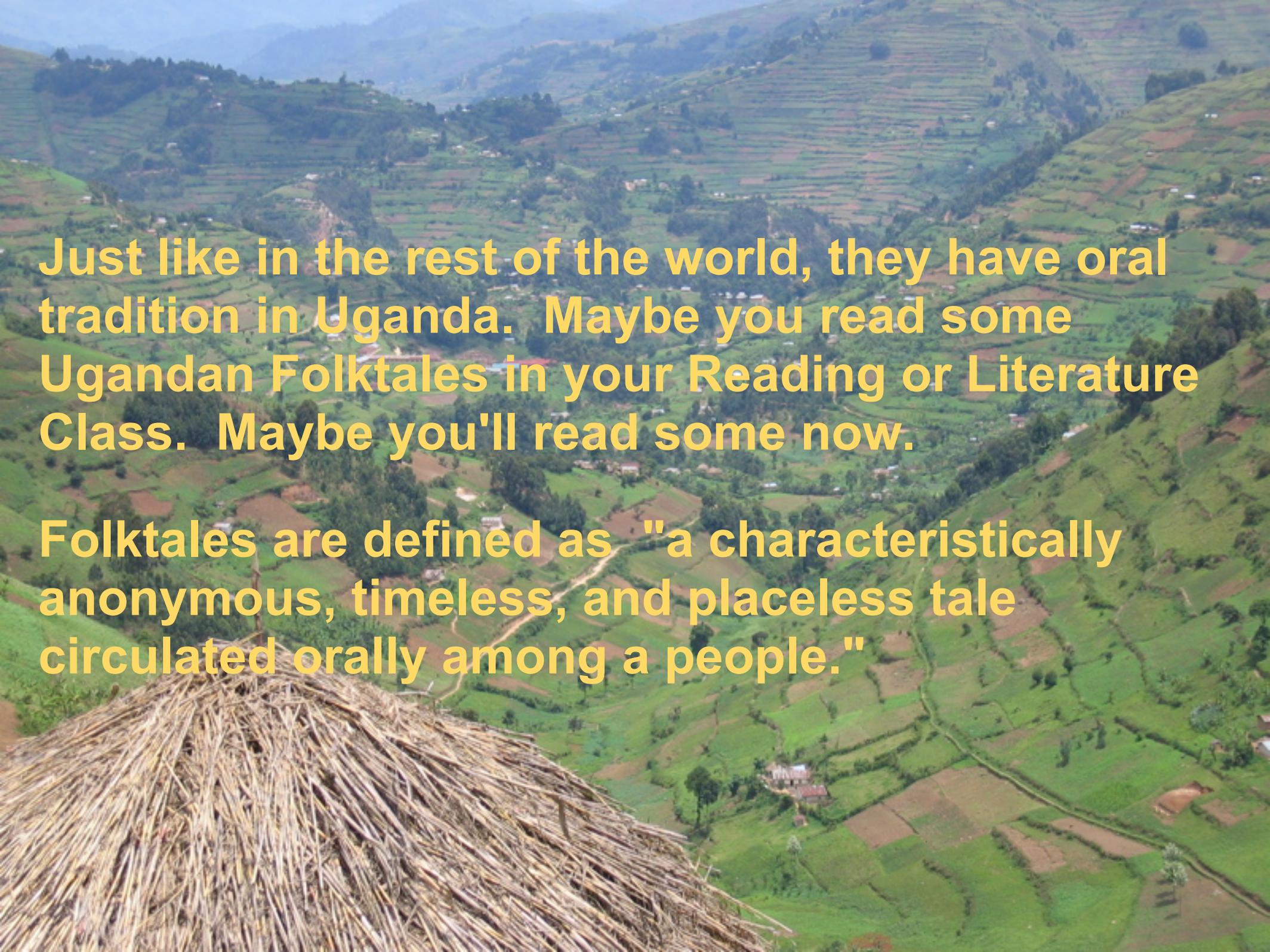
A Writing Lesson by NETwork Against Malaria

An aerial photograph of a lush green valley with terraced fields and a thatched roof in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, yellow font.

Have you ever heard of Aesop, Hans Christian Anderson, or the brothers Grimm? They wrote stories like The Boy Who Cried Wolf, The Tortoise and the Hare, The Ugly Duckling, and The Princess and the Pea. All over the world there are story tellers who create timeless tales that are passed down for generations. They write to teach a lesson, to convey emotion, and to entertain.

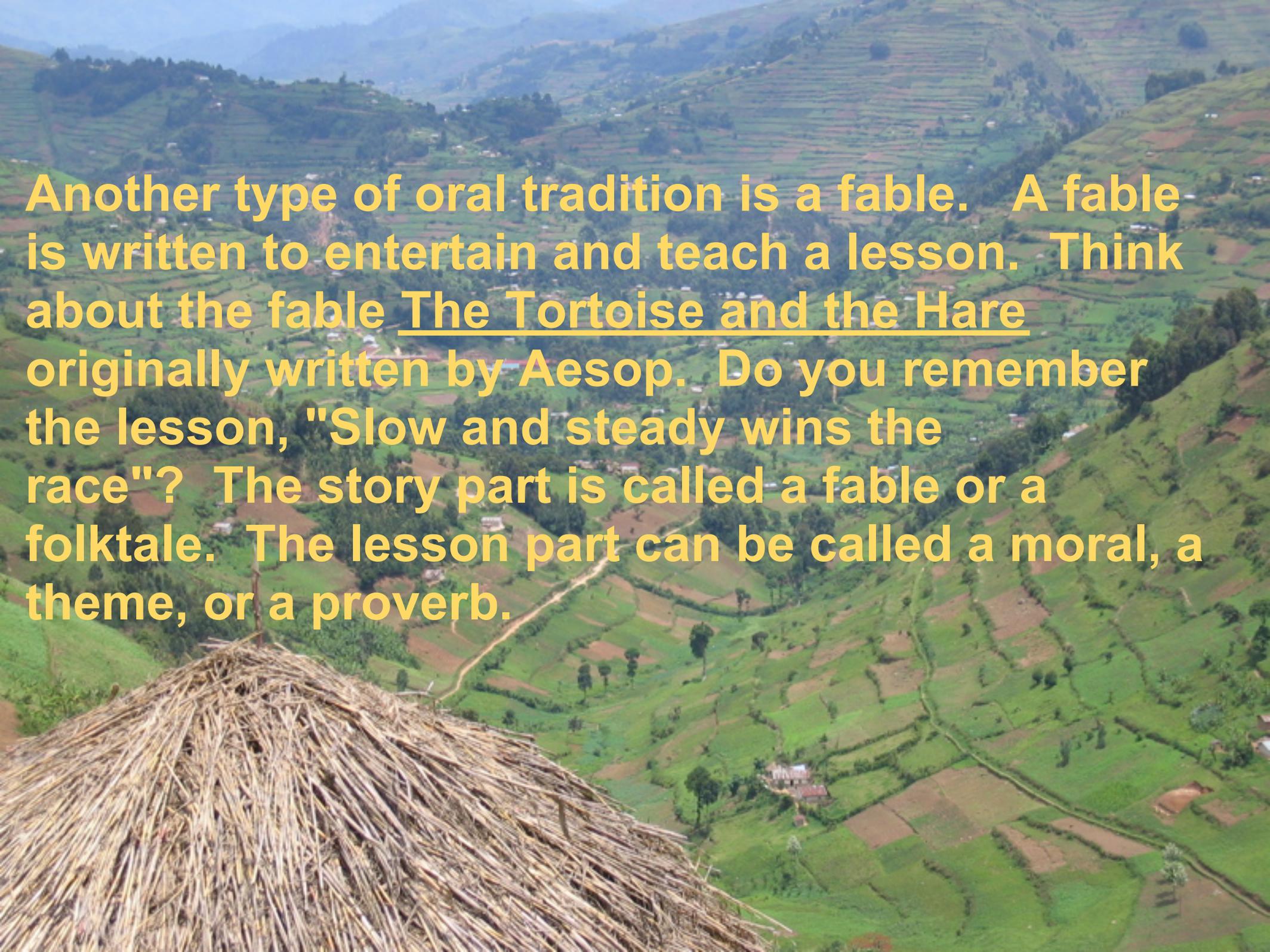
An aerial photograph of a lush, terraced valley. The foreground shows the top of a thatched roof made of dry sticks. The valley below is filled with green terraced fields, interspersed with small houses and a dirt road. The hillsides are covered in dense green vegetation, and the background shows more distant, hazy hills under a clear sky.

These stories are all oral tradition. This means they are passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth.

An aerial photograph of a lush green valley in Uganda. The landscape is characterized by terraced fields and small settlements. In the foreground, the thatched roof of a traditional building is visible, made of dry sticks and straw. The text is overlaid in a bold, yellow font.

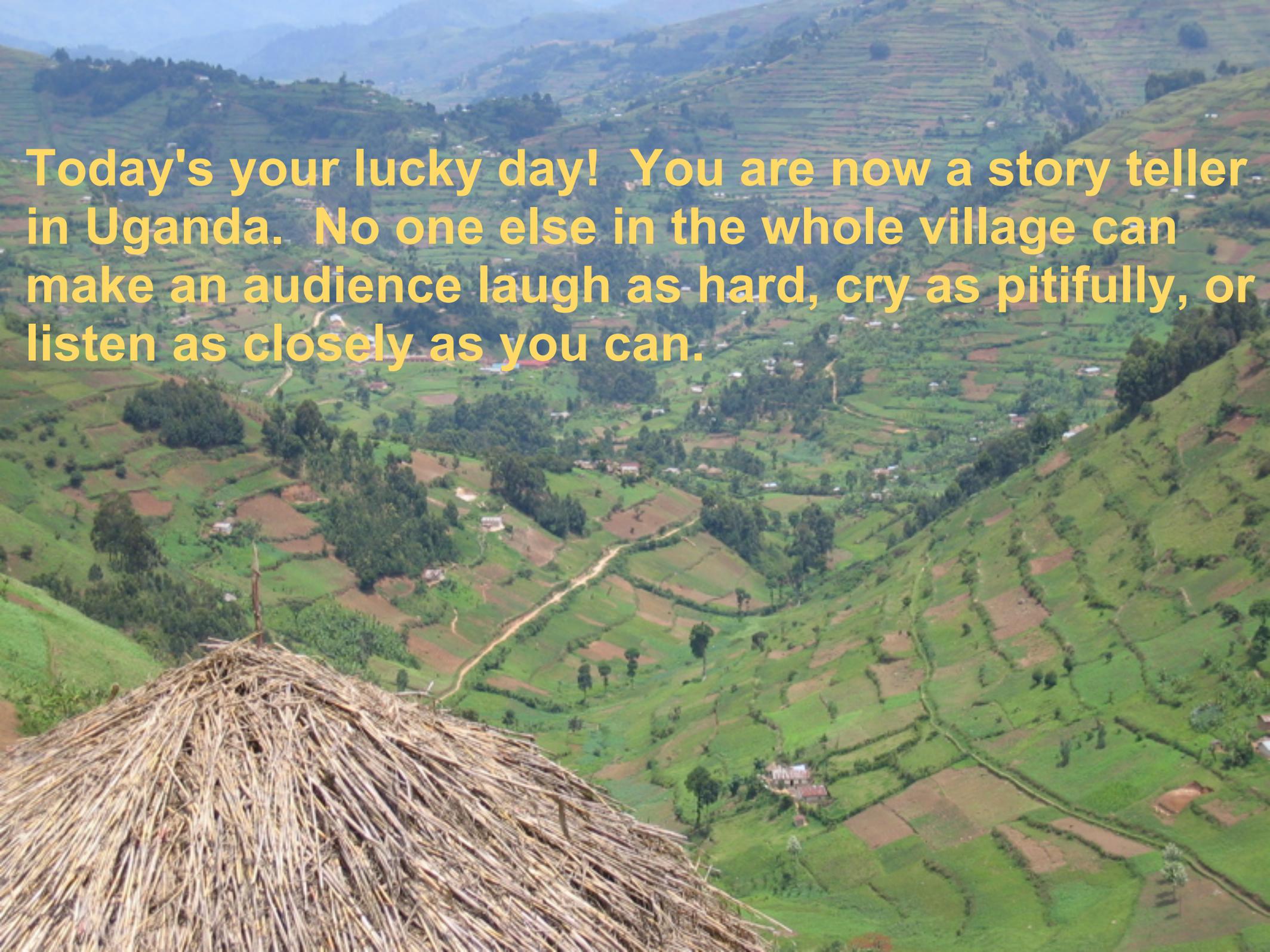
Just like in the rest of the world, they have oral tradition in Uganda. Maybe you read some Ugandan Folktales in your Reading or Literature Class. Maybe you'll read some now.

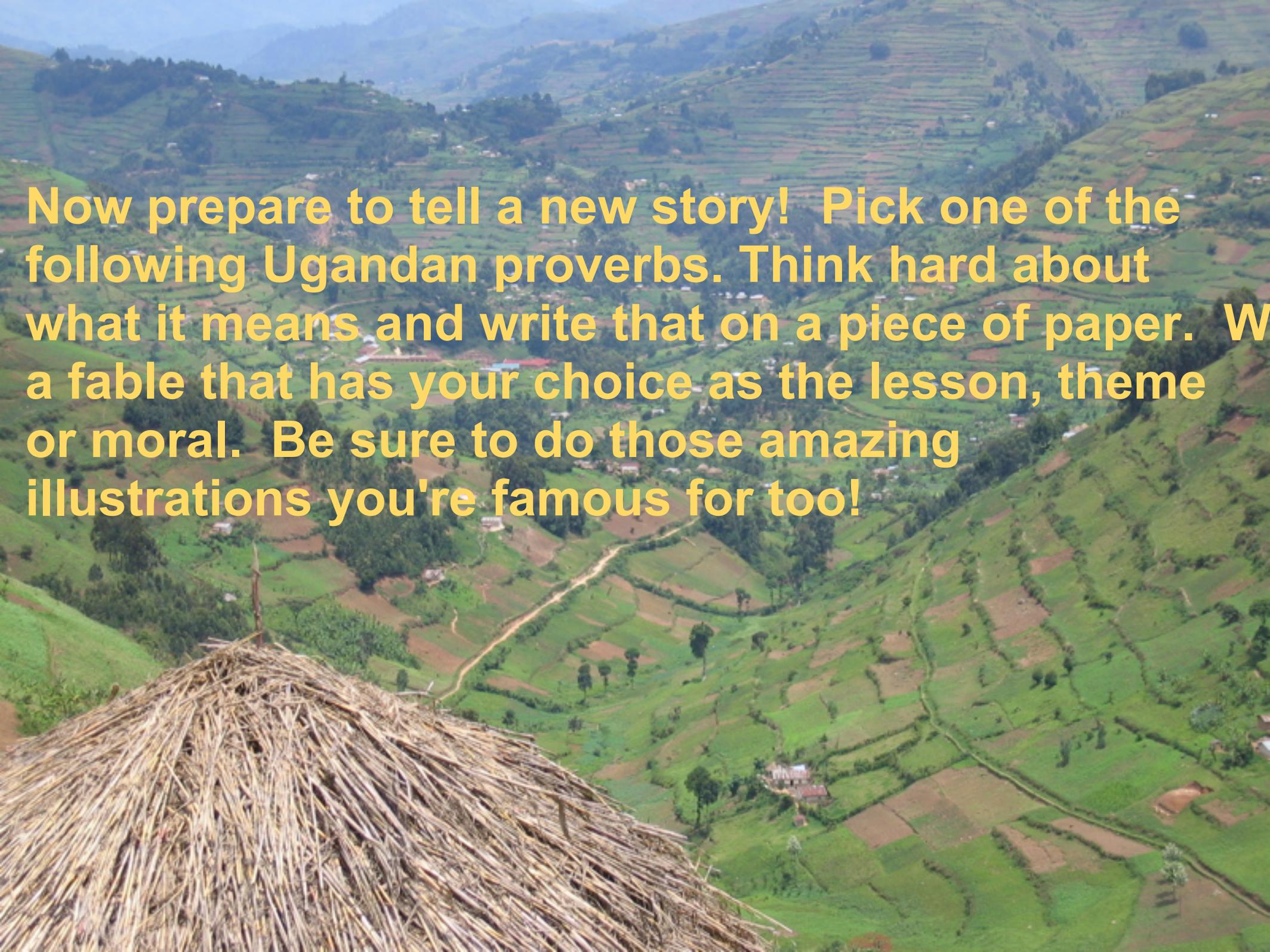
Folktales are defined as "a characteristically anonymous, timeless, and placeless tale circulated orally among a people."

A scenic view of a valley with terraced fields and a thatched roof in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image in a yellow, bold font.

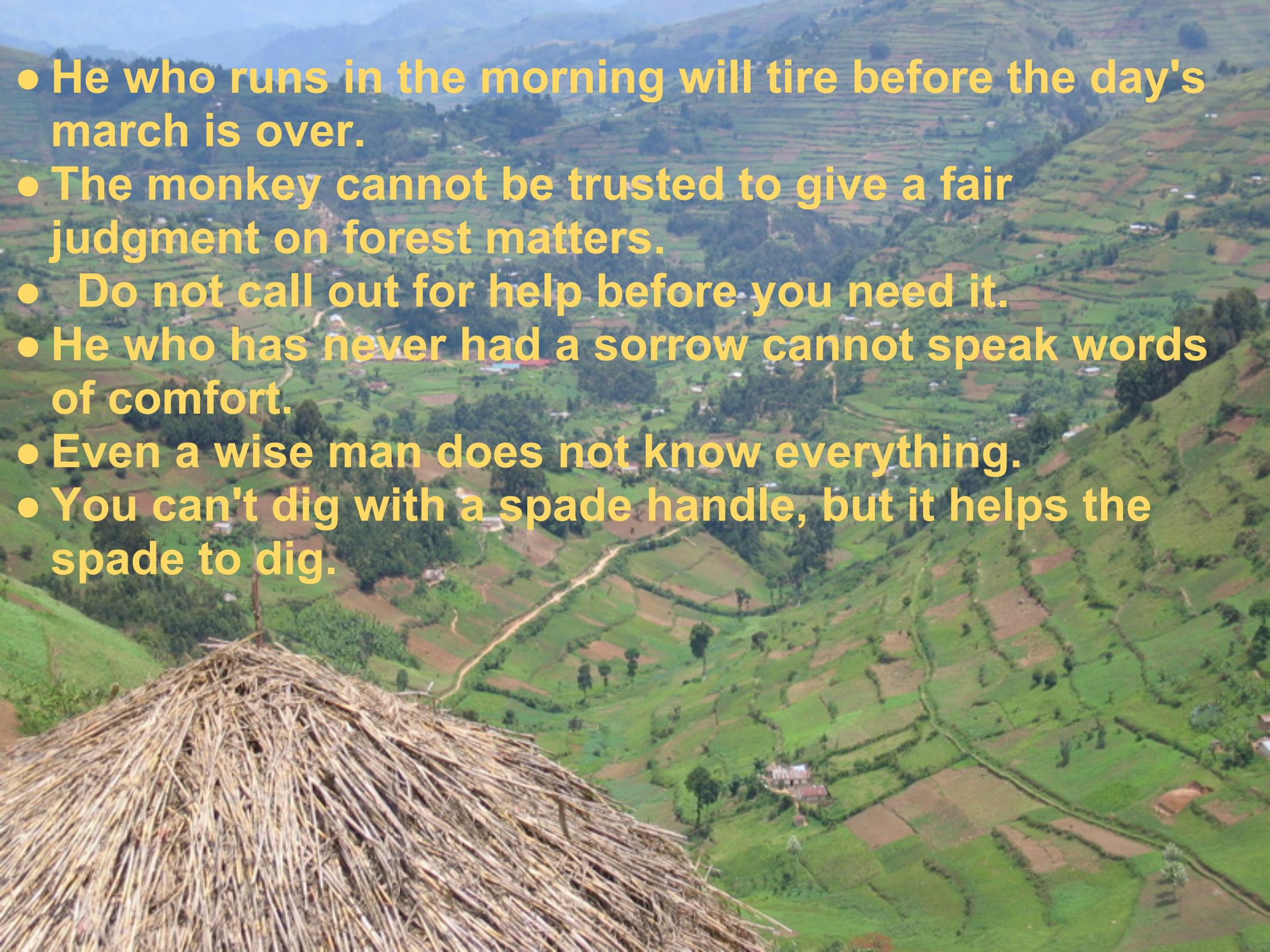
Another type of oral tradition is a fable. A fable is written to entertain and teach a lesson. Think about the fable The Tortoise and the Hare originally written by Aesop. Do you remember the lesson, "Slow and steady wins the race"? The story part is called a fable or a folktale. The lesson part can be called a moral, a theme, or a proverb.

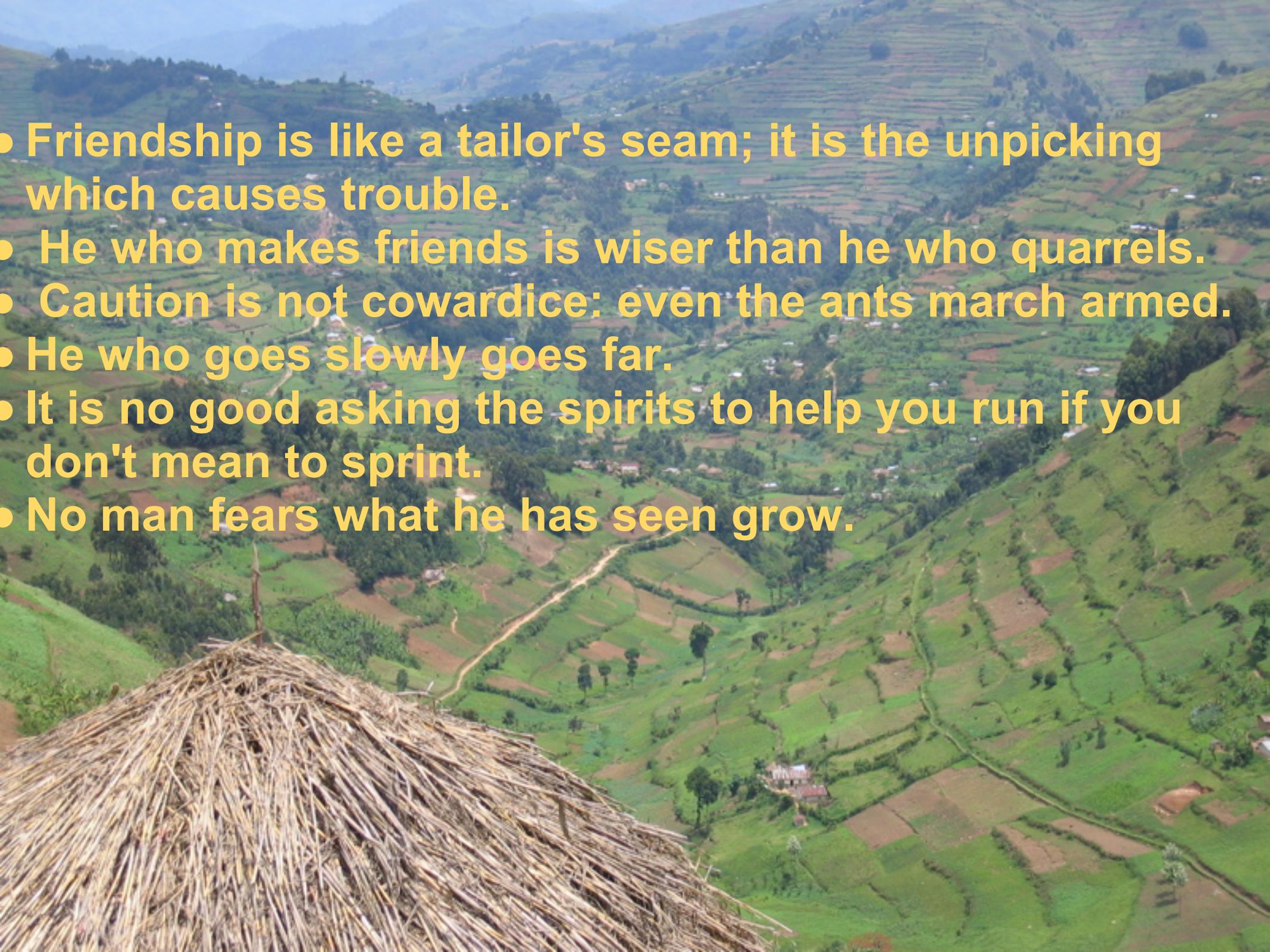
Today's your lucky day! You are now a story teller in Uganda. No one else in the whole village can make an audience laugh as hard, cry as pitifully, or listen as closely as you can.

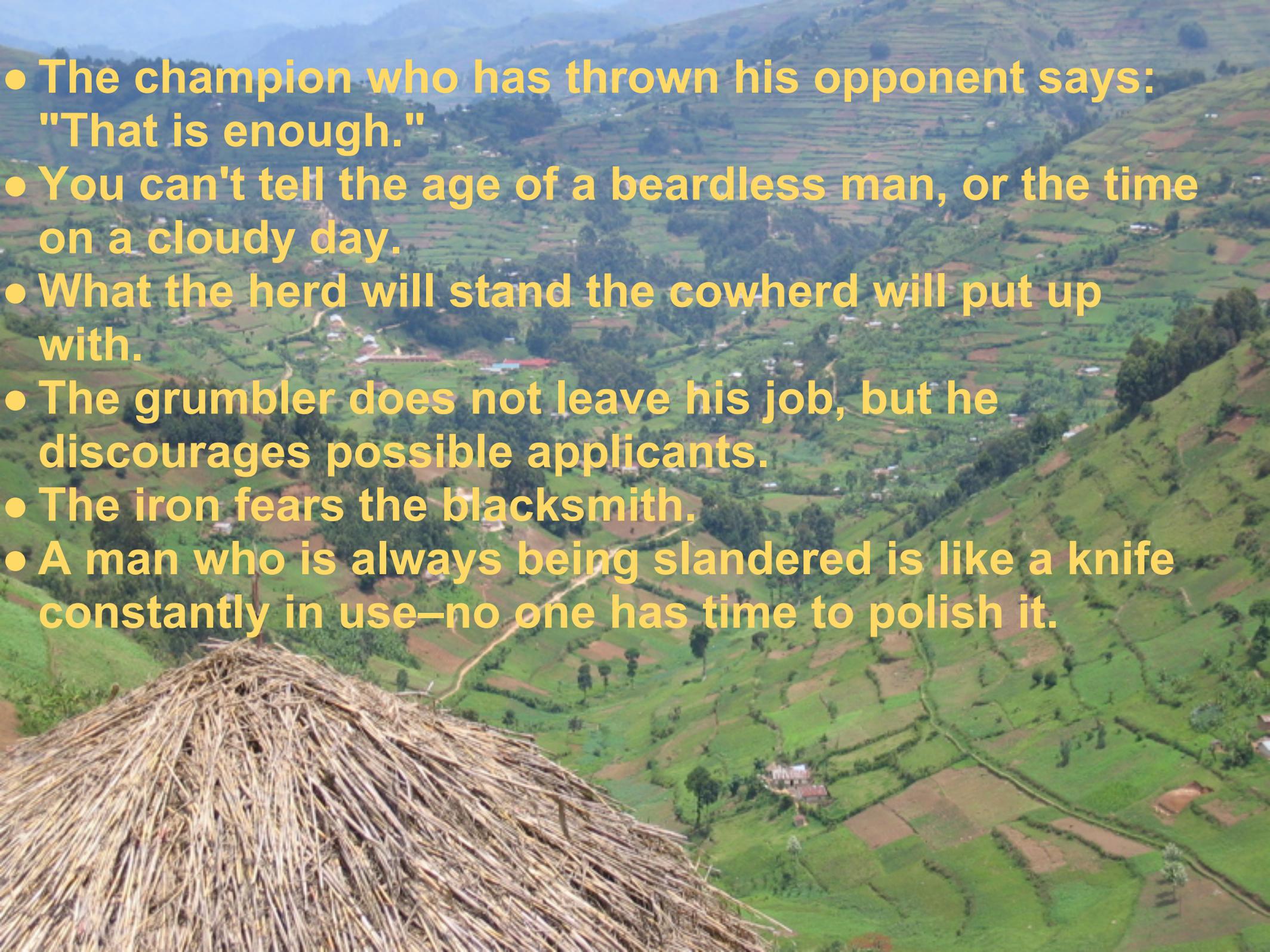


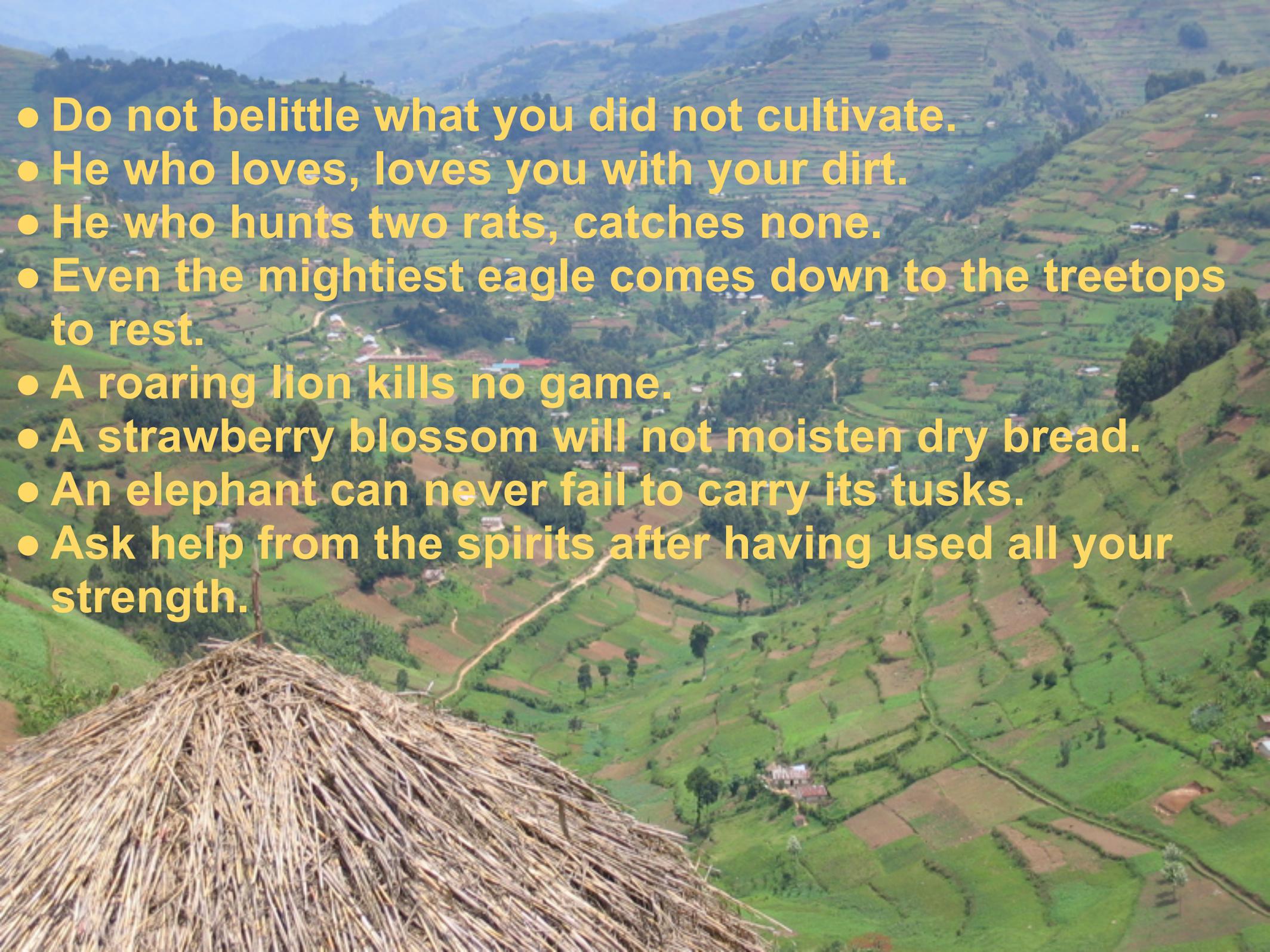
A high-angle photograph of a lush green valley in Uganda. The foreground shows the top of a thatched roof made of dry sticks. The valley below is filled with terraced fields, some green and some brown, with a dirt road winding through them. In the distance, there are more hills and a small village with red-roofed buildings. The sky is clear and blue.

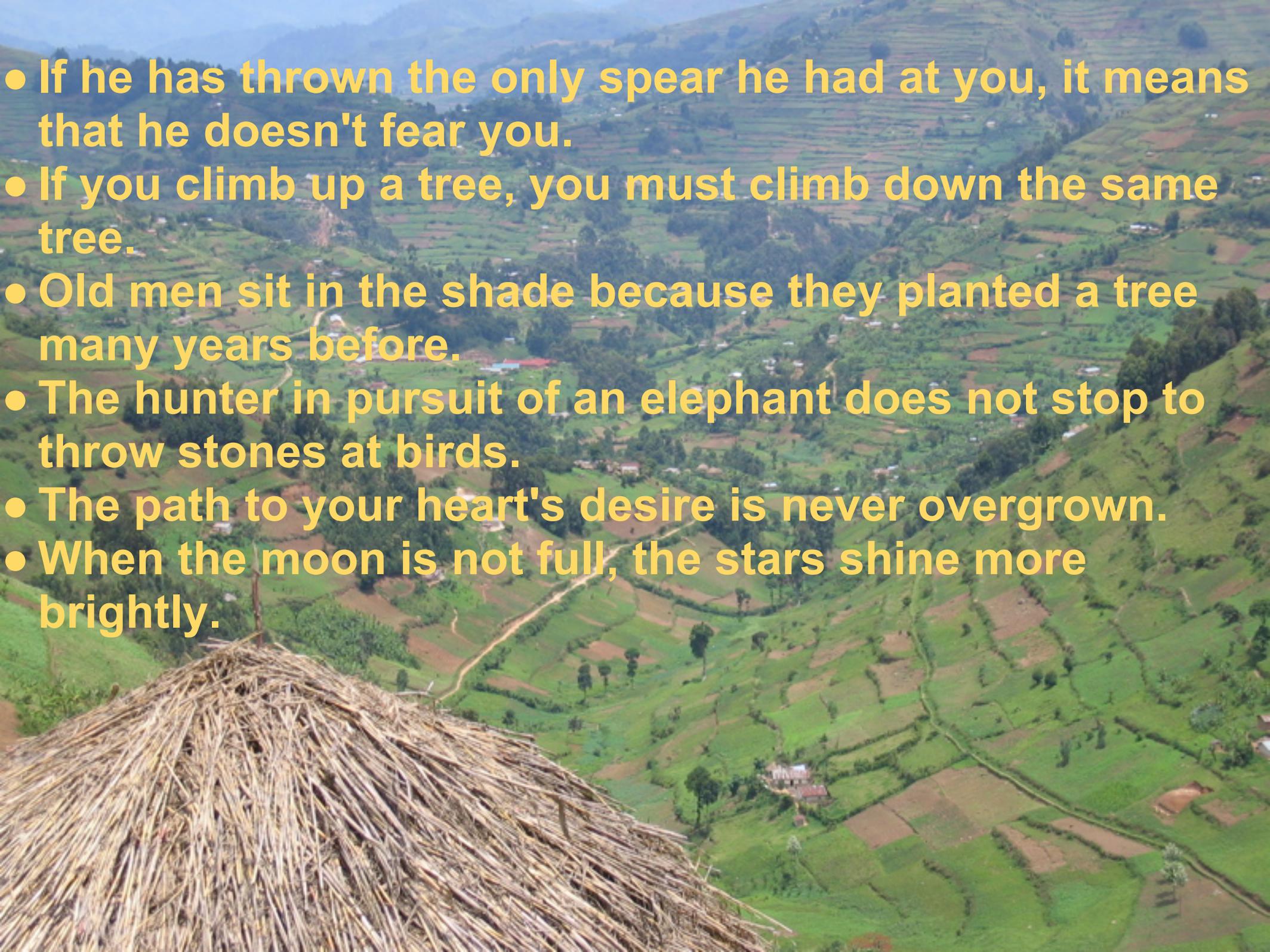
Now prepare to tell a new story! Pick one of the following Ugandan proverbs. Think hard about what it means and write that on a piece of paper. Write a fable that has your choice as the lesson, theme or moral. Be sure to do those amazing illustrations you're famous for too!

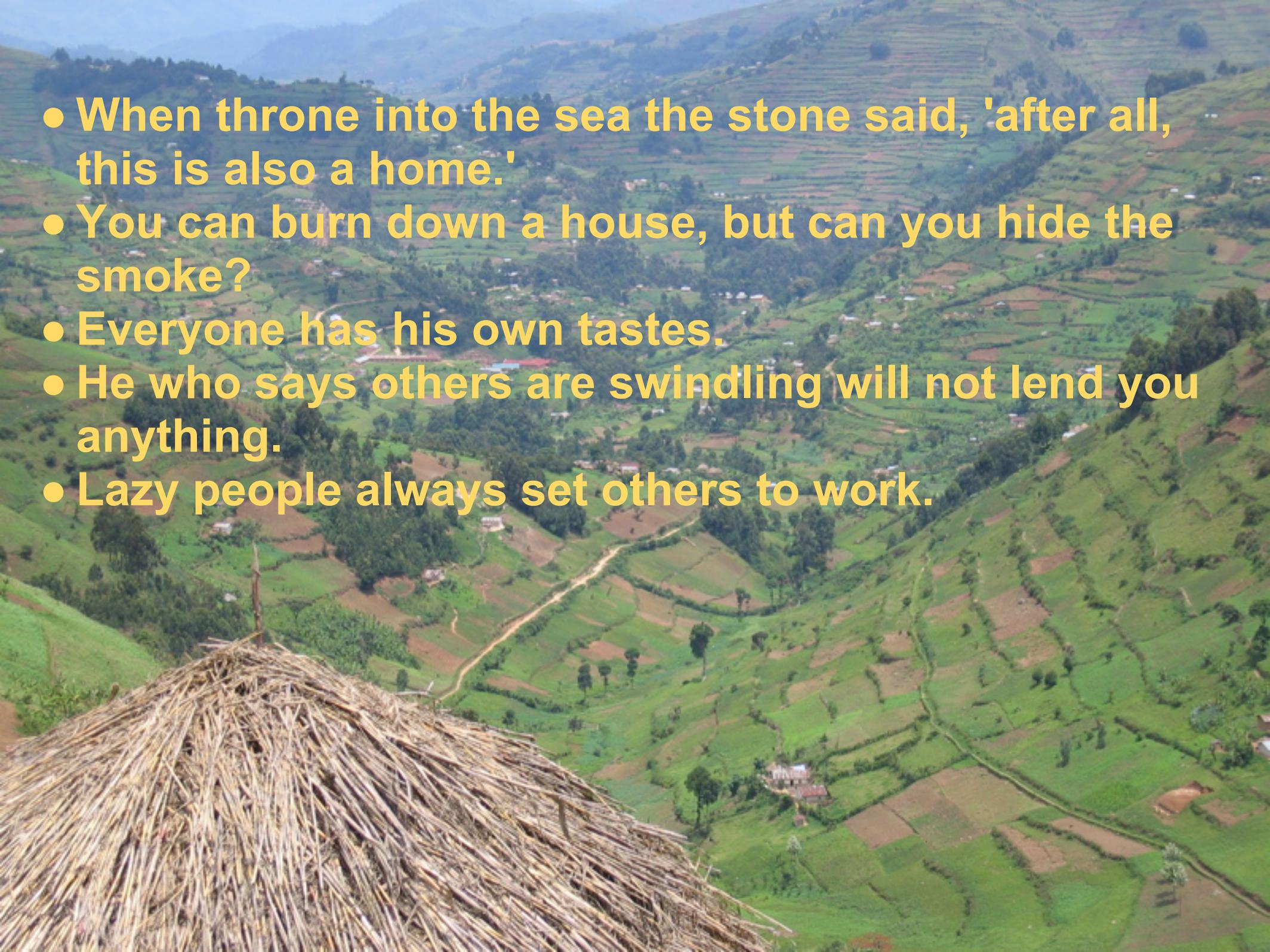
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- A scenic view of a valley with terraced fields and a thatched roof in the foreground. The valley is filled with green fields and a dirt road winding through it. In the foreground, the thatched roof of a building is visible, made of dry sticks and straw. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.
- He who runs in the morning will tire before the day's march is over.
 - The monkey cannot be trusted to give a fair judgment on forest matters.
 - Do not call out for help before you need it.
 - He who has never had a sorrow cannot speak words of comfort.
 - Even a wise man does not know everything.
 - You can't dig with a spade handle, but it helps the spade to dig.

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- A scenic view of a valley with terraced fields and a thatched roof in the foreground. The landscape is lush green with brown soil patches, and a dirt road winds through the valley. In the foreground, the top of a thatched roof made of dry sticks is visible. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.
- Friendship is like a tailor's seam; it is the unpicking which causes trouble.
 - He who makes friends is wiser than he who quarrels.
 - Caution is not cowardice: even the ants march armed.
 - He who goes slowly goes far.
 - It is no good asking the spirits to help you run if you don't mean to sprint.
 - No man fears what he has seen grow.

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- A scenic view of a valley with terraced fields and a thatched roof in the foreground. The valley is filled with green fields and small houses, with mountains in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in a yellow font.
- The champion who has thrown his opponent says: "That is enough."
 - You can't tell the age of a beardless man, or the time on a cloudy day.
 - What the herd will stand the cowherd will put up with.
 - The grumbler does not leave his job, but he discourages possible applicants.
 - The iron fears the blacksmith.
 - A man who is always being slandered is like a knife constantly in use—no one has time to polish it.

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- A scenic view of a valley with terraced fields and a thatched roof in the foreground. The valley is filled with green fields and small houses, with a dirt road winding through it. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The foreground shows the top of a thatched roof made of dry sticks and straw.
- Do not belittle what you did not cultivate.
 - He who loves, loves you with your dirt.
 - He who hunts two rats, catches none.
 - Even the mightiest eagle comes down to the treetops to rest.
 - A roaring lion kills no game.
 - A strawberry blossom will not moisten dry bread.
 - An elephant can never fail to carry its tusks.
 - Ask help from the spirits after having used all your strength.

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- A scenic view of a valley with terraced fields and a thatched roof in the foreground. The valley is lush green with terraced fields and a dirt road winding through it. In the foreground, the thatched roof of a traditional building is visible, made of dry sticks and straw. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.
- If he has thrown the only spear he had at you, it means that he doesn't fear you.
 - If you climb up a tree, you must climb down the same tree.
 - Old men sit in the shade because they planted a tree many years before.
 - The hunter in pursuit of an elephant does not stop to throw stones at birds.
 - The path to your heart's desire is never overgrown.
 - When the moon is not full, the stars shine more brightly.

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- A high-angle photograph of a lush green valley. In the foreground, the top of a thatched roof made of dry sticks is visible. The valley below is filled with terraced fields, some green and some brown, with a dirt road winding through them. In the distance, there are small houses and more hills under a clear sky.
- When throne into the sea the stone said, 'after all, this is also a home.'
 - You can burn down a house, but can you hide the smoke?
 - Everyone has his own tastes.
 - He who says others are swindling will not lend you anything.
 - Lazy people always set others to work.

Sources:

- [The King of the Snakes](#) by Rosetta Baskerville
- http://www.special-dictionary.com/proverbs/source/u/ugandan_proverb/6.htm
- <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/folktale>

