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Author: A. J. N. Tremearne

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Description: See also the [HAUSA TEXT](#) in a separate publication.

One day a Scorpion went to a Snake, and said that she wanted such a poison that if she stung a Man he would die at once. But the Snake said " Oh ! Scorpion, I will not give it to you, you are very hot-tempered, and you would kill off Everybody." Then the Scorpion replied no, no, she would use it only now and then. So the Snake said " Very well, go now, come again to-morrow and I will give it to you " (1).

Now next day, the Snake went out for a walk, and the Scorpion came while he was still out, so she went inside his hut, and lay down on one side of the door. Soon the Snake came in, and while he was getting through the door he squashed the Scorpion, and when she felt hurt she stung him.

Immediately he felt the pain, he wriggled in and wriggled out, he wriggled in and wriggled out of the hut, the pain was driving him mad. Then the Scorpion said to him " O Snake, what has happened to you? " And he replied "Welcome, when did you come?" She said " Oh, I came sometime ago, before you returned." Then he exclaimed " For God's sake don't bother me, something in the hut has hurt me." So she said " It was a sting, O Snake, it was I," she continued, " when you came in, while you were entering you squashed me, and as I felt a movement I stung you ; is it my sting which has given you pain ? " Then the Snake said " Get out, get out, leave my hut, I will not give you any of my poison, you would kill Everybody."