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Author: W. H. I. Bleek

Title: [Reynard the fox in South Africa; or, Hottentot fables and tales.](#)

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Description: Bleek notes about the first version: "The original, in the Hottentot language, is in Sir Gr. Grey's Library, Gr. Kronlein's Manuscript, pp. 5, 6." About the second version he notes: "From a German original Manuscript in Sir G. Grey's Library, H. O. Knudsen's "Notes on the Hottentots," p. 11."

The White Man and the Snake

A White Man, it is said, met a Snake upon whom a large stone had fallen and covered her, so that she could not rise. The White Man lifted the stone off the Snake, but when he had done so, she wanted to bite him.

The White Man said, "Stop! Let us both go first to some wise people."

They went to the Hyena, and the White Man asked him, "Is it right that the Snake should want to bite me, though I helped her, when she lay under a stone and could not rise?"

The Hyena, who thought he would get his share of the White Man's body, said, "If you were bitten what would it matter?"

Then the Snake wanted to bite him, but the White Man said again, "Wait a little, and let us go to other wise people, that I may hear whether this is right."

They went and met the Jackal. The White Man said to the Jackal, "Is it right that the Snake wants to bite me, though I lifted up the stone which lay upon her?"

The Jackal replied, "I do not believe that the Snake could be covered by a stone and could not rise. Unless I saw it with my two eyes, I would not believe it.

Therefore, come let us go and see at the place where you say it happened whether it can be true."

They went, and arrived at the place where it had happened.

The Jackal said, "Snake, lie down, and let thyself be covered."

The Snake did so, and the White Man covered her with the stone, but although she exerted herself very much, she could not rise.

Then the White Man wanted again to release the Snake, but the Jackal interfered, and said, "Do not lift the stone. She wanted to bite you; therefore she may rise by herself."

Then they both went away and left the Snake under the stone.

The Dutchman and the Snake

A Dutchman was walking by himself, and saw a Snake lying under a large stone. The Snake implored his help ; but when she had become free, she said, "Now I shall eat you."

The Man answered, "That is not right. Let us first go to the Hare."

When the Hare had heard the affair, he said, "It is right."

"No," said the Man, "let us ask the Hyena."

The Hyena declared the same, saying, "It is right."

"Now let us at last ask the Jackal," said the Man in his despair.

The Jackal answered very slowly and considerately, doubting the whole affair, and demanding to see first the place, and whether the Man was able to lift the stone.

The Snake lay down, and the Man, to prove the truth of his account, put the stone again over her. When she was fast, the Jackal said, "Now let her lie there."