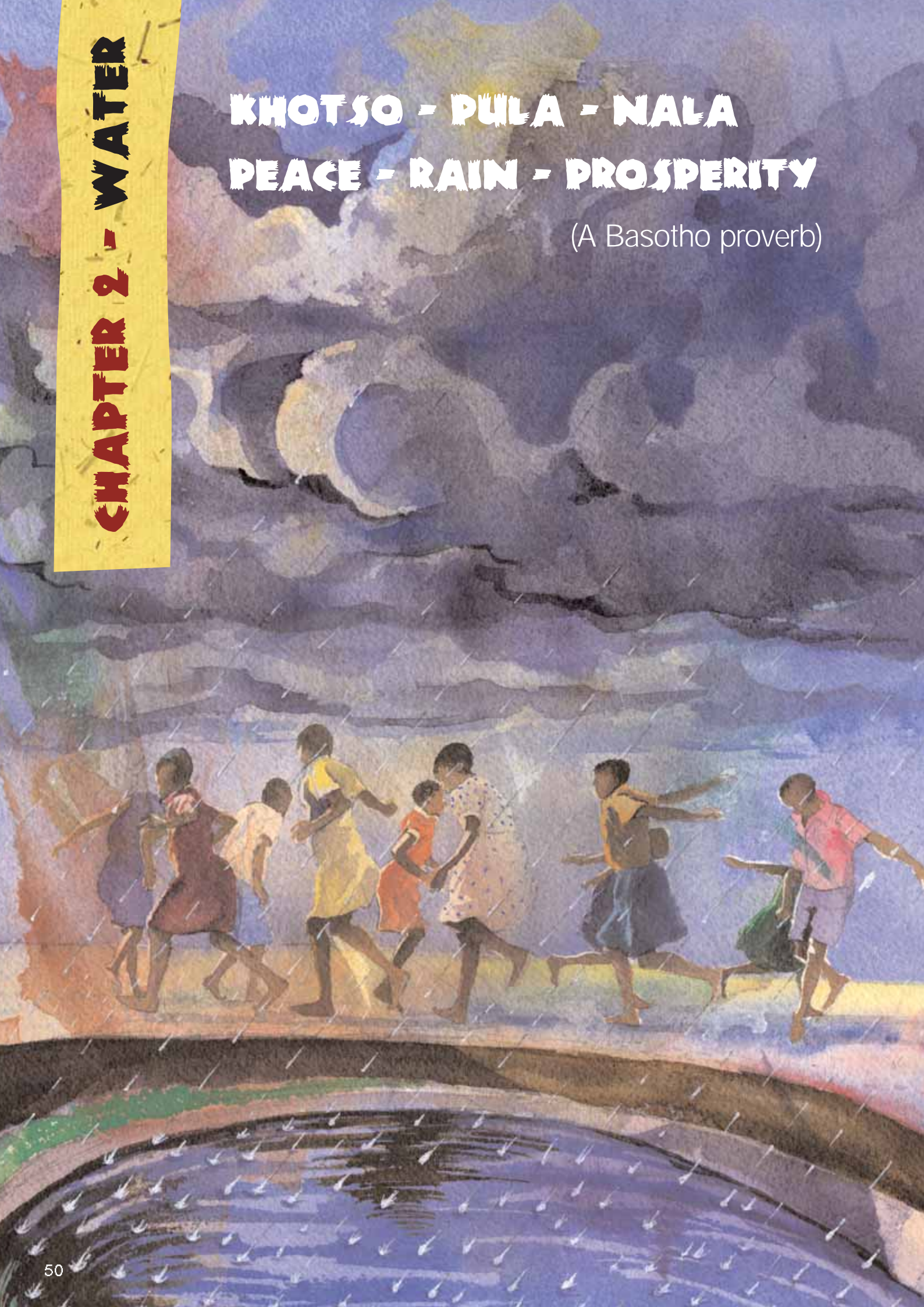


CHAPTER 2 - WATER

KHOTSO - PULA - NALA
PEACE - RAIN - PROSPERITY

(A Basotho proverb)





RAINWATER HARVESTING

One simple way to improve water supplies is to harvest the rain. Your roof can provide your water. A gutter collects the rain from the whole of your roof surface.

Be careful it is not made of poisonous material - steel is best.

Keep the water container covered so that malaria-carrying mosquitoes cannot breed in it. This prevents animals and children falling in too. The picture shows a

rainwater-harvesting house in Kenya. More rainwater can be collected in specially-built ponds or pits, in tanks, or even buckets. Building small underground dams can stop rainwater draining away into the earth and save it for later use. See Chapter 3 for ways in which farmers are harvesting rainwater for their crops.

Using water wisely

Another way to help the problem of water shortage is to use the water you have more wisely.

Much water is wasted in agriculture. When water is simply flooded into a field through ditches and channels, most of it ends up evaporating.

Too much irrigation can also cause salinization, making the soil too salty for plants to grow. This lady from Zimbabwe is using a drip irrigation kit to feed small amounts of collected rainwater directly to her plant roots, using the minimum necessary.

Reuse your water! Washing or cooking water can be used in the garden or farm to grow your crops.

It is not enough that water is accessible, it also needs to be clean. The next section explains why this is so important.



i ACTION SHEETS -
13: ROOFWATER HARVESTING,
15: ROCK CATCHMENT RAINWATER
HARVESTING, 43: DRIP IRRIGATION