

ATTAINING THE LOST GLORY

Once upon a time there was a village called Chiyambi. It was a beautiful village surrounded by a lush green forest where birds and animals lived. Life followed a pattern of rainy season and dry season, planting times and harvest, good times and bad.



Over time the population of the village started to increase. More children were born and they grew up and had families of their own. Everyone needed space to grow their food and firewood for their cooking. People started hunting wild animals in the forest and cutting down trees carelessly. They didn't mean any harm but they didn't think about what was happening to their surroundings.

There was a man called Chembe in the village. He saw that people needed more firewood and he saw an opportunity for himself. He began to cut down many trees and stack up the wood to sell for firewood or to make into charcoal for burning. Soon there were open spaces where no trees grew and the grass was dry and brown when there was no rain. The wind blew across the land with no trees to stop it. The soil was blown away and the crops began to wither. The rains didn't seem to be as good as they used to be and the people became anxious about the future.

Chamanga was very concerned about the behaviour of Chembe. He realised that there was a connection between Chembe's actions and what was happening in the environment. Chamanga decided he had to tell the chief what was happening and ask him to summon Chembe and order him to stop.

'My lord,' he said, 'Chembe is now becoming very dangerous to environment. Our beautiful forest is almost coming to an end. What shall we do when he has cut down the whole forest and there are no trees?'

Having heard Chamanga, the chief made up his mind about what to do.

'I will call a meeting and address the entire village to stop such a malpractice.' and replant trees that have been removed.'

The chief called the people together and told the people about the erratic rains that they were experiencing and the strong winds that blew their roofs.

'Go at once and replant the trees. Collect seeds from the trees that are left. Grow them on and then plant them in the clearings. Water them and protect them from the animals. In the future take care of the place where we all live.'

The people agreed with the chief's comments. They realised the importance of what he was saying and they promised to do what he said.

The story moves ahead ten years. There is a great change in the village and Chiyambi now has good woods and forests as before. People were happy and they were able to live a better life once again.

The children of Mgoza primary school have listed what they think the morals are of this story

- Nature provides us with different things for our good e.g. medicine
- Trees protect our homes from heavy winds
- They also play a big role in the cycle of rain
- Trees prevent soil erosion
- It avoids siltation in rivers and lakes
- The countryside loses its beauty when trees are vandalised

The children in Mgoza can see the effects of cutting down too many trees but they need firewood for cooking. They have no other source of power.

What does the story tell people to do?

In the UK we don't have to cut down trees to cook our meals. What do we use instead? Do you think it matters how much fuel we use?

Does this story have any importance for people in the UK?
What can we do to protect the environment where we live?

This story is called Attaining the Lost Glory. What do you think that title means?

Mgoza Primary School