



The bank behind it curved round a rocky pool.

"Keep close to the rock," Tenko warned them. "The pool below is deep."

They found a flat stone where they could all sit in the lee of the great rock, sheltered from the storm and the driving sand. For a few minutes they did not speak from sheer exhaustion. Then Birno asked, "How did you know of this place, Tenko?"

"I came to try to get a fish in this deep pool last summer. While I was here a rainstorm blew up out of the west. The rock sheltered me till it was over. I remembered it when we fled from Skara. I thought it might give us shelter now."

They sat huddled together, waiting for the dawn to break.