

Tone Passage #2

“Brille,” he said. “This thing between you and me must end. You many not know it, but I have a wife and children, and you’re driving me to suicide.”

“Why don’t you like your own medicine, Hannetjie?” Brille asked quietly.

“I can give you anything you want,” Warder Hannetjie said in desperation.

“It’s only me but the whole of Span One,” said Brille cunningly. “the whole of Span One wants something from you.”

Warder Hannetjie brightened with relief.

“I think I can manage if it’s tobacco you want, “ he said.

Brille looked at him for the first time struck with pity and guilt. He wondered if he had carried the whole business too far. The man was really a child.

“It’s not tobacco we want, but you,” he said. “We want you on our side. We want a good warder because without a good warder we won’t be able to manage the long stretch ahead.”