

The VIPER

in Acts 28:3-6 **was** / is ...

“But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, **a viper** came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. So when the natives saw **the creature** hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live.” But he shook off **the creature** into the fire and suffered no harm. However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.” *(Acts 28:3-6)*

* * *

allowed to

strike God's representative

(fill in the blank)

* *

calmly

(fill in the blank)

* *

closely linked to

(fill in the blank)

* * *

described in

(fill in the blank)

* * *

evidence that

Paul was God's apostle

(fill in the blank)

* * *

feared

by the locals on Malta

(fill in the blank)

* *

good for

(fill in the blank)

Descriptive



Meditation

perhaps a European horned viper

* *

in line with

Acts 27:24 & Mark 16:18

(fill in the blank)

* * *

instinctively

striking when disturbed

(fill in the blank)

* *

large enough

(fill in the blank)

* * *

more about

Paul than the viper

(fill in the blank)

* *

near the end

of the Book of Acts

(fill in the blank)

* * *

not deliberately

(fill in the blank)

* * *

perhaps the most

(fill in the blank)

* *

somewhat like the

(fill in the blank)

* * *

unable to

to harm God's apostle

(fill in the blank)

Directions: after reading through **Acts 28:1-10** and some literature on snakes on Malta and in Europe, describe the viper that bit Paul by filling in the blank lines above with the following suggested answers. — *cast into the fire (28:5), considerable detail (28:6), handled by Paul, hated animal in Europe, Paul's skeptics (28:6), the lions that Daniel faced, the storm in chapter 27, and to be seen by everyone (28:4).* **At the end, discuss the most important descriptive phrases and make personal applications.** In doing so, think about your attitude — and the attitude of others, especially Jewish people — toward the Apostle Paul? — © 2022 by Jon F. Mahar, Hakusan City, Japan and Alexander, Maine, U.S.A.