

Wisdom from Orma, Kenya Proverbs and Wise Sayings



By

Dr. Calvin C. Katarwa & Angelique Chelo

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Introduction

The Orma are a Cushitic pastoralist and semi nomadic ethnic group living in Kenya and Ethiopia.¹ They migrated from Ethiopia to Kenya before 1500, “spreading gradually to the area north of Mt. Kenya and down the River Tana to the coast. These were cattle and camel herders, who raided more settled peoples as they migrated or ranged through various territories. The Orma were in approximately their current settlement areas by 1900.”²

In Kenya they are found at the south in Tana River and Lamu districts especially at Hola (the capital of Tana River District), Garsen, Tarasaa and Witu.³ According to Ethnologue, the Orma are also called Uardai, Wadai, Warday, Wardei and have the following dialects: Munyo (Korokoro, Munyo Yaya), Waata (Sanye), Orma.⁴ The Orma population was estimated at 69,000 Kenya in 2006.⁵

Omondi and Jenkins argue that:

Cattle are central to the Orma culture. Herding is their only means of survival; they keep goats and sheep alongside their cattle. Cattle are paid as bride price from the groom's

1 Francis Omondi and Orville Boyd Jenkins, “The Orma People of Kenya” <http://orvillejenkins.com/profiles/orma.html>, Internet Accessed December 30, 2011.

2 Ibid.

3 Joshua Project. “The Orma of Kenya” in <http://www.joshuaproject.net/people-profile.php?peo3=14214&rog3=KE>, Internet Accessed December 30, 2011.

4 Ethnologue, “Orma” in http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=orc, Internet Accessed, December 31, 2011

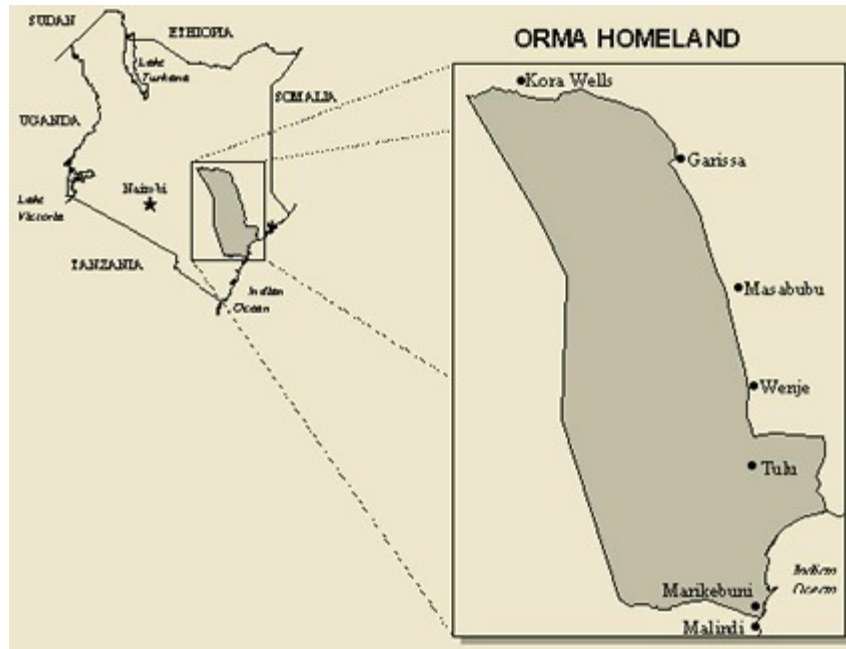
5 Ibid..

family. They are also slaughtered at weddings and funerals. All of life focuses on the welfare of the cattle. Meat is the main food, supplemented with milk and blood, though now some Orma also eat maize, rice, beans and tea. The arid climate of the upper Tana region is too dry to support agriculture, so the Orma there have no vegetables in their diet. The Orma live in round houses which consist of a wooden framework covered with woven mats and grass. The women build these houses. When people move with the herds, the house is dismantled and put on a pack animal along with the household goods. A larger version of the houses is built for people who live in permanent villages.⁶

Joshua Project estimates at 0.02 the percentage of Christian among the Orma with 0,01 evangelicals while about 99 % is Muslim. Thus, Islam rites and festivals are very common among the Orma.⁷

⁶ Francis Omondi and Orville Boyd Jenkins, "The Orma People of Kenya" <http://orvillejenkins.com/profiles/orma.html>, Internet Accessed December 30, 2011.

⁷ Joshua Project. "The Orma of Kenya" in <http://www.joshuaproject.net/people-profile.php?peo3=14214&rog3=KE>, Internet Accessed December 30, 2011.



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ORMA PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

1. Fon fedanif, somb inyatan.

English

You want to eat meat, and then you eat the forbidden part.

Swahili

Una hamu ya kula nyama, ndiposa ule sehemu haramu.

French

Tu as envie de manger la viande jusqu'à manger la partie tabou.

Traditional meaning

This is used on a person who admires something and ends up with a bad one.

2. Kob kobla, hathin jan insetu.

English

A very hampered son, the mother thinks that he is a coward.

Swahili

Kijana mwenye furaha saa zote, mama humdhania uwoga.

Un garçon heureux à tout moment, sa mère pense qu'il est peureux.

Traditional meaning

Never judge a person by his talks/actions get to know them.

3. Il taka woi indargin, arbin hiles ingoo.

English

The eye which has not seen anything fanning, elephant can not be the same with rabbit.

Kiswahili

Jicho haijawahi kushuhdia kisa au vituko hakuna siku ndovu atakuwa sawa na sungura.

French

Un oeil qui n'a jamais témoigné un événement ou un spectacle, il n'arrivera jamais qu'un lièvre soit comme un éléphant.

There'll be no day that poor can be the same as the rich

4. Won tok edan, lam edan.

English

You say one, then two ; you have tried something, then failed, don't give up.

Kiswahili

Unasema moja, alafu mbili maana kwamba umewahi kujaribu kitu, hukufaulu, usikate moyo.

French

[Tu as tenté faire une fois et la deuxième fois malheureusement tu a échoué mais, ne te décourage pas.](#)

Traditional meaning

This is a proverb used for encouragement, no matter how hard life is to not give up.

5. Man nyana, man nyana ede worabesin woigathe, enan tok wonin yede, huko aban jala rafee nyana.

English

What are we going to eat? What are we going to eat? Asked one of the hyenas, one of them replied we are going to eat the wrecked goat which the owner has left.

Kiswahili

Tutakula nini? Tuta kula nini? Wakasemezana, moja wao akajibu tutawala wanyonge, walioachwa na mwenyewe.

French

Qu'est-ce que nous allons manger? Se demanda les hyènes ; un parmi eux, répondra ; nous allons manger les faibles chèvres que le berger a abandonné.

Traditional meaning

This is used against those who do not take care for their things, someone else might take them.

6. Goroms aban gaf chafse ; hatunill kasabufti.

English

The cow that the owner breaks the horns, thieves will chop the eye out.

Kiswahili

Ngombe mwenye aliyevunjwa pembe na mwenyewe, mwizi humchomoa macho

French

La vache dont les cornes étaient brisées par le voleur, ses yeux seront arrachés par ce denier.

Traditional meaning

One should be able to look after his or her own things.

7. Jabien woi salla deth baratii.

English

The young calf learns to eat grass by seeing others do it once

Kiswahili

Ndama hujifunza kula nyasi kupitia wenzao

French

Un jeune veau apprend à brouter les herbes à travers les autres.

Traditional meaning

Someone's character is got from the surrounding his been raised in

8. Nam gudhion ree hielmu, ho amo ishin mirgitu, elmati hinwol-lalu.

English

It is very rare for an older person to milk a goat, but when it is ready for milking he cannot be defeated to do it.

Kiswahili

Sio rahisi kwa mtu mzima kukamua mbuzi, lakini iwapo mbuzi yu tayari kukamuliwa, hatashindwa kumkamua.

French

Une grande personne qui ne sait pas traire une chèvre le fera si la chèvre est prête.

Traditional meaning

You can only advise a person when he/is ready to listen.

9. Tarin won ishin yet, nam fantatii darge fon kanki inkajellu.

English

The dik dik said, whoever has seen my footprints will not desire my meat.

Kiswahili

Digi digi wakasema, mtu yeyote aliye wahi kuona nyao zangu basi asidhubutu kutamani nyama yangu.

French

Dik dik a dit : « Quiconque a vu les empreintes digitales de mes pieds n'aura pas envie manger ma sœur. »

Traditional meaning: sometimes we tend to want something without knowing the other side of it.

10. Had lalii, intal ishii fud.

English

Look at the mother, then marry her daughter.

Swahili

Mtamazame mama, ndiposa mchumbiye bintiye.

French

Observer la mère pour marier sa fille.

Traditional meaning

This is used for a man who's in a hurry to marry someone he doesn't know her character or the family

11. Ka dhidha, ka mina kajella

English

The one who is outside is jealous of the one who is inside.

Swahili

Aliye nje anamuonea wivu aliye ndani.

French

Celui qui est à l'extérieur est jaloux de celui qui est dans la maison.

Traditional meaning

People are always jealous of those who are successful than them in life

12. A fan aban, won fedun dhubathan.

English

A person uses his mouth to speak whatever he wants.

Swahili

Mtu hutumia mdomo wake kunena chochote atakacho.

French

Quelqu'un utilise sa bouche pour parler tout ce qu'il veut.

Traditional meaning

One speaks out his/her mind

13. Gur dhie bissan obusani indago.

English

The ear which has already been blocked cannot hear the penetration of water.

Swahili

Sikio iliyo kufa haisikii dawa.

French

Une oreille bouchée, n'entends pas les conseils.

Traditional meaning

This is to ridicule that person who doesn't listen no matter what advice he's been given

14. Nami wan yede, hagothin mata indhabru.

English

No matter how long the ears grow, they will not surpass the head.

Swahili

Wahenga walisema hata jinsi gani kubwa sikio hakuna siku litaipita kichwa.

French

Bien que les oreilles soient longues, elles ne peuvent pas dépasser la tête.

Traditional meaning

It means that no matter how fast children grow, the old will still be wiser

15. Nami wan yede, ulfen mata qacharin indigo.

English

The neck does not feel the weight of the head.

Swahili

Bega halisikii uzito wa kichwa.

French

Le cou ne ressent pas le plus grand poids de la tête.

Traditional meaning

Every part of the body is created to coordinate.

16. Won gala gamatha, loni lubbu.

English

What may be a happy play for a camel, may mean death to a cow.

Swahili

Yaliyo furaha kwa ngamia, yaweza maanisha kifo kwa ng'ombe.

French

Ce qui fait la joie pour le chameau peut signifier la mort pour une vache.

Traditional meaning

It shows how people are different from each other

17. Ijole dall hada falamtu.

English

A cheeky Child is one who opposes her mother on issues of child birth.

Swahili

Mtoto mtukutu ni yule ambaye hubishana na mamaye kuhusu mambo ya uzazi.

French

Un enfant têtue discute avec sa mère de l'accouchement.

Traditional meaning

These days when children argue with their parents one won't know who the parent is and who the child is

18. dalen dokano imbedhu, dir dofate, matan mulat.

English

Fools do not hide; they bend their back and think that they cannot be seen.

Swahili

Wapumbavu hawajui kujificha, wanajikunja mgongo wakidhani hawaonekani.

French

Les sots ne savent pas se cacher, quand ils courbent leur dos ils croient qu'ils ne seront pas vus.

Traditional meaning

Fools do not know how to keep a secret no matter how much they try.

19. Harkin tok naf indiqu.

English

One hand alone cannot wash the body.

Swahili

Mkono mmoja hauwezi kuosha mwili.

French

Une seule main ne peut pas laver tout le corps.

Traditional meaning

It takes a community to raise a child this means that people should be united in order to succeed

20. Waati won ishin yete laf tarin jirtu dakachin injiru.

English

Hunters said that a place where there are many dikdiks, there is no stones.

Kiswahili

Wawindaji wa waboni walisema eneo kuna madigidigi kwa wingi kuna uhaba wa mawe.

French

Le chasseurs ont dit que là où il y a d'énorme marécage, il n'y a pas de pierres.

Traditional meaning

Where there is sorrow there is no happiness.

21. Balan woth botu ilmanman woli indagartu.

English

The blind people cry together, but they don't see their own tears.

Swahili

Vipovu ingawaje wanalia pamoja, huwa hawawezi kuona machozi yao wenyewe.

French

Les aveugles pleurent ensemble, mais ils ne peuvent pas voir leurs larmes.

Traditional meaning

The blind do not see each other but they help each other through.

22. Won dhabarte saren gul indhudhu.

English

What has already disappeared from their eye sight, the dogs cannot bark to it.

Swahili

Chochote kichoonekana kwa upeo wa macho, mbwa haibwekei.

French

Le chien ne peut pas aboyer contre ce qui a déjà disparu de la vue.

Traditional meaning

It's used to encourage people to leave behind the past and move on

23. Wamich indludlanu, won sin yedan dhidlan.

English

You are called, you don't deny the call but you can deny what you've been called for.

Swahili

Kuitwa haikataliwi, lakini unaweza kupinga uitiwalo.

avez été French

On ne peut pas refuser un appel, mais par contre, on peut refuser l'objet de l'appel.

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Traditional meaning

One can wish whether to do what he/she has been called for.

24. Woran akam aban ufit dabet siworana.

English

Spear would injure you to the level that you want to injure yourself.

Swahili

Mkuki itakudunga tu kiwango wewe mwenyewe waitaka ikudunge.

French

La lance te blessera au niveau où tu lui permettra.

Traditional meaning

Life is how you take it, it takes you where you want to go

25. Akaum marmar biyen worum ufit.

English

West, East home is the best.

Swahili

Magharibi, mashariki, nyumbani ndio kuzuri.

French

Depuis l'ouest jusqu'à l'est rien n'est plus beau que votre pays.

Traditional meaning

No matter where one goes home is always the place you are going to miss

26. Jibich egere korm ito hadlum irti dargan.

English

A calf that will grow into a breeding bull shows no signs while on tether.

Swahili

Ndama atakaye kuwa dume hodari haonyeshi dalili ya uchupavu wake angali mdogo kwa kamba.

French

Un veau qui sera un véritable taureau ne se manifeste pas sur la corde.

Traditional meaning

You do not have to tell people you are brave instead prove it to them.

27. Won hamtun kidlum taka jien i bien.

English

The worst shall be revealed when the moon shall arise.

Swahili

Vitendo vya uovu vitajulikana wakati mbalamwezi itakapo chomoza.

French

Les plus mauvaises choses seront révélées à l'apparition de la lune.

Traditional meaning

Its used against those people who do evil no matter how long it takes their evil deeds will finally be found out.

28. Dubi duga birbani dhabrani, dr lelisan.

English

The facts and truth are ignored, justice cannot be rendered yet i one refuses to ignore the facts enmity is created.

Swahili

Iwapo usidhani ukweli unapuuzwa, hayi nayo haiwezi tendwa basi chuki na uhasame utaendelea.

French

Si les preuves de la justice sont rejetées et que la vérité ne peut pas être pratiquée, la haine et le conflit continueront.

Traditional meaning

Anyone who rejects the truth will remain in conflict and hatred.

29. Nam tok sidlur dalate bul, tok gafad edan.

English

A person who was born a day before you, you can ask him for a point.

Swahili

Aliyezaliwa siku moja mbele yako unaweza kumuuliza jambo moja tu.

French

Tu peux demander conseil à une personne t'a précédée d'un jour de naissance.

Traditional meaning: Repeat the elderly.

30. Habombalati hoishin duftu ill dhura kabatan.

English

Whenever the winds come, one closes his eyes.

Swahili

Wakati wowote vumbi mkali unapovuma, mtu hufunga macho yake.

French

Devant un grand vent on ferme les yeux.

Traditional meaning

Do not engage in other people's problems avoid them as much as possible.

31. Olla waldagetakabu much tok ka laletiat buicha.

English

In an estate where people live in harmony there is nothing too small for people to share in generosity.

Swahili

Majirani wanaoishi kw upendo na maelewano hakuna chochote kilicho kidogo kama titi ya maziwa ya mbuzi inaweza kuwatosha.

French

Les voisins qui vivent dans la générosité, sont prêts à se partager tout, tant soit peu.

Traditional meaning

Peace is a necessity for every community

32. Intal tessum hamtu, hadit kof wot qaba.

English

If a girl sits badly, it is up to her mother to cover her thighs.

Swahili

Iwapo msichana akae uchi, ni mamaye ndiye humfunika uchi ya paja lake.

French

Quand une fille s'assoit mal, c'est sa mère qui couvre ses cuisses.

Traditional meaning

Parents are there to protect their children.

33. Won arra, borit inkabati, ta borro, waqit beka.

English

Things of today don't relate or transfer with things of tomorrow, for tomorrow God knows.

Swahili

Mambo ya leo, usiyalinganishe na ya kesho juu ya kesho Mungu anajua.

French

Ne reculez pas les obligations d'aujourd'hui à demain car seul Dieu a la connaissance du futur.

Traditional meaning

God knows everyone's future.

34. Tarin ag ufit kurumsit.

English

A dikdik jumps a tree s high as its strength permits.

Swahili

Munyama wa porini aitwaye digidigi huruka mti kulinagana na uwezo wake.

French

Le dikdik peut sauter les arbres très hauts selon que sa force lui permet.

Traditional meaning

This refers to those people who do things that are beyond their capability, its best to do what you capable of no matter how small it is.

35. Bissan gar dhura talafan gul yaan

English

Water flows towards a gentle gradient.

Swahili

Maji hutiririka kwenye mteremko.

French

L'eau coule plus vite sur la pente.

Traditional meaning

Know first your ability before doing anything.

36. Gurba abban gudhadhe odhu akaku kaba.

English

A son who has been brought up by his father has a wise thought.

Swahili

Mtoto wa kiume aliyepewa malezi bora na babaye ana hekima.

French

Un enfant bien élevé par son père est sage.

Traditional meaning

God is the only one who does us good.

37. Dansa waqit kabaa, ede bonaya tunu.

English

Goodness is only with God, said bonaya tunu.

Swahili

Mazuri yote ina mungu, kasema bonaya tunu.

French

On a tout le bonheur dans le seigneur, dit Bonaya Tunu.

Traditional meaning

God is the only one who does us good.

38. Dib kassan bani, deftit baani

English

You go through problems and hardships to succeed in life.

Swahili

Unapitia shida na taabu ndio upate maisha mazuri.

French

Après les tribulations de la vie vient le bonheur.

Traditional meaning

It is used for encouragement for those people who go through hardship in life for at the end there is success

39. Akum mari mari alatin kollan lubu ishin lafum.

English

Come what may the vultures will die on the earth.

Swahili

Iwe nini iweje kunguni wakifa wanaanguka ardhini.

French

Comment ce fait -t-il que les oiseaux du ciel meurent et tombent sur la terre ?

Traditional meaning:

Every one dies and buried on earth in the same soil.

40. Woit kare tanaf saren dludhi.

English

There is an enemy around that is why the dog barks.

Swahili

Kuna uwezekano kuna wezi wezi ndiposa mbwa wanaboeka.

French

Quand il y a un ennemi aux environs, le chien aboie.

Traditional meaning

Successful people always have an enemy behind their back

41. Hariyan bif woli wolinqutu amal wolikuti.

English

We can be friends but you cannot give me your skin instead you will give me your behavior.

Swahili

Marafiki hawawezi badilishana ngozi ila tabia.

French

Les amis ne s'échangent pas de peau mais plutôt de caractère.

Traditional meaning

This shows how friends can change each others character, be ware of such friends

42. War abban ege saren ege irbiti.

English

A Home that is guarded by the owner, the dog will just play with her tail.

Swahili

Boma inayolindwa na mwenyewe mbwa hubaki tu ikicheza na mkia yake.

French

Le chien ne fait qu'agiter sa queue pour une maison qui gardée par le propriétaire.

Traditional meaning

It entails how the father is always the head of the house

43. Lubun haretin lubu baya nam kasifit.

English

Death of a dead man reminds us the death of another person.

Swahili

Kifo ya hivi karibuni hutukumbusha kifo ya zamani.

French

La mort d'une personne nous rappelle qu'une autre mort suivra.

Traditional meaning

When one of family members dies, it always reminds us of the people who died before.

44. Dubbi qamnan hohujji qamnat irjira i.

English

It's more pleasing to hear of someone busy with work than hearing of them busy with handling a dispute.

Swahili

Ni vizuri sana kusikia kuwa fulani yuko kwa harakati ya kazi kuliko kusikia wana ugomvi.

French

Il fait bon d'entendre les gens occupés au travail que d'écouter ceux qui se disputent.

Traditional meaning

It is better to keep yourself busy than engaging in dispute.

45. Ark hort ingon ka rachinined indlum.

English

As swarms not to dry, as frogs not to die.

Swahili

Pasipo ziwa kukauka pasipo chura kuangamia.

French

Les carpeaux ne mourront pas aussi longtemps que le ruisseau ne sont pas séchés.

Traditional meaning

Water is important for all.

46. Dargaf dageta umri dertu.

English

To live long is to see many things.

Swahili

Kuishi kwingi ni kuona mengi.

French

Celui qui vit longtemps voit et écoute beaucoup de choses.

Traditional meaning

The old are wise

47. Burr dani wonkass galtu lalan.

English

Hit this bush and see what will come out.

Swahili

Piga chaka ndio ujue nini itayotoka hapo.

French

Frappez ce buisson et vous verrez ce qui y sortira.

Traditional meaning

This is used for those who like to discover new things

48. Nam dargan danchan yete haren.

English

The donkey became rebellious and said, put your load on whoever is available and not mine.

Swahili

Punda akawa mjauri na kusema, weka mizigo yako kwa yule umuonaye karibu sio lazima mimi.

French

L'âne rebelle a dit : « Met ton fardeau sur un autre âne mais pas sur moi. »

Traditional meaning

Share your pain to those people near you.

49. Waqit jira été dhurbu kass inchisin.

English

Don't say God is not there then you lie on the road.

Swahili

Usidhubutu kusema mungu yuko kisha ulale barabarani.

French

Ne dormez pas sur la route, disant que Dieu existe.

Traditional meaning

This tells us that God will always be there for us but one has also to work hard and pray in order to succeed we need God and hard work

50. Bere itin rafan itin mugan.

English

Places where you are not supposed to sleep do not become dozy.

Swahili

Pahali hustahili kulala hufai kupata usingizi.

French

Ne dors pas dans un endroit où tu es supposé de ne pas y être.

Traditional meaning

This is used to tell people to do the right thing at the right time and place

51. Haren teninen wolinen kortu mantwolin nugei.

English

Even our donkeys dont relate then what makes them to mate.

Swahili

Hata punda yetu haipandani nini hiyo inatugombanisha.

French

Même nos ânes ne s'attendent pas, comment alors pouvons-nous nous associer ?

Traditional meaning

As long as you do not spend time with arrogant people you will never be at loggerheads with them.

52. Tok basite tok amo iltokon ilalin.

English

Dont favour when soving disputes.

Swahili

Usiwe na upendeleo unapoamua kesi.

French

Soyez juste quand vous jugez une affaire.

Traditional meaning

People should treat each other equally.

53. Ka abba irr bekhu budhotu.

English

He who knows more than the owner is covetous.

Swahili

Yule aliye jua zaidi ya mwenyewe ni msengenyaji.

French

Celui qui connait plus que le possesseur est convoiteur.

Traditional meaning

Those who know much about others are the backbiters.

54. Ta sirba baate harm indofatu.

English

A woman who is ready to dance does not hide her breasts.

Swahili

Mwanamke aliye tayari kucheza dansi titi lake halifichiki.

French

La femme qui est prêt à danser ne cache pas ses seins.

Traditional meaning

When one is determined to take up a course he or she should be ready for anything

55. Kessuman il wolkasskete guran amo lafda geti.

English

Visitors are attentive with the ears than with the eyes.

Swahili

Mgeni husinzia lakini anasikia yote inajiri.

French

Le visiteur sommeille mais son oreille est attentive.

Traditional meaning

When you are in a new place, you are always curious to look around.

56. Ilkan ka wolin giru nyatine wal qarqara.

English

Teeth that are together help each other in chewing food.

Swahili

Meno iliyo pamoja husidiana kutafuna chakula.

French

On ne peut pas retourner le crachat à la bouche.

Traditional meaning

People who stick together are always there for one another.

57. A chuf buute indebitu kolki sira baathe indebitu.

English

Spittle cannot be retrieved nor can an anthill be washed clean.

Swahili

Mate uliyoyatema hairudi tena ahadi uliyo yatoa hairudi.

Crachat ne peuvent pas être récupérés ni une fourmilière être lavés.

Traditional meaning

Never promise what you cannot.

58. Nam ilkan dedera hoinduenn imbekatanu.

English

The death of someone with long teeth cannot easily be ascertained.

Swahili

Mtu mwenye meno marefu hata kama ameshafariki ni vigumu kubashiri.

French

La mort de quelqu'un avec de longues dents ne peut être facilement vérifié.

Traditional meaning

No matter how hurt some people are you will never know because they always keep a smile to hide the pain.

59. Nam laman gargar bo, maminen gargar baa.

English

If two people depart even their thoughts depart.

Swahili

Iwapo wawili wameachana hata mawazo pia huwachana.

French

Si deux personnes se séparent même leurs pensées s'éloignent.

Traditional meaning

Out of site out of mind.

60. Nam adha kassit due, wan jiru fak haut jed adhi doyo.

English

He who dies in truth seems alive.

Swahili

Mtu akufae kwa haki huishi kwa haki kasema adhi doyo.

French

La richesse n'a pas besoin du parâtre.

Traditional meaning

It is good to always side with truth.

61. Horin abba lakisi abera inqabu

English

Property does not need step father.

Swahili

Inahilati mwenyewe haina baba mkambo.

French

Propriété n'a pas besoin de beau-père.

Traditional meaning

One's property belongs to the owner.

62. Uffin iyene jabien abaate hote jed keesuman.

English

A visitor said; am not speaking for myself but beware a calf has just freed itself to suckle.

Swahili

Mgeni akasema : siyasema haya kujibinafisha lakini ndama ameruka kizizi tayari kunyonya.

French

Le visiteur a dit : « Je ne parle pas pour mon intérêt mais la génisse a sauté hors de la clôture pour être allaitée par sa mère. »

Traditional meaning

You just complain for your interests but hiding it.

63. kessuman gorassu challa didhi.

English

A visitor will accept anything offered to him but slaughter.

Swahili

Mgeni atapokea chochote apewayo ila tu kuchinjwa.

French

Un visiteur peut accepter toutes sortes de dons, sauf celui de la mort.

Traditional meaning

One should accept people as they are.

64. Gallen kofa imbatu, horako mukhatu bath male.

English

A climbing plant with tendrils cannot grow on its own without the support of a tree.

Swahili

Mumea wa kutambaa haiwezi kumea yenyewe ila kutambaa juu ya mti.

French

Une plante rampante a toujours besoin d'une tige de support pour grandir.

Traditional meaning

As humans we need each other to survive.

65. Dhekin kofa ingodhanu ho dhureesan godhan lakisi.

English

A poor person cannot migrate alone he has to migrate with the rich man.

Swahili

Maskini hawezi kugura pekee yake lazima agure na tajiri.

French

Une personne pauvre ne peut déménager sans l'appui d'un riche.

Traditional meaning

The poor always needs the rich.

66. Arbin wom uff dabathe maraffa satheti likims.

English

An elephant believed himself until he saw the eight palm trees.

Swahili

Ndovu alijiamini mwenyewe hadi akaona miti minane vya mnazi.

French

L'éléphant était sûr de lui-même jusqu'à voir avoir les huit palmiers.

Traditional meaning

One should be able to prove themselves by action not words.

67. Ho gufate laf detu hamad edan.

English

When you slid and fall you say sorry.

Swahili

Iwapo umeteleza na kuanguka unasema pole.

French

Quand l'on glisse et tombe on présente des excuses.

Traditional meaning

After making a mistake you must ask for forgiveness.

68. Hori aban madhi injir, sabaluth kolan danaa.

English

A property without an owner its the birds of the air that will always destroy.

Swahili

Mali bila mwenyewe kawaida ni ndege wa angani ndio wana haribu.

French

Un bien sans propriétaire sera détruit par les oiseaux du ciel.

Traditional meaning

A property without the owner, anyone can misuse it.

69. Abban uff tufatu.

English

A person cannot undermine himself.

Swahili

Mtu hafai kujidharau.

French

Personne ne peut pas se mépriser lui-même.

Traditional meaning

Each person knows himself his and his values.

70. Abban uff tumathe ufi indabu.

English

A person who wants to stab (punish) himself will not miss himself.

Swahili

Mtu akitaka kujitesa mwenyewe hatajikosa.

French

Celui qui veut se punir ne peut pas se manquer.

Traditional meaning

Your life is on your hands.

71. Laf full sibedhu muk kofa ijelut ful sibek.

English

A place where you are familiar with even the trees are familiar with you.

Swahili

Pahali unapafahamu vyema hata miti inakufahamu.

French

Dans un milieu familier, on est reconnu même par les arbres.

Traditional meaning

Where you are known, do not do bad things.

72. Laf duran kass bathe imbaletu.

English

You don't need direction to a familiar place.

Swahili

Hauhitaji ramani kwa pahali umewahi ishi.

French

On n'a pas besoin de référence dans un endroit où l'on a vécu.

Traditional meaning

You cannot get hurt/lost in the place where everyone knows you.

73. Gudhinan dhubbi bekani dikenan dubbi inwolalanu.

English

It's not a matter of being old that you know how to talk or intelligent even a youth can be intelligent.

Swahili

Sio lazima uwe mzee ndio ujue kuongea sana bali hata ukiwa kijana unaweza kuwa na maarifa.

French

L'éloquence ne pas seulement un don exclusive des vieux mais aussi des jeunes.

Traditional meaning

Sometimes its wise to listen to the young also never despise

74. Qub kanke tok ka ajae kute ufura ingatu.

English

If at all one of your fingers is illing, you cannot cut it and throw it.

Swahili

Ingawaje kidole chako moja chauma huwezi kukikata na kukitupa.

French

On ne peut pas couper et jeter ses doigts même s'ils font mal.

Traditional meaning

No matter how bad you are be yourself.

75. Gar ira dufan bekan male gar itiejeman imbekan.

English

You only know where you have come from (The Past) but you don't know where you're going.

Swahili

Mtu anajua kule ametoka lakini hajui aendako.

French

L'homme connaît sa provenance mais jamais sa destination.

Traditional meaning

God is the only one who knows our future path not the fortune tellers, this is used to insist on the existence of God for the non believers

76. Garan ratua won itikan indhidhu.

English

The stomach consumes anything given to it.

Swahili

Tumbo hupokea chochote hupewa.

French

Le ventre reçoit tout ce qu'on lui donne.

Traditional meaning

The stomach does not complain but take what has been given.

77. Charaqan homach racha qaqabata.

English

A drowning person clutches at frogs foam.

Swahili

Mtu anaye bebwa na maji ya mafuriko anabaki tu akishika mate ya chura.

French

Celui qui est victime d'intimidation finit par agiter les larves de crapaud.

Traditional meaning

When your life is messed up sometimes there is nothing to hold on to.

78. Lawon soresan galan.

English

Cows are always led by one, and then others follow.

Swahili

Ngombe kawaida huongozwa na moja kisha wenzake humfuata.

French

Il y a toujours une vache devant pour conduire les autres.

Traditional meaning

Team always has a leader who leads and they follow.

79. Ratun gar wori injir wor isheti.

English

A foolish person always goes to the opposite direction whenever he goes home.

Swahili

Mtu mwenye akili twahira kawaida huenda nyumbani kama amepotea.

French

Un fou rentre à la maison par plusieurs chemins.

Traditional meaning

A foolish person does not always listen to directions/instructions

80. Fugu akum ishin duften dalchisani.

English

During childbirth the mother are being told to push the way the child has come.

Swahili

Wakati wa kujifungua akina mama huambiwa asukume jinsi mtoto amekuja.

French

Pendant l'accouchement la femme est demande de se préparer pour recevoir l'enfant

Traditional meaning

Sometimes we have to take life s it is.

81. Toli kijiba abba lelisa.

English

One who gives to earn praises will impoverish himself.

Swahili

Mtu anayepeana vitu ili asifiwe hujigamba na mwishowe hugeuka maskini

Celui qui donne pour sa gloire s'appauvrit.

Traditional meaning

Don't praise yourself unless people do for pride comes before a fall

82. Nam galan garas jiru ihamatin man yenan ho galan galanu indufa.

English

Do not back bite the one who lives across the river because he might come to you when the river is passable.

Swahili

Usiwahi kumsengenywa mwenziwe anayeishi ngambo ya mto, siku mto itakauka anweza kuja.

French

Ne provoquez pas celui qui vit à l'autre côté de la rivière, car un jour viendra vous vous rencontrerez.

Traditional meaning

This is used to discourage those who love talking ill about others

83. Keesuman lala lola abbat afura dhabarsa.

English

Visitors are like streams that pass for a while.

Swahili

Mgeni ni kama mto inayopita tu kwa muda.

French

Un visiteur est comme l'eau de la rivière qui coule et passe.

Traditional meaning

Visitors come and go just like passerby.

84. Afan abba qabani dhadhete afan abba tok inkadhu.

English

You cannot gag the mouth of another person.

Swahili

Hutaweza kufunga mdomo ya mwenziwe.

French

On ne peut pas fermer la bouche du prochain.

Traditional meaning

You can have power on your self but not on anybody else.

85. Iyes mata inqaqa hadaf abba qabata.

English

Do not caress the head of an orphan because this will remind him of his parents.

Swahili

Usidhubutu kushikashika kichwa ya yatima juu hii itamkumbusha hisia ya wazazi wake

French

Ne caresse pas la tête d'un orphelin de peur qu'elle ne se souvienne de ses parents.

Traditional meaning

Don't feel pity for someone instead help them by encouraging

86. Gal ijemu gal tau kaasa.

English

A camel that is on the move encourages another to rise.

Swahili

Ngamia anaye tembea humfanya mwenzake aamke.

French

Un chameau qui marche encourage un autre à être actif.

Traditional meaning

Friends are there to encourage us when we feel like giving up.

87. Limit won ishin ishentu male won ishi sentu ingartu.

English

A needle can see what it's penetrating but it cannot see what's penetrating it.

Swahili

Sindano huona tu kitu inaingia lakini haioni kile kina mwingia.

French

L'aiguille voit la chose qu'elle pénètre mais pas ce qui la pénètre.

Traditional meaning

You should be able to correct your behavior before judging other of theirs.

88. Cheres bola bol guyya kes buan imbekhan.

English

A doctor is like a pit, one cannot know when one will fall into it.

Swahili

Muuguzi ni kama shimo mtu hajui siku ile ataanguka hapo ndani

French

Un docteur est comme une fosse : on ne sait jamais quand on va y tomber.

Traditional meaning

One never knows he/she will have a problem only God knows.

89. Nami tok ag gala waurga tok amo ag looni woarga tokin ammo ag reeawo arga.

English

One person may see at the level of a camel, another sees at the level of a cow and yet another sees at the level of a goat.

Swahili

Mtu mmoja anaweza kuona kitu kwa kimo ya ngamia, mwingine kimo ya ngombe ilhali mwingine kwa kimo ya mbuzi.

French

Quelqu'un peut voir un problème comme un chameau, un autre le verra comme une vache, un autre encore comme une chèvre.

Traditional meaning

Everyone's thought is different in their own unique ways.

90. Ta alkan duftu it barisifatan.

English

That which occurs at night will wait till dawn (morning).

Swahili

Chochote iliyo jiri usiku hungoja asubuhi.

French

Ce que tu fais dans l'obscurité sera révélé pendant le jour.

Traditional meaning

It is best to wait till daylight to solve something; everything has its time and place.

91. Sigube ingare sunif ibidhan tapataa.

English

You play with fire because you have not seen it burning you.

Swahili

Unacheza na moto kwa sababu haijakuchoma bado.

French

Si tu n'a jamais été brûlé, tu n'éviteras pas le feu.

Traditional meaning

This is used to tell those who are careless with the choices they make in life and also their way of life.

92. Intal herimte hatin boishia indagetu.

English

The married girl her mother cannot hear her cry because she lives far away.

Swahili

Msichana aliyeolewa mamake hawezi kusikia kilio chake kwa sababu yuko mbali.

French

Une fille mariée loin de sa mère ne peut plus écouter ses cris à cause de la distance qui les séparent.

A mother cannot stand and see her child suffer

93. Aburtun aburte dhum rofu godhanti.

English

It is the fame of a place you have heard about that gives you the opportunity of finding good forage.

Swahili

Kawaida mtu huenda ama hugura kwa mahali amesikia kuna mazuri.

French

L'homme fréquente les places las où il ya de bonnes choses.

Traditional meaning

People prefer where they are organized.

94. Duga woi waaqa.

English

God is the companion of truth.

Swahili

Mungu ndiye chanzo cha ukweli.

French

Dieu est la source de la vérité.

Traditional meaning

Truth belongs to God.

95. Nam si rifate atinen rifadif.

English

Be kind to the person who shows kindness to you.

Swahili

Uwe mwenye huruma kwa yeyote amekua mwenye huruma kwako.

French

Aies pitié de tout le monde pour que l'on ait pitié de toi aussi.

Traditional meaning

Treat people the same way they treat you.

96. Arbin ilki ufi banno inkafatu

English

The elephant does not get tired of carrying his heavy tusks.

Swahili

Ndovu hawezi kuchoka kubeba pembe zake mzito.

French

L'éléphant ne se fatigue pas de ses trompes.

Traditional meaning

People never get tired of their own things.

97. Bon baate rob getee edan malemanin baate in yedan.

English

People may ask if you survived the drought but they do not ask how you survive dit.

Swahili

Watu wanaweza kukuuliza umeepuka kiangazi lakini hawawezi kukuuliza vile ulivyoepuka.

French

Les gens peuvent demander si survécu la sécheresse mais pas comment tu l'a survécu.

Traditional meaning

Don't look to know somebody deeply.

98. Urgu won na mir deemtu won nam nyatu ir jira.

English

Something which bites is preferable to something which crawls over your body.

Swahili

Ni bora zaidi kitu ikukule kuliko inakutembelea mwilini mwako kila wakati.

French

Mieux vaut souffrir une fois que de souffrir continuellement dans la vie.

Traditional Meaning

No one can endure continuous pain

99. Dab gafa haree gur ira muran.

English

The donkey lamented that while it was pleading for horns its ears were cut off.

Swahili

Punda anaeleza ya kuwa alipokuwa akiomba apewe pembe sikio lake likakatwa.

French

L'âne s'est retrouvée avec des oreilles coupées quand il demandait ses cornes.

Traditional meaning

One should be thankful to what God has given them.

100. Arkanbarate murkqichat chochoa.

English

The hand that has a habit of stealing twitches by the stab that remains even when it has been cut off.

Swahili

Mkono ulio na zoeo la kuiba, hata likikatwa sehemu ilio baki hutikisika kwa hisia ya masuli kwa gafla.

French

La main qui a l'habitude de voler, volera même si elle est coupée.

Traditional Meaning

When one is used to a habit, it is hard to stop, no matter how much one tries.