Wisdom from Orma, Kenya Proverbs and Wise Sayings

By

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Introduction

The Orma are a Cushitic pastoralist and semi nomadic ethnic group living in Kenya and Ethiopia. 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.”

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. According to Ethnologue, the Orma are also called Uardai, Wadai, Warday, Wardei and have the following dialects: Munyo (Korokoro, Munyo Yaya), Waata (Sanye), Orma. The Orma population was estimated at 69,000 Kenya in 2006.

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


2. Ibid.


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

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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.

   French
   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, waliaochwa 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 mbazi 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.

   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

   English
   The ear which has already been blocked cannot hear the penetration of water.
   Swahili
Sikio iliyio 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


*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 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 têtu 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.


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 jirtu dakachin injiru.

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

Kiswahili
Wawindaji wa waboni walisema eneo kna 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.

    English
    The blind people cry together, but they dont 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 ksichoonekana 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 dont deny the call but you can deny what you’ve been called for.

    Swahili
    Kuitwa haikataliwi, lakini unaweza kupinga uitiwalo.

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

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


    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

   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.

   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.
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.

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.

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

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**
   Apres 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 voltures 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.
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 rebelious and said, put your load on whoever is available and not mine.

Swahili
Punda akawa mjauri na kusema, weka mizigo yako 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 wolín 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.

*French*
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.
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. kessimun 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 sûre 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 ou 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 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 kumsengenya 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*
Orma Proverbs and Wise Sayings
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*
Mtumwemo 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 wit 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 brulé, 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.
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 pitie 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 umeeupuka 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 gaafa 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 murqichat 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.