

A COLLECTION OF 100 TACHONI PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS



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DEDICATION

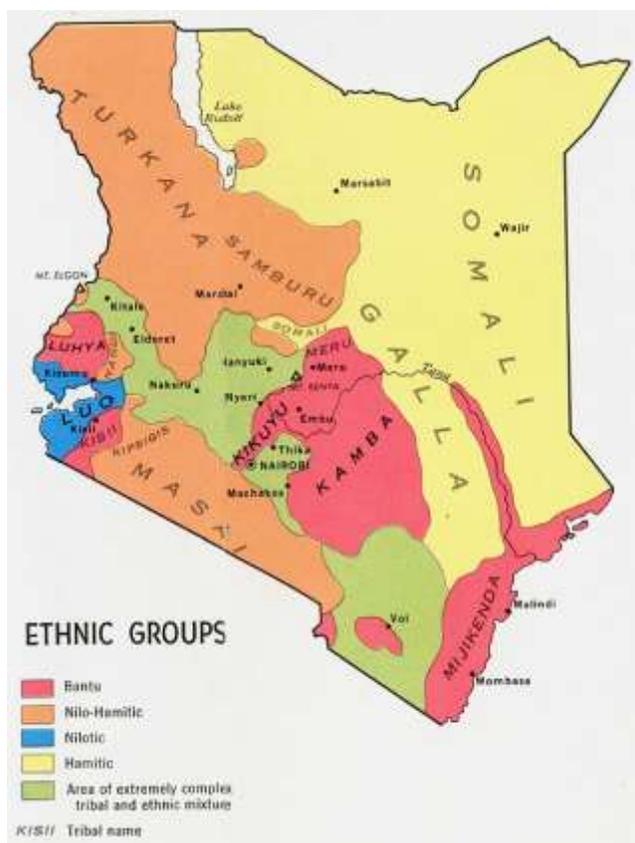
I dedicate this work to my parents Anthony and Margret Oisebe and the entire African Proverbs working group Nairobi and all readers of African literature.

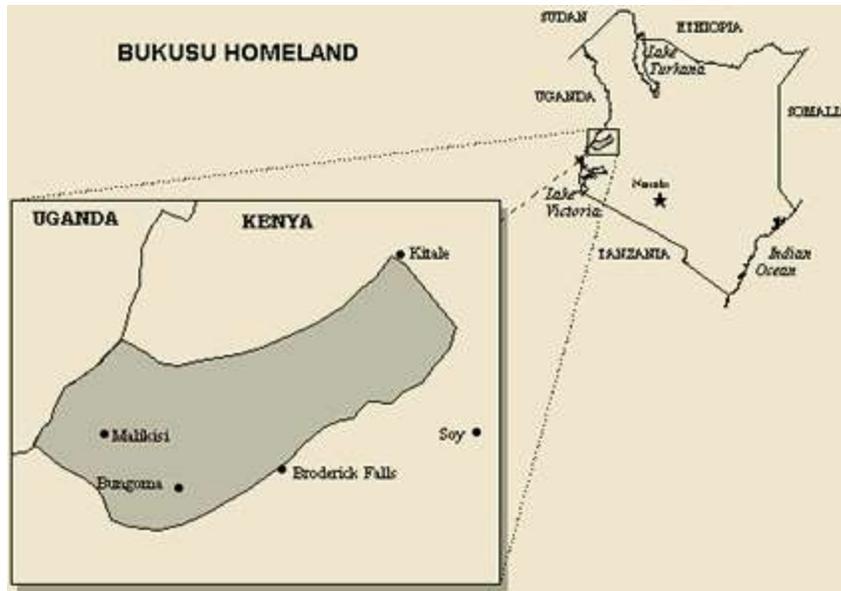
INTRODUCTION

Location

The Tachoni (We shall be back in Kalenjin) are Kalenjins assimilated by Luhya people of Western Kenya, sharing land with the Bukusu tribe. They live mainly in Webuye, Chetambe Hills, Ndivisi (of Bungoma County) and the former Lugari District in the Kakamega County. Most Tachoni clans living in Bungoma speak the 'Lubukusu' dialect of the Luhya language making them get mistaken as Bukusus. They spread to Trans-Nzoia County especially around Kitale, Mumias and Busia. The ethnic group is rich in beliefs and taboos. The most elaborate cultural practice they have is circumcision.

The ethnographical location of the Tachoni ethnic group in Kenya





Myth of Origin

One of the most common myths among the Luhya group relates to the origin of the Earth and human beings. According to this myth, *Were* (God) first created Heaven, then Earth. The Earth created by *Were* had three types of soil: top soil, which was black; intermediate soil, which was red; and bottom soil, which was white. From the black soil, *Were* created a black man; from the red soil, he created a brown man; and from the white soil, he created a white man.

The Tachoni ancestors originally came from Egypt, where they called themselves *Abatachoni*. They left Egypt because of a quarrel and, also, because the soil was sandy and poor. They settled in Sirikwa, in the Rift Valley of Kenya. Later they moved further to Elgon area and on to the uninhabited area of Tororo. They then changed course, and, after sighting the lake (Victoria) in the far south, moved on to Emwalie in Malikisi. At that time the Kony inhabited the section of Mount Elgon close to the country of the Bagishu. The Kony inhabited the mountains.

When their ancestors left Egypt, they came in canoes up the River Nile. They brought with them cattle, goats, sheep, chickens, and quails.

Culture

The Tachoni have many clans, namely, Abakobolo, Abamuongo, Abamarakalu, Abangachi, Abasang'alo, Abasamo, Abayumbu, Abamuchembi, Abachambai, Abacharia, Abakabini, Abamakhuli, Abasioya, Abaabichu, Abamachina, Abamutama, Abakafusi, Abasonge, Abasaniaka, Abaabiya, Abachimuluku. Note that the morpheme 'aba' means 'people'.

They practice circumcision in August of every even year. When the boys are circumcised they only go to hunt in the village's forest for birds, guinea fowl (*likhanga*) so in the evening they come home and the meal is prepared for them. Most meals for initiates have to be rich in proteins (to replace blood lost during the circumcision) and a staple-food in the whole of Kenya known as Ugali which is called '*Obusuma*' in Tachoni.

The circumcised boys are not allowed to wear pants so they tie clothing called lesos or Khanga and they hunt all day in forests. They paint their faces with white clay from the river. Circumcised boys don't wash their body for one month nor do they do menial work. The Tachoni ethnic groups believe in '*okhulicha*' (the training of initiates in adult roles before they pass out as adults).



A circumscion ceremony among the Tachoni

The boys are taken to '*Esitabicha*' where they are taught before they pass out as adult members of the community. They are told secrets of the community which they are not supposed to reveal to anyone. All this is done by elderly members of the Tachoni community who should have themselves undergone the same ritual. Similarly, they are taught Tachoni beliefs, philosophy, values and practices. What distinguishes the Tachoni from the Bukusu is circumscion. They practice it quite differently from the Bukusu. For instance, during circumscion, Tachoni boys will face towards the East as they are 'cut' (circumscion) whereas Bukusu boys face the West.

In the rural areas among the Luhya, people live in homesteads or compounds, with each homestead comprising several houses. In one homestead may live an old man (the patriarch, or family head), his married sons and their wives and children, his unmarried sons and daughters, and sometimes other relatives. Even though each household may run its own affairs, there is a lot of obligatory sharing within the homestead. Families tend to be large, with the average number of children per woman reaching eight. Women are expected to yield to the wishes of men. Acts of defiance or insubordination by women toward their husbands, fathers-in-law, or other senior male relatives can result in beatings from male relatives, especially one's husband.

Marriage partners must be chosen from outside one's parents' clans or lineages. Polygamy was practiced among the Tachoni. Traditionally, a request for marriage is made between the parents of the man and the woman. If the marriage is agreed upon, bride wealth of cattle and cash, called “*Uvukwi*” is paid. Nowadays, however, young people increasingly get married on their own with little input from their parents. Civil and church (Christian) marriages are also becoming common. Bride wealth is still being paid, but amounts differ widely and payment schedules are not strictly honored.

Music and dance are an important part of the life of the Tachoni. Songs and dance are used by children for play, during occasions such as weddings, funerals, and circumcision ceremonies. The wider Luhya ethnic group and all its sub-tribes are nationally renowned for their energetic and vibrant *isukuti* dance, a celebratory performance involving rapid squatting and rising accompanied by thunderous, rhythmic drumbeats. Other musical instruments used include drums, jingles, flutes, and accordions. Proverbs, stories and wise sayings are used to pass messages to the members of the community. Parents, grandparents and other elders use them to communicate messages, as a way of emphasizing the importance of the message. This is done in ordinary conversation, or in rural set up where grandparents may build a fire in the evening and children sit with them to tell stories and enjoy each other’s company.

Two examples of the Tachoni proverbs:

1. Okhama ing’ombe nolengela iketi

Kiswahili: Ukikamua ng’ombe ya wenyewe huwe ukiangalia langoni

French: Tu extrais la vache de quelqu'untout en regardant à la porte.

English: You milk someone’s cow while watching the gate.

Teaching: You should always be conscious when taking something that is not yours because the consequence may be painful.

Biblical Parallel:Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2. Amanoni kali nobufwanani kaburukha alala

Kiswahili: Ndege ambazo ni sawa hupaa pamoja

French: Les oiseaux de la même espèce volent ensemble

English: Birds that are similar fly together

Teaching: Those people who have the same behaviors always find themselves in each others company.

Biblical parallel:Romans 8:28

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose”

Religion and Beliefs

The Tachoni like other Luhya people traditionally believed in and worshiped only one god, *Were* (also known as *Nyasaye*). *Were* was worshiped through intermediaries (go-betweens), usually the spirits of dead relatives. The spirits had considerable benevolent (positive) as well as

malevolent (destructive) power and thus had to be appeased through animal sacrifices, such as goats, chickens, and cattle. There were also healers and prophets who acquired great status because of their knowledge of tribal tradition, medicines, and religion.

At the turn of the twentieth century, Christianity was introduced to Luhyaland and to the rest of Kenya. Christianity spread widely during the colonial period. The overwhelming majority of Tachoni like other Luhya people now consider themselves Christians. Both Catholicism and Protestantism are practiced.

Despite conversion to Christianity, belief in spirits and witchcraft is still common. It is not unusual to find people offering prayers in church and at the same time consulting witch doctors or medicine men for assistance with problems.

Governmental System

Iyaya was their ruler when they were at Sang'alo; he was succeeded by Mukoya. However, when the migration took place, Sifuma remained at Sang'alo to rule over the people who stayed behind whereas Lulera crossed over to this place with the migrants. Lulera was succeeded by Mukonambi who was in turn succeeded by Lumbasi, the first Government Headman. Mukonambi was the Omwami when the Administration was established; however, he declined to serve under it in favour of the youthful Lumbasi who then became Headman.

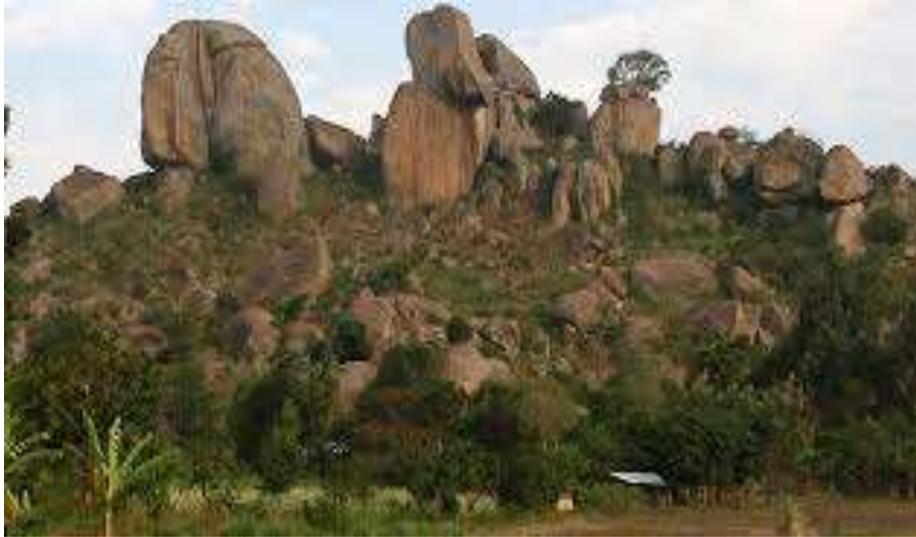
The institutions of Government of the Abatachoni are ancient; the Omwami always moved with his people during their migrations. The Omwami wore a leopard skin-cloak and the skins of other animals. He also wore a copper bracelet on his wrist, and occasionally, round his neck, and an elephant tusk ornament and a brass bracelet on the wrist. In addition he had a cowry shell head dress and two staffs. These insignia were handed down from their earliest Omwami and they are replaced when worn out.

Clan politics have featured in the constituency, which is dominated by Tachoni who are Basang'alo and Wangachi, the two groups struggling to see who should control Tachoni politics.

Economic Activities

The Tachoni practice farming as well as rearing of cattle. They farm crops like maize, millet, sorghum among other crops. A few engage in businesses.

The major tourist attractions in Bungoma county is Nabuloye falls along River Nzoia where visitors go to watch the water cascade from a height of 7 meters to the rocks below. The Chetambe's Fort is a 12 foot defence ditch which was built in 1895 by Chetambe Ifile, a Tachoni warrior during the war against the British colonialists. He mobilized troops to resist British troops, leading to the 1895 massacre in which more than 450 people were killed by the British.



Sang'alo hills in Bungoma County

Others are Mt. Elgon National Park, Mt. Elgon Forest Reserve, Chepkitale Forest, Nabuyole and Malakisi Falls, Sang'alo, Musikoma and Kabuchai Hills, caves at Kitum, Machingeny, Ngwarishwa, Chepanyali and Kiptoro. All these bring good income to the country.



Nabuyole Falls along River Nzoia

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A COLLECTION OF 100 TACHONI PROVERBS

1. Abanyabwengye babiri nibabasa kwotsya eshohora

Kiswahili: Gwiji wawili wanaweza kuchoma inzi

French: Deux génies rôtiront une mouche facilement

English: Two geniuses will successful roast a fly

Meaning: When people work together they can achieve any problem that facing the community

Biblical Parallel: Ecclesiastes 4:9

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil”

2. Amuntu wekitinisa kwakushisha omwoya nibagira ngu abagubiire nibo bagushisha

Kiswahili: Mawaitha mengi yalifanya siafu kutoroka

French: Trop de conseils conduisent à la fuite des fourmis ours de Ogema’s

English: Too much advice led to the escape of the ant-bears from Ogema’s snare

Meaning: You should not follow advice of every person’s; they may mislead you making you to make the wrong decision.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 10:23

“Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding.”

3. Amabanga namasiro okhukhila amaji.

Kiswahili: Damu ni mzito kuliko maji

French: Le sang est plus épais que l'eau

English: Blood is thicker than water.

Meaning: Despite everything, your family will always be there for you in difficult times

Biblical Parallel: 1 John 4:20

“If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen”

4. Amayui amenji mumaji sikahwikayila okhuloba tawe

Kiswahili: Neti wengi wa kuvua majini, hawezi kukuzuia kuweka yako

French: Trop de panier de pêche dans l'eau ne peut pas vous empêcher de plonger le vôtre

English: Too many fishing basket in the water cannot prevent you from dipping yours

Meaning: In life you should try your luck and don't stop yourself from doing something just because others have done it and may be failed.

Biblical Parallel: Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope”

5. Abulao ulia ulechelesianga indaba yiye kata ebe imbi tawe.

Kiswahili: Hakuna mwenye huchukia sigara yake ata kama ni mbaya hajee

French: Personne ne méprise son propre tabac si mauvais qu'elle peut être

English: No one despises his own tobacco however bad it may be

Meaning: No person sees their bad behavior that they have, they do not heed to good advice.

Biblical Parallel: Matthew 7:3

“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye”

6. Alia ali nomulilo abele nende eliosi

Kiswahili: Palipo na moshi pana moto

French: Là où il y a la fumée il y aura le feu

English: Where there is smoke there is fire

Meaning: When a wise elder talk about something, however much you may deny eventually it will come to light.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 20:19

“Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a simple babbler”

7. Balia bali nende abana bakhumwana esilo siabo.

Kiswahili: Aliye na watoto hutumia wakati mwingi wake usiku njiani.

French: Celui avec des enfants passe leurs nuits en route

English: The one with the children spend their nights on the road

Meaning: If you have people under you especially your children, you will do anything however dangerous it may be to ensure they are safe and ok.

Biblical Parallel:1 Timothy 5:8

“But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever”

8. Buli mulala achinga umuziko kukwe

Kiswahili: Kila mtu huchukuwa mzigo wake

French: Chaque personne porte son propre fardeau

English: Each person bears his own burden

Meaning: If you make mistakes or do something bad, you should always be ready to accept the consequence that come with the decision that you make in life.

Biblical Parallel: Luke 9:23

“And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me”

9. Balia balio nibo babali

Kiswahili: Walioko ndio wenye huhesabiwa

French: Ceux qui sont présents sont ceux qui sont comptés

English: Those who are present are the one who are counted.

Meaning: You should always make effort to be present to be where you need to be do no use proxies. Always be prepared.

Biblical Parallel:Matthew 24:44

“Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect”

10. Chikhwi nicho orenyanga, nichilia chikhusamba wamwene.

Kiswahili: Kuni utafutayo ndiyo hukuchoma

French: Le bois de feu que tu cherches, est celui qui te brûle.

English: The fire wood you fetch is the one that burns you

Meaning: If you don't correct your child when they misbehave, and defend them when they do bad, one day they will turn on you and embarrass you in front of your guest.

Biblical parallel: Proverbs 13:24

“Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him”

11. Chinjira chibiri chamutimia tinaini

Kiswahili: Njia mbili panda zilimchanganya fisi

French: Deux chemins confond l'hyène

English: Two paths confused the hyena

Meaning: Always be a decisive person in life and follow your principle in everything you do.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Corinthians 10:21

“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons”

12. Chitanywa chibili sachitekhwangwa munungilo ndala tawe

Kiswahili: Jogoo wawili hawawezi kupika kwa nyungu moja.

French: Deux coqs ne doivent pas être cuits dans une même cocotte

English: Two cocks must not be cooked in one pot

Meaning: Always be a straight forward person; do not mix issues which may create problems in the future.

Biblical Parallel: Ecclesiastes 3:17

“I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work”

13. Etarajaa yombwakhua amuchela

Kiswahili: Daraja huwekwa mahali kuna muto.

French: Un pont n'est construit que là où il y a une rivière

English: A bridge is laid where there is a river.

Meaning: For any forgiveness or reconciliation to take place, there must have been a disagreement between two people or groups in the community.

Biblical parallel: Ephesians 4:32

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you”

14. Eliba elilahi liomwana lirerera samwana eliria ne ifuma.

Kiswahili: Tabia mzuri ya motto humpa baba yake heshima

French: Le père gagne du respect et de louange par la bonne conduite d'un fils

English: A son's good conduct earns his father respect and praise

Meaning: A good parent is known from the behavior of his children. Good parented children will make their father proud, and a bad child will make his parents shameful.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 10:1

“A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother”

15. Esiokhuranga nisio esilahi po!

Kiswahili: Kitu cha kwanza nidicho chenye umuhimu sana

French: La première chose est la plus importante

English: The first thing is the most important

Meaning: People always remember the first thing or person who undertook an action.

Biblical Parallel: Psalm 25:7

“Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!”

16. Likhele lifwimbire silikaya ing'ombe okhunywa amchi tawe

Kiswahili: Kufura kwa chura akumzui ngombe kunywa maji.

French: Une grenouille qui enflée ne peut pas empêcher la vache de boire l'eau.

English: A swollen frog does not prevent the cow from drinking water.

Meaning: If you know you are doing the right thing, do not listen to critics of those who do not want you to achieve your goal because they cannot stop you.

Biblical parallel: Ezekiel 3:19-21

“But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul”.

17. Inda nabututu iranga

Kiswahili: Mende wadogo huuajogoo

French: Les petits cancrelats tuent un coq

English: Tiny bugs kill a cock

Meaning: However small you may be, when you work together using your numbers you can be able to defeat any problems which seems to be big that is facing the community.

Biblical parallel:Romans 8:28

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

18. In’geni inditi siyambwakhania ingali tawe

Kiswahili: Samaki mdogo hawezi kumpa mawaitha samaki mkubwa

French: Un petit poisson ne peut pas conseiller un grand

English: A small fish cannot advice a big one

Meaning: An elder is always wise and experienced and there is nothing he has not experienced in life before you as a young boy.

Biblical Parallel: Hebrews 13:7

“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith”

19. Ing’ombe eya amabalabala yibula esimosi sia amabalabala

Kiswahili: N’gombe iliyona madowa huzaa ndama mwenye madowa

French:Une vache tachetée donne naissance à un veau tacheté

English: A spotted cow gives birth to a spotted calf.

Meaning: The habits and behavior of a parent is mostly likely to be seen in his/her children.

Biblical Parallel: Ephesians 5:1

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children”

20. Imbwa sinyala okhusama, nokhuluma alala tawe.

Kiswahili: Mbwa hawezi kupiga kelele na kuuma wakati mmoja

French: Un chien ne peut pas aboyer et mordre en même temps

English: A dog cannot bark and bite at the same time

Meaning: You should always focus on one thing before you do another. You cannot serve two masters at the same time.

Biblical Parallel: Luke 16:13

“No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

21. Injira sikanyiranga omuchendi tawe.

Kiswahili: Njia haimwonyi mtembeaji kilicho mbele

French: La route ne met jamais en garde le promeneur, c'est ce qui est devant lui.

English: The road does not fore-warn the traveler

Meaning: When you choose a certain direction in life, you usually do not know what lies ahead. Every decision that you make is very important to your future. It's therefore important to make the right decision so that you do not regret later in life.

Biblical parallel: Proverbs 16:33

“The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord”

22. Kata omurobe pe! Sakosa khuba nende elikonja libi tawe.

Kiswahili: Hata mrembo huwa na doa mbaya

French: Même la jolie n'est pas sans une vilaine cicatrice

English: Even the pretty one is not without an ugly scar

Meaning: Everyone has a weakness and no one is perfect.

Biblical Parallel: Ecclesiastes 7:20

“Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins”

23. Katakahikyire ahakuza takaruha

Kiswahili: Unaeza ongelea nyati na mara hiyo ionekane

French: Parlez le buffle et il peut apparaître soudainement

English: Talk about the buffalo and it may suddenly appear

Meaning: This proverb is used in a situation when you are gossiping somebody and they suddenly appear without notice.

Biblical Parallel: Exodus 23:1

“You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness”

24. Kata amakhwana mulisombo bakabukhana.

Kiswahili: Ata mapacha tumboni wako na utando unaowagawanyisha

French: Même les jumeaux dans l'utérus ont une membrane qui les sépare

English: Even the twins in the womb have a membrane separating them

Meaning: Everyone is accountable to what they do with their life; no one will be punished for his brothers or sisters mistakes.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 11:21

“Be assured, an evil person will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous will be delivered”

25. Manyandio ichanga anyuma.

Kiswahili: Afadhali ningejua, huja baadaye.

French: Si je le savais, viens plus tard

English: I wish I knew, come later

Meaning: You should always take good advice and make the right decisions in life before you come to regret later.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 11:14

“Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety”

26. Mala weye inju yiyo mbele nokhalechelesia

Kiswahili: Kwanza fagia nyumba yako kabla kufagia nyumba ya mtu mwingine

French: Tout d'abord balayé votre propre maison avant de vous méprisez la maison des autres

English: First sweep your own house before you despise someone else's

Meaning: You should not be too first to judge others before looking at your own actions first.

Biblical Parallel: Matthew 7:5

“You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye”

27. Nobulayi khurachikha mubunani khukhila mubuyinda.

Kiswahili: Afadhali kuanza ukiwa maskini kuliko kuanza na utajiri

French: Il est préférable de commencer par la pauvreté plutôt que de la richesse

English: It is better to begin with poverty rather than riches

Meaning: It is better to start from down in life as you learn what it takes to be at the top compared to start and finding yourself lowered. You may not survive.

Biblical Parallel: James 1:12

“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him”

28. Nyasaye aleta ulia winyeta

Kiswahili: Mungu humsaidia ajisaidiaye mwenyewe

French: Dieu aide celui qui s'aide.

English: God helps he who helps himself

Meaning: To be able to ask others to assist you solve a problem, you need to show interest by starting to do so or show effort by using what you have to solve the problem.

Biblical parallel:Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me”

29. Nowiria wamwene onyola eliria khurura khubasio

Kiswahili: Ji heshimu mwenyewe uheshimiwe na wengine

French: Respecte toi et les autres vont te respecter.

English: Self-respect breeds respect from others.

Meaning: For other members of the community to hold in high esteem, as an individual you need to do the same. What you do and what you say will be gauged by other on how to deal with you.

Biblical parallel: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body”

30. Nobulanyi okhulia amasasari okhukhila okhukona injala esikhaya

Kiswahili: Afathali kula mabakio ya maindi kuliko kulala njaa

French: Mieux se nourrir du reste des maïs que de dormir affame.

English: Better to feed on the husky maize meal than to sleep hungry

Meaning: You should always appreciate the little you have and stop complaining all the time because others wish they had that little that you have.

Biblical parallel:Philippians 4:19

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus”

31. Nowenya okhulia esinama esilakhi sie in’gombe ira eyiyo wamwene

Kiswahili: Ukitaka kula sehemu bora ya ngombe ua wako

French: Si vous voulez manger la meilleure partie de la vache, tue pour toi seul.

English: If you want to eat the best part of the cow, kill your own

Meaning: If you want best thing in life, it is upon you to work hard on your own to obtain them but not let others to it for you. They will always get the best and bring you remains.

Biblical parallel:Proverbs 6:6-8

“Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest”

32. Nochisa namunyu inyala yakhulia yamwene

Kiswahili: Ukimficha fisi mwishowe atakukula wewe

French: Lorsque tu caches quelque chose à l’hyène, finalement elle te dévorera.

English: If you hide a hyena it may eat you in the due course

Meaning: Bad habits or characters need to be condemned with intensity it require, if left unchecked it will come to destroy the same people who protected it.

Biblical parallel:Leviticus 20:13

“If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them”

33. Nowenya okhumanya owasio, ja ninaye khulujendo

Kiswahili: Ukitaka kujua tabia za mto, nenda nayeye safarini.

French: Si vous voulez connaître l’habitude de quelqu’un voyager avec lui.

English: If you want to know someone, go with him on a journey.

Meaning: Do not judge a person by their appearance or you first encounter with them, but take time to know their personality and character before you judge of who you think they are.

Biblical parallel:Romans 14:12-13

“So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother”

34. Nofuchulisia khumuliango,ikhulilayo oulia olakh’nodanga.

Kiswahili: Ukiamka kufungua mlango, basi itabidi ufungulie aliye mlangoni.

French: Si vous répondez à la porte, vous devez ouvrir pour celui qui frappe

English: If you answer the door you should open for the one who knocks.

Meaning: When you decide and start to do something, you should not quit on the way but see that it is done to the end.

Biblical parallel:2 Timothy 1:12

“This is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me”

35. Nowibasia kalia nikochin’gokho ni chilichanga, solia in’gokho ta wee.

Kiswahili: Ukifwatilia alacho kuku bila shaka hutamla kuku.

French: Si tu poursuis ce que la poule picore, sans doute tu mangeras la poule.

English: If you pay attention to what chickens eat you will never eat a chicken

Meaning: In life when you decide to do something do not listen to what other people are saying that you cannot do it. If you have the confidence that you can do it, go ahead and do it.

Biblical parallel: 1 Corinthians 9:24-25

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things”

36. Nochenda nende owifuri wicha huba omwifuri.

Kiswahili: Ukitembea na mwizi,utakua mwizi

French: Si tu marches avec un voleur tu seras aussi voleur.

English: If you walk with the thief you may end up being a thief.

Meaning: Your friends that you spend a lot of time with will definitely influence the way you think and behave.

Biblical Parallel:Proverbs 13:20

“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm”

37. Obumiumiu sibumanyanga omwami tawee.

Kiswahili: Kuteleza hakumtambui mfalme

French: Le sol glissant ne reconnaît pas un roi.

English: Slippery grounds does not recognize a king

Meaning: The environment does not discriminate and it takes everyone equal. It does not care about your social or economic status, it treats everyone equal.

Biblical parallel: Acts 10:34

“So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality”

38. Omukara aila ingo in’geni imbolu

Kiswahili: Mtu mvivu hupenleka nyumbani samaki aliyeoza

French: Un paresseux ne ramène à la maison qu’un poisson pourri

English: The lazy one takes home a rotten fish

Meaning: People who are lazy in the community end up the last in everything. They usually beg for meals and they mostly get spoiled or left-overs

Biblical parallel: Proverbs 13:4

“The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied”

39. Owamakulu mavyi achekhanga owasio wamakulu mavyi

Kiswahili: Mlemavu huchekelea ulemavu wa rafikie

French: Un infirme s’est moque de l’infirmité de son ami.

English: One with unshapely leg ridicules the unshapely leg of his friend

Meaning: You should not be quick to judge other people’s action without assessing your actions first. We should always try to amend our own mistakes before we judge our brothers or friends.

Biblical Parallel: Matthew 7:1-2

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you”

**40. Omukhasi womusacha wasio kata abe omulahi arie sanyala khusinga likho
khumukongo kukwo.**

Kiswahili: Mke wantu mwingine hata akuwe mremebo, hawezi kuosha uchafu wote juu ya mgongo wako

French: La femme de quelqu’un ne peut pas laver le dos d’un autre homme.

English: Another man's wife however pretty she is, cannot wash all the dirt on your back

Meaning: It is important as a man to be contented with your wife. Admiring another man's wife will always lead you to committing a sin.

Biblical Parallel:Matthew 6:32-33

"For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"

41. Owefumia khuba omunyindafu atumaka chimbilo mandala.

Kiswahili: Anayejigamba kuwa shuja hukimbia kukiwa na shida

French: Il s'est vanté être brave lors des difficultés il s'enfuit.

English: He who boasts of bravery runs a race of his lifetime

Meaning: Those people who always boast do not mostly live to the expectation of their claim. They lose the respect that they had from others because of bragging.

Biblical parallel:Proverbs 25:14

"Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give"

42. Obwaro kukwichango mumakoba

Kiswahili: Mashua huanguka ufuoni

French: Le bateau chavire au moment où il se rapproche de la rive

English: The boat capsizes just when it approaches the shore.

Meaning: Sometime you may do something with due diligence from very beginning. With that energy you started with you should finish with it because sometimes this go wrong when you are almost making you not to achieve you goal. The evil always come when you start to tire.

Biblical parallel:Revelation 2:23

"And I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works"

43. Owureka liloni akhanikha isiri omulilo tawe.

Kiswahili: Mtegaji ndege hafayi kusema pale mitege zake ziko

French: Un oiseleur ne doit pas révéler le lieu où il a piégé.

English: A bird trapper should not reveal the secret by the fire place.

Meaning: You should not tell everyone your secret to your work or source of livelihood because they may use it to drive you out and live you without any source of livelihood.

Biblical parallel:Proverbs 29:20

“Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him”

44. Olusala olwambiniorukhuyanga injukha

Kiswahili: Fimbo iliyo mkono ni ndio hutimia kuua nyoka

French: c’est le bâton qui est dans ta main qui est utilisé pour tuer un serpent.

English: The stick in hand is what you use to kill a snake.

Meaning: To achieve your goals in life, do not think so much about what you don’t have but use what you have to get what you want in life.

Biblical parallel: Malachi 3:10

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need”

45. Obulayi bwokhuonyana sabuli obulakayi bwe mwila tawe.

Kiswahili: Lugha ya kuchumbiana sio kama lugha ya ndoa.

French: Le langage des fiançailles ne pas le même que celui dans le mariage.

English: The language of courtship is not the same as the language in marriage

Meaning: The strategies and ways you use to acquire something is not the same strategy you use to maintain it.

Biblical parallel:Proverbs 18:22

“He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord”

46. Ochisaa obulwaye yanikhuangwa mubililo

Kiswahili: Anayeficha magonjwa, hufichuliwa na kilio

French: Celui qui cache sa maladie se révélera par des pleurs.

English: He who hides diseases will be revealed by weeping

Meaning: Everything that you do in darkness or secret, in the end or one day they will be revealed for everyone to see.

Biblical parallel:Luke 12:3

“Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops”

47. Oulia okonga khutukha mabwibwi yira samwana nyene

Kiswahili: Alalae hadi usubuhi huua babaye

French: Quiconque dort jusqu'au matin tue son père

English: He who sleeps till morning kills his father

Meaning: Every father always wants to be proud of their son. If a son is involved in bad behavior or don't conform to the community norms, he becomes an embarrassment to his father and family.

Biblical Parallel:Proverb 7: 2

“A servant who deals wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully and will share the inheritance as one of the brothers”

48. Okhwibula nokhulaji khukhila okhunia

Kiswahili: Kuza kunashinda kunia

French: Donner naissance est mieux que d'excréter

English: To give birth is better than to excrete

Meaning: When you have children, they become a source of pride and will assist you when you are not able to provide for yourself. Being a new creature and turning from bad to good is always something to celebrate about.

Biblical parallel:Acts 2:38

“And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”

49. Omulilo kusamba kworerwa sino(ale).

Kiswahili: Moto mkali ni vizuri uuote kutoka mbali.

French: On se chauffe à distance lorsque c'est un grand feu.

English: A fierce fire is best basking from a distance

Meaning: It is important you avoid people who cannot control their anger because you may be hurt if you are in their way.

Biblical parallel:Psalm 37:8

“Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil”

50. Omwana ochendanga sinao abirisianga limanyi lia nyina.

Kiswahili: Mtoto atembea sehemu mingi hushida mamaye akili.

French: Un enfant qui voyage surpasse en sagesse sa mère

English: A child who travels surpasses the mother's wisdom.

Meaning: Children are usually in better circumstance and privileged than their parent, thus they are likely to know more than their parents.

Biblical parallel: Ecclesiastes 4:13

"Better was a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knew how to take advice"

51. Omwana akalukhanga alia yakhula obwoba.

Kiswahili: Mtoto huzuru mara kwa mara mahali alipata uyoga

French: l'enfant ne fréquente que l'endroit où il a déraciné un champignon

English: A child frequents a spot where he uprooted a mushroom

Meaning: You should always safeguard and put effort in your place of work where you get your daily bread.

Biblical parallel: 1 Corinthians 10:31

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"

52. Omwana nayekhekura asungira abebuli , "omwana nakhusambe esiachi"

Kiswahili: Mtoto akisha shiba humwambia mzazi wachome mahali pakueka chakula.

French: Lorsque l'enfant est rassasié, il dit à ses parents de brûler le grenier"

English: A child having eaten enough say, "Father, mother lets burn the granary"

Meaning: When we are in need that is when beg for what we need, but after we obtain what we want we do not see with any value our provider. When we are in trouble we always turn to God and pray for our needs, we always want gains of the flesh and forget when we become comfortable after He provide us with what we need.

Biblical parallel: Ephesians 2:3

"Among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind"

53. Omufubi yenondanga kata nail neinjala.

Kiswahili: Mtoto yatima huvumilia atakiwa na njaa

French: Un orphelin a toujours persévéré, même lorsqu'il est affame.

English: An orphan always persevere even when hungry

Meaning: Sometimes life is unfair, you need to struggle and keep trying when things are not good till they change for the better.

Biblical parallel:Job 29:12

“Because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to help him”

54. Okhatisia inungilo sikila omucheni dabiranga tawe

Kiswahili: Usivunje chungu chako cha kupika kwa sababu ya mgeni anayepita.

French: Ne casse pas la casserole pour un visiteur qui passe.

English: Do not break your cooking pot for the passing guest

Meaning: You should always accord your guest the hospitality they deceive, but do not overstretch yourself to impress your guest who may not value your effort at all. This may live you in the worst state than you were before he came.

Biblical parallel:Philippians 2:3

“Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves”

55. Oulekesianga amakayilo/amakambisi ka abasakhulu ahayanga nende balia basiamama.

Kiswahili: Asiyeskiza maagizo ya wazee mwishowe upotea

French: Celui qui refuse d'entendre les conseils des anciens est perdu.

English: He who refuses elders advice hunts with the crooks

Meaning: As a child if you do not heed to the teaching given by your parents, you will find yourself in bad situation like being jailed.

Biblical parallel:Proverbs 10:23

“Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding”

56. Okhwelekhasia nende balia bakhubira tawe

Kiswahili: Usishindane na mkubwa wako

French: Ne te concurrence pas avec un supérieur.

English: Do not compete with your superior

Meaning: A child should be obedient and follow instruction from those who came before because they know and have seen more than it. Those who don't follow instructions most of the time find themselves in a bad place.

Biblical parallel:Deuteronomy 4:40

“Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for all time.”

57. Oramenya siorererua nisioria

Kiswahili: Mahali umealikwa ugenini, kifungua kinywa si lazima.

French: là où on est invite on n'ouvre pas sa bouche.

English: Where you are a guest breakfast is not a right

Meaning: When you are in a new place, you should not expect things to be the same as you know it, you should accept changes, live and what they do without contradiction.

Biblical parallel: Ecclesiastes 7:9

“Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the bosom of fools”

58. Otakha abalebe abukulanga/atumakilanga omusale.

Kiswahili: Asiyekua na wa kwao ukimbilia rafiki

French: Celui qui n'a pas un familier se précipite vers un ami.

English: He who has no relatives takes on a friend

Meaning: As human being we want family or friends who will always be there for us, in good and bad time in our life.

Biblical parallel:Galatians 3:28

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”

59. Okhaluwa nokhatukha tawe

Kiswahili: Usiwe na uchovu kabla ya kuidhinisha matarajio yako

French: Il ne faut pas se fatigue avant d'avoir atteint son 'objectif.

English: You should not tire before your destination

Meaning: If you are looking for something, always work hard to get it and do not relent until you have attained what you wanted.

Biblical parallel:Proverbs 14:23

“In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty”

60. Omwikhalilikhi okhatemua okhacheliswa tawe

Kiswahili: Kua na subira, majaribio yasikupate

French: Soyez patient, pour n'est pas être tenté

English: Be patient, do not be tempted

Meaning: To have good thing in life you have to be patient, taking short-cuts in life may get you into big trouble.

Biblical parallel:Psalm 37:7-8

“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil”

61. Omulekelesia omulaya yecha yecha yenyola ninaye nomucheni.

Kiswahili: Anayedharau malaya hujipata amelala naye.

French: Quiconque méprise une prostituée finira au lit avec elle.

English: He who despise a prostitute end up in bed with her.

Meaning: Do not judge a person because of what they do before you know the cause and reason why they do what they do because one day you may find yourself doing what they do.

Biblical parallel:Matthew 7:5

“You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye”

62. Olindanga esiakhulia sisie sianyira akabana nomucheni.

Kiswahili: Agonjea chakula chake kipoe bila shaka atakila na mgeni.

French: Celui qui attend que sa nourriture s'est refroidisse mangera avec visiteur

English: He who waits for his food to cool shares with visitor

Meaning: If you wait for the perfect condition to do something, then you may not be able to achieve anything. Work hard and you will see the benefits of your work.

Biblical parallel:Jeremiah 17:10

“I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”

63. Obwikuriro obwinji burera obwononi po!

Kiswahili: Shibe mingi yaleta madhara.

French: Trop de satisfaction conduit à des difficultés.

English: Too much satisfaction leads to waste

Meaning: You should not overdo something because the initial objective may be over passed and it may not be of meaning again. Always measure and do what is required.

Biblical parallel:Proverbs 23:2

“And put a knife to your throat if you are given to appetite”

64. Owenyanga buli sinabulebe, ofivya biosi.

Kiswahili: Mtaka yote, hukosa yote.

French: Si vous voulez tout, vous perdez tout

English: If you want everything, you lose everything

Meaning: Those who are not contented with what they have, always go for more but they end up losing everything. As a person you should be focused in the area that you know you are comfortable and contented.

Biblical Parallel:Matthew 16:26

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul”

65. Omwifwi yeba kata alia amulisianga

Kiswahili: Wezi huiba hata kutoka pale wanakula

French:Les voleurs volent même de l'endroit où ils mangent

English: Thieves will steal even from where they eat

Meaning: When you have a bad behavior you may end up even hurting the people that you love and the even yourself

Biblical Parallel:Ephesians 4:28

“Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need”

66. Omufwu benyene bakhilwanga musiboe

Kiswahili: Aliyekufa ndiye hushidwa kasi kortini

French: Seuls les morts sont battus dans une affaire judiciaire

English: Only the dead are defeated in a court case

Meaning: People who are dead or who are poor cannot be able to defend themselves from any accusations and oppression against them

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 24:24-25

“Whoever says to the wicked, “You are in the right,” will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations, but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them”

67. Okhuria khwakila eshituyu siafwila mubwichisi

Kiswahili: Aibu ilimfanya sungura kufa ndani ya chumba chake.

French: La timidité a tué le lièvre et sa tanière

English: Shyness made the hare to die in its den

Meaning: You should always work hard to avoid your fears, so that it may not work on your disadvantage.

Biblical Parallel: Ecclesiastes 7:20

“Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins”

68. Obwonono bwomwana bulaumibwa nyina.

Kiswahili: Makosa ya mtoto hulaumiwa kwa mama yake

French: Les erreurs d'un enfant sont imputées à la mère

English: A child's mistakes are blamed on the mother

Meaning: The person who spends a lot of time with a child is the mothers, the way she nurtures her children is how they will carry themselves.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 23:13

“Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die”

69. Owaria amenya mindala

Kiswahili: Wawoga huisha kwa muda mrefu

French: Les lâches vivent plus longtemps

English: Cowards live longer

Meaning: Those people who are conscience and wise in the action that they take live long than those who resolve their entire problem with violence.

Biblical Parallel: Ephesians 5:15-16

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil”

70. Omulianga akhila omwifwi.

Kiswahili: Afadhali anayekula sana kuliko mwizi

French: Mieux glouton que voleur

English: Better glutton than a thief

Meaning: When left to choose between two evil, it's better to choose the lesser evil.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 23:20

“Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat”

71. Owania khunjira sinao sakhola ario lulala tawe.

Kiswahili: Mtu ambaye hutua kinyesi kandokdndo ya bara bara hafanyi mara moja pekee.

French: Une personne qui excrète en route ne le fait seulement pas une fois

English: A person who excrete by the roadside does not just do it once

Meaning: When you have a bad behavior you occasionally repeat it all the time.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Corinthians 15:33

“Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

72. Omusilu yachisa namanani.

Kiswahili: Mjinga huficha kitacho mkula baadaye

French: Le fou caché qui devait le manger ce dernier

English: The fool concealed that was to eat him latter

Meaning: A stupid person will always defend or hide someone who at the end will destroy him/her.

Biblical Parallel: Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”

73. Omuchesa ni onyakala omukongo kukwo.

Kiswahili: Njirani yako ndiye anaye kukukwara mgongo

French: C'est votre voisin qui peut gratter votre dos

English: It is your neighbor who can scratch your back

Meaning: You should be good to people who are close to you because they are the one who can help you when you are in trouble.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 27:9

“Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel”

74. Omany emima kia nababulewe musiminyi.

Kiswahili: Utajua tabia halisi za mtu wakati wa ukame

French: Vous connaissez le vrai caractère quelqu'un lors de la famine

English: You know someone true character during famine

Meaning: When you have a difficult situation in life that's when you will know your true friends.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 10:9

“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out”

75. Oulia weliria nakhola oburombori omuchafu alaumibwa.

Kiswahili: Mtu aliyeheshimiwa akichafuwa hewa, mtu asiye heshimiwa ndio huwekewa lawama.

French: Quand une personne respectable pollue l'air, souvent la personne sale est reprochée

English: When a respectable person pollutes the air, often the dirty person is blamed

Meaning: The society mostly misjudge us depending on the social and economic status that we possess in the society.

Biblical Parallel: John 7:24

“Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”

76. Okhabala amakonja kako nokhafwa tawe.

Kiswahili: Usihesabu vidonda vyako kabla hujakufa

French: Ne comptez pas vos cicatrices avant de mourir

English: Do not count your scars before you die

Meaning: No one knows about tomorrow, you should not anticipate too much about what is unknown.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 27:1

“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring”

77. Omwana akhulanga khuli wamulela.

Kiswahili: Mtoto hukuwa vile amelelewa

French: L'enfant grandit dans la façon dont il est élevé

English: The child grows up in the way he is brought up

Meaning: Whatever you teach your child is what they will show when they are adults

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 22:6

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it”

78. Oulia olisha ninawe niye wicha wakhwira

Kiswahili: Unaye kula naye ndio anye kuaa

French: Celui avec qui vous mangez est celui qui vous tue

English: The one you eat with is the one who kills you

Meaning: Those people who are close to you are the one who know your secrets and can destroy you

Biblical Parallel: 1 John 4:1

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world”

79. Oukhasi omurasi sayenyekwa yabe na nyina wuwo tawe.

Kiswahili: Mwanamke anayependa kugombana sikuwe ni mama yako.

French: Une femme querelleuse ne devrait pas arriver à être votre mère

English: A quarrelsome woman should not happen to be your mother

Meaning: It takes wisdom to handle your elders who do not have proper manners. You need to too be conscience when dealing with them.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 20:3

“It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling”

80. Oulia olindisia obukholi, obukholi bwene bumulinda.

Kiswahili: Anayesongesha kufanya kitendo, kitendo hicho bado kinamgonja.

French: Celui qui retarde les actions que l'action l`attend toujours

English: He who delays actions that action still waits for him

Meaning: You should always undertake an action when it is required, postponement does not change anything.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 27:1

“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring”

81. Oulia wikure, satekhela uli nende ijala tawe.

Kiswahili: Mtu aliyeshiba hawezi kumpikia aliye na njaa

French: Une personne rassasiée, ne cuisinera pas pour les faims

English: A person who is satisfied will not cook for the hungry

Meaning: When you have never faced with a certain problem, you may not understand the problem of another person.

Biblical Parallel: Philippians 2:3-4

“Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others”

82. Omulila owuwe sakayibwangwa tawe.

Kiswahili: Anaye omboleza mtu wake hazuiwi

French: Celui qui pleure à cause de son propre n'est pas stoppé

English: He who mourns his own is not stopped

Meaning: Whenever someone is in bad situation, do not stop them from crying but comfort them

Biblical Parallel: Psalm 119:76

“Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant”

83. Oulia wenya okhwombakha inju imbia akhoya wasambula ikhale.

Kiswahili: Unayetaka kuanza kujenga nyumba mpya lazima abomoe nyumba mzee

French: Celui qui veut commencer une nouvelle maison doit se détacher des vieux

English: He who wants to start a new house must dismantle the old one

Meaning: When you want to change your bad behavior, you should be ready to leave your old behavior behind and change to new habits.

Biblical Parallel: 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come”

84. Oulia wenya okhukhina, yenyekha arachikhe khupa ing'oma.

Kiswahili: Anayetaka kucheza demsi lazima aanze kupiga ngoma

French: Celui qui veut danser doit commencer à taper les tambours

English: He who wants to dance must starts beating the drums

Meaning: If you need anything to be done, you should take initiative to start and others will follow.

Biblical Parallel: Philippians 4:5-6

“Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God”

85. Owa injala sarumwa musiachi tawe

Kiswahili: Mtu aliye na njaa hatumwi kwenye gala

French: Un homme qui meurt de faim ne doit pas être envoyé au granaire

English: A hungry man is never sent to the granary

Meaning: Someone who has a problem cannot be trusted to solve it by him/herself. You should try and help when you are in a position to help.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 19:17

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed”

86. Owiwikina obuyinda bwa wandaye yafwa omumanani.

Kiswahili: Aliyetegemea mali ya nduguye alikufa akiwa fukara.

French: Celui qui regarde la fortune de son frère mourra pauvre

English: The one who relied on his brother's wealth died poor

Meaning: You should always take initiative to create your own path in life, you should not rely on others people.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 10:4

“A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich”

87. Omundu akhulengelesianga mbele kho akhulangilisie

Kiswahili: Mtu hukuchunguza kwanza kabla ya kukualika kwake

French: Une personne t`observe toujours avant de t`inviter

English: A person will always observe you before he invites you

Meaning: Before you allow any person to become your friend and know your deepest secret you must know their behavior if they are acceptable to you.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 18:24

“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother”

88. Oulia uli omukhulundu khwiwe asikalanga ario mindali.

Kiswahili: Mtu aliyekuzidi kwa umri kamwe atakua mkubwa wako milele.

French: Une personne plus vieille que vous restera toujours vieille

English: A person who is older than you always remains older

Meaning: However powerful, rich or authoritative you should always respect your elder.

Biblical Parallel: Leviticus 19:32

“You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the Lord”

89. Oulia ochinga akhaseto khakhe satakha wokhukona tawe

Kiswahili: Mtu anayebeba malazi yake hawezi kukosa pakulala

French: Une personne qui porte sa peau ne manquera jamais un endroit à dormir

English: A person who is carrying his skin will never lack where to sleep

Meaning: When you are always prepared, whatever happens you will always be ready to tackle anything.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 24:27

“Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house”

90. Ulia osaba aebwa

Kiswahili: Anaye uliza hupewa

French: Celui qui demande reçoit

English: He who asks is given

Meaning: Whenever you have a need or problem, it's good that you say or ask to fulfill your needs.

Biblical Parallel: Luke 11:9

“And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you”

91. Ulia okhakhaba ale(sinao), yeja yaila khurura mungo mwabo.

Kiswahili: Asiyetafuta mke nje ya ukoo wake huoa toka kwao

French: Celui qui ne cherche pas une femme hors de son domicile, se mariera à son domicile

English: He who does not venture out marry from his home

Meaning: If you do not work hard in life then you will always just be contented with the little or nothing and you may not live to our potential.

Biblical parallel:Proverbs 6:10

“A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man”

92. Ulia ukhulova akhura alia abulayi.

Kiswahili: Anayekukana anakuweka mahali pema

French: Celui qui vous rejette vous met dans un meilleur endroit

English: He who rejects you puts you in a better place

Meaning: If a person takes advantage of you bad situation to oppress you, he propels you to working hard and attaining your goals.

Biblical Parallel: Philippians 2:14-15

“Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world”

93. Siokhusabwa sibukulangwa ebise biosi kata nosienya okhurumikhila kuba ninasio.

Kiswahili: Kitu ulicho saidiwa kinaweza chukuliwa kwako hata kama unakihitaji bado

French: Ce qui vous a été prêté peut être pris de vous, même lorsque vous en avez encore besoin

English: What is loaned to you can be taken from you even when you still need it

Meaning: When you have something that is not yours, the owner will treat you badly without mercy. You should always strive to have your own.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 13:4

“The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied”

94. Sonyala wasinga omwana wabene

Kiswahili: Huwezi kuosha mtoto wa mtu kwa kuridhika mzazi

French: Vous ne pouvez pas laver un enfant est satisfaire ses parents.

English: You cannot wash someone's child to the parent's satisfaction

Meaning: We all have different way we carry ourselves and do things; someone else may not manage to conduct an activity as you would do it yourself.

Biblical parallel: Ecclesiastes 7:20

"Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins"

95. Sonyala khumanya indalo yokhofwa tawe.

Kiswahili: Akuna ajuae siku yake ya kufa

French: Personne ne peut prédire le jour de son décès.

English: You can never tell the day of your death

Meaning: We are all uncertain of tomorrow, live every day and make it count like it was your last. Will live only by the grace and will of God and we can be taken any time.

Biblical Parallel: Romans 11:6

"But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace".

96. Tibia omulebe omusime khukhila khuba musiminyu.

Kiswahili: Afathali kupoteza mtu wa karibu kuliko kuwa na njaa

French: Mieux vaud perdre un proche que de mourir avec la famine.

English: Better lose a dear relative than suffering an outbreak of famine

Meaning: It is better to have a problem which will affect you only for a while than having a problem which will be long and devastating to you or to the community.

Biblical Parallel: Ephesians 5:25

"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"

97. Ulia wifumia po!asebela khumwanda

Kiswahili: Mtu anayejisifu mwenyewe ni kamaaliyepanda njiani

French: Celui qui se loue est comme le cultivateur qui sèment sur la route.

English: He who praise himself cultivate on the road

Meaning: To know the kind of person you are let your family and friends tell you. If a person evaluates himself in most cases he gives a decision which is biased favoring them.

Biblical Parallel:2 Corinthians 10:13

“But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding”

98. Ulia otaya amachi anyakhana muno nikarumirwa obubi.

Kiswahili: Mtu ambaye hutafuta maji huwana wasiwasi zaidi yakiharibiwa.

French: La personne qui va chercher l’eau est agitée, lorsqu’on Sali l’eau.

English: The person who fetches water is more troubled when it’s wasted

Meaning: The people who use his effort and energy to obtain something always does not feel well when it is misused by the person who do not know what it takes to obtain it.

Biblical parallel:Psalm 39:5

“You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath.”

99. Ulia okhenya tawe aba wokhuranga okhwibuya

Kiswahili: Mtu ambaye hawezi huwa wakwanza kujivunia

French: celui qui est incapable est le premier à se venté.

English: The person who is unable may be the first one to boast

Meaning: The person who gives tales of him being the great person in war mostly turns out to be the coward. You should always wait for others to praise and tell of your bravery.

Biblical parallel:Jeremiah 9:23

“Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches”.

100. Ubokosi bukhira bululu

Kiswahili: Ukarimu washinda kuwa mkali.

French: La politesse est mieux que la dureté

English: Politeness is better than harshness

Meaning: As a person who needs something from others you need to exercise humility and willingness by to be corrected and not to despise instruction you are given.

Biblical parallel:Philippians 2:3

“Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves”

SUMMARY

Collection of the Tachoni proverbs has been an existing, educative and challenging at the same time. When I first visited Maraka village in Webuye with Edwin Kola who was my main collaborator, it had been a bumpy and dusty road through the village. After the travelling day, we embarked on the main agenda on the following day, lucky I was able to start with Edwin’s grandfather who is in his seventies. He gave us a brief history of Tachoni people and also some proverbs and wise sayings among his people. After that we had to move around from one elder’s homestead to another. Some elder’s would give us the proverbs and explain in the origin of the proverb and the context in which the proverb was mainly used. I found this educative and very informative.

The collection of Tachoni proverbs and wise saying did not come without its challenges. One of the main challenges was communication barrier, the elders did not understand the English or Kiswahili languages and translation was necessary, and it had to be word by word which consumed a lot of time. The weather was also not favorable as the place was dusty all over making movement from one homestead to another difficult. Communication with the people on the ground after leaving the village, also proved futile as most homes do not have electricity connected to their homes, this made my contacts on the ground unreachable within intervals of days. The community was also in the land preparation season for the short rains, as Tachoni are farmers, this posed a challenge as to the availability of community members for consultation become hard thus more time was used.

All in all, the collection of Tachoni proverbs and wise sayings, proved to be educative, informative, excitement and an experience of its own. Despite the challenges faced, the main goals and objective of collection of the 100 proverbs and wise sayings was achieved.

CONCLUSION

The Tachoni people are among the unique communities in Kenya, from their emergence to their culture and way of life. The Tachoni people incorporates basic human values in their daily life. This is evident in their proverbs and wise sayings which are used daily, to educate, inform and harmonise the community. Through the entrenchment of the core human values in their culture and lifestyle, each member of the community knows their role towards ensuring that these values are safeguarded. The human core values among them; Happiness, love, peace, freedom, intelligence, respect, justice, safety among others are taught and passed on from one generation of the community to another. These has ensured the continuity of these values within the community which are mainly passed by the use of proverbs and wise sayings.

The proverbs and wise sayings among the Tachoni community brought out the whole spectrum of core human values. Teaching or educating the community on core values such as the **Respect** like in the proverb number seventy five, saying *“When a respectable person pollutes the air,*

often the dirty person is blamed” explaining the importance of not judging others just by the appearance but according everyone the respect that they deserve **Intelligence** like in proverb number one which says *“Two geniuses will successful roast a fly”* this strongly brings out this core value and puts an emphasis on working together to realize the success and problem solving in the community, **Love** like in proverb number fourth five which says *“The language of courtship is not the same as the language in marriage”* this talks about people sharing life together with love and harmony.

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