

**A COLLECTION OF 100 CHIGA PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS**



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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my Grandfather Casper Blasio Okubo and the entire Africa Proverb working group Nairobi and all readers of African literature

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**INTRODUCTION**

**Location**

The Chiga people, or Abachiga ("people of the mountains"), are an ethnic group located in northern Rwanda and southern Uganda. The Chiga speak a Bantu language called Rukiga. They are sometimes referred to as the Chiga or Kiga, while the singular form is Omukiga. Additionally, a large number of Abachiga were still living in Rwanda at the time of European colonization.

**The Ethnographical Location of the Chiga Ethnic Group in Uganda**



## **History**

The Abachiga people live in southwestern Uganda and North Eastern Rwanda, mostly located in Kabale District (and Byumba Prefecture in Rwanda), and number about 8% of the population of Uganda or nearly 3 million according to Population Estimates. Another 3 million have been naturalised in other ethnic regions of Uganda such as Bunyoro, Tooro, Buganda, Northern Tanzania, Eastern Congo and Rwanda as well as those living in Europe and North America. This puts the total population of people of Kiga origin at about 6 million. Among Bachiga people, the ruling person was therefore named Mukama, equivalent to Mwami in other parts of Rwanda.

## **Culture and Traditions**

Meat was food reserved for special events in the community, mainly for births, weddings and funerals. Food was always prepared in abundance. It was and is still considered good manners for a visitor to join a family eating a meal without invitation. The Bachiga were producing beer, *omuramba*, from sorghum, as they still do today. To enjoy it, people would sit on wooden stools surrounding a pot, and drink it through long tubes. The non-fermented form of the same sorghum drink, called obushera, was consumed hot or cold. Some among the Bachiga were great ironsmiths who were making hoes, knives, and spears. Pottery was also highly developed, and a wide range of carpentry existed. They reared bees and produced honey. Women and men were both involved digging and bush clearing. Men were solely responsible for erecting the housing made out of grass thatch and papyrus. After a government decree in 1935 these hut walls were made out of mud, but still thatched with wild grass or sorghum stalks. Nearly all activities were done communally. Men were dressed in one cow hide, in two if they were rich. The skin hung from the shoulder, covering private parts. A man would belt himself for a fight or a dance, while for clearing land one would normally be naked. Women used skirts made from several skins. A skin garment covered the torso. A woman of a wealthy husband wore brass rings on her legs and arms. These rings could extend from the wrist to the legs, and from the ankles to just below the knees.

Virginity was very important. If an unmarried girl got pregnant, she would be taken to a forest, tied to a tree, and left to the mercy of animals. Alternatively, she would be thrown over a cliff. Kisizi Falls were most used for this purpose. At Lake Bunyonyi, a one meter high island was used for dumping these unfortunate girls. Migrating tribes or nomads unable to dowry for a bride would sometimes rescue these girls and take them for a wife. In these instances, the girl could never be returned to her community and had to move away. Though these practices have been stopped in recent times, unmarried girls or women who get pregnant today still face severe forms of alternative social sanctions within their communities or clans.

Marriage needed to be preceded by a payment of bride wealth, which meant cows, goats, and hoes. Polygamy was the exception rather than the norm, practiced in specific clans or segments of households when widow inheritance occurred following the death of a married family member. Women of a polygamous man would not be from the same clan, because marriages were one of the rare things to bond together a very politically segmented society. A girl spent about a month in seclusion before marriage, to become well fed and instructed in home management. Although permitted, divorce was very rare and greatly discouraged. When it occurred, common reasons for divorce included if a husband or wife was barren, lazy, or had other bad unsociable traits. Divorced people could remarry, however, the woman's family could expect less bride wealth next time. Disagreements that could be leading to divorce were first tackled by consultation of elders. Settling disputes was a major role of elderly members of a clan. Clansmen elected a lineage head on the criteria of character (truthful, brave, a war-leader) and power (a rich man, a medicine man, or a priest). Different lineage heads would gather and publicly discuss potential issues of wider concern. What lineage heads did not solve together could result in fighting between groups. The Bachiga were natural born-warriors. They were known as tough, hardworking people that made formidable enemies. They still are.

### ***Traditionals dancing***

The form of dance for the chiga is called the Ekizino. Ekizino is a royal dance from the chiga people of Kigezi. Musical instruments Omukuli (flute): The flute is widely popular in all regions of Uganda. It is played both as a solo and accompaniment instrument. Amakondere (trumpets): Low-pitched instruments are cut from the trunks of the pawpaw tree. High-pitched trumpets are made of antelope horn. Endingidi (fiddle): a one string instrument which is attached to a flexible stick with a wooden sound box and is played with a bow. It is tuned in a pentatonic scale. Enanga (trough zither): a zither with eight strings which run above a wooden trough. A zither is an instrument. It is mainly a story-telling or poem reciting instrument and it accompanies some dances in Kigezi Western part of Uganda. It is tuned in a pentatonic scale. Engoma (drums): In Bakiga Society, as one of the African traditions, drums bring the power that drives the performance and the rhythm of the vigorous dance.



### ***Bakiga youth performing a traditional dance***

The proverbs were used on a daily basis by the people of Chiga. Mostly the proverbs were used during birth, during initiation like circumcision, marriage, to inspire people, to warn those on the wrong path, to advice among others.

Examples of these proverbs and wise saying are:

**1. Omuntu wobusingye niwe mukozi wobusingye omukayeye**

Kiswahili: Mtu mpenda amani huteleta amani bomani kwake.

French: Une personne pacifique est un artisan de paix dans sa maison.

English: A peaceful person is a peacemaker in his home.

**2. Nomurungi timurungi hatariho nkojo mbi**

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.

### **Religion and Beliefs**

Before the Bachiga were educated about Islam and Christianity, they believed in one God. The Bachiga understood God as creator who is neither male nor female, known as Ruhanga. God is also known through many attributes. As the supreme elder and the ruler of the universe, he is called Mukama. When associated with the power of the sun, he is Kazooba-Nyamuhanga. In his aspect as the one who makes things grow, he is called Biheeko. Many Bakiga with the influence of Christianity adopted 'theo-phoric' names.

The traditional Bachiga were a highly segmented society who came to Kabale in south Uganda from today's Rwanda. They believed in Ruhanga, the Creator of all things. They also had several cults, among which the most important was Nyabingi - the spirit of a much respected rain-maker.

### **Economic Activities**

Abachiga were mainly agriculturalists, and kept significantly less livestock than other pastoralist groups in neighboring tribes. They grew sorghum, peas, millet, sweet potatoes, vegetables, and beans. These were supplemented with pumpkins, yams and variety of green vegetables.



*Rich hilly agricultural land*

### **Political**

The family of the ruling clan, the Bamuhutu, possessed the inheritance powers of the name Mukama. If there is any person bearing the name Mukama, he must be a Bamuhutu, specifically a Mungura/Mwitira, or belong to the royal clan of the Bamuhutu. The Abukuru b-ekika was a committee of elders chosen by the clan to issue rules and administer justice. If a case was particularly serious and involved more than one clan, the cases would be heard publicly. An Omukuru, ideally a wise elder who knew the customs and traditions of his people, and who could be trusted to give fair advice and justice, was elected to preside over this expanded court.





## A COLLECTION OF 100 CHIGA PROVERBS

### **1. Abashuma nibiba bahika nokwiba ahubakurira**

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”*

### **2. Abariho nibo babarwa**

**Kiswahili:** Walioko ndio wenye huhesabiwa

French: Ceux qui sont présents sont celui 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”*

### **3. Abanyabwengye babiri nibabasa kwotsya eshohora**

Kiswahili: Gwiji wawili wanaweza kuchoma inzi

French: Deux génie 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”*

### **4. Ahariho omwika tihakaburaho omuriro**

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 babbling”*

**5. Abafu bonka nibo bakusingwa omurinyaruju yamateka**

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”*

**6. Akenyanja kache tikakahabura ekyenyanja ekyihango**

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”*

**7. 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.”*

**8. Ashabahebwa**

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”*

#### **9. Akukwanga nakuteka omumwanya omumwanya ogurikusingaho noguwaba oriimu**

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 your 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”*

#### **10. Amihande ebiri ekabuzabuza empisi**

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”*

#### **11. Burimuntu nayegura omugamba gwe**

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”*

**12. Banza wayeyerera enju yawe otakagyire kugamba eyabandi okweteyerire**

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

French: Tout d'abord balayer 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"*

**13. Bayine abaana namara ekiro aha muhanda**

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

French: Personne ne méprise son propre tabac si mauvaise 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"*

**14. Emihande ebiri ekabuzabuza empisi**

Kiswahili: Njia mbili panda zilimchanganya fisi

French: Deux chemins confond la 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"*

**15. Ente ekurebwa nezara akachwamutwe kakurebwa**

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"*

**16. Enshobi yomwana nibagivunana nyina weye**

Kiswahili: Makosa ya mtoto hulaumiwa kwa mama yake

French: Les erreurs d'un enfant sont imputés 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”*

### **17. Embwa tekumoka ekaruma**

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.”*

### **18. Eshagama nekira amaizi**

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”*

### **19. Ebisero byingi ebikukwata ebyenyanja byaba biri omumizi tibikakuzibira kwibika ekisero ekyawe**

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

vôtreEnglish: 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”*

**20. Ekyibakugurize nibabasa kukyikwaka kandi okyakyenda**

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”*

**21. Engyesho nungyi zomutabani nizihisa ishe ekitinisa**

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”*

**22. Ebintu byokubanza nibyo byomugasho munonga**

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!”*

**23. Ebifera nibitura okumara obwire bwingi**

Kiswahili: Wawoga huisha kwa muda mrefu

French:Les lâches vivent plus longtemps

English: Cowards live longer

Meaning: Those people you 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”*

**24. Hakiri arikurya munonga kusingaho omushuma**

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”*

**25. Kakuha nyina ekyitinisa naba atakukiha nanyina wondijo muntu**

Kiswahili: Mtu ambaye hutua kinyesi kandokndndu 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.”*

**26. 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”*

**27. Kurinamanyire eija bwanyima**

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”*

**28. Kimuti ogukwera ebijuma nigwe gukurekyerwaho amabare**

Kiswahili: Ata mapacha tumboni wako na utando unaowagawanyisha

French: Môme 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”*

**29. Mikuruga omuka akaza omundijo nibamushuka ebyizi bigubire**

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”*

**30. Nimutahiwawe arikubasa kukwagura omugongo**

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”*

**31. Nikirungi kutandiika nobworo kusinga okutandika nobugiga**

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”*



### **32. Nomurungi timurungi hatariho nkojo mbi**

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”*

### **33. Nomanya akaze komuntu omubwire bwenjara**

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”*

### **34. Omuntu wekitinisa kwakushisha omwoya nibagira ngu abagubiire nibo bagushisha**

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

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

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.”*

### **35. Otaribara enkojo zaawe otakafiire**

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”*

**36. Omwana nakura omumuringo gubamukuzamu**

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”*

**37. Owokurya naawe niwe arikukwita**

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”*

**38. Omukazi omuyombi tashemereire kuba nyoko**

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”*

**39. Okurinza okukora, okwo okukora nikugaruka kumurinda**

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”*

#### **40. Omuntu ayigusi takatechera abiine enjara**

Kiswahili: Mtu aliyeshiba hawezi kumpikia aliye na njaa

French: Une personne rassasié, 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”*

#### **41. Okuririra ekyeye tibakamutanga**

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”*

#### **42. Okwenda kwombeka enju entsya nabanza yashenya enju enkuru**

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”*

#### **43. Okwenda kuziina nabanza yatera engoma**

Kiswahili: Anayetaka kucheza demsi lazima aanze kupiga ngoma

French: Celui qui veut dancier 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”*

**44. Omuntu wenjaara tibakamusindiika omukitara**

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”*

**45. Oyine abaana namara ekiro aha muhanda**

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”*

**46. Oyanza wayeyerera enju yawe otakagyire kugamba eyabandi okweteyerire**

Kiswahili: Jogoo wawili hawawezi kupika kwa nyungu moja.

French: Deux coqs ne doivent pas être cuit 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”*

**47. Owayesigyire obugiga bwamukuruweye akafa obworo**

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”*

#### **48. Omuntu nabanza yakwetegyereza atakakwetsire kumutayayira**

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”*

#### **49. Omuntu arikukukyira aryaguma nakukyira**

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

French: Une personne plus vieux que vous restera toujours vieux

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”*

#### **50. Omuntu akwegura oruhu rweye takabura ahokubya**

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”*

#### **51. Okunya aha muhanda nabasa kurahuka kwebwa kwonka okuribaata omumazi we takayebwa**

Kiswahili: Mtu aliyekunia mahali husahau, lakini aliyekanyaga mavi hayo huwa hasahau

French: La personne qui excrète oubliera tôt ou tard mais pas celui qui marche sur le caca

English: The person who excrete may sooner or later forget but not the one who steps on the faeces

Meaning: When you do something wrong to someone, after a while you always forget but the one who was done wrong rarely forgets.

Biblical Parallel: Matthew 6:14-15

*“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”*

## **52. Omuntu atari baaro nobasa kugyira ngu ayine emichwe mirungi**

Kiswahili: Mtu ambaye si bwana yako unaweza sema ni mzuri sana

French: Une personne qui n'est pas votre mari, vous pourriez le dire qu'il est poli

English: A person who is not your husband you may say he is polite

Meaning: If you do not know a person very well, you may misjudge them of be fooled by their first expression.

Biblical Parallel: John 7:24

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

## **53. Okurime ekyina namaririza ariwe akyirimu**

Kiswahili: Anayechimba shimo hujipata ameingia mwenyewe

French: Une personne qui fait un trou, arrive à être dans le même trou

English: A person who digs a hole ends up in it himself

Meaning: If you plan something bad for your friend or neighbor, you may end up being the one who get hurt instead of them.

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”*

## **54. Okurekyera amatungo ge ondiyo nabara empu zaago**

Kiswahili: Mtu anayeweka n'gombe zake na jirani, huhesabu ngozi pekee

French: Une personne qui laisse sa fortune avec quelqu'un d'autre aura rien

English: A person who keeps his heard with someone else count skins

Meaning: Whenever you are not ready to take responsibility of your wealth, you may lose it to someone else's and become poor because of your irresponsibility.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 18:9

*“Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys”*

## **55. Otakahikyire ahakuza takaruha**

Kiswahili: Mtu ambaye hajafika mwisho wa safari yake huwa hachoki

French: Celui qui n`a pas encore atteint sa destination ne sera jamais fatigué

English: He who has not reached his destination can never get tired

Meaning: Whenever you are in need of something, you can always work-hard until you get what you need.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 13:4

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

#### **56. Okubuza tibushema**

Kiswahili: Kuuliza sio ujinga

French: Demander n`est pas une stupidité

English: Asking is not stupidity

Meaning: When you ask it does not mean that you are not wise or knowledgeable. Learning is an everyday process.

Biblical Parallel: Matthew 21:22

*“And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”*

#### **57. Otakuha nyina ekyitinisa naba atakukiha nanyina wondijo muntu**

Kiswahili: Asiyeheshimu mama yake hawezi kuheshimu mama ya mtu mwingine

French: Celui qui ne respecte pas sa propre mère ne peut pas respecter la mère d`une autre

English: He who does not respect his own mother cannot respect another person`s mother

Meaning: When you do not value someone who is close to you, it is rarely that you will value your neighbor

Biblical Parallel: Colossians 3:20

*“Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord”*

#### **58. Okukurisa naba nakutegyeka**

Kiswahili: Anayekulisha anaweza juu yako

French: Celui qui vous nourrit vous contrôle

English: He who feeds you controls you

Meaning: Whenever you have anyone who takes care of you, you always obey their command and instructions.

Biblical Parallel: Ephesians 6:1

*“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right”*

#### **59. Owamani najuma mama wawe niwe oriho aho**

Kiswahili: Mtu aliyenanguvu kukuzidi hutusi mama yako ukiwa

French: Une personne puissante abusera ta mère en ta présence

English: A stronger person abuses your mother in your presence

Meaning: When someone has power over you, they will always control you.

Biblical Parallel: Psalm 9:9

*“The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble”*

#### **60. Okukuraganisa ekyihuro kyihango nabasa kukwisa enjara**

Kiswahili: Mtu anayekuahidi vitu kubwa anaweza kuua na njaa.

French: Celui qui te promet une grande portion peut te laisser mourrir de faim

English: He who promises you bigger share may starve you to death

Meaning: When someone always promises you of good things, they rarely fulfill their promises.

Biblical Parallel: Romans 14:16

*“So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil”*

#### **61. Okukurabura akabi naba arimunywani wawe**

Kiswahili: Anayekujulisha kuhusu kitu kibaya kinaweza kufanyikia ni rafiki

French: Celui qui te prévient du danger est ton ami

English: He who warns you of danger is your friend

Meaning: A person who is truly a friend will always advice you accordingly even if you are on the wrong path in life.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 27:5-6

*“Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy”*

#### **62. Okwitwa omwiguto takugarukyira abasigara enyima**

Kiswahili: Anayekufa kwa kukula sana huwa harudi kusumbua waliyo haii

French: Celui qui est mort à cause de la gourmandise se fou la tête de ceux qui meurent de faim

English: He who dies of overeating will not haunt those left behind

Meaning: Whenever you do an action that make you harm yourself, you cannot blame anyone else.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 23:2

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

#### **63. Omuchezi takagaruka omuka nengaro nsha**

Kiswahili: Mtu anayeamka mapema haji nyumbani mkono mtupu

French: La personne matinale ne rentre pas à la maison la main vide



English: The early person does not come home empty-handed

Meaning: Whenever you take time and effort to do something you will always get positive results

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 12:24

*“The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor”*

**64. Omukazi ayamara kuzara tashemereire kukwata enyungu yibakutekyeramu**

Kiswahili: Mwanamke ambaye amejifungua hafayi kushika sufuria za kupikia.

French: Une femme qui vient d'accoucher ne doit pas toucher la cocotte

English: A woman who has just given birth should not touch the cooking pot

Meaning: When you are unclean its better you do not handle food for which may affect the family members in a bad way.

Biblical Parallel: Leviticus 15:19

*“When a woman has a discharge, and the discharge in her body is blood, she shall be in her menstrual impurity for seven days, and whoever touches her shall be unclean until the evening”*

**65. Omusheija arikutunga ente emwe nakira arikugyira nti nayija kutunga eisyo rihango ryente nyingyi**

Kiswahili: Mtu anayeweka ng'ombe moja ako afadhali kuliko anayesema” Nitaweka ng'ombe wengi”

French: Un homme qui prend soi d'une vache est mieux que la personne qui dit:je prendrai soi d'un grand troupeau

English: A man who rear one cow is better the one who say “I will rear a large heard”

Meaning: It is good to take initiative and take steps to achieve your goals instead of not taking any step.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 16:3

*“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established”*

**66. Omwana takarizibwa busha**

Kiswahili: Mtoto halii bure tu

French: Un bébé ne pleure pas pour rien

English: A baby does not cry for nothing.

Meaning: When a wise man does not just speak or accuse without evidence. There must be a good reason for saying.

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”*

**67. Omwana niwe burugo bwebintu ebirungi**

Kiswahili: Mtoto ni chanzo cha vitu vizuri

French: Un enfant est une bonne de chose

English: A child is a source of good things

Meaning: When you have a child, when he grows up he will always give you a lending hand to create wealth.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 15:20

*“A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish man despises his mother”*

**68. Omuzengyerezi arikuruga omuka akaza omundijo nibamushuka ebyizi bigubire**

Kiswahili: Mtu anayetembea kunyumba hii hadi ngine humwagiwa maji chafu

French: Celui qui de vagabonde de maison en maison projète de l’eau sale à son visage

English: He who roams from home to home get dirty water splattered on his face

Meaning: If you are rumor monger, talking about other people from neighbor to neighbor you will find yourself in trouble.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 20:19

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

**69. Omuti murungi nigukurira omumiti endijo**

Kiswahili: Mti mzuri hukuwa na zingine

French: Un bon arbre pousse parmi les autres

English: A good tree grows among others

Meaning: If you have good friend or company they will always be of good influenced to your character.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 13:20

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

**70. Omuti niguterezibwa gwaba gukyiri muto**

Kiswahili: Mti hunyoroshwa ungali mchanga

French: un arbre est redressé quand il est encore jeune

English: A tree is straighten while it is still young

Meaning: Whenever you want to solve a problem, you should address it when it is still minor because when it becomes major it may not be solved.

Biblical Parallel: Hebrews 12:11

*“For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it”*

**71. Omutumwa tashemereire kuribwa**

Kiswahili: Mtumwa huwa hapigwi kamwe

French: un messenger ne doit pas être battu

English: A messenger should not be beaten

Meaning: If someone is sent bring to you bad news by someone else, you should not vent your anger on them but the sender.

Biblical Parallel: Acts 3:22

*“Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you’”*

**72. Omushuma tayine biiro makumyana**

Kiswahili: Mwizi anasiku arubaini

French: un voleur a quarante jours

English: A thief has forty days

Meaning: If you have bad behavior one day you will get the results of your bad behavior.

Biblical Parallel: John 10:10

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly”*

**73. Omunwa murungi niguza kukuyamba kurya nomugabe**

Kiswahili: Mdomo na kunena kuzuri kutafanya ukule na Mfalme

French: Une bonne bouche te fera manger avec un roi

English: A good mouth will make you eat with King

Meaning: When you have good behavior, one day it will raise you to a position you never expected.

Biblical Parallel: James 4:10

*“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you”*

**74. Omurogi naroga ente erikumuha amate**

Kiswahili: Mgaga huganga hata n’gombe yenye hutua maziwa

French: un sorcier ensorcèle la vache qu’elle presse

English: A witch bewitch the very cow she milks

Meaning: If you have hatred in you, you may end up even hating your own.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 10:12

*“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses”*

**75. Omuriro nigwotsya arikuguhemba**

Kiswahili: Moto huchoma anayeiwasha

French: Le feu brûle le fabricant

English: The fire burns the maker

Meaning: If you are involved in initiating something then you become the first beneficiary of its positive or negative results.

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”*

**76. Omuzeyi nakwata omwana wemichwe mibi baba nibarya**

Kiswahili: Mtu mzee hushika motto mtukutu wakati wa chakula

French: Le vieux homme attrape l`enfant vilaine pendant le repas

English: The old man catches the naughty child during meal time

Meaning: The elder always use their wisdom to solve problems which may appear difficult to the young ones

Biblical Parallel: Job 12:12

*“Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days”*

**77. Omukono gumwe tigukachiriza enyungu yamizi gukagita ahamutwe**

Kiswahili: Mkono mmoja hauwezi kuinua nyungu ya maji kichwani

French: La main de soi ne soulève le pot à la tête

English: One hand does not raise the water pot to the head

Meaning: People need to work together to achieve or find a solution to the problem in a community.

Biblical Parallel: Ecclesiastes 4:9

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

**78. Omukazi arikuruga ahamushija akaza ahandijo naba atine micwe**

Kiswahili: Mwanamke anyetembea kutaka kwa mbwana mmoja hadi mwingine hana tabia njema

French: une femme qui change d`un mari à un autre n`a pas de manière

English: A woman who moves from husband to husband has no manners

Meaning: The society has values and norms that should be adhered to, anyone who goes against the culture and values exhibit deviant behavior which is not allowed at all.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 30:20

*“This is the way of an adulteress: she eats and wipes her mouth and says, “I have done no wrong.”*

**79. Omukumi wobusingye namaririza ariiwe ayine omushango**

Kiswahili: Anyetaka kuleta amani kati ya wapizani wawili mwishowe yeye ndio huwa mashakani

French: Un concilateur finira par être le victime

English: A peacemaker may end up the victim

Meaning: You should always assess and know which battles to be involved in. You may be the one who suffer because of your kindness.

Biblical Parallel: Matthew 5:9

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”*

**80. Omuteguzi webintu niwe akumaririza narya amagufa**

Kiswahili: Mtu anyepatiana mali yako bila kujikubuka mwishowe utakula mifupa

French: Celui qui grâte finira par manger les os

English: He who dishes out end up eating the bones

Meaning: you should always be mindful of yourself. Arrange everything in order on your side before you help others.

Biblical Parallel: Galatians 5:1

*“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery”*

**81. Omutabani nabonabona ahabwebibi byishewe**

Kiswahili: Kijana humia kwa sababu ya dambi za baba yake

French: Le fils souffre à cause du péché de son père

English: The son suffers because of his father’s sins

Meaning: In life all the wrong things you do as a parent, the children or grand-children are the one who bare the punishment of your sins.

Biblical Parallel John 8:44

*“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies”*

**82. Omuntu wobusingye niwe mukozi wobusingye omukayeye**

Kiswahili: Mtu mpenda amani huteleta amani bomani kwake

French: Une personne pacifique est un artisan de paix dans sa maison

English: A peaceful person is a peacemaker in his home

Meaning: Someone who love a certain way of doing things, will always practice everywhere and in everything that he does whenever he goes.

Biblical Parallel: 2 Thessalonians 3:16

*“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all”*

### **83. Omuntu orikusingayo kwenda kurya niwe akubanza kunaba engaro ze**

Kiswahili: Mtu mlafi ndiye huwa wakwanza kuosha mikono yake

French: Une personne avec un bon appétit est la première qui lave ses mains

English: A person of great appetite is the first one to wash his hands

Meaning: If someone has bad habits or behavior, you will always notice from the way they carry themselves.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 28:22

*“A stingy man hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him”*

### **84. Otakayoreka omushaho mugyenzi wawe oburugo bwomubazi gwawe, muhereze omubazi gumazire okujungwa**

Kiswahili: Usionyeshane ulikotoa miti zako za shamba kwa daktari mwenzako, mpatie uliyo tairisha

French: N`expose pas ta source d`herbe à un autre docteur, donne-lui un échantillon préparé

English: Don't expose your source of herbs to another medicine man, give him a prepared sample

Meaning: You should not expose to everyone your source of livelihood; they may take advantage and throw you out of business.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 3:9

*“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce”*

### **85. Omutayayirwa nagobera aha mushenga gwomugyenzi**

Kiswahili: Mwenyeji hufaidika kwa kukuja kwa mgeni

French: L`hôte bénéficie de la fête des visiteurs

English: The host benefits from the visitors feast

Meaning: When hosting guests, you will have to cook in plenty leading to leftovers which will also enjoy in the delicacy like the visitor did.

Biblical Parallel: Psalm 37:4

*“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart”*

**86. Otakatera omukazi wawe ahabwokuremwa kutayayisa omugyenyi atakakutayayisaga**

Kiswahili: Usimpige mke wako kwa kukosa kumkaribisha mgeni amabaye hajawaiye kualika kwake

French: ne frappe pas ta femme d`avoir échoué d`inviter un visiteur qui ne t`a pas invité

English: Do not beat your wife for failing to hosting a visitor who has not hosted you

Meaning: You should always be reasonable as a man, a wise woman always advice his husband accordingly.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 12:4

*“An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rotteness in his bones”*

**87. Otakayehutzya okuhaburwa kwomwana**

Kiswahili: Usiyapuuzi mawaiida ya mtoto

French: N`ignore pas le conseil d`un enfant

English: Do not ignore a child`s advice

Meaning: If a person is advise you in an area of expertise; do not ignore their advice by only considering their age.

Biblical Parallel: Ephesians 6:4

*“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”*

**88. Omuti ogukwera ebijuma nigwe gukurekyerwaho amabare**

Kiswahili: Mti uliyo na matunda, ndio hutupiwa mawe

French: Un arbre qui produit des fruits et celui où les pierres son lancés

English: A Tree that bears fruits is the one stones are thrown at

Meaning: When you have potential in life, those who don`t want you to succeed will always try to pull you down.

Biblical Parallel: Philippians 4:13

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

**89. Omuyembe tigukagwa haare nekiti kyagwe**

Kiswahili: Maembe hayanguki mbali na mti

French: La mangue ne tombe pas loin de son arbre

English: The mango does not fall far from the tree

Meaning: Children mostly behave and act like their parents. It is up to the parent to direct and teach their children the right ways.

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”*

**90. Oburwire bwondijo muntu tibukakuzibira kubyama**

Kiswahili: Ugongwa wa mwenzio haukuzuii kulala

French: La maladie d'une personne ne t'empêche pas de dormir

English: Someone's illness does not prevent you from sleeping

Meaning: Everyone has their own life and own problems. You cannot carry someone else's burden.

Biblical Parallel: Matthew 16:24

*"Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"*

**91. Omutego gwomuzeyi, nigutegwa omurundi gumwe**

Kiswahili: Mtego wa mtu wa kamo huteguliwa mara moja tu

French: La piège d'un vieux homme est seulement déclencher une fois

English: The old man's trap is only triggered once

Meaning: When you are experienced in life, whatever activity you undertake you do it perfectly.

Biblical Parallel: Job 12:12

*"Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days"*

**92. Obusigazi ninka oruho rwakasheshe, niruhwaho omumwazyo**

Kiswahili: Ujana ni kama umande wa usubuhi, huyeyuka joini

French: La jeunesse est comme un matin de rosée, ça évapore le soir

English: Youth is like morning dew, it evaporates in the evening

Meaning: You should always grab opportunities as they come, you never know the same opportunity will not be there tomorrow.

Biblical Parallel: 2 Timothy 2:22

*"So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart"*

**93. Okukora hamwe nibwo burugo bwa amani**

Kiswahili: Kufanya kazi pamoja ndio chanzo cha nguvu

French: Travailler ensemble est la source de la force

English: Working together is the source of strength

Meaning: As a society, when you work together you can be able to achieve a lot compared when you work alone

Biblical Parallel: Philippians 2:2

*"Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind"*



**94. Rufu tek wizira omuntu omwe**

Kiswahili: Kifo hakimjije mtu mmoja pekee

French: La mort n`attaque pas seulement une personne

English: Death does not come only to one person

Meaning: Death does not choose and can come to anyone at any time.

Biblical Parallel: Matthew 7:13

*“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many”*

**95. Shate ekurebwa nezara akachwamutwe kakurebwa**

Kiswahili: Wadudu wanao paa huvutia msichana wa harusi aliyetoroka

French: Les fourmis volants succombe une future mariée qui a échappé

English: Flying ants lured a bride who was escaping

Meaning: When you have good character you always attract good people close to you

Biblical Parallel: Hebrews 10:25

*“Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near”*

**96. Shashura eibanja reero otungye otiine akukukwata ahamukono**

Kiswahili: Lipa deni zako ndio usikuwe mfungwa

French: Paie ce que tu dois et mange avec liberté

English: Pay what you owe and graze freely

Meaning: You should always repay and fulfill your promises to avoid any embarrassment in life from others.

Biblical Parallel: Romans 13:7

*“Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed”*

**97. Tokayesiga omuntu omwe wenka owamani wabanoyenda kuhangura**

Kiswahili: huwezi kutegemea mtu mmoja mwenye ujasiri kushinda vita

French: Tu ne peux pas dépendre de la victoire d`un autre homme

English: You cannot depend on one brave man for victory

Meaning: It takes working together as a community to resolve a problem, one person cannot do it.

Biblical Parallel: 2 Corinthians 6:1

*“Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.*

**98. Tura owomuntu okusingaho kutura omwitagyi ryekiti**

Kiswahili: Afadhali kulala kwa nyumba ya mtu kuliko kujizuia kwa mti.

French: Prend abri à une personne au lieu de le prendre sous un arbre

English: Take shelter in a person rather than in a tree branch

Meaning: In life it is good to have friends who can be able to assist you during hard time. Do good to people so that you have good relationship with them

Biblical Parallel: Matthew 7:12

*“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets”*

**99. Tuyembe tigukagwa haare nekiti kyagwe**

Kiswahili: Afadhali kuteleza kwa kutembea kwako kuliko kuteleza kwa mazungumzo yako.

French: Mieux trébucher ans tes pas que de trébucher dans ta bouche

English: Better stumble in your steps than stumble in your mouth

Meaning: It is good always to mind what you say because you can never take it back.

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”*

**100. Tokureberera ente yamutahi wawe kusinga okwokureberera eyawe**

Kiswahili: Usichunge n’gombe ya jirani kwa makini sana kuliko yako

French: Tu ne regardes pas les vaches de ton voisins mieux regarder les tiennes

English: You do not look at your neighbor’s cow better than your own.

Meaning: You should always look after you family first before helping your neighbor. Know how to prioritize everything that you do.

Biblical Parallel: Matthew 6:33

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you”*

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## APPENDIX

### A RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR COLLECTION OF CHIGA PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

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(Kenya)

### INTRODUCTION

#### **Location**

The Chiga people, or Abachiga ("people of the mountains"), are an ethnic group located in northern Rwanda and southern Uganda. The Chiga speak a Bantu language called Rukiga. They are sometimes referred to as the Chiga or Kiga, while the singular form is Omukiga. Additionally, a large number of Abachiga were still living in Rwanda at the time of European colonization.

#### **The Ethnographical Location of the Chiga Ethnic Group in Uganda**



## **History**

The Abachiga people live in southwestern Uganda and North Eastern Rwanda, mostly located in Kabale District (and Byumba Prefecture in Rwanda), and number about 8% of the population of Uganda or nearly 3 million according to Population Estimates. Another 3 million have been naturalised in other ethnic regions of Uganda such as Bunyoro, Tooro, Buganda, Northern Tanzania, Eastern Congo and Rwanda as well as those living in Europe and North America. This puts the total population of people of Kiga origin at about 6 million. Among Bachiga people, the ruling person was therefore named Mukama, equivalent to Mwami in other parts of Rwanda.

## **Culture and Traditions**

Meat was food reserved for special events in the community, mainly for births, weddings and funerals. Food was always prepared in abundance. It was and is still considered good manners for a visitor to join a family eating a meal without invitation. The Bachiga were producing beer, omuramba, from sorghum, as they still do today. To enjoy it, people would sit on wooden stools surrounding a pot, and drink it through long tubes. The non-fermented form of the same sorghum drink, called obushera, was consumed hot or cold. Some among the Bachiga were great ironsmiths who were making hoes, knives, and spears. Pottery was also highly developed, and a wide range of carpentry existed. They reared bees and produced honey. Women and men were both involved digging and bush clearing. Men were solely responsible for erecting the housing made out of grass thatch and papyrus. After a government decree in 1935 these hut walls were made out of mud, but still thatched with wild grass or sorghum stalks. Nearly all activities were done communally. Men were dressed in one cow hide, in two if they were rich. The skin hung from the shoulder, covering private parts. A man would belt himself for a fight or a dance, while for clearing land one would normally be naked. Women used skirts made from several skins. A skin garment covered the torso. A woman of a wealthy husband wore brass rings on her legs and arms. These rings could extend from the wrist to the legs, and from the ankles to just below the knees.

Virginity was very important. If an unmarried girl got pregnant, she would be taken to a forest, tied to a tree, and left to the mercy of animals. Alternatively, she would be thrown over a cliff. Kisizi Falls were most used for this purpose. At Lake Bunyonyi, a one meter high island was used for dumping these unfortunate girls. Migrating tribes or nomads unable to dowry for a bride would sometimes rescue these girls and take them for a wife. In these instances, the girl could never be returned to her community and had to move away. Though these practices have been stopped in recent times, unmarried girls or women who get pregnant today still face severe forms of alternative social sanctions within their communities or clans.

Marriage needed to be preceded by a payment of bride wealth, which meant cows, goats, and hoes. Polygamy was the exception rather than the norm, practiced in specific clans or segments of households when widow inheritance occurred following the death of a married family member.

Women of a polygamous man would not be from the same clan, because marriages were one of the rare things to bond together a very politically segmented society. A girl spent about a month in seclusion before marriage, to become well fed and instructed in home management. Although permitted, divorce was very rare and greatly discouraged. When it occurred, common reasons for divorce included if a husband or wife was barren, lazy, or had other bad unsociable traits. Divorced people could remarry, however, the woman's family could expect less bride wealth next time. Disagreements that could be leading to divorce were first tackled by consultation of elders. Settling disputes was a major role of elderly members of a clan. Clansmen elected a lineage head on the criteria of character (truthful, brave, a war-leader) and power (a rich man, a medicine man, or a priest). Different lineage heads would gather and publicly discuss potential issues of wider concern. What lineage heads did not solve together could result in fighting between groups. The Bachiga were natural born-warriors. They were known as tough, hardworking people that made formidable enemies. They still are.

The form of dance for the chiga is called the Ekizino. Ekizino is a royal dance from the chiga people of Kigezi. Musical instruments Omukuli (flute): The flute is widely popular in all regions of Uganda. It is played both as a solo and accompaniment instrument. Amakondere (trumpets): Low-pitched instruments are cut from the trunks of the pawpaw tree. High-pitched trumpets are made of antelope horn. Endingidi (fiddle): a one string instrument which is attached to a flexible stick with a wooden sound box and is played with a bow. It is tuned in a pentatonic scale. Enanga (trough zither): a zither with eight strings which run above a wooden trough. A zither is an instrument. It is mainly a story-telling or poem reciting instrument and it accompanies some dances in Kigezi Western part of Uganda. It is tuned in a pentatonic scale. Engoma (drums): In Bakiga Society, as one of the African traditions, drums bring the power that drives the performance and the rhythm of the vigorous dance.

The proverbs were used on a daily basis by the people of Chiga. Mostly the proverbs were used during birth, during initiation like circumcision, marriage, to inspire people, to warn those on the wrong path, to advice among others.

Examples of these proverbs and wise saying are:

**3. *Omuntu wobusingye niwe mukozi wobusingye omukayeye***

Kiswahili: Mtu mpenda amani huteleta amani bomani kwake

French: Une personne pacifique est un artisan de paix dans sa maison

English: A peaceful person is a peacemaker in his home

**4. *Nomurungi timurungi hatariho nkojo mbi***

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

## **Religion and Beliefs**

Before the Bachiga were educated about Islam and Christianity, they believed in one God. The Bachiga understood God as creator who is neither male nor female, known as Ruhanga. God is also known through many attributes. As the supreme elder and the ruler of the universe, he is called Mukama. When associated with the power of the sun, he is Kazooba-Nyamuhanga. In his aspect as the one who makes things grow, he is called Biheeko. Many Bakiga with the influence of Christianity adopted 'theo-phoric' names.

The traditional Bachiga were a highly segmented society who came to Kabale in south Uganda from today's Rwanda. They believed in Ruhanga, the Creator of all things. They also had several cults, among which the most important was Nyabingi - the spirit of a much respected rain-maker.

## **Economic Activities**

Abachiga were mainly agriculturalists, and kept significantly less livestock than other pastoralist groups in neighboring tribes. They grew sorghum, peas, millet, sweet potatoes, vegetables, and beans. These were supplemented with pumpkins, yams and variety of green vegetables.

## **Political**

The family of the ruling clan, the Bamuhutu, possessed the inheritance powers of the name Mukama. If there is any person bearing the name Mukama, he must be a Bamuhutu, specifically a Mungura/Mwitira, or belong to the royal clan of the Bamuhutu. The Abukuru b-ekika was a committee of elders chosen by the clan to issue rules and administer justice. If a case was particularly serious and involved more than one clan, the cases would be heard publicly. An Omukuru, ideally a wise elder who knew the customs and traditions of his people, and who could be trusted to give fair advice and justice, was elected to preside over this expanded court.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this research on Bachiga tribe are:

- i. To collect one hundred proverbs and wise sayings from the Bachiga people, from the elders and their general community.
- ii. To translate these proverbs and wise sayings into English, Kiswahili and French, for reference by a wider group of readers.
- iii. To find Biblical parallels to complement the Christian point of view.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

This will help people to enrich their communication skills by using these proverbs and wise sayings and finding their application in their real lives.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The writer will research and collect Bachiga proverbs and wise sayings from the Bachiga community in Kenya. The teaching and a Bible parallel will be added to each. One hundred of these proverbs will then be recorded for translation into Kiswahili, English, and French and be published in a booklet.

## **BUDGET**

1.	Data gathering and processing	<b>\$ 180</b>
2.	Typing and printing	<b>\$ 100</b>
3.	Binding	<b>\$ 70</b>
4.	Transport	<b>\$ 100</b>
5.	Editorial Expense	<b><u>\$ 50</u></b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$500</u></b>