

**A COLLECTION OF 100 KALANGA  
(ZIMBABWE&BOTSWANA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS**



**By**

**Sr. Anne Grace Njau CPS  
African Proverbs Working Group  
Nairobi, Kenya  
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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to God for protecting and strengthening me while working on Kalanga Proverbs and Wise Sayings.

To my collaborators, now the late Sr. Mtale Theresa. CPS, Rev. Fr. Victor and all members of Kalanga community from Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa for helping to collect 100 Proverbs. To all members of my community and those who will appreciate in finding out the wisdom in that it contains.

## INTRODUCTION

• **Location:** The **Kalanga** also known as the **Bakalanga Bakalaka** mainly inhabit far western Zimbabwe and Northeastern Botswana. They have been estimated to number around 850,000 today, but probably now much fewer. In Zimbabwe, Kalanga-speaking areas are now much reduced and many of Kalanga heritages now identify themselves as Ndebele or mixed, especially in the urban areas of Bulawayo. The Kalangas are one of the largest minority groups in Botswana. The 1946 census indicated that there were 22,777 (40% of the numerically largest district) Kalanga in the Bamangwato (Central) District.







- **Language:** The most common Bantu languages spoken are Tswana/Setswana (estimated to be spoken natively by 77.3%, though the real number may be higher), Kalanga (7.4%), Kgalagadi (3.4%), Shona (2%), Mbukushu (1.6%) and Ndebele (1%). 1.7% speak Tshwa (a Khoe language) and 0.1% speak !Xóõ, a Tuu language (both non-Bantu). A further 2.8% also can speak English, the official language as their first language, and a small number can speak Afrikaans.
- **Myths:** According to Huffman (2008), the original Bakalanga people descended from Leopards Kopje farmers. These people occupied areas covering parts of north eastern Botswana, western and southern Zimbabwe, adjacent parts of South Africa and Mozambique by around AD 1000. Van Waarden (1998) demonstrated that they traded in ivory, furs and feathers with the Indian Ocean coast for goods such as glass beads and cotton clothes.

The majorities of these prehistoric Bakalanga villages have been discovered in Botswana in areas close to major rivers and were usually built on terraced hilltops with stone walls built around them. The Kalanga and/or Karanga are linked to such early African states as Mapungubwe, Khami, and the Rozvi Empire. The early Bakalanga people living in the Shashe-Limpopo basin monopolised trade due to their access to the Indian Ocean coast. By around AD 1220 a new and more powerful kingdom developed around Mapungubwe Hill, near Botswana's border with South Africa.

Some of the early Bakalanga people living in the lower Shashe-Limpopo valley probably moved towards or became part of this newly formed kingdom. But studies of climatic data from the area suggest that a disastrous drought soon struck Mapungubwe, and the Shashe-Limpopo region was uninhabited between A.D 1300 and 1420, forcing the ordinary population to scatter. Mapungubwe had become a ghost town by AD 1290. Its golden era lasted no more than 50 years culminating in the rise of Great Zimbabwe.

Later, in the 15th century, the centre of power moved back west, from Great Zimbabwe to Khami, and in the 17th century to Danangombe (DhloDhlo). The moves were accompanied by changes of the dominance from one clan to another. In the 17th century, the Rozvi state under Mwenemutapa became a powerful competitor, controlling most of the mining areas. The Rozvi even repelled Portuguese colonists from some of their inland posts.

In south-western Zimbabwe (now Matabeleland) and adjacent parts of present-day Botswana, Karanga/Kalanga states survived for more than another century. The fall of the Kingdom of Butua came as a result of a series of invasions, beginning with the Bangwato Kgosi Kgari's ill-fated incursion of around 1828 and culminating in the onslaught of Mzilikazi's Amandebele.

Finally, the Zimbabwe plateau and Lowveld as well as Botswana basin were subdued to British rule by Cecil Rhodes.

- **Religion:** The primary religion practiced by the Kalanga is ethnic religion. Ethnic religion is deeply rooted in a people's ethnic identity and conversion essentially equates to cultural assimilation.

- **Rites Of Passage:** Most of the traditional rites of passage are being replaced with Western ones, such as Christian baptism and birthday parties. The old celebrations of birth and entry into adolescence have almost ended. A few groups still observe them. They practice adolescent male and female circumcision in public to announce boys' and girls' graduation to adult hood.

Marriage and burial are still conducted traditionally in many areas. Marriage is still a symbol of graduation into adulthood. Death and burial mark a person's passage into the world of the "living dead," that is, ancestors.

- **Relationships:** Older persons are given greater respect in Kalanga society, where a person's age has much to do with how others treat him or her. Shaking hands is the normal way of greeting, especially among members of the same age group. There are also special relationships between members of different clans. Clans are descent groups, each tracing its descent from a common ancestor.

- **Living Conditions:** The Kalanga lives in rural villages organized around a number of extended families (in families, inheritance is through the father's side). Villages generally have between thirty to fifty huts. Huts are made of wattle and daub (woven rods and twigs plastered with clay and mud) and have thatched roofs. The village is also the basic political unit. It is run by a headman to whom most of the villagers are related.

The main occupation of the Kalanga is hunting and subsistence farming (growing their own food with little or none left to sell) in the form of shifting cultivation. Disease is a major problem for Kalanga society. STDs and Malnutrition is common, making it possible for tropical diseases such as malaria and bilharzias to spread.

- **Family Life:** The family is the foundation of Kalanga society. Marriage is an important rite of passage and a sacred practice. Through marriages the living are connected with their ancestors. Gender roles are defined within the family.

Kalanga ethnic group has patriarchal (male-headed) families. In these, women play a subordinate role. They are expected to serve their husbands, work for them, and bear them children. However, women do have certain rights.

A typical family today is made up of a husband and wife and at least two children. Traditional families are big, including five or more children, plus grandparents and the children of relatives. Some men have more than one wife. It is not unusual to find a man with ten wives. Kalanga families, especially in the rural parts of the country, keep animals. Most animals are not just pets but serve other purposes. For instance, cats are kept to kill pests such as mice and rats. Dogs are used for protection and for hunting.

- **Education:** Botswana is one of the very fortunate countries in southern Africa to have basic education, especially for young people. While there are still some people who cannot read or write most people have at least three years of elementary education. Education is seen as valuable since it can be the way to a good job. Parents are usually willing to spend money on the education of their children as an investment in the future.

Children are a form of social security system; they are expected to look after their parents in old age.

- **Cultural Heritage:** Bakalanga has a very rich artistic tradition, including music, dance, fine arts and crafts, and literature. Traditionally, Africans passed on knowledge through music and dance. Music and dance were part of ceremonies and rites of passage; in many places, they still are. Culture is still passed on through praise songs (equivalent to poems), stories, and proverbs.

- **Economy:** Traditionally, work is divided along gender lines. Most domestic work, such as cooking, brewing, and housekeeping, is performed by women. Men work outside the home tending cattle, hunting, and cultivating land. However, women also participate in farming. They usually do jobs that are considered "light," such as planting and cultivation.

These roles are changing, however. Men help with some of the roles that were once set aside for women, and women and girls now herd and milk cattle. The colonial government did not allow women, especially black women, to work outside the home. Despite these constraints, women found their way into cities to seek work. The independent government abolished labor discrimination against women. As a result, the number of women working in factories, corporate offices, and government positions increased. There is still much to be done, however, for women as well as the disabled to improve their situation.

- **Social Problems:** The Kalanga community in Plum tree in Matabeleland South has dumped a controversial cultural practice, whereby young women were ordered to have sexual intercourse with their fathers-in-law first before they slept with their husbands. The new bride was not supposed to refuse as it was part of the Kalanga culture. The practice posed a danger in transmitting sexually transmitted infections (STIs), as well as HIV and Aids. At one time in the community a whole family was wiped out due to HIV and Aids because of that practice.

**Leadership and Administration:** The earliest remembered Kalanga kings are Hee Hamuyendazwa Nkalange Hhowu (Ndlovu) and Malambodzibgwa Nkalange Hhowu (it is from these kings that we take our name Ba-Nkalange, that is, those of Nkalange (some Ndlovu-surnamed Bakalanga still swear by BaNkalange today. We are told that Nkalanga/Nkalange means "People of the North"). And of course some of the greatest Kalanga kings to ever live were the likes of Mambo Nhu-unotapa (Monomotapa) Mokomba Hhowu, Mambo Dombolakona-Tjing'wango Dlembewu Moyo, and Mambo Madabhale Tjibundule Shoko/Ncube.

The Kalanga Identified by their Tribes and Surnames Today the Kalanga are divided into 12 major tribes comprising the so-called Bakalanga "proper" (properly BaLozwi), BaLobedu, BaNambya, Vhavenda, BaTalawunda, BaLilima, BaPfumbi, BaLemba, BaLembethu and BaTswapong

### **1. Akuna n'umba isinga Ne.**

**Swahili:** Hakuna nyumba ambayo haivuji.

**French:** Il n'y a pas de maison qui ne fuit pas.

**English:** There is no house which does not leak.

**Teaching:** There is no family without family problems.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1 Timothy 5:8 "But if anyone doesn't take care of his relatives, especially the members of his own family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."*

### **2. Ate ili hhala halawula malanda , mathumo anohanyangula nenge ne HADZAHA dumbu.**

**Swahili:** Hii si njaa inayowabagua watumishi, bali ni risasi zinazoharibu hata viongozi.

**French:** Ce n'est pas la faim qui est discriminatoire à l'encontre des fonctionnaires, mais ce sont des balles qui détruisent même les fonctionnaires.

**English:** This is not hunger which discriminates against servants, but these are bullets which destroy even officials.

**Teaching:** This proverb refers to a pandemic such as AIDS or any other natural phenomenon/ disaster which kill people regardless of status.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Deuteronomy 28:22 "The Lord will strike you with infectious diseases..."*

### **3. A kuna tjawungabula.**

**Swahili:** Wewe si kitu nje ya moto.

**French:** Vous rien de feu.

**English:** You will nothing out of fire.

**Teaching:** You cannot benefit from the effort you are making.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 119:37 "Keep me from paying attention to what is worthless; be good to me as you have promised."*

#### **4. Akuna dziba lisina zhula.**

**Swahili:** Hakuna bwawa bila chura.

**French:** Il n'y a pas de piscine sans une grenouille.

**English:** There is no pool without a frog.

**Teaching:** Everybody has some kind of blemish, no one is perfect.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Matthew 5:48 "You must be perfect just as your Father in heaven is perfect."*

#### **5. Ano gwila makwakwa zwawo makudo, koga pa mbatsha an'gompela.**

**Swahili:** Nyani hupigania matunda ya "makwakwa" lakini mbele ya hatari ni kitu kimoja.

**French:** Les babouins se battent pour les fruits « de makwakwa », mais en face du danger, ils sont un.

**English:** Baboons fight for "makwakwa" fruits but in the face of danger they are one.

**Teaching:** People can afford to squabble (quarrel) over small things but will unite against a common challenge or enemy.

**Biblical Parallel:** *James 4:1 "Where do all the fights and quarrels come from? They come from your desires for pleasure, which are constantly fighting within you."*

#### **6. Bhadza gulu lo piwa nlimi, kuli lipa simbe inoyezela nalo.**

**Swahili:** Jembe/jembe kubwa apewe mkulima akipewa mvivu analala nalo.

**French:** La grande houe / charrue devrait être accordée à un agriculteur donné à une personne paresseuse, il dort avec elle.

**English:** The big hoe / plough should be given to a farmer if given to a lazy person, he sleeps with it.

**Teaching:** Major responsibilities should be given to a competent person and not to somebody who lacks ability.

**Biblical Parallel:** *2Corinthians 3:5 "There is nothing in us that allows us to claim that we are capable of doing this work. The capacity we have comes from God."*

#### **7. Bala n'gombe dzikule , hunga ubalilanya nemakukuta.**

**Swahili:** Kuhesabu ng'ombe ambao hawapo ni kuhesabu ngozi pia.

**French:** Pour compter le bétail qui n'est pas présents est de compter les peaux aussi bien.

**English:** To count the cattle which are not present is to count the hides as well.

**Teaching:** You can only be sure that your property is still available and yours if it is within your sight...!!!

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 24:1 "The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord; the earth and all who live on it is His."*

#### **8. Bala n'gombe dzikule , hunga ubalilanya nemakukuta.**

**Swahili:** Kuhesabu ng'ombe ambao hawapo ni kuhesabu ngozi pia.

**French:** Pour compter le bétail qui n'est pas présents est de compter les peaux aussi bien.

**English:** To count the cattle which are not present is to count the hides as well.

**Teaching:** You can only be sure that your property is still available and yours if it is within your sight.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 24:1* “The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord; the earth and all who live in it is His.”

### **9. Bhadza gulu ipa nlimi, kupa simbe inoma nalo.**

**Swahili:** Mpe jembe kubwa mkulima anayefanya kazi kwa bidii; unampa mvivu anasimama nayo.

**French:** Donnez la grande houe au cultivateur travaillant dur; vous donnez aux paresseux il se tient avec elle.

**English:** Give the big hoe to the hard working cultivator; you give to the lazy he stands with it.

**Teaching:** To the hard worker give more, to produce more.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Hebrews 6:12* “We do not want you to become lazy, but to be like those who believe and are patient, and so receive what God has promised.”

### **10. Bhembgwe ko mimiligwa la muka..**

**Swahili:** Unapiga kelele na kuweka mbwa kwenye dume ambalo limevunjika kifuniko.

**French:** Vous criez et définissez les chiens sur un mâle qui a couvert cassé.

**English:** You scream and set dogs on a buck which has broken cover.

**Teaching:** People should only be accused of wrongdoing when they are evidence.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Exodus 20:16* “Do not accuse anyone falsely.”

### **11. Bhepe linolema ngelina mhudzi.**

**Swahili:** Kibuyu kizito ni kile chenye mbegu.

**French:** La gourde lourde est celle des graines.

**English:** The heavy gourd is the one with seeds.

**Teaching:** Respect is given to those who have got knowledge and wisdom, those who have got substance.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1 Peter 2:17* “Respect everyone, love your fellow believers, honor God and respect the emperor.”

### **12. Bisi jena lolakidza palele dema.**

**Swahili:** Tikiti nyeupe inaonyesha mahali ambapo nyeusi imelala.

**French:** La pastèque blanche montre où le noir est couché.

**English:** The white melon shows where the black one is lying.

**Teaching:** An apprehended culprit will reveal who his accomplices are and where they are; then, this will assist in their apprehension.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Proverbs 29:24* “A thief’s partner is his own worst enemy. He will be punished if he tells the truth in court and God will curse him if he doesn’t.”

### 13. Bhinda milongo bazwadzi ukatamba nabo.

**Swahili:** Anayepita-wasichana-na, na kucheza na wanawake wakubwa.

**French:** Celui qui, et joue passe-filles par les femmes plus âgées.

**English:** He who passes-girls-by, and plays with older women.

**Teaching:** Some man or boys prefer older women than their age mates for a partner.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1 Corinthians 7:36* “...if the man feels that he’s not acting properly towards the young woman and if his passions are too strong and he feels that they ought to marry, then they should get married as he want.”

### 14. Batakapulila matogwe ndibo banotiseka mbonje

**Swahili:** Hawa tuliowashushia matunda ya "matogwe" ndio wanacheka makovu yetu.

**French:** Ceux pour qui nous a fait tomber les fruits « matogwe » sont ceux qui se moquent de nos cicatrices.

**English:** The ones for whom we brought down "matogwe" fruits are the ones who are laughing at our scars.

**Teaching:** This saying is used to express a situation whereby u helped at great expense to yourself ridicules you.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 50:23* “Giving thanks is the sacrifice that honors me and I will surely save all who obey me.”

### 15. Bukukutu guna hhathu gofa gulitola

**Swahili:** Uovu ulio na shoka utakufa wakati ukilichukua.

**French:** Le mal qui a une hache va mourir en le prenant.

**English:** The evil that has an axe will die while taking it.

**Teaching:** Somebody with an inclination towards violence often meets death related to violence. (Those who live by the sword will die by the sword / as a man live, so shall he die)

**Biblical Parallel:** *Exodus 20:13* “Do not commit murder.”

### 16. Bhusi gwe nyama ino gotjiwa aguto kopodza nngotji.

**Swahili:** Moshi wa nyama inayochomwa hauwashi macho ya mtu anayechoma.

**French:** La fumée de la viande à rôtir n'irrite pas les yeux de la personne qui est la torréfaction.

**English:** The smoke from the meat being roasted does not irritate the eyes of the person who is roasting.

**Teaching:** An inconvenience is tolerable if it is expected that at the end there will be something to gain. A boy will endure (bare) all painful Inconveniences by a girl as long as he hopes that his proposal will eventually be accepted.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Colossians 3:13* “Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you.”

### 17. Bubuya aguto gala goga.

**Swahili:** Uzuri hauishi au kukaa peke yake.

**French:** La beauté ne réside pas ou résider seul.

**English:** Beauty does not dwell or reside alone.



**Teaching:** Beautiful people are expected to display good behavior.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1 Peter 3:3-4 "You should not use outward aids to make yourselves beautiful such as the way you do your hair or the jewelry you put on or the dresses you wear, instead, your beauty should consist of your true inner self, the ageless beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which is of the greatest value in God's sight."*

### **18. Bupitipiti mwina wetjigu**

**Swahili:** Ukosefu wa uaminifu ni shimo lisilo na kina.

**French:** Malhonnêteté est un terrier peu profond.

**English:** Dishonesty is a shallow burrow.

**Teaching:** A cheat is sooner or later found out and exposed. (You cannot cheat forever / cheats never prosper).

**Biblical Parallel:** *Proverbs 12:22 "All that wicked people want is to find evil things to do, but the righteous stand firm."*

### **19. Bunhu ndegweni?gwe katsi tjinoti ku mbheba," buya ti zane.**

**Swahili:** Fadhili gani? Je, ni kwa paka kumwambia panya," njoo tucheze"...!

**French:** Quelle bonté? Est-ce pour un chat à dire à la souris, « Venez laissez-nous jouer » ...!

**English:** What kindness? Is it for a cat to say to the mouse, "come let us play"...!

**Teaching:** Do not allow an obvious enemy to take advantage of you by pretending to be an innocent friend. Ka-Nongwe ngoyi tjolala patjibheso.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1 John 4:21 "The command that Christ has given us is this: all who love God must love their brother or sister also."*

### **20. Chabe chigondola, chabe ching'ombe, kukhona fula bulema gwacho.**

**Swahili:** Ni kilema, sasa ni ng'ombe mkubwa, na anayeweza kulisha ni kilema chake.

**French:** IL est boiteux, il est maintenant un grand bœuf, et capable de brouter est sa boiterie.

**English:** It is lame, it is now a big ox, and able to graze it is its lameness.

**Teaching:** Difficulties teach survival skills.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Romans 12:12 "Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles and pray at all times."*

### **21. Chalobedzela chalobedzela, phele yakatizha nenyanga dze mbudzi.**

**Swahili:** Mgumu unaweza kuwa mgumu, fisi alikimbia na pembe za mbuzi.

**French:** Dur peut-être dur, l'hyène s'enfuit avec les cornes de chèvre.

**English:** Tough can be tough, the hyena ran away with goat's horns.

**Teaching:** He, who is used to do hard things, gets used to and pleased in doing them.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 46:1 "God is our shelter and strength always ready to help in times of trouble."*

**22. Chalobeledzela chalobeledzela, gudo lotatha pashongwe pakakunguluka.**

**Swahili:** Mgumu unaweza kuwa mgumu, nyani hupanda mwamba wa mwamba.

**French:** Dur peut-être dur, le babouin grimpe le rocher escarpé.

**English:** Tough can be tough, the baboon climbs the precipitous rock.

**Teaching:** He, who is used to do hard things, gets used to and pleased in doing them.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Nehemiah 8:10 “...the joy that the Lord gives you will make you strong.”*

**23. Chibuya, ja ne hama, ntogwa una hangang’wa. / Chawawana chiye ne hama, ntogwa unokangwana.**

**Swahili:** Unapokuwa na kitu kizuri kula na rafiki, mgeni husahau.

**French:** Lorsque vous avez une bonne chose à manger avec un ami, l'étranger oublie.

**English:** When you have a good thing eat it with a friend, the stranger forgets.

**Teaching:** The appreciation of a friend makes the joy of life; Sharing good things with a friend spices life.

**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.”*

**24. Chigale bupitipiti, nsi we thamo uchileye.**

**Swahili:** Keti juu yake kwa hila, siku ya hatari iepuke.

**French:** Asseyez-vous là-dessus avec des tours, échappez le jour de danger

**English:** Sit on it with tricks, the day of danger escape it.

**Teaching:** During time of peace, prepare for trouble; Do not live as if there will never be trouble befalling you.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Matthew 24:44 “So then, you also must always be ready because the son of man will come at an hour when you are not expecting him.”*

**25. Chikulu china chimwe chikulili.**

**Swahili:** Jambo kubwa pia lina jambo kubwa kuliko hilo.

**French:** Une grande chose a aussi quelque chose de plus que lui.

**English:** A big thing has also something bigger than it.

**Teaching:** A person will meet those who boast better than him/her.

**Biblical Parallel:** *James 3:14 “But if in your heart you are jealous, bitter and selfish, don't sin against the truth by boasting of your wisdom.”*

**26. Chimona Ntumbu Manyoka.**

**Swahili:** Tumbo kidogo, ni maumivu ya tumbo.

**French:** Un peu des maux d'estomac, est mal à l'estomac.

**English:** A little stomach upset, is stomach ache.

**Teaching:** Do not hide a small problem; it will get big and irresolvable.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Matthew 11:28: “Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest.”*

**27. Chinyala ching'ompela achitodzwinya nda.**

**Swahili:** Kidole kimoja hakiwezi kuponda chawa.

**French:** Un seul doigt ne peut pas écraser le pou.

**English:** A single finger cannot crush a louse.

**Teaching:** It is hard to do a thin alone.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1 Corinthians 1:10* "...be completely united, with only one thought and one purpose."

**28. Chingoma chililisi, ndicho chipaluki / Chiambalo chiambalisiswa ndicho chinopaluka.**

**Swahili:** Ngoma inayopigwa sana ndiyo inayochakaa. / Nguo iliyochakaa ni ile inayovaa.

**French:** Le tambour qui tambourinait beaucoup est celui qui se dissipe. / Un vêtement porté sur celui-là qui est porte.

**English:** The drum that is drummed a lot is the one that wears off. / An over worn garment is that one that wears.

**Teaching:** Over usage of a good thing destroys it; over usage spoils usage.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1 Timothy 2:9* "I also want the women to be modest and sensible about their clothes and to dress properly..."

**29. Chinodana ithamo, lufu nde gunotebela.**

**Swahili:** Kinachoita (kwanza) ni shida, kifo huja baadaye.

**French:** Ce qui appelle (d'abord) ce sont les ennuis, la mort vient ensuite.

**English:** What calls (first) are troubles, death comes afterwards.

**Teaching:** Small things cause big troubles.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Song 2:15:* "Catch the foxes, the little foxes, before they ruin our vine yard in bloom."

**30. Chinonyadza meya mbudzi wuti mbgwa ya ja chimela iyo ilipo.**

**Swahili:** Kinachomkatisha tamaa mbuzi ni kwamba mbwa hula mmea huku akionekana.

**French:** Ce qui décourage la chèvre est que le chien mange une plante alors qu'il semble.

**English:** What discourages the goat is that the dog eats a plant while it looks.

**Teaching:** What discourages is when people who have no business with something do it before those who could do it better.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Proverbs 16:3:* "Ask God to bless your plans and you'll be successful in carrying them out."

**31. Chitata mabuya, chobuza mabi.**

**Swahili:** Mtu anayefukuza mambo mazuri hurudisha mambo mabaya.

**French:** La personne chasser de bonnes choses ramène les mauvaises choses.

**English:** The person chasing away good things brings back bad things.

**Teaching:** If you scatter or destroy good things, you will be left with bad things to gather.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Proverbs 18:9* "A lazy person is as good as a person who is destructive."

### **32. Chiviriviri ndeche hwudzululu, cha mansiabundu chidzetedzete.**

**Swahili:** Ndege ya haraka ni ya ndege wa buluu, ndege mwenye nundu hufanya misugvano ya haraka.

**French:** Le vol rapide est de l'oiseau bleu, l'oiseau à queue bosse fait des traits rapides.

**English:** The swift flight is of the blue bird, the hump-tailed bird makes quick dashes.

**Teaching:** Speed is for the fast, if you are slow, rely on tactics.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Proverbs 11:14 "A nation will fall if it has no guidance. Many advisers mean more security."*

### **33. Chilungulila chitenda, shungu dzimu moyo dzowolebgwa.**

**Swahili:** Moyo unaowaka kuwa na shukrani, hamu ya moyo itasema.

**French:** Le cœur qui brûle être reconnaissant, l'envie dans le cœur le dira.

**English:** The heart that burns be grateful, the urge in the heart will tell.

**Teaching:** If you have a burning matter, present it, if you do not, it will torment you.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 2:8 "Ask and I'll give you all the nations."*

### **34. Chimwe chitekesi chimwe chisipo.**

**Swahili:** Mmoja anajivunia ujuzi wakati mwingine hayupo.

**French:** L'une se vante de savoir quand l'autre n'est pas là.

**English:** One boasts of knowledge when the other is not there.

**Teaching:** A person who knows little boasts when experts are not there.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Proverbs 19:2 "Enthusiasm without knowledge is not good; impatient will get you into trouble."*

### **35. Chibendebende unoseka chimbwimbwigi.**

**Swahili:** Aliyepoteza jino humcheka asiye na meno.

**French:** Celui qui a perdu une dent se moque de celui qui n'a pas de dents.

**English:** The one who lost a tooth laughs at the one who has no teeth.

**Teaching:** People do not see they defaults; Faults are faults, the person with one should not laugh at the one with two.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Luke 6:37 "Do not judge others, and God will not condemn you; forgive others and God will forgive you."*

### **36. Chithu ichithu, chozhalila phako.**

**Swahili:** Kitu ni kitu, hufunga mwanya.

**French:** Une chose est une chose, il ferme une fente.

**English:** A thing is a thing, it closes a cleft.

**Teaching:** Do not despise small things; even a small thing has its own great use.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Luke 16:10 "Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones whoever is dishonest in small matters will be dishonest in large ones."*

### **37. Damda lepassi ndelemwe nemwe, limunti ndele unoziba tanha.**

**Swahili:** Tunda la "damba" lililo chini ni la kila mtu lakini lililo juu ya mti ni la mtu anayejua kupanda.

**French:** Le fruit «Damba» sur le terrain, appartient à tout le monde, mais celui sur l'arbre appartient à la personne qui sait grimper.

**English:** "The damba" fruit on the ground belongs to everyone but the one on the tree belongs to the person who knows how to climb.

**Teaching:** Life is all about competition, while things that do not require any special qualification are available to everyone, qualifying for a high position however, requires certain abilities, qualifications and skills.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Proverbs 10:45 "It is a disgrace to sleep through the time of harvest."*

### **38. Denje mbuya nde la muka shulo la muka ntshitshinyoka bana ba no li tja.**

**Swahili:** Mtu mkaribishaji ni maarufu kama kwa mtu asiye na urafiki.

**French:** Une personne accueillante est populaire à une personne hostile.

**English:** A welcoming person is popular as to an unfriendly person.

**Teaching:** friendliness enhance popularity as many people would like to associate with you.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1Samuel 25:6 "He instructed them to say to Nabal: "David sends you greetings, my friend, and with his best wishes for you, family and all that is yours."*

### **39. Dziyila ko bhuzwiwa njiba inolala yakakwakwatila nti nehhwombana.**

**Swahili:** Umaskini unaweza kuulizwa njiwa ambaye anafanya kazi maradufu usiku analala kwa wakati mmoja akikumbana na matawi ya miti na makucha yake...

**French:** La pauvreté peut demander une colombe qui fait double emploi au cours de la nuit dort en même temps saisit les branches d'arbre avec ses griffes.

**English:** Poverty can be asked a dove which does double job over the night sleeps at the same time grappling tree branches with its claws...

**Teaching:** Never say you are the poorest person on earth because there is somebody somewhere who is poorer than you..!!

**Biblical Parallel:** *Matthew 26:11 "You'll always have poor people with you, but you will not always have me."*

### **40. Dziba lakadzikama ndilo linogala ngw'ena.**

**Swahili:** Bwawa ambalo bado liko ni lile ambalo mamba wanaishi.

**French:** La piscine qui est encore celui qui résident crocodiles.

**English:** The pool which is still is the one which crocodiles reside.

**Teaching:** Criminals look quite, humble and harmless.

**Biblical Parallel:** *2Timothy 3:13 "And evil persons and imposters will keep on going from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves."*

#### **41. Dzakabe dzili njizi dzabe hhwobana...**

**Swahili:** Iliyokuwa mito sasa ni vijito.

**French:** Ceux qui sont utilisés comme rivières sont les ruisseaux maintenant.

**English:** Those used to be rivers are now streams.

**Teaching:** A once rich person has become poor.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 37:25 "I am old now; I have lived a long time, but I have never seen good people abandoned by the Lord or their children begging for food."*

#### **42. Dindigwe loda kweba koga, alikwebiwa loti lostinyidziwa mabhala**

**Swahili:** Duma anapenda kuburuta mawindo yake lakini anapoburuzwa hulalamika akisema madoa yake mazuri yanaharibiwa.

**French:** Le guépard aime glisser sa proie mais quand traîné, il se plaint en disant ses beaux endroits sont ruiné.

**English:** The cheetah likes dragging its prey but when dragged, it complain saying its beautiful spots are being ruined

**Teaching:** people who like abusing others complain when they're made to feel the pain as well.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Luke 6:31 "Do to others as you would have them to do you."*

#### **43. Dongohwa gala munyemba, kula ndabe nyembabo.**

**Swahili:** Nyasi inapochipuka (dongoshwa) inapochipuka kati ya maharagwe, inapokua inasema, "I'm beans (nyemba) pia."

**French:** Lorsque les pousses d'herbe (de dongoshwa) font leur apparition parmi les haricots, quand il grandit, il dit: « Je suis haricots (Nyemba) aussi. »

**English:** When grass sprouts (dongoshwa) emerge among beans, when it grows up it says, "I'm beans (nyemba) too."

**Teaching:** When somebody tries to imitate the lifestyle of those that he associate with but are of higher status than him, he still remains out of place with them.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Philippians 4:12 "I know what it is to have more than enough. I have learnt this secret, so that anywhere, at any time, I am content..."*

#### **44. Dindin'gwe loda kweba koga, alikwebiwa loti lotjinyidzigwa mabhala.**

**Swahili:** Chui anapenda kuburuta (mawindo yake), lakini anapoburuzwa, hulalamika akisema madoa yake mazuri yanaharibiwa.

**French:** Le léopard aime glisser (sa proie), mais quand traîné, il se plaint de dire ses beaux endroits sont ruinés.

**English:** The leopard likes dragging (its prey), but when dragged, it complain saying its beautiful spots are being ruined.

**Teaching:** People who like abusing others complain when they are made to feel the pain as well.

**Biblical Parallel:** *James 1:26 "Does anyone of you think you are religious? If you do not control your tongue your religion is worthless and you deceive yourself."*

**45. Dombo, yipa ntha in'gompela ndizo bana bazanile inwe ntha.**

**Swahili:** Mlima, fanya uovu upande mmoja ili watoto wacheze upande mwingine.

**French:** Montagne, être le mal d'un côté pour que les enfants peuvent jouer de l'autre côté.

**English:** Mountain, be evil on one side so that children may play on the other side.

**Teaching:** However bad somebody is, he has to be good in some ways or at least to some people so that he is not hated by everyone.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Galatians 1:10* "Does this sound as if I am trying to win human approval? No indeed! What I want is God's approval..."

**46. Dla akuna simbe.**

**Swahili:** Hakuna mtu mvivu wakati wa kula.

**French:** Il n'y a pas de paresseux lorsque vous mangez.

**English:** There is no lazy person when eating.

**Teaching:** When the need to acquire food arises, no further motivation is needed and every effort will be made to overcome any hindrance.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Ecclesiastes 9:10* "Work hard at whatever you do, because there'll be no action, no thought, no knowledge, no wisdom in the world of the dead and that's where you are going."

**47. Dzakabe dzili nhungo dzabe mbalilo**

**Swahili:** Hao hutumika kama washikaji lakini sasa ni wapigaji.

**French:** Les utiliser pour être fermes, mais sont maintenant frappeurs.

**English:** Those use to be trusses but are now batters.

**Teaching:** Somebody has diminished in his social status. (A once rich person has become poor)

**Biblical Parallel:** *Romans 8:25* "But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

**48. Dzo ngina muhhali nemazina.**

**Swahili:** Sehemu za mzoga huingia kwenye sufuria kwa majina yao.

**French:** Les parties d'une carcasse entrée dans le pot par leur nom.

**English:** The parts of a carcass get into the pot by their names.

**Teaching:** Seniority in relation to birth or social status should be observed so that order is ensured.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Ephesians 2:14* "For Christ himself has brought us peace by making Jew and Gentiles one people..."

**49. Dzongeka kwevula ndiko yengemala kwayo.**

**Swahili:** Hali ya maji yenye matope ni kutulia kwake.

**French:** La condition boueuse d'eau est la décantation.

**English:** The muddied up condition of water is its settling.

**Teaching:** Optimists quote this proverb to suggest that the troubled situation at hand will inevitably change for the better. (The darkest hour comes before dawn).

**Biblical Parallel:** *Jeremiah 29:11* “I alone know the plans I have for you plan to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring you about the future you hope.”

#### **50. Dzene ndakaziba ayitobhatsa.**

**Swahili:** "Laiti ningejua", haifai.

**French:** « Si j'avais su », n'est pas utile.

**English:** "Had I known", is not helpful.

**Teaching:** It is better to always be careful in life and not regret later.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Acts 3:19* “Repent then, and turn to God, so that he will forgive your sins...”

#### **51. Dla kwakahayisa mbila mwise.**

**Swahili:** Kula kulimnyima sungura mwamba mkia.

**French:** Manger privé la roche-lapin d'une queue.

**English:** Eating deprived the rock-rabbit of a tail.

**Teaching:** This proverb alerts people to have their priorities right and give preferences to rare but rewarding opportunities, Needless to say, eating should never be an occupation.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Galatians 6:10* “So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do well to everyone and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith.”

#### **52. Fa kwe hanga, mabumbulu anopalala.**

**Swahili:** Kifo cha guinea fowl inamaanisha mayai yatatawanyika.

**French:** La mort de volailles de Guinée signifie que les œufs se dispersent.

**English:** The death of guinea fowl means the eggs will scatter.

**Teaching:** The death of important member of a family or organization creates a deep sense of loss and despair of all concerned. They are vulnerable and deprivation will result.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Romans 6:4* “By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life.”

#### **53. Fupa jenha nailo-bho lakabva munyama.**

**Swahili:** Mfupa mweupe pia umetoka kwenye nyama.

**French:** Un os blanc est également venu de la chair.

**English:** A white bone has also come from the flesh.

**Teaching:** When somebody has grown old and worn out, it is difficult to imagine that the person was once young and attractive, so the young must not mock old age because it is inescapable.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Job 12:12* “Old people have wisdom, but God has wisdom and power. Old people have insight; God has insight and power to act.”



**54. Gala muvula kwehhula ate ikon'gwa.**

**Swahili:** Kukaa kwa chura ndani ya maji haimaanishi kunywa.

**French:** La résidence d'une grenouille dans l'eau, ne signifie pas à boire.

**English:** The residing of the frog in the water does not mean drinking.

**Teaching:** Glamorous appearance does not suggest that the person is getting everything he/she wants. It does not mean that he is happy.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1 Peter 3:4 "Instead, your beauty should consist of your true inner self..."*

**55. Gala kwe gola i gumbo, a li tanga ne nholo la wa..**

**Swahili:** Tai hutua miguu kwanza, akitua kichwa kwanza, ameanguka chini.

**French:** Un vautour débarque ses jambes en premier lieu, si elle atterrit la tête la première, il est tombé.

**English:** A vulture lands its legs first, if it lands head first, it has fallen down.

**Teaching:** People will know immediately that all is not well.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Matthew 6:26 "Look for birds: they do not sow seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds?"*

**56. Ganyu gukuta linobhikwa ngewuna vula pedlo.**

**Swahili:** Mshipa mgumu unaweza kupikwa na mtu ambaye ana maji karibu.

**French:** Un babiche dur peut être cuit par quelqu'un qui a eu l'eau à proximité.

**English:** A tough sinew can be cooked by someone who has got water nearby.

**Teaching:** This saying is used to celebrate the physical and mental strength of someone who cannot be overcome by problems of any nature.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Joshua 23:8 "Instead, be faithful to the Lord, as you have been till now."*

**57. Ganyu gukuta linobhikwa newuna vula pedlo.**

**Swahili:** Mshipa mgumu unaweza kupikwa na mtu ambaye ana maji karibu.

**French:** Un babiche dur peut être cuit par quelqu'un qui a eu l'eau à proximité.

**English:** A tough sinew can be cooked by someone who has got water nearby.

**Teaching:** This saying is used to celebrate the physical and mental strength of someone who cannot be overcome by problems of any nature.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 126:3 "Indeed he did great things for us; how happy we were!"*

**58. Gotja kohaka nkulu , nnu'guna unodzima moto.**

**Swahili:** Kuchoma kunahitaji kaka mkubwa; kaka mdogo anazima moto.

**French:** Torréfaction exige que le frère aîné; le frère cadet éteint le feu.

**English:** Roasting requires the elder brother; the younger brother extinguishes the fire.

**Teaching:** Adults or people in authority often doubt the abilities of those under them as they feel that only they themselves can achieve the best results. For this reason, they are reluctant to delegate.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1Peter2:13* “For the sake of the Lord submit to every human authority...”

### **59. Gole lalima simbe, vula ayitona.**

**Swahili:** Mwaka ambao mtu mvivu analima, mvua hainyeshi.

**French:** L'année, sur laquelle la personne paresseuse charrue, la pluie ne tombe pas.

**English:** The year, on which the lazy person ploughs, rain does not fall.

**Teaching:** When somebody who has been postponing something finally decides to do it, he might find that the conditions are no longer favorable to him.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Colossians 3:23* “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for human beings.”

### **60. Gotja koshaka nkulu , nnu'guna unodzima moto.**

**Swahili:** Kuchoma kunahitaji kaka mkubwa; kaka mdogo anazima moto.

**French:** Torrification exige que le frère aîné; le frère cadet éteint le feu.

**English:** Roasting requires the elder brother; the younger brother extinguishes the fire.

**Teaching:** Adults or people in authority often doubt the abilities of those under them as they feel that only they themselves can achieve the best results. For this reason, they are reluctant to delegate.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Romans 13:1* “Everyone must obey the state authorities, because no authority exists without God’s permission, and the existing authorities have been put there by God.”

### **61. Gwabe gwayo nasi nhilili, yatanha nti yafa.**

**Swahili:** Ni (kifo) sasa ni cha (nhilili) paka mwitu, kwani yule aliyepanda mti amekufa.

**French:** Il (mort) appartient maintenant à (nhilili) le chat sauvage, pour celui qui a grimpé l'arbre est mort.

**English:** It (death) now belongs to (nhilili) the wild cat, for the one which has climbed the tree has died.

**Teaching:** This proverb illustrates a situation of hopelessness were somebody is completely besieged and has got no way out. In a court case, it expresses the position of a defendant who has got no chance of winning the case.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 40:1* “I waited patiently for the Lord’s help; then He listened to me and heard my cry.”

### **62. Gulu lempindi atelili lingapani.**

**Swahili:** Tumbo la mpita njia ni dogo.

**French:** L’estomac d’un passant est petit.

**English:** The stomach of a passerby is small.

**Teaching:** Strangers or passersby should be received with grits of food since they are only staying temporarily. This proverb encourages us to be generous with food even to strangers.

**Biblical Parallel:** *2 Corinthians 9:7* “You should each give, then as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly.”

**63. Gwembizi ndegumuntumbu gumunlomo unopkhawula ikapfa.**

**Swahili:** Majani ya farasi ni moja ndani ya tumbo lake, moja ndani ya kinywa chake; unaweza kumpiga mdomoni na kusababisha kutema nyasi.

**French:** L'herbe du cheval est l'une à l'intérieur de l'estomac, l'une à l'intérieur de sa bouche; u peut frapper dans la bouche et l'amener à cracher sur l'herbe.

**English:** The grass of the horse is the one inside its stomach, the one inside its mouth; u can strike it in the mouth and cause it to spit out the grass.

**Teaching:** You can only claim something as your own when it is securely in your possession. (A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush)

**Biblical Parallel:** *Philippians 4:11* “For I am not saying these because I feel neglected, for I have learnt to be satisfied with what I have.”

**64. Ha humba idla nhu, yatjenjedza bagele naye.**

**Swahili:** Simba anapomla mtu huwa amewatahadharisha majirani zake.

**French:** Quand le lion mange une personne, il a alerté ses voisins.

**English:** When the lion eats a person, it has alerted his neighbors.

**Teaching:** When the calamity befalls someone, other people should learn from the victim's experience and not be caught unaware (When your neighbor's house burns be careful of your own)

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 18:18* “When I was in trouble, they attacked me, but the Lord protected me.”

**65. Hanya ndedze una hhuku, una thilili una mikon'gwana iye.**

**Swahili:** Wasiwasi ni kwa yule anayemiliki kuku; mwenye paka mwitu amepata fahali wake.

**French:** La peur est avec celui qui est propriétaire de poules; celui qui est propriétaire de chats sauvages a obtenu son bouvillon.

**English:** Worry is with the one who owns hens; the one who owns wild cats has got his bullocks.

**Teaching:** The parents of girl child are more anxious than those of the boy child because of the girl's vulnerability; she might drop out of school due to pregnancy, for instance.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 144:12* “...May our daughters, be like stately pillars which adorn the corners of a palace.”

**66. Ha wu bona tjikadzikulu tji tata nyuni mu nndha ziba kuti mapfundhe a hibva.**

**Swahili:** Ukiona bibi kizee anafukuza wafumaji au ndege waliozimwa shambani (shamba) ujue mazao ya nafaka yameiva.

**French:** Si vous voyez une vieille dame chasser les tisserands ou les oiseaux réprimés à partir du champ (ferme) savent que les cultures de céréales sont mûres.

**English:** If you see an old lady chasing away weavers or quelled birds from the field (farm) know that grain crops are ripe.

**Teaching:** When you see parents of a girl child bothered by boys (young man) know that the girl is mature.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Luke 12:56 "Hypocrites! You can look at the earth and the sky and predict the weather; why then, don't you know the meaning of this present time?"*

**67. Hino losekela walakabenga (meno ma lema.)**

**Swahili:** Jino hucheka na mtu anayemchukia.

**French:** La dent rit avec la personne qu'il déteste.

**English:** The tooth laughs with the person it hates.

**Teaching:** Somebody can pretend to be your friend while the real fact he hates you with passion.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 26:4 "I do not keep company with worthless people; I have nothing to do with hypocrites."*

**68. Howu yakabulawa ngelumenyu.**

**Swahili:** Tembo aliuawa na chungu.

**French:** L'éléphant a été tué par une fourmi

**English:** The elephant was killed by an ant.

**Teaching:** In a fight, size does not matter, what matters is tactics.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Ecclesiastes 9:16 "I have always said that wisdom is better than strength."*

**69. Kobhatisa honi kuti kuyi, mbudzi yadla nyama ngono mbugwa ili yapo.**

**Swahili:** Ni aibu kusema amekula nyama huku mbwa yupo.

**French:** Il est embarrassant de dire qu'il a mangé la viande pendant que le chien est là.

**English:** It is embarrassing to say he has eaten the meat while the dog is there.

**Teaching:** The proverb is quoted when somebody has said an obvious lie bordering on the impossible.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Proverbs 21:8 "Guilty people walk a crooked path; the innocent do what is right."*

**70. Kudwa kwe bhalo, kotangisa ngobaba.**

**Swahili:** Mwanzo wa kichwa cha bald, kwanza hutoa itch.

**French:** Le début d'une tête chauve, il donne d'abord une démangeaison.

**English:** The beginning of a bald head, it first gives an itch.

**Teaching:** Harmful things start in a harmless way, but then become bad. A serious disease starts with small symptoms but develops into an incurable condition.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1 Corinthians 10:12: "Those who think they are standing firm had better be careful that they do not fall."*

**71. Kulembeleka kwe damba ateli iko kuwa (kwalo).**

**Swahili:** Kunyongwa kwa tunda la tumbili sio ishara kwamba linaanguka.

**French:** La pendaison d'un fruit singe est pas un signe qu'il est en baisse.

**English:** The hanging of a monkey fruit is not a sign that it is falling.

**Teaching:** Impressions are not realities.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1 Samuel 16:7 “But the lord said to him, “Pay no attention to how tall and handsome he is, I have rejected him, because I do not judge as people judge. They look at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart.”*

## **72. Kushema chibi wubina chibuya.**

**Swahili:** Kuchukia jambo baya ni kuona jambo jema.

**French:** Haïr quelque chose de mal est de voir une bonne chose.

**English:** To hate something bad is to see a good thing.

**Teaching:** When a new thing comes the old thing is despised.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Exodus 23:2 “Do not follow the majority when they do wrong...”*

## **73. Kuziba benzi wushwa nabo.**

**Swahili:** Ili kujua watu katika nyumba, lazima utumie siku pamoja nao.

**French:** Pour connaître les gens dans une maison, vous devez passer la journée avec eux.

**English:** To know people in a home, you must spend the day with them.

**Teaching:** You cannot know the defaults of a person if you do not spend time with him/her.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Amos 3:3 “Do two walk together unless they agreed to do so?”*

## **74. Leba phele wakazhalila dendele.**

**Swahili:** Zungumza kuhusu fisi wakati kibanda kimefungwa.

**French:** Parle de l’hyène lorsque la cabane est fermée.

**English:** Talk about the hyena when the hut is closed.

**Teaching:** Be careful when you gossip about someone, you might be telling a person who will tell him/her.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Proverbs 11:13 “No one who gossips can be trusted with a secret, but you can put confidence in someone who is trustworthy.”*

## **75. Leba she wakatathat dombo.**

**Swahili:** Zungumza kuhusu chifu unapokuwa juu ya kilima.

**French:** Parlez chef lorsque vous êtes au sommet d’une colline.

**English:** Talk about the chief when you are on top of a hill.

**Teaching:** Be careful when you talk about your senior, those around you maybe his pimps.

**Biblical Parallel:** *James 1:26 “Do any of you think you are religious? If you do not control your tongue, your religion is worthless and you deceive yourselves.”*

## **76. Lume ling’ompela alikombi chiwulu.**

**Swahili:** Mtu mmoja hawezi kuzunguka kichuguu.

**French:** Un homme ne peut pas arrondir la fourmilière.

**English:** One man cannot round the anthill.

**Teaching:** It is hard to do something single-handed.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 133:1* “How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God’s people to live together in harmony!”

**77. Mhuka ntupo masikati, bhusiku inohanduka ikabe nyama.**

**Swahili:** Mnyama ni totem wakati wa mchana lakini usiku hugeuka kuwa nyama.

**French:** L'animal est un totem pendant la journée, mais la nuit se révèle être une viande.

**English:** The animal is a totem during the day but at night turns to be a meat.

**Teaching:** Some people especially relatives may pretend to the public to have nothing more than an innocent relationship when in fact they are secret lovers.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1 Corinthians 6:18* “Avoid immorality. Any other sin a man commits does not affect his body; but the man who is guilty of sexual immorality sins against his own body.”

**78. Mlomo iphako unozwidzibilila.**

**Swahili:** Mdomo ni mpasuko (katika mti), huzuia ghuba yenyewe.

**French:** La bouche est une fente (dans un arbre), il bloque l'entrée elle-même.

**English:** The mouth is a cleft (in a tree), it blocks the inlet for itself.

**Teaching:** A talkative person forgets that s/he wearies other people.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Proverbs 10:8* “Sensible people accepts good advice, People who talk foolishly will come to ruin.”

**79. Mpini webgwe unobulugwa ngenlume akanyenama.**

**Swahili:** Kipini kilichotengenezwa kwa mawe ambacho hutobolewa na mtu akiwa na meno yake wazi.

**French:** Une poignée de pierre fait qui est percé par un homme avec ses dents nues.

**English:** A stone-made handle which is drilled by a man with his teeth bare.

**Teaching:** A tough job which requires iron resolve, which calls for complete determination.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1 Corinthians 9:24* “Surely you know that many runners take part in a race but only one of them wins the prize. Run, then in such a way as to win the prize.”

**80. Mwana ha e lilila nyele yenfute, mumpe innswabile mumaboko.**

**Swahili:** Ikiwa mtoto analia kwa filimbi ya mmea wa casserole, mpe na itasinyaa / popote mikononi mwake.

**French:** Si un enfant pleure pour la flûte d'une plante de casserole, donnez-lui à et il ratatiner / où dans ses mains.

**English:** If a child cries for the flute of a casserole plant, give it to him and it will shrivel / whither in his hands.

**Teaching:** If someone insists on doing something especially against all advice, he should be left alone to discover the worthlessness of his adventure.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Proverbs 12:15* “Stupid people always think they’re right. Wise people listen to advice.”

### **81. Lima nge chicho, ching'wango nkumbigwa achina ndima.**

**Swahili:** Ikiwa mtoto analia kwa filimbi ya mmea wa casserole, mpe na itasinyaa / popote mikononi mwake.

**French:** Labourer avec votre propre, la houe empruntée ne vous fait pas couvrir une partie d'un champ.

**English:** Plough with your own, the borrowed hoe does not make you cover a portion of a field.

**Teaching:** You own means a better than borrowed means; with your own you do not wait and you make progress.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Romans 13:8 "Be under obligation to no one the only obligation you have is to love one another."*

### **82. Musikulumbidze tjilengwe nempululu.**

**Swahili:** Usimtie moyo mpumbavu kwa kusema.

**French:** Ne pas encourager un imbécile par des youyous.

**English:** Do not encourage a fool by ululating.

**Teaching:** This proverb is quoted to express disappointment that someone undeserved approval. (Bad behavior should not be encouraged)

**Biblical Parallel:** *1Peter 5:5 "In the same way you younger people must submit to your elders..."*

### **83. Mpuzu umuzila unopulugwa pulugwa koga nemngwe nemngwe, ne ba no pinda.**

**Swahili:** Mti wa matunda pori (mpuzu) ulio karibu na barabara na matunda yake yamekusanywa na kila mtu, hata wapita njia

**French:** Le (mpuzu) arbres fruitiers sauvages, à côté d'une route avec ses fruits, est cueilli par tous, même les passants.

**English:** The (mpuzu) wild fruit tree next to the road with its fruits gathered by everyone, even passers-by

**Teaching:** For some ladies when life is tough on their side, they can prefer to turn themselves into prostitute in order to earn a living, then this proverb can be quoted reoffering to such people so that they can fill embraced and quit the activity.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Galatians 5:19 "What human nature does is quite plain. It shows itself in immoral, filthy and indecent actions."*

### **84. Ndoita hwila pa mbili, swimbo yaloba dapi.**

**Swahili:** Mimi hufanya hisia ya tumbo; fimbo imepiga panya.

**French:** Je fais une sensation de ventre; la tige a frappé un rat.

**English:** I make it a belly feel; the rod has hit a rat.

**Teaching:** if you have something that you can do alone, does it, other people will only make you do what is of no worth, or make you to lose your mark.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1Corinthians 15:33 "Do not be fooled, bad companions ruin good character."*

**85. Ng'ombe ya tshamba dope ya ngwa**

**Swahili:** Ziara fupi tu au kidogo unayoshiriki nami inaonyesha jinsi unavyonijali.

**French:** Juste une brève visite ou le peu que vous partagez avec moi montre combien vous souciez de moi.

**English:** Just a brief visit or the little you share with me shows how much you care about me.

**Teaching:** it's good to exhibit acts of kindness.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1John 3:18 "My children, our love should not be just words and talks: it must be true love which shows itself in action."*

**86. Nkulu nde una chimela / Nkulu nde una chimu dula.**

**Swahili:** Mtu mzima ni yule mwenye nafaka inayochacha/mtu mzima ndiye mwenye ghala.

**86. French:** Une personne adulte est celui qui a le grain de fermentation / un adulte est celui qui a un grenier.

**English:** An adult person is the one with the fermenting grain / an adult is the one with a granary.

**Teaching:** A person without reserve will perish; Keep some reserve for the days of need.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Matthew 6:19-20 "Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy and robbers break in and steal, instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy and robbers cannot break in and steal."*

**87. Nyambi ina bunyambi / nyambi.**

**Swahili:** Mtu mjanja ana ustadi.

**French:** Une personne a adroite dextérité.

**English:** A dexterous person has dexterity.

**Teaching:** A skilful person accomplishes many things.

**Biblical Parallel:** *1Chronicles 29:12 "All riches and wealth comes from you; you rule everything by your strength and power; and you're able to make anyone great and strong."*

**88. Nyoka fupi tjilailo the ndefu.**

**Swahili:** Maskini wananyonywa na matajiri.

**French:** Les pauvres sont exploités par les riches.

**English:** Poor people are exploited by the rich ones.

**Teaching:** you shouldn't take advantage of your neighbor just because they're poor.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Zechariah 7:10 "Do not oppress widows, orphans, foreigners who live among you or anyone else in need. And do not plan ways of harming one another."*

**89. Pakapinda bhadza akutozesa.**

**Swahili:** Ambapo jembe lilipopita, si vigumu kufanya kazi.

**French:** Lorsque la charrue passait, il est difficile de travailler.

**English:** Where the plough passed by, it is not hard to work.

**Teaching:** When good work has been done, what follows does not discourage.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Deuteronomy 15:10 "Give to him freely and unselfishly and the Lord will bless you in everything you do."*



**90. Panotolegwa chilume demo (shathu) kosala matshunetshune.**

**Swahili:** Ambapo shoka la mtu lilichukuliwa kwa nguvu kutoka kwake, kubaki dalili za kuhangaika chini.

**French:** Là où la hache d'un homme a été prise force de lui, restent des signes de difficulté sur le terrain.

**English:** Where a man's axe was taken by force from him, remain signs of struggling on the ground.

**Teaching:** It is not easy to take away something that a person loves.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Exodus 20:15: "Do not steal."*

**91. Swimbo ing'ombela aina chigo / Swimbo ing'ombela ina ngwa.**

**Swahili:** Fimbo moja haina vita.

**French:** Une tige n'a pas de combat.

**English:** One rod has no fight.

**Teaching:** To rely on one thing does not help (in the time of trouble); it is not enough to hold a weapon, you must also trust your intuitions /instincts.

**Biblical Parallel:** *2Peter 2:12 "But these people act by instinct, like wild animals born to be captured and killed; the attack with insults anything they do not understand."*

**92. Tjilume tja ndi yendisha nkathu-nkathu ndo wo tji tenda nda gala**

**Swahili:** Kujifunza kunaweza kuwa kugumu sana lakini baadaye kutathibitika kuwa kumeweka msingi bora.

**French:** L'apprentissage peut être très difficile, mais se révélera plus tard avoir jeté des bases plus solides.

**English:** Learning may be very difficult but later will prove to have laid a better foundation.

**Teaching:** Education is valuable in one's life.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Proverbs 4:13 "Always remember what you have learnt. Your education is your life- guard it well."*

**93. Tahwa kale la chibulugwi, atichahwa la lulavi.**

**Swahili:** Tumesikia kutoka kwa nzige wabaya, hatusikii yoyote kutoka kwa nzige wazuri.

**French:** Nous avons entendu le mauvais critique, nous ne pas entendre tout de la bonne acridienne.

**English:** We have heard from the bad locust, we do not hear any from the good locust.

**Teaching:** First words are often attentively listening to, but the latter words are ignored.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Nahum 3:15-17: "There fire will consume you as the locust does".*

**94. Tjinyuni babii nkomba woga tjo wuluka**

**Swahili:** Kazi ya pamoja inashinda ikilinganishwa na shughuli za kibinafsi.

**French:** Travail d'équipe gagne par rapport aux activités individualistes.

**English:** Teamwork wins as compared to individualistic pursuits.

**Teaching:** It's always good to work as a group.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Ecclesiastes 4:9* “Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively.”

#### **95. Tizhila kwa inona ko**

**Swahili:** Kutafuta msaada pale ambapo hakuna msaada.

**French:** Chercher de l'aide là où il n'y a pas d'aide.

**English:** To seek help where there's no help.

**Teaching:** We should always engage in feasible projects.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Ecclesiastes 4:4* “I have also learnt why people work so hard to succeed: it's because they envy their neighbors. But it's useless; it's like chasing the wind.”

#### **96. Wapota dombo wadzimila.**

**Swahili:** Anayezunguka kilima anapotea.

**French:** Celui qui va autour de la colline se perd.

**English:** He who goes around the hill gets lost.

**Teaching:** Out of sight out of mind.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Ephesians 4:18* “And whose minds are in dark. They have no part in the life that God gives, for they are completely ignorant and stubborn.”

#### **97. Zwenhu zoyedziwa nkadzikulu wakatongoyedza, aka bika mabgwe.**

**Swahili:** Mambo yanajaribiwa, mwanamke mzee mara moja alijaribu kupika mawe.

**French:** Les choses sont essayées, une vieille femme a essayé une fois de faire cuire des pierres.

**English:** Things are tried, an old woman once tried to cook stones.

**Teaching:** You will never discover if you do not try things out, even those that seem impossible.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Psalms 128:2* “Your work will provide for your needs; you will be happy and prosperous.”

#### **98. Zwipungu zobhabhulana, sindi dzogwila phako...**

**Swahili:** Wakati wenye nguvu wanapigana, wanyonge waliogopa na kugombania mahali pa kujificha.

**French:** Les aigles se battent les uns des autres, les écureuils se battent pour le trou d'arbre.

**English:** Eagles fight each other, squirrels fight for the tree hole.

**Teaching:** When the might are fighting, the weak got frightened and scramble for cover (hiding spot).

**Biblical Parallel:** *Matthew 5:9* “Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them His children!”

**99. Zwobuya ne nyebezegwa, buya kwazo milandu**

**Swahili:** Inafurahisha inaposemwa kwa minong'ono lakini matokeo (matokeo) ni matatizo.

**French:** Il est agréable quand on lui parle à voix basse, mais le résultat (résultat) est des problèmes.

**English:** It is enjoyable when spoken in whispers but the result (outcome) is problems.

**Teaching:** A love affair originates as a secret but the result might be pregnancy.

**Biblical Parallel:** *James 4:17 "There to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin."*

**100. Zwochenamisa gudo kuwa mu nti.**

**Swahili:** Inashangaza nyani kuanguka kutoka kwenye mti.

**French:** Il étonne le babouin de tomber d'un arbre.

**English:** It astonishes the baboon to fall from a tree.

**Teaching:** It is embarrassingly astonishing to see a person who is capable of doing a thing not being able to do it.

**Biblical Parallel:** *Proverbs 16:3 "Ask the Lord to bless your plans, and you'll be successful in carrying them out."*