

A COLLECTION OF 100 NANDE (D R CONGO) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS



BY

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to almighty God the source of my life, strength and inspiration, I also appreciate the moral and support from my dear wife and my beloved family at large.

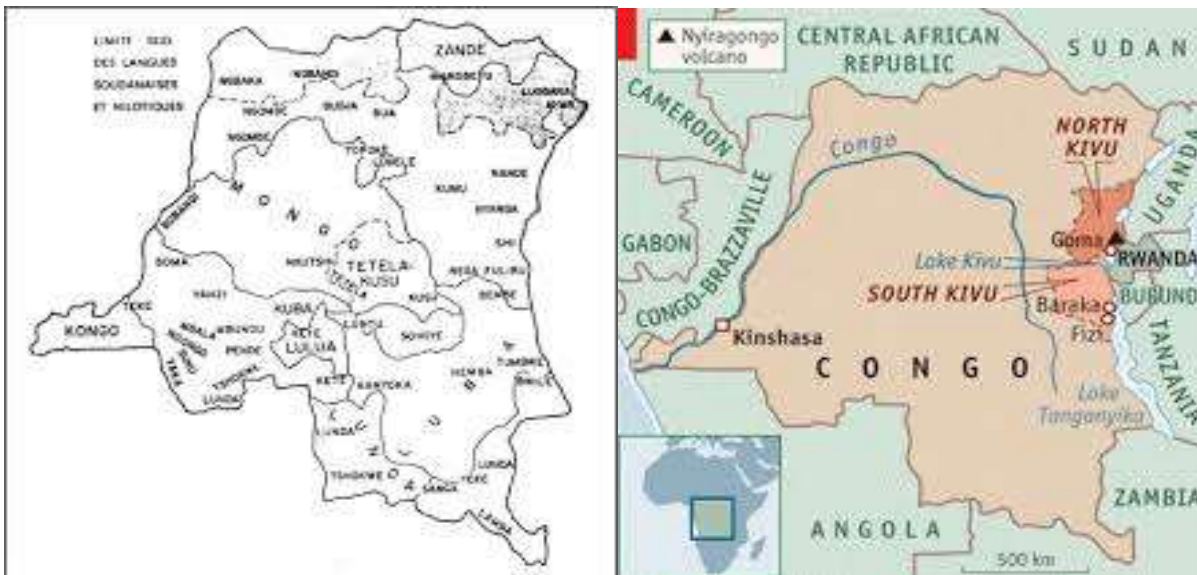
INTRODUCTION

Location

The Nanda or Konjo are a Bantu speaking ethnic group, they speak Nande language. They live in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Uganda. In Congo they occupy the territory of North Kivu mainly in areas of Lubero, Beni and Butembo, while in Uganda they are referred to as Konzo, and occupy mainly the Ruwenzururu kingdom. Their kindom extends through four districts in Uganda mainly Kasese, Bundibugyo, Fortportal, Kabarole and Toroko. They are also known as (*Oru*) *Ndandi* and Yira, in Congo. Their population in Congo is estimated to be 7.5million while in Uganda they are about 1.5million.their king is known as King Charles Mumbere.

The Nande of Congo and the Konjo people of Uganda are a single ethnic group, called Yira (Bayira). They trace their origins to the Ruwenzori Mountains between the two countries. Their languages are close enough to be considered divergent dialects. Nande has a number of dialects of its own: Nande proper, Kumbule, Mate, Tangi, Sanza, Shu, Songola (*Songoora*, Nyangala), Swaga / Kira (in Nande, all of these are prefixed with *eki*-). Shu is a nother language in the Nande community (Ekishukaali) formerly spoken by women (Avashukaali) may be was a specific reference to a kind secret jargon into which the girls and the boys were initiated, Some Nande of Congo have a patron-vassel relationship with the Efe Pygmies.

ETHNOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF NANDE PEOPLE IN THE D. R. CONGO



Myth of Origin

The Nande are noted to be short in their physical outlook though they are continually losing their initial structure due to inter-marriages with other people. The Ganda believe that Mount Ruwenzori the famous Mountains of the moon belong to them and they live on its foot hills ensuring its adequate protection. The mountain which was originally called Rwenzururu in Konjo language was changed to the current term by the European explorer Henry Morton Stanley after failing to pronounce the local name. The origin of the Konzo is not all that clear as a range of traditions contradict one another. One of the traditions assert that the Nande are indigenous to the area where they are living today and believe that their ancestors emerged from one of the caves in Mount Ruwenzori and then produced the entire descendants.

Another tradition of the Nande origin asserts that transferred from the place near Lake Victoria formerly Nalubaale. The art works at Kasubi heritage site of Buganda Kingdom show that two clans escaped from the

Buganda region and headed to the Ruwenzori Mountains forming the community of the Konzo. This tradition mentions that the Konzo fled following a tough clash with the Ganda after they had made a clay boat for the Kabaka but unfortunately it broke while on water leaving many people dead.

Culture

Regarding the marriage, the Nande attributed great concern to this social practice. The more women that were possessed by a man, the more respect he had in society as long as he catered for them which shows that the Nande were polygamous people. The woman was not respected until she produced Children. The spouses were booked early enough by the boy's family and the booking would be made when the boy undergone an initiation ceremony of adult hood. The father had the Authority to choose the husband of his daughter who had no choice at all and it was not strange for old men to marry young girls.



Dancing ceremony

The marriage was not socially recognized until the bride wealth has been paid. The bride wealth included 12 goats, a digging stick and a hoe, animal skin locally known as Omukagha and local brew (Tonto). Regarding divorce, it was not common for the Nande to separate and any misunderstanding was a concern of the society. The elders in the community including the relatives gave considerable attention and teaching about family to the newly introduced couples. The event of divorce will then be reached by elders, brothers and sisters. Following divorce, the man was meant to give some property to the girl's family to as symbol of separation and these were called *Engomoro*. They included a goat, a stool and a bark cloth piece. The girl's family would then bring back the bride wealth and if they were not able, they would wait until she remarries and then they get the property to pay. The common causes of divorce included if the woman committed adultery, witchery, impotence, and intolerable behavior, dangerous diseases like leprosy & epilepsy and barrenness.



Marriage ceremony

Regarding giving births, the Konzo would marry for the sake of producing children and expand the family. If the woman delayed to conceive, certain herbs were administered and if she failed completely, divorce would be named. During the woman's labor, the husband would keep outside waiting for the response while the woman would keep inside the house along with other elderly women, friends and relatives. After birth, the relatives of the woman would organize food both cooked and uncooked the relatives of the man and goat was slaughtered and the section of it would be taken to the woman's parents. This was locally referred to as *Orekukundulha Omulemba*. If the twins were born and one of them died, the mother was not meant to cry and if it happened during the sowing season, the woman would plant in the upper side of the house to prevent poor yields. The twin parents were not supposed to quarrel when they were still breast feeding. If the twins were fighting, you were not supposed to stop or separate them they would turn against you.



Circumcision ceremony

Two samples of Nande Proverbs

1. Esiwambirako amathwe uwe mbene ukandisya engwe.

Swahili: Usiniweke maskio ya mbuzi niliwe na chui.

French: Ne mettez pas les Oreilles dela chevre sur moi, de crainte d'etre mange par le leopard.

English: Do not put ears of a goat on me to be eaten by a leopard.

Meaning: Do not bear false witness against me and make me guilty while am innocent.

Biblical parallel: Exodus23:7 *“Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.”*

2. Embwa yikahinghira awayo,na wa mukama wayu.

Swahili: Mbwa hutafutia meno yake na yamwenyewe.

French: Le chien chasse acause de ses dents, et les dents de son maitre.

English: A dog hunts for its teeth and that of its owner.

Meaning: A good servant's works for himself and for her masters welfare.

Biblical parallel: Luke19:1 *“And he said to him, well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.”*

Religion

The Nande people believed in concept such as monotheism, animism, vitalisme, spirit, ancestor worship, witch craft and sorcery. They mainly believed in this before the coming of missionaries. They believed that the ancestral spirit could bring good or bad luck in the community such as getting a prosperous generation, having good harvests for the farmers and also good luck for fishermen also it can bring a curse in the community like

death, drought and famine. When the missionaries came the Nande people became Christian and believed in the existence of one God. Their primary religion practice is Roman Catholicism the world’s largest Christian church and protestant believers.

Economy

The Nande mainly cultivate cassava, beans, sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes .Their Staple Foods include,Ugali which comes from cassava roots, cassava leaves (sombe) and they also eat fish, since they also practice fishing as an economic activity. The Nande excelled early on as traders of salt and as diligent cultivators – even after the colonial authorities intruded with new cash crops, such as coffee and tea, and non-indigenous variations of grains and vegetables. Frequently dodging and eluding state-imposed restrictions on trade and exports, Nande traders ventured beyond their traditional territory as early as in the 1920s to connect with markets in Goma, Kisangani and Kinshasa as well as eastwards into Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya.

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- 2. Abakahi sibethunga musinga omwimbo.....1**
English: Women do not have kings.
- 3. Abakwanzire na bakuponire abosi baka kubughako.....1**
English: Both those that hate and love you backbite about you.
- 4. Abalibabiri bakikanayaesya nzwiri syangina minyera wangwe.....1**
English: Those that walk together remind each other even their hair can sense the leopard.
- 5. Abanzene bakalya haghuma.1**
English: Brothers share on the same table.
- 6. Aha abasengire obwabu si habulha took.....1**
English: Where there is beer there is noise.

- 7. Ahahi omulema siwe lingaebyalha.....2**
English: Where there is a lame person you do not fold your hands.
- 8. Ahakalire hakakuha amenge.....2**
English: Necessity is the mother of invention.
- 9. Akatse akasibwe syikitha butheke.....2**
English: A habit in the family does not break a marriage.
- 10. Amaghetse wabene syaunza kyaka nyotha.....2**
English: Borrowed water cannot quench thirst.
- 11. Ameghetse awa uhangirwe sya senda.....2**
English: The river water meant for you cannot flow past you.
- 12. Amenge alingomuliro amalima ukasabaghuewa nduihani yaghu.....2**
English: Wisdom is like fire you can get it from a neighbor.
- 13. Banyinughuirekweni anakambalha emisanji.....3**
English: Am hated by neighbors little knowing is because of wearing rugs.
- 14. Ebitsibu bikalhangirika okabuso, no buno ebyisigha amaghulhu.....3**
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- 15. Ebitsibu byaghu uka birya neka yaghu.....3**
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- 24.Emangu ni kyisanduy kye mbogho ukamuyirengesanaya isyahiho.....5**
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- 26.Embuihi yikasobasoba kundi eyighulhu ni hahi.....5**
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- 27. Embwa eyiwithe erikuha omwabunu siyelhuma.....5**
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- 28. Embwa siyihinga engwe.....5**
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- 29. Embwa yikahinghira awayo,na wa mukama wayu.....6**
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- 32. Ende eyamathe, siyibulha kyikama.....6**
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- 35. Enyonyi ngamuya nga ghulhuka, omnmithewowayo akyabya okokitaka.....7**
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- 36. Enzira eye syande yena yo muhsya.....7**
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- 41. Esyangoko syamalwa, ekihungu kikatsema.....8**
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- 42. Esyombwa sikalya amakuha kundi sihali oyuwasihere enyama.....8**
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- 44. Eya uthe uthahotholh nayo amahangana akahotholha ukikalha.....8**
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- 45. Eyalibusa isyambere syasagha magnetse.....8**
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- 46. Eyuka swiraya owime akyaswiraya inalingire ebyalya.....9**
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- 47. Eyukitha omomwali akakwa no muyali.....9**
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- 48. Lindinia akatsimitha omukira.....9**
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- 49. Mungana mubwire syawithe munywani.....9**
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- 50. Ngasingirwe akahihabike.....9**
English: He who accepts blames pays little.
- 51. Ni mubuya iwuli enyuma yiwe.....9**
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- 52. Nomusya ngende simwebulka omubuya singa.....10**
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- 53. Nyamuhanga alingo lhuho, buhimundu amwasi bwime.....10**
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- 54. Obughumani mani.....10**
English: Combined teeth chew the meat.
- 55. Obusinga bwo munako lyeri kolha kutsibu.....10**
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- 56. Obusinga obulimwobuholho omusinga syahekangabu.....10**
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- 57. Obuthabulya bukaleka olhusi ilwa senda omo kiro.....11**
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- 58. Obuthekeni kyunza, eyana mulyatha kijasenda, oyu humwire kyi kuna.....11**

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59. Obwabu nilinene imuli mama sibye nywebawa abikere.....11
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60. Olhu ki kwitha lukabyanga ngumbu.....11
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61. Olhuhu lwengwe simuthima wayu.....11
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62. Olhuli oko mbwa lhuli oko muhighi.....11
English: An enemy to a dog is an enemy to its owner.

63. Olhusi silhuwithe muthima engetse siyebika nginzo.....12
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64. Omesyampaka nyine syakunamira mughuma.....12
English: A quarrelsome man sits badly many times without advice.

65. Omubya syabulhako kalema embwa siyuma nyindo.....12
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66. Omuhamba owakahatha abitoke sya sagha bulofu.....12
English: A knife that peels bananas does not fear dirt.

67. Omuhotholi mubi akahotho rera omwababu.....12
English: He who that does not know to dance he dances in her home.

68. Omukali mubyaaka minyirawa oko mukubi wiwe.....12
English: A good wife is known by the soup she prepares.

69. Omulimi mubi akaghaya eyisuka.....13
English: A bad worker always blames his tools.

70. Omunagha owaka thulika akatumba, syaneghena.....13
English: A pot that breaks when it is cooking cannot bring a quarrel at home.

71. Omusinga ahithohire anga na kuhumba.....13
English: A king is like a hammer he has his weight.

72. Omusule atalina kwa akahika oko lyeru enyerire.....13
English: If a weaverbird does not die it will surely get a ripe banana.

73. Omuthi we bimatha, akasagha ekiwe kikathulwa.....13
English: He who that wash others wounds, when his is washed he wails.

74. Omuthima nga kathale akasima ekyanzire.....14
English: The heart is like a market it buys what it desires.

75. Omwana akigha mighendere yatha that wiwe akamukwama.....14
English: You learn how your father walks by imitating him/walk with him.

- 76. Omwigho niwa uyuwathemawo, siwa uyu wa banawu.....14**
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- 77. Omwirima ni munene kukakya.....14**
English: It's dark before dawn.
- 78. Owa oko muku yukahamba ahakabeha.....14**
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- 79. Owabakali bangi akigha eritheba.....14**
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- 80. Oyoikere nemirimu anasiebya yi kalya.....15**
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- 81. Oyotheho syawirwa muthi.....15**
English: He who is absent can get fallen by a tree.
- 82. Oyu bathongire ahinga omuhamba syahwako matsitsi.....15**
English: A person that is back biced is like a dirty knife.
- 83. Oyu ka lengesaya yu wananga terekererya.....15**
English: Practicing perfectly makes perfect.
- 84. Oyuhighire enzoghu syausa mabwe okobinyonyi.....15**
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- 85. Oyukaghana erihabulwa nimujinga.....15**
English: He who that hates advices losses understanding.
- 86. Oyukakukwama nisya omwokiroya musima bukakya.....16**
English: If you are escorted by someone at night you thank him in the morning.
- 87. Oyukalhwira obukuwe akakuhika erihembe.....16**
English: A cow that fights at the in-laws breaks its horns.
- 88. Oyukalwa ekuhimu syaghaya mwesi.....16**
English: A person who has cheated death him thanks God, even when he is disable.
- 89. Oyukandi kujowa akathonga mama waghuhwuneho.....16**
English: The one that wants to hurt you slanders your mother as you listen.
- 90. Oyulemirwe na bana sya ngathoka eriba lekya16**
English: If you fail to correct your children you cannot separate them when fighting.
- 91. Oyutha mubuthire athi mwimuhekaye eribwe.....17**
English: If you are not a parent you cannot assume others people responsibility.
- 92. Oyuwalye mbwa abya mwiguma, mwa hemulha ekyihanda.....17**
English: He that eats a dog is one but the whole clan is blamed.
- 93. Sigha wamuchinda isamuhambireko.....17**

English: small man is looked down upon when he is on the other side of the river.

94. Sihali mutheke oyuwangaghulha obuthuku ombwa lhabire.....17

English: There is no rich man that can buy his past.

95. Siwa ngitha ukahingha, ukathendilhuha.....17

English: You cannot get meat in the forest without getting tired.

96. Syabulha baghara ghara.....17

English: A rich person gives his dowry during the day.

97. Uwatakunya ebinywe byaghu uthe wa bugha.....18

English: Think before you talk.

98. Wamalya embwa, ulya enene.....18

English: If you eat a dog pick a fat one.

**99. Wamathibitha oko mulhume mughenzi wawu iwasigham, amani awangaku
subulya.18**

English: If you chase a fellow man spare the energy to bring you back.

100. Wangi nahisya enyumba baitu siwa ngabisa omuki.....18

English: You can burn a house but you cannot hide smoke.

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A COLLECTION OF 100 NANDE (D R CONGO) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

1. Ababuya baling ama babi omwasya mboko, syahwayo.

Swahili: Warembo ni kama matawi ya ndizi hayawezi kuisha shambani.

French: Les belles femmes sont comme les branches, elles ne finissent jamais dans le champ.

English: The beautiful ones are like bananas leaves they never get finished.

Meaning: Good things have no end.

Biblical parallel: Ezekiel 31:9 *“made it beautiful with a multitude of branches, so that all the trees of Eden envied it that were in the garden of God.”*

2. Abakahi sibethunga musinga omwimbo.

Swahili: Kina mama hawana mfalme.

French: Les femmes n’ont pas de roi.

English: Women do not have kings.

Meaning: Women are their own leaders in the society.

Biblical parallel: Esther 2:13 *“Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desires was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the kings’ house.”*

3. Abakwanzire na bakuponire abosi baka kubughako.

Swahili: Wanaokupenda na wasiokupenda hawaishi bila kukutaja.

French: Ceux qui sont pour toi, et ceux qui sont contre toi, tous parlent de toi.

English: Both those that hate and love you backbite about you.

Meaning: When you attract friends you also attract enemies’ in equal measures.

Biblical parallel: Psalms 15:3 *“He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does him take up a reproach against his friend;”*

4. Abalibabiri bakikanayaesya nzwiri syangina minyera wangwe.

Swahili: Watembeo wawili hukumbushana hata nywele za weza kuhisi chui.

French: Ceux qui marchent ensemble se rappellent des choses, meme les cheveux sentent le leopard.

English: Those that walk together remind each other even their hair can sense the leopard.

Meaning: A people united can never be defeated.

Biblical parallel: Ephesians 2:10 *For we are Gods workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good work, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

5. Abanzene bakalya haghuma.

Swahili: Mandugu hula pamoja.

French: Les frères mangent ensemble.

English: Brothers share on the same table.

Meaning: Brothers are there for each other during hardships.

6. Aha abasengire obwabu si habulha took.

Swahili: Palipo na pombe hapakosi kelele.

French: La ou il ya bierre, le bruit ne man que jamais.

English: Where there is beer there is noise.

Meaning: Where can never be silence at a drinking party.

Biblical parallel: *Romans 14:21* "It is neither good to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak."

7. Ahahi omulema siwe lingaebyalha.

Swahili: Palipo na kiwete usifunge mikono.

French: Devant un handicap physique, ne plier pasta main.

English: Where there is a lame person you do not fold your hands.

Meaning: Be kind and of humility to the disabled in the society.

Biblical parallel: *Ephesians: 4:32* "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you."

8. Ahakalire hakakuha amenge.

Swahili:

Shida huwa funzo, kitu kinachokutatiza hukuerevusha.

French: Les problemes nous enseignent, et nous rendent habiles.

English: Necessity is the mother of invention.

Meaning: It is through challenges that we get solutions to our problems.

Biblical parallel: *James 1:14* "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."

9. Akatse akasibwe syikitha butheke.

Swahili: Tabia ambayo umeizowea haiwezi kuharibu nyumba.

French: Le caractere familier ne peut pas detruire la maison.

English: A habit in the family does not break a marriage.

Meaning: A family habit cannot destroy the family.

Biblical parallel: *1 Corinthians 15:33* "Do not be deceived: Evil Company corrupts good habits."

10. Amaghetse wabene syaunza kyaka nyotha.

Swahili: Maji yakuomba hayamalizi kiu.

French: De l'eau offerte, ne peux pas etancher la soif.

English: Borrowed water cannot quench thirst.

Meaning: It is good to find durable solutions to our problems rather than aid.

Biblical parallel: *Nehemiah 5:4* "There were also those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our lands and vineyards."

11. Ameghetse awa uhangirwe sya senda.

Swahili:

Maji ya mto utakayo yanywa hayawezi yakupita.

French: L'eau de la riviere dont on veut, on ne peut pas passer sans la boire.

English: The river water meant for you cannot flow past you.

Meaning: Nobody can evade his or her destiny in his /her life.

Biblical parallel: *Isaiah 8:6* "Inasmuch as these people refused the waters of Shiloah that flows softly, and rejoice in Resign and in Remaliah's son."

12. Amenge alingomuliro amalima ukasabaghuewa nduihani yaghu.

Swahili: Akili ni kama moto.

French: La sagesse est comme un feu, tu peux le trouver chez le voisin.

English: Wisdom is like fire you can get it from a neighbor.

Meaning: We can seek advice from our neighbors.

Biblical parallel: *Exodus 31:3* "And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship."

13. Banyinughuirekweni anakambalha emisanji.

Swahili: Majirani hawanipendi kumbe ni sababu ya kuvaa vibaya.

French: les voisins me haissent comme je m'habille mal.

English: Am hated by neighbors little knowing is because of wearing rugs.

Meaning: Neighbors' hate me because of my poverty status.

Biblical parallel: *Leviticus 19:17* "you shall not hate your brother in your heart; you shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him."

14. Ebitsibu bikalhangirika okabuso, no buno ebyisigha amaghulhu.

Swahili: Shida hupata midomo si miguu.

French: Le probleme frappe la langue, mais pas les pieds.

English: The mouth faces the challenges not the legs.

Meaning: It is the words that are spoken that cause problems in the society.

Biblical parallel: *Matthew 15:18* "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man."

15. Ebitsibu byaghu uka birya neka yaghu.

Swahili: Ukivuna shida unaila na jamii yako.

French: Quand on recolte la peine, on la consomme avec sa famille.

English: When you reap problems you share with your family.

Meaning: It is your family members that stand with you during difficulties in your entire life.

Biblical parallel: *Hebrews 13:16* "But do not forget to do well and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

16. Ebitsibu ebyatsuka, isibyaghinzerera.

Swahili: Shida ni heri zikuanze ndio baadaye upate, mali kuliko kumalizia na shida.

French: Autant commencer par les problemes, pour avoir la richesse aprè; que de finir avec peines.

English: its Better problems came early in your life than later.

Meaning: A good ending is better than a good start.

Biblical parallel: *Mark 13:13* "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

17. Ebitssumo bye ngoko sibyitha kyihungu.

Swahili: Dua

ya kuku haimpati mwewe

French: Les maledictions dela poule n'affecte pas la carapace.

English: The curse of a hen cannot kill an eagle

Meaning: Empty words with no actions are dead.

Biblical parallel: *Numbers 22:12* "An God said to Balaam, you shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."

18. Ebuywayikabya etse me iyiri nyokolhume.

Swahili:

Kwa kina mama yako ni kuzuri mjomba wako akiwa hai.

French: Dans la famille de ma mere, tout va bien quand l'oncle est encore vivant.

English: At your mothers place is good when the immediate brother to your mother is alive.

Meaning: The value of something is in its life span.

Biblical parallel: *Psalms 30:3* O LORD you have brought my soul up from the grave you have kept me alive that I should not go down to the pit.

19. Ebya ukasigha esi umetire oluholho lhukabimeta.

Swahili: Ukikosa kugawa mali ukiwa hai kifo kitagawa.

French: Si tu ne partages pas tes biens en vie, la mort les partagera.

English: If you do not write a will before you die others will enjoy sharing it.

Meaning: We should always be prepared for anything in our lives.

Biblical parallel: *Luke 2:31* "Which you have prepared before the face of all people."

20. Ebyo yuka humulha si biwetwa.

Swahili: Huwezi kurithi mali ya mtu aliye hai.

French: On ne peut pas hériter les biens de la personne vivante.

English: You cannot inherit the property of a person that is living.

Meaning: you have no right over ownership of another person property without his consent.

Biblical parallel: *Deuteronomy 14:27* "You shall not forsake the Levite who is within your gates, for he has no part nor inheritance with you."

21. Ekihimisimuhiro (Ekyakakalha) simutiro abirere sibya ngahuka byalya.

Swahili:

Harakaharaka simoto, nyasi haiwezi ika pika chakula cha umpendaye.

French: Rapidement le feu de la paille, ne peut pas préparer la nourriture de la personne dont on aime bien.

English: Flames are not always fire dry banana leaves cannot cook food for your lover.

Meaning: To that which we love, we offer the best.

Biblical parallel: *1 Corinthians 2:9* "But as it is written; Eyes have not seen, nor ears heard, nor have entered into the heart of a man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

22. Ekyu ulya yithagira embasa omuyagha amakyikunulha.

Swahili: Kile ulitaka shoka upepo ulikata.

French: C'est à quoi tu voulais la hache, le vent l'emportait.

English: What you wanted an axe the wind fails it down.

Meaning: God fights for the poor and the less fortunate in the society.

Biblical parallel: *Job 21:18* "They are like straw before the wind, and like chaffs that a storm carries away."

23. Ekyaghandu kyikikalha ahasomwamuthi kundi kyahera wukera.

Swahili: Wazee huketi chini ya mti kwa sababu walipanda zamani.

French: Les vieux s'asseoient sous les arbres, comme ils les ont plantés.

English: Elders sit under a tree because they climbed it a long ago.

Meaning: The elderly have much experience about every stage in life.

Biblical parallel: *Deuteronomy 32:7* "Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations. Ask your father and he will show you; your elders, and they will tell you."

24. Emangu ni kyisanduy kye mbogho ukamuyirengesanaya isyahiho

Swahili: Shujaa ni kama mguu wa nyati unajaribu kujipima mguu akiwa ameenda.

French: Un héros c'est comme le sabot d'un buffle tu peux y poser ton pied, rien que sa absence.

English: A hero is like a buffalo he tries a buffalo foot when it is not there.

Meaning: When the cat is away then the mice takes over.

Biblical parallel: *2 Samuel 23:20* Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day.

25. Embali yitha ghenda ikalinda muhiro.

Swahili: Sikio lisilo sikia hujuta baadaye kichwa kisha katwa.

French: L'oreille qui va à la mort, ne comprend jamais.

English: An ear that does not listen, it listens when its head is chopped off.

Meaning: He who that does not accept correction will fail.

Biblical parallel: *John 8:43* "Why do you not understand my speech? Because you are not able to listen to my words."

26. Embuhi yikasobasoba kundi eyighulhu ni hahi.

Swahili: Kondo akienda polepole hujua kuwa ni mbali.

French: Quand le mouton marche lentement, il est conscient de la longueur de distance

English: A sheep walks slowly knowing where it is heading is far.

Meaning: A step of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

Biblical parallel: *Genesis 33:14 "Please let my lord go on ahead before his servant's will lead on slowly at a pace which the livestock that go before me, and the children are able to endure, until I come to my lord in seir."*

27. Embwa eyiwith e rikuha omwabunu siyelhuma.

Swahili: Mbwa mwenye mfupa mdomoni haumi.

French: Le chien qui a l'os dans sa bouche ne peut pas mordre.

English: A dog with a bone in its mouth does not bite.

Meaning: If a person is satisfied in life then he complains about nothing.

Biblical parallel: *Isaiah 56:10 "His watchmen are blind, they are ignorant; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber."*

28. Embwa siyihinga engwe.

Swahili: Mbwa hawezi kuwinda chui sababu humwogopa.

French: Le chien ne peut pas chasser un leopard, comme il a peur de celui-ci.

English: A dog cannot hunt a leopard.

Meaning: Someone weaker has no power over his or her superiors.

Biblical parallel: *Revelation 13:2 "A the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."*

29. Embwa yikahinghira awayo, na wa mukama wayu.

Swahili: Mbwa hutafutia meno yake na yamwenyewe.

French: Le chien chasse a cause de ses dents, et les dents de son maitre.

English: A dog hunts for its teeth and that of its owner.

Meaning: A good servant's works for himself and for her masters welfare.

Biblical parallel: *Luke 19:1 "And he said to him, well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities."*

30. Embwa yikiba eyinayisighire omughongo wangu.

Swahili: Mbwa mbaya hujivunia mgongo wake.

French: Un mauvais chien, se sent fier de son dos.

English: A bad dog takes pride in its back.

Meaning: A bad person does not care about others.

Biblical parallel: *Proverbs 25:19 "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint."*

31. Emiyiheko ika kwamako ekyingo.

Swahili: majivuno huleta kuanguka.

French: l'orgueil provoque la chute.

English: Pride comes before a fall.

Meaning: Humble people are exulted while proud are shattered.

Biblical parallel: *Proverb 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall."*

32. Ende eyamathe, siyibulha kyikama.

Swahili: Ng'ombe ya maziwa haikosi mtu wa kuikamua

French: La vache qui a du lait, ne manque pas quelqu'un pour la traire.

English: The cow with milk doesn't lack someone to milking it.

Meaning: This Nande proverb wants to tell you that where there is food, there are people to consume in their daily living.

Biblical Parallel: *Genesis 3:6 “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.”*

33. Enkomko ikalya ebinyatsi kundi bwirire.

Swahili: Kuku hula nyasi sababu ya giza.

French: La poule mange l’herbe Durant l’obscurite

English: A hen eats grass when it is dark.

Meaning: During hard situation anything can happen.

Biblical parallel: *Matthew 15:27 “and she said true lord yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters table.”*

34. Enyinda sibuba.

Swahili: Kujilinda sio uoga.

French: Se proteger ne traduit pas la peur.

English: Being careful is not cowardice.

Meaning: It is good to take caution of any uncertainty.

Biblical parallel: *Proverbs 27:7 “Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed.”*

35. Enyonyi ngamuya nga ghulhuka, ommithe wowayo akyabya okokitaka.

Swahili: Ndege akipaa juu zaidi angani mwindaji ataweka mtego chini.

French: L’oiseau peut monter tres haut dans ciel, mais le piegeur tend son piege bas sur la terre.

English: Even if a bird fly’s high above the skies the hunter puts his trap below on the land.

Meaning: Every person has his day in life.

Biblical parallel: *Job 18:10 “A noose is hidden for him on the ground and a trap for him in the road.”*

36. Enzira eye syande yena yo muhsya.

Swahili: Adui wa ngombe ni adui ya mwenye ngombe.

French: L’ennemi de la vache, est aussi l’ennemi du berger.

English: An enemy to a cow is an enemy to the herdsmen.

Meaning: An enemy to your best friend is your enemy.

Biblical parallel: *Job 33:10 “Yet he finds occasions against me, He counts me as His enemy.”*

37. Esiwa nywana embene una mbere ebitsi.

Swahili: Usifanye urafiki na mbuzi ukiwa umeva nguo ya majani.

French: Ne faites pas l’amitie avec la chevre, quand tu es vetu en paille.

English: Do not be friend a got when you put on green leaves.

Meaning: You should not trust anybody.

Biblical parallel: *Psalms 41:9 “Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.”*

38. Esiwambirako amathwe uwe mbene ukandisya engwe.

Swahili: Usiniweke maskio ya mbuzi niliwe na chui.

French: Ne mettez pas les Oreilles dela chevre sur moi, de crainte d’etre mange par le leopard.

English: Do not put ears of a goat on me to be eaten by a leopard.

Meaning: Do not bear false witness against me and make me guilty while am innocent.

Biblical parallel: *Exodus 23:7 “Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.”*

39. Esya mangu uka silhangiriraoko ngolhu esiri okumubiri.

Swahili: Mtu shujaa huonekana kwa majeraha.

French: Une brave personne se Remarque par les cicatrices.

English: A hero is seen by wounds that he has sustained.

Meaning: Victory is costly even to the victor.

Biblical parallel: *1Chronicles11:22 “Benaiiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzee, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lions-like heroes of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day.”*

40. Esyambwa sikalhwa lhwa niko sya ngaminya mwinye iwe nyama.

Swahili: Mbwa wakipigana huwa wanataka mwenye nyama.

French: quand les chiens se battent ils veulent la personne qui a la viande.

English: Dog fights to know the owner of the meat.

Meaning: It is the strong that survives.

Biblical parallel: *Jeremiah5:3 “And I will appoint over them four kinds, saith the LORD: the sword to slay, and the dogs to tear, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the earth, to devour and destroy.”*

41. Esyangoko syamalwa, ekihungu kikatsema.

Swahili: Kuku wakipigana mwewe hufuraia.

French: Quand les poules se battent les rapaces se rejouissent.

English: When hens fight an eagle is happy.

Meaning: Other people weakness means opportunity to others.

Biblical parallel: *Lamentations4:19 “Our pursuers were swifter than the eagles of the heavens. They pursued us on the mountains and lay in wait for us in the wilderness.”*

42. Esyombwa sikalya amakuha kundi sihali oyuwasihere enyama.

Swahili: Mbwa hula mifupa kwa sababu hakuna anayempa nyama.

French: Le chien mange les os, comme on n’a pas la viande.

English: A dog eats bones because there is no body that gives it meat.

Meaning: We eat what has served at the dining table.

Biblical parallel: *Matthew7:6 “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”*

43. Etseme yomubuthi yomwana eriseka.

Swahili: Furaha ya mzazi ni mtoto kucheke.

French: la joie de la mère, c’est quand l’enfant rit.

English: The happiness of a parent is to see her child laughing.

Meaning: Every mother wants to see her children happy.

Biblical parallel: *Matthew7:11 “if you then, being evil, know much more will your father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him.”*

44. Eya uthe uthahotholh nayo amahangana akahotholha ukikalha.

Swahili: Asiye jua kucheza akisema kucheza anakaa.

French: Celui qui n’a jamais dansé, quand il se lève pour danser, assieds-toi.

English: He who that has never danced if he stands you sits.

Meaning: Do not argue with a fool.

Biblical parallel: *1Corinthians10:12 “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”*

45. Eyalibusa isyambere syasaha magnetse.

Swahili: Ukiyavulia maji nguo sharti uyaoge ata yakiwa baridi.

French: Si tu te déshabille, pour laver, tu dois te laver même si froid soit il.

English: If you take off clothes for a shower you must bath whether it is cold.

Meaning: If we are determined to do something then we should accomplish it in actions.

Biblical parallel: *Isaiah 55:11* “So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

46. Eyuka swiraya owime akyaswiraya inalingire ebyalya.

Swahili: Upiganapo kunja mkono wako.

French: L’orgueil prepare la chute.

English: If you fight your own fold your hands.

Meaning: Be your brother’s keeper.

Biblical parallel: *Mark 3:21* “But when his own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of him, for they said, He is out of his mind.”

47. Eyukitha omomwali akakwa no muyali.

Swahili: Auwaye kwa upanga hufa kwa upanga.

French: Celui qui tue, par l’epee perira parl’epee.

English: If you kill by the sword you die by the sword.

Meaning: whatever you saw you will reap.

Biblical parallel: *Galatians 6:7* “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

48. Lindinia akatsimitha omukira.

Swahili:

Ngojangoja huumiza matumbo.

French: La patience est nuisible.

English: One hunter who waits for the entire animal body to emerge before spearing or shooting him eventually spears the tail.

Meaning: Our success or failure is determined by the time we take to make decisions in our lives.

Biblical parallel: *Proverbs 6:5* “Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, and like a bird from the hand of the fowler.”

49. Mungana mubwire syawithe munywani.

Swahili: Nili mnongonezea kwamba hana wake.

French: Je lui ai soupcone, qu’il n’a pas d’ami.

English: I told her a secret that he has no friend.

Meaning: Through another person you can know your best friend.

Biblical parallel: *Job 4:12* “Now a word was secretly brought to me, and my ear received a whisper of it.”

50. Ngasingirwe akahihabike.

Swahili: Anayekubali makosa hulipa kidogo.

French: Celui qui reconnait sa faute paie moins.

English: He who accepts blames pays little.

Meaning: A person that accepts corrections is bound not to repeat it again.

Biblical parallel: *Proverbs 23:13* “Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.”

51. Ni mubuya iwuli enyuma yiwe.

Swahili: huyo ni mrembo ukiwa nyuma yake.

French: Elle est belle situes derriere lui.

English: She is beautiful when you are behind her.

Meaning: It is hard to tell someone’s true character.

Biblical parallel: *Proverbs 1:23* “wicked man accepts a bribe behind the back to pervert the ways of justice.”

52. Nomusya ngende simwebulka omubuya singa.

Swahili:Hata umbwembwe wa sokwe kuna mshindi.

French:Meme dans le concours, de beaute de singes, il ya un gagnant.

English: There is always a winner even in a monkey beauty contest.

Meaning: In every game there is always a winner.

Biblical parallel:*Ecclesiastes9:111 “returned and saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favor to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all.”*

53. Nyamuhanga alingo lhuho, buhimundu amwasi bwime.

Swahili: Mungu ni kama ngozi kila mtu amwelewe kivyake.

French:Dieu est comme la peau de la bête, chacun le comprend de sa facon.

English: God is like a skin every one put s his own style.

Meaning: Man for himself God for all.

Biblical parallel: *Luke1:37 “For with God nothing shall be impossible.”*

54. Obughumani mani.**Swahili:** Meno yaliyo pamoja uhuma nyama, kibogoyo hawezi.**French:**Les dents qui sont ensemble machent qu'une personne sans dents ne peux pas. **English:** Combined teeth chew the meat.

Meaning: Unity is strength.

Biblical parallel: *Psalms 133:1 “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”*

55.Obusinga bwo munako lyeri kolha kutsibu.

Swahili:Ufalme wa maskini ni kufanya kazi.

French:Le royaume du pauvre, c'est son travail.

English: The kingmanship of a poor man is hard work.

Meaning: Poverty makes someone a slave by working tirelessly.

Biblical parallel: *Leviticus25:39 “And if one of your brethren who dwells by you becomes poor, and sells himself to you, you shall not compel him to serve as a slave.”*

56.Obusinga obulimwobuholho omusinga syahekangabu.

Swahili:Nchi ikiwa na amani mfalme habebi ngao.

French:Quand le pays est en paix,le roi n'a pas besoin du bouclier.

English: When a nation is in peace the king does not carry a shield.

Meaning: When there is peace there will be no fear.

Biblical parallel:*Deuteronomy20:10 “When you go near a city to fight against it, then proclaim an offer of peace to it.”*

57.Obuthabulya bukaleka olhusi ilwa senda omo kiro.

Swahili:

Mtu akosaye kuuliza mawaidha hutembea usiku mzima.

French:Celui qui n'a pas demande conseila marché toute la nuit.

English: Failure to ask for advice will make one wonder all night .like a river that flows all night.**Meaning:** A fool things that he can do without advice, but suffering becomes her/his portion.

Biblical parallel: *Psalms92:6 “A senseless man does not know, nor does a fool understand this.”*

58. Obuthakeni kyunza, eyana mulyatha kijasenda, oyu humwire kyi kuna.

Swahili:

Ukipumzika jasho hukauka.

French: Si tute repose, la sueur se seche.

English: Where there is sweat after a rest it dry's.

Meaning: We should aspire to work hard before we take a rest.

Biblical parallel: *Genesis2:2 “And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done.”*

59. Obwabu nilinene imuli mama sibye nywebawa abikere.

French: Devant le tambour, on ne peut pas boire sa biere etant assis.

Swahili: Palipo na ngoma pombe hainywiki mkiwa chini.

English: Beer with music cannot be taken while seated.

Meaning: A drunkard person cannot be sober minded.

Biblical parallel: *Ephesians5:18 “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the spirit.”*

60. Olhu ki kwitha lukabyanga ngumbu.

Swahili: Kifo cha mbwa humzuia kunusa.

French: La mort du chien lui empeche de sentir L’odeur.

English: When a dog is about to die it fails even to smell.

Meaning: Death brings to the end everything.

Biblical parallel: *2Samuel 22:6 “The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; the snares of death confronted me.”*

61. Olhuhu lwengwe simuthima wayu.

Swahili: Ngozi ya chui ni safi si roho yake.

French: La peau du leopard est belle, mais pas son Coeur.

English: The skin of a leopard is beautiful not it’s heart.

Meaning: Do not judge a book by its cover appearance can be deceiving.

Biblical parallel: *Jeremiah13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its sports? Then may you also do well who are accustomed to the evil.*

62. Olhuli oko mbwa lhuli oko muhighi.

Swahili: Adui ya mbwa ni adui ya mwenye mbwa.

French: L’ennemi du chien, est aussi l’ennemi de son maitre.

English: An enemy to a dog is an enemy to its owner.

Meaning: An enemy to your best friend is an enemy to yourself.

Biblical parallel: *Exodus23:22 “But if you indeed obey his voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.”*

63. Olhusi silhuwithe muthima engetse siyebika nginzo.

Swahili: Mto hauna roho hauwezi kuweka sindano.

French: La riviere n’a pas de coeur.

English: A river has no heart it cannot keep a pin.

Meaning: When anger occurs all is exposed.

Biblical parallel: *Job40:18 “indeed the river may rage, yet he is not disturbed; he is confident, tough the Jordan gushes into his mouth.”*

64. Omesyampaka nyine syakunamira mughuma.

Swahili: Mwenye ubishi mwingi huaibika mara nyingi.

French: Celui qui veut souvent discuter, a souvent honte.

English: A quarrelsome man sits badly many times without advice.

Meaning: Talkative person, ashems his or her name

Biblical parallel: *Proverbs20:3 “It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel.”*

65. Omubya syabulhako kalema embwa siyuma nyindo.

Swahili: Mrembo hakosei kosa.

French: Toute beaute’ ne man que pas un defaut.

English: The beautiful one has something that is ugly

Meaning: There is nothing that is perfect.

Biblical parallel: *Ezekiel 28:15 "You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you"*

66. Omuhamba owakahatha abitoke sya sagha bulofu.

Swahili: Kisu kichongacho ndizi hakiogopi uchafu.

French: Le couteau qui a coupe la banane, ne crains jamais la salete.

English: A knife that peels bananas does not fear dirt.

Meaning: Challenges makes someone stronger than he was.

Biblical parallel: *Psalms 105:24 "And he increased his people greatly, and made them stronger than their enemies."*

67. Omuhotholi mubi akahotho rera omwababu.

Swahili: Asiye jua kucheza huchezea nyumbani kwake.

French: Si tu ne sais pas danser, danse ches vous a la maison.

English: He who that does not know to dance he dances in her home.

Meaning: If you cannot keep the pace then do not compete in the race.

Biblical parallel: *1 Samuel 18:7 "So the women sang as they danced, and said Saul has slain his thousand, and David his ten thousands."*

68. Omukali mubyaaka minyirawa oko mukubi wiwe.

Swahili: Bibi mzuri ujulikana kwa upishi wake.

French: La meilleure femme, se qua lifie par son repas.

English: A good wife is known by the soup she prepares.

Meaning: A good person is known by her good deeds.

Biblical parallel: *1 Samuel 25:3 "Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail; and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doing; and he was the house of Caleb."*

69. Omulimi mubi akaghaya eyisuka.

Swahili: Asiye jua kulima hulaumu jembe.

French: Celui qui ne sait pas piocher s'en prend a la houe.

worker always blames his tools.

have excuses of why she did not do.

English: Abad

Meaning: A lazy person always

Biblical parallel: *Matthew 25:26 "But his lord answered and said to him, you wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed."*

70. Omunagha owaka thulika akatumba, syaneghena.

Swahili: Nyungu ikivunjika ikipika haiteti ubishi sababu huvunjika ikifanya kazi.

French: Quand le pot se casse a la cuisine, il n'ya pas des discussions comme c'est arrive en plein travail.

English: A pot that breaks when it is cooking cannot bring a quarrel at home.

Meaning: A person gets honored when he losses in the line of duty.

Biblical parallel: *Leviticus 6:28 "But the earthen vessels wherein it is sodden shall be broken: and if be sodden in a brazen pot, it shall be both scoured, and rinsed in water."*

71. Omusinga ahithohire anga na kuhumba.

Swahili: Mfalme ni kama nyundo ana uzito wake.

French: Un roi c'est comme un marteau, il pese lourd.

English: A king is like a hammer he has his weight.

Meaning: We should respect those with authority over us in the society.

Biblical parallel: *Esther 7:6 “And Esther said, the adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.”*

72. Omusule atalina kwa akahika oko Iyeru enyerire.

Swahili: Ndege asipokufa atafikia ndizi iliyo Iva.

French: Avant de mourir l’oiseau atteindra la banane.

English: If a weaverbird does not die it will surely get a ripe banana.

Meaning: There is still hope for those that are living.

Biblical parallel: *Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the; LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and hope.”*

73. Omuthi we bimatha, akasagha ekiwe kikathulwa.

Swahili: Mwenye kuosha vidonda vyake vikioshwa hupiga mayowe.

French: celui qui soigne les plaies d’autrui, se plaint quand on soigne les siennes

English: He who that wash others wounds, when his is washed he wails.

Meaning: No man is a highland.

Biblical parallel: *Job 5:18 “For He bruises, but he binds; He wounds, bjt his hands make whole.”*

74. Omuthima nga kathale akasima ekyanzire.

Swahili: Roho ni kama soko hununua ipendacho.

French: Le Coeur est comme le marche, il se paie comme il veut.

English: The heart is like a market it buys what it desires.

Meaning: One makes his decisions on his wishes and desires of his heart.

Biblical parallel: *Job 23:13 “But is unique, and who can make him change? And whatever his soul desires, that he does.”*

75. Omwana akigha mighendere yatha that wiwe akamukwama.

Swahili: utajua mwenendowa baba yako ukimfuata

French: Tusaura la conduite de ton pere en le suivant.

English: You learn how your father walks by imitating him/walk with him.

Meaning: The way you bring up your child is the way he follows during adulthood.

Biblical parallel: *Deuteronomy 31:13 “and the children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess.”*

76. Omwigho niwa uyuwathemawo, siwa uyu wa banawu.

Swahili: Mwenye fimbo ni Yule aliyeikata porini.

French: Le maitre du baton, est celui qui l’a coupe dans la foret.

English: The owner of the stick is the one that cut it from the jungle.

Meaning: You posses something that you have legally acquired.

Biblical parallel: *Exodus 22:15 “But if its owner was with it, he shall not make it good; if it was hired, it came for its hire.*

77. Omwirima ni munene kukakya.

Swahili: Giza ikiwa nyingi jua kuna kucha.

French: Trop de tenebres, sachez que le jour va apparaitre.

English: It’s dark before dawn.

Meaning: One endures suffering before he enjoys success.

Biblical parallel: *Job 3:9 “May the stars of its morning be dark; may it look for light, but have none, and not see the dawning of the day;”*

78. Owa oko muku yukahamba ahakabeha.

Swahili: Mwenye maiti ndiye ushika palipo na uvundo.

French: C’est le proprietaire du cadavre qui touché la partie qui pue.

English: It is the owner of the dead body who touches where it smells.

Meaning: This means that we should take full responsibility with whatever that happens in our life.

Biblical parallel: *Exodus: 21:36* "The owner of the pit shall make it good; he shall give money to their owner, but the dead beast shall be his."

79. Owabakali bangi akigha eritheba.

Swahili: Ukioa bibi wengi utajifunza uongo.

French: Si tu te maries avec plusieurs femmes, tu apprendras à mentir.

English: If you marry many wives you learn how to lie

Meaning: You cannot be honest to others if you are not honest to yourself.

Biblical parallel: *1 Peter 3:1* Likewise you wives, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by conduct of their wives.

80. Oyoikere nemirimu anasiebya yi kalya.

Swahili: Mwenye kutembea na mizimu hujua ni nini mizimu hula.

French: Celui qui marche avec les demons connait leurs nourritures.

English: Better a devil you know than an angel you do not know about.

Meaning: If you are familiar to something then you know it much better.

Biblical parallel: *Genesis 21:26* "And Abimelech said I do not know who has done this thing, you did not tell me, nor had I heard of it until today."

81. Oyotheho syawirwa muthi.

Swahili: Asiyekuwepo ahangukiwi na mti.

qui est absent, l'arbre tombe sur lui.

English: He who is absent can get fallen by a tree.

you are away then you avoid unnecessary attention.

Biblical parallel: *Genesis 31:49* "Also Mizpah, because he said, may the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from another."

French: Celui

Meaning: If

Biblical parallel:

82. Oyu bathongire ahinga omuhamba syahwako matsitsi.

Swahili: Asengenywaye ni kama kisu huwa na uchafu.

French: La personne mal dite reste sale comme un couteau.

English: A person that is back bited is like a dirty knife.

Meaning: A rumormonger spoils its reputation as well as other people names.

Biblical parallel: *Romans 1:30* "Backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents."

83. Oyu ka lengesaya yu wananga terekererya.

jaribu huboresha

French: L'exercice regulier engendrel'amelioration.

English: Practicing perfectly makes perfect.

Meaning: The more we are used at something the more we gain experience and understanding.

Biblical parallel: *Like 6:40:* A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

Swahili: Kujaribu

84. Oyuhighire enzoghu syausa mabwe okobinyonyi.

Swahili: Mwindanda ndovu hawezi akasimama kumtupia ndege mawe.

French: Le chasseur de l'elephant ne peut pas s'arreter, pour jeter de pierres sur un oiseau.

English: He who that traps an elephant cannot draw stones to a bird.

Meaning: An ambitious person aspires to fulfill his or her dreams.

Biblical parallel: *1 Thessalonians 4:11* "that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you."

85. Oyukaghana erihabulwa nimujinga.

Swahili: Asiyeshauriwa hupoteza hekima.

French: Celui qui n'accepte pas les conseils perd la sagesse.

English: He who that hates advices losses understanding.

Meaning: It is good to acquire wisdom so that to gain knowledge and understanding.

Biblical parallel: *Proverbs 20:18 "Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war."*

86. Oyukakukwama nisya omwokiwiwa musima bukakya.

Swahili: Ukishindikizwana mtu usiku mshukuru mchana.

French: Celui qui t'accompagne la nuit, remercie-lui le jour.

English: If you are escorted by someone at night you thank him in the morning.

Meaning: The one who assist you during a difficult moment, thank him when you are in good situation.

Biblical parallel: *Luke 17:16 "And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks. And he was a Samaritan."*

87. Oyukalhwira obukuwe akakuhika erihembe.

Swahili: Ngombe akipigana kwa baba mkwe huvunjika pembe.

French: Quand le boeuf se bat à la belle famille il se casse les cornes.

English: A cow that fights at the in-laws breaks its horns.

Meaning: If you fight at your in-laws then you lose respect.

Biblical parallel: *Proverbs 15:14 "a wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit."*

88. Oyukalwa ekuhimu syaghaya mwesi.

Swahili: Aliye fufuka akipata ulemavu husema Mungu amenitendea.

French: Une personne ressuscite remercie Dieu meme devenu infirme.

English: A person who has cheated death him thanks God, even when he is disable.

Meaning: When you have experience bigger challenges it makes you even stronger than ever.

Biblical parallel: *1 Peter 5:9 "Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."*

89. Oyukandi kujowa akathonga mama waghuhwira.

Swahili: Mchokozi humtharau mama yako ukiwepo.

French: Le taquin, attaque ta mere devant ta presence.

English: The one that wants to hurt you slanders your mother as you listen.

Meaning: A quarrelsome man has no respect for any one.

Biblical parallel: *Psalms 41:7 "All who hate me whisper together against me; against me they devise my hurt."*

90. Oyulemirwe na bana sya ngathoka eriba lekya.

Swahili: Watoto wakikushinda huwezi ukawaamua kwa vita.

French: Quand on n'a pas reussi avec les enfants vous ne pouvez pas les separer Durant le conflit.

English: If you fail to correct your children you cannot separate them when fighting.

Meaning: If you do not correct a bad habit while young you cannot do so when old.

Biblical parallel: *Proverbs 23:13 "Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die."*

91. Oyutha mubuthire athi mwimuhakaye eribwe.

Swahili: Asiye na mtoto mbebeshe jiwe.

French: Celui qui n'a pas denfant, charge-lui la pierre.

English: If you are not a parent you cannot assume others people responsibility.

Meaning: Responsibility comes with parentage.

Biblical parallel: *Isiah 22:21* “I will clothe him with your robe and strengthen him with your belt; I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.”

92. Oyuwalye mbwa abya mwiguma, mwa hemulha ekyihanda.

Swahili: Mwenye kuharibu ni mmoja wenye kulaumiwa ni wengi.

French: Une personne commet une faute, mais on condamne toute la société.

English: He that eats a dog is one but the whole clan is blamed.

Meaning: One rotten tomato spoils the rest.

Biblical parallel: *Galatians 2:11* “But when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed.”

93. Sigha wamuchinda isamuhambireko.

Swahili: Mwanaumemdogo hudharauliwa akiwabupande mwingine wa mto.

French: Un homme de courte taille, paraît trop petit de l’autre côté de la rivière.

English: small man is looked down upon when he is on the other side of the river.

Meaning: We cannot appreciate a person that we do not recognize.

Biblical parallel: *Psalms 14:2 Exodus 14:24* “Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and he troubled the army of the Egyptians.”

94. Sihali mutheke oyuwangaghulha obuthuku ombwa lhabire.

Swahili: Hakuna tajiri anaye weza kununua wakati.

French: Aucun riche, ne peut pas acheter le temps passé.

English: There is no rich man that can buy his past.

Meaning: Time wasted can never be recovered.

Biblical parallel: *Revelation 9:12* “One woe is past. Behold still, two more woes are coming after these things.”

95. Siwa ngitha ukahingha, ukathendilhuha.

Kiswahili: Huwezakupata nyamaporini bila kuchoka.

French: On ne peut pas trouver, un gibier dans le forêt sans se fatiguer.

English: You cannot get meat in the forest without getting tired.

Meaning: Hard work pays.

Biblical parallel: *Ecclesiastes 5:18* “Here is what I have seen: it is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage.”

96. Syabulha baghara ghara. **Swahili:** Tajiri uhowa mchana

French: Une personne riche dote pendant le jour.

English: A

rich person gives his dowry during the day.

Meaning: It means that, a person with wealth is also a public figure, because he always does publically with confidence.

Biblical Parallel: *Ruth*

4:6 “And the near kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: take thou my right of redemption on thee; for I cannot redeem it.

Ruth 4:7 Now this was the custom in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning exchanging, to confirm all things: a man drew off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbor; and this was the manner of attestation in Israel. So the near kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy”

97. Uwatakunya ebinywe byaghu uthe wa bugha.

Swahili: Esabu meno yako na ulimi kabla uongee.

French: Compte tes dents avec ta langue avant de parler.

English: Think before you talk.

Meaning: You should be careful of what you speak before others.

Biblical parallel: *James 3:8 "But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."*

98. Wamalya embwa, ulya enene.

Swahili: Ukimla mbwa chagua aliyenona.

French: Si tu manges un chien choisi les plus gras.

English: If you eat a dog pick a fat one.

Meaning: We should not let anything to chance whenever there is an opportunity.

Biblical parallel: *27:7 Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.*

99. Wamathibitha oko mulhume mughenzi wawu iwasighamu, amani awangaku subulya.

Swahili: Ukimkimbiza mwanaume mwenzako pia kuwa tayari kujirudisha mwenyewe.

French: Quand tu chasses, un homme comme toi, prepare toi, de retourner seul.

English: If you chase a fellow man spare the energy to bring you back.

Meaning: In confronting your enemy you may either win or lose.

Biblical parallel: *Leviticus 26:7 "you will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you."*

100. Wangi nahisya enyumba baitu siwa ngabisa omuki.

Swahili: Unaweza kuichoma nyumba lakini huwezi kuuficha moshi.

French: Tu peux bruler la maison, mais tu ne peux pas cacher la fumee.

English: You can burn a house but you cannot hide smoke.

Meaning: There can be no secret between people.

Biblical parallel: *Deutronomy 27:15 "Cursed is the one who makes any carved or molded image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen."*

SUMMARY

The Nande are mainly Bantu speaking ethnic group, they speak Nande language. They are mainly found in both in Uganda and the Democratic republic of Congo. Their estimate population in Congo is 7.5 million while in Uganda is about 1.5 million. Their origin is not all that clear as a range of traditions contradicts one another. The Nande attribute great concern to marriage as a social practice, to some extent they practiced polygamy. Regarding divorce it was uncommon for the Nande to separate and any misunderstanding was a concern of the society. The Nande cultivate Cassava, beans, potatoes, Irish potatoes among many more, their staple food include Ugali and Fish, and they also practiced trade. They believed in the concepts such as Monotheism, Vitalisme, spirits, Ancestorsworship, witchcraft and sorcery. On religion the Nande are Christians since they practice Christianity as their faith, their primary religion is Roman catholicism to Protestants believer's followers. The Nande are mainly lead by a king as, he is the one with the highest rank within their political organization mainly Ruwenzururu kingdom headed by King Charles numbere.

CONCLUSION

This research will make it possible for people to get more knowledge on proverbs that are mainly translated into local languages and facilitate easy communication. This will eliminate language barriers as locals are able to

read the proverbs in their own language which they understand better .This will also avail the written information to any person regardless of their residence, local language and at an affordable price for all. It also seeks to expand the writer's ability to be familiar with several local languages and official languages such as French and English. Through exposure to more local languages one gets familiar with a flavor of local cultural practices and believers whereby they get knowledge wisdom and understanding that is very much important within the African societal setting.

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APPENDIX

A RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR THE COLLECTION OF 100 NANDE (D R CONGO) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

By ALIMAS KALUTA

INTRODUCTION

Location

The Nanda or Konjo are a Bantu speaking ethnic group, they speak Nande language. They live in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Uganda. In Congo they occupy the territory of North Kivu mainly in areas of Lubero, Beni and Butembo, while in Uganda they are referred to as Konzo, and occupy mainly the Ruwenzuru kingdom. Their kingdom extends through four districts in Uganda mainly Kasese, Bundibugyo, Fortportal, Kabarole and Toroko. They are also known as (*Oru*) *Ndandi* and *Yira*, in Congo. Their population in Congo is estimated to be 7.5million while in Uganda they are about 1.5million.their king is known as King Charles Mumbere.

The Nande of Congo and the Konjo people of Uganda are a single ethnic group, called *Yira* (*Bayira*). They trace their origins to the Ruwenzori Mountains between the two countries. Their languages are close enough to be considered divergent dialects. Nande has a number of dialects of its own: Nande proper, Kumbule, Mate, Tangi, Sanza, Shu, Songola (*Songoora*, Nyangala), Swaga / Kira (in Nande, all of these are prefixed with *eki-*). Shu is a nother language in the Nande community (*Ekishukaali*) formerly spoken by women (*Avashukaali*) may be was a specific reference to a kind secret jargon into which the girls and the boys were initiated, Some Nande of Congo have a patron-vassel relationship with the Efe Pygmies.

ETHNOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF NANDE PEOPLE IN THE D. R. CONGO



Myth of Origin

The Nande are noted to be short in their physical outlook though they are continually losing their initial structure due to inter-marriages with other people. The Ganda believe that Mount Ruwenzori the famous Mountains of the moon belong to them and they live on its foot hills ensuring its adequate protection. The mountain which was originally called Rwenzururu in Konjo language was changed to the current term by the European explorer Henry Morton Stanley after failing to pronounce the local name. The origin of the Konzo is not all that clear as a range of traditions contradict one another. One of the traditions assert that the Nande are indigenous to the area where they are living today and believe that their ancestors emerged from one of the caves in Mount Ruwenzori and then produced the entire descendants.

Another tradition of the Nande origin asserts that transferred from the place near Lake Victoria formerly Nalubaale. The art works at Kasubi heritage site of Buganda Kingdom show that two clans escaped from the Buganda region and headed to the Ruwenzori Mountains forming the community of the Konzo. This tradition mentions that the Konzo fled following a tough clash with the Ganda after they had made a clay boat for the Kabaka but unfortunately it broke while on water leaving many people dead.

Culture

Regarding the marriage, the Nande attributed great concern to this social practice. The more women that were possessed by a man, the more respect he had in society as long as he catered for them which shows that the Nande were polygamous people. The woman was not respected until she produced Children. The spouses were booked early enough by the boy's family and the booking would be made when the boy undergone an initiation ceremony of adult hood. The father had the Authority to choose the husband of his daughter who had no choice at all and it was not strange for old men to marry young girls.



Dancing ceremony

The marriage was not socially recognized until the bride wealth has been paid. The bride wealth included 12 goats, a digging stick and a hoe, animal skin locally known as Omukagha and local brew (Tonto). Regarding divorce, it was not common for the Nande to separate and any misunderstanding was a concern of the society. The elders in the community including the relatives gave considerable attention and teaching about family to the newly introduced couples. The event of divorce will then be reached by elders, brothers and sisters. Following divorce, the man was meant to give some property to the girl's family to as symbol of separation and these were called *Engomoro*. They included a goat, a stool and a bark cloth piece. The girl's family would then bring back the bride wealth and if they were not able, they would wait until she remarries and then they get the property to

pay. The common causes of divorce included if the woman committed adultery, witchery, impotence, and intolerable behavior, dangerous diseases like leprosy & epilepsy and barrenness.



Marriage ceremony

Regarding giving births, the Konzo would marry for the sake of producing children and expand the family. If the woman delayed to conceive, certain herbs were administered and if she failed completely, divorce would be named. During the woman's labor, the husband would keep outside waiting for the response while the woman would keep inside the house along with other elderly women, friends and relatives. After birth, the relatives of the woman would organize food both cooked and uncooked the relatives of the man and goat was slaughtered and the section of it would be taken to the woman's parents. This was locally referred to as *Orekukundulha Omulemba*. If the twins were born and one of them died, the mother was not meant to cry and if it happened during the sowing season, the woman would plant in the upper side of the house to prevent poor yields. The twin parents were not supposed to quarrel when they were still breast feeding. If the twins were fighting, you were not supposed to stop or separate them they would turn against you.



Circumcision ceremony

Two samples of Nande Proverbs

1. Esiwambirako amathwe uwe mbene ukandisya engwe.

Swahili: Usiniweke maskio ya mbuzi niliwe na chui.

French: Ne mettez pas les Oreilles dela chevre sur moi, de crainte d'etre mange par le leopard.

English: Do not put ears of a goat on me to be eaten by a leopard.

Meaning: Do not bear false witness against me and make me guilty while am innocent.

Biblical parallel: Exodus23:7 "*Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.*"

2. Embwa yikahinghira awayo,na wa mukama wayu.

Swahili: Mbwa hutafutia meno yake na yamwenyewe.

French: Le chien chasse acause de ses dents, et les dents de son maitre.

English: A dog hunts for its teeth and that of its owner.

Meaning: A good servant's works for himself and for her masters welfare.

Biblical parallel: Luke19:1 *“And he said to him, well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.”*

Religion

The Nande people believed in concept such as monotheism, animism, vitalisme, spirit, ancestor worship, witch craft and sorcery. They mainly believed in this before the coming of missionaries. They believed that the ancestral spirit could bring good or bad luck in the community such as getting a prosperous generation, having good harvests for the farmers and also good luck for fishermen also it can bring a curse in the community like death, drought and famine. When the missionaries came the Nande people became Christian and believed in the existence of one God. Their primary religion practice is Roman Catholicism the world's largest Christian church and protestant believers.

Economy

The Nande mainly cultivate cassava, beans, sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes .Their Staple Foods include Ugali which comes from cassava roots, cassava leaves (*sombe*) and they also eat fish, since they also practice fishing as an economic activity. The Nande excelled early on as traders of salt and as diligent cultivators – even after the colonial authorities intruded with new cash crops, such as coffee and tea, and non-indigenous variations of grains and vegetables. Frequently dodging and eluding state-imposed restrictions on trade and exports, Nande traders ventured beyond their traditional territory as early as in the 1920s to connect with markets in Goma, Kisangani and Kinshasa as well as eastwards into Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya.

WRITING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this research are:

1. To collect 100 proverbs and wise sayings from the Nande ethnic group in D R Congo.
2. To translate these proverbs and wise sayings into English, Kiswahili and French.
3. To find biblical parallels which explain and support proverbs.
4. To find visual materials that further explains and illustrate the proverbs.

JUSTIFICATION

To help people enrich their communication skills, by using Nande proverbs and wise sayings more frequently and to help them value their origin.

METHODOLOGY

The writer will interview Nande elders from North Kivu in the Congo and the Democratic of Congo and other people with good understanding of the proverbs and wise sayings. He will record them for translation into Kiswahili, English and French and produce ten booklets.

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BUDGET

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Data gathering and processing | \$ 180 |
| Typing and printing | \$ 100 |
| Binding | \$ 70 |
| Transport | \$ 100 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>\$ 50</u> |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>\$ 500</u> |