

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



By

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to God Almighty for enabling me to complete this work, all glory and honor to Him.

I would like to dedicate this work to my parentsmy brothers and sisters. May God bless you and enlarge all your territories. And to all African working group and readers, May GOD bless you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I sincerely take the opportunity to acknowledge the people who have greatly contributed to make the work a success, without their contributions and help, I could not have been able to complete this work.

First of all, I want to give all glory and honor to mighty God who has given me strength and has been protecting me always. He has been faithful for providing what I needed to complete this work. I would like to appreciate my lovely Friend Elias Bushiri Elie for telling me about African proverbs working group. I thank also all members of the executive committee of APWG, Fr. Joseph Healey, Cephas and Margaret for encouraging me to write about proverbs.

I acknowledge the hard-work of my elder brother Dunia Freza for helping me in the collecting of Hemba proverbs. If it weren't for your hard-work, I couldn't have completed this work. Thank you very much!!!

INTRODUCTION

LOCATION

The Hemba language belongs to a group of related languages spoken by people in a belt that runs from southern Kasai to northeastern Zambia. Other peoples speaking related languages include the Luba of Kasai and Shaba, the Kanyok, Songye, Kaonde, Sanga, Bemba and the people of Kazembe. Today the Hemba people live in the north of Zambia, and their language is understood throughout Zambia. Some also live in Tanzania. They live west of Lake Tanganyika and Lake Mweru in the DRC, and their villages are found several hundred miles up the Lualaba River. The Hemba language has a 67% lexical similarity with the Bangubangu dialect.

ETHNOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF HEMBA PEOPLE IN THE D.R CONGO



HISTORY

The Hemba people migrated eastward to the Lualaba valley from the Luba Empire, probably sometime after 1600. They traded salt for iron hoes made in the Luba heartland, and wore raphia cloth that came by way of the Luba from the Songye people further to the west. At the time of the eastward expansion of the Luba Kingdom under King Ilunga Sungu around 1800, Hemba people were living in a territory bounded by the Lukuga River in the north, the Luvua River in the south and the Lualaba River to the west. The lower Lukuga and the Lualaba provided natural lines of communication, and the river valleys were densely populated.

CULTURE

The Hemba people live in villages, recognizing chiefs as their political leaders. A chief will be the head of an extended family of landowners, inheriting his title through the maternal line. Hemba people may also belong to secret societies such as the Bukazanzi for men and Bukibilo for women. The So'o secret society is guarded by the beautifully carved mask of a chimpanzee, which is used in rituals that relate to the ancestral spirits. These societies serve to offset the power of the chief.

Although the Luba people failed to keep the southern Hemba in their kingdom they did have considerable cultural influence. Art forms, including wooden sculptures representing ancestors,

are similar in style to Luba sculptures. The Hemba religion recognizes a creator god and a separate supreme being. The Hemba make sacrifices and present offerings at the shrines of ancestors. When social harmony has been upset, religious leaders may demand offerings to the specific ancestors that have become displeased and are causing the trouble. Each clan owns a kabeja, a statuette with one body and two faces, male and female, on one neck. Sacrifices are made to the kabeja, which will convey them to the spirits. A receptacle on the top of the kabeja is used to receive magic ingredients. A kabeja is dangerous to handle.

Proverbs are used likely to advise people, warning, teaching and so on...they also use proverbs during birth ceremony, funeral process, wedding and when paying dowry.



A Hemba family



A Wedding ceremony is on going

Two examples of Hemba proverbs

- 1. Hemba:** Kigombela mwinobe nabebe chakugu mbelanga.
Swahili: Usicheke mtu kama yuko kwenye shida.
French: Ne ris pas a une personne en detresse.
English: Do not laugh at a person when he is in trouble, you never know what will happen to you in future.
Meaning: It warns you to not be at the frontline to criticize others or laugh at them when they are in a critical moment of life such as; sickness, hunger, unemployment...it can happen to any living human being and argue to be at frontline to help them, because by doing so you will be blessed.
- 2. Hemba:** Isi ya muluunde imulyanga muluunde.
Swahili: Mbuvu ula maali ilipo fungwa
French: La chèvre mange là où elle est attachée.
English: A goat eats where it is tied.
Meaning: It teaches you to be happy and satisfied with what you are getting as income or fruits of your labor, stop envying what is not yours and give to God what belongs to Him. For what God gives you is yours.



The Hamba people

POLITICAL STRUCTURE

During Ilunga Sungu's rule the southern Hamba became tributaries to the Luba. They were headed by a "fire king", who symbolically represented the Luba king. The Hamba fire kingdom cut its links to the Luba Empire after Ilunga Sungu died. His successor, Kumwimbe Ngombe, had to fight several campaigns to recover the eastern territories. Kumwimbe created a client state that united the Hamba villages of the Lukushi River valley, and that played an important role in preserving Luba dominance over other small states in the region. Later the Hamba regained their independence, but were subject to attacks by Arab slave traders in the later part of the nineteenth century, and then to colonization by the Belgians. The Hamba people live in villages, recognizing chiefs as their political leaders. A chief will be the head of an extended family of landowners, inheriting his title through the maternal line. Hamba people may also belong to secret societies such as the Bukazanzi for men and Bukibilo for women. The So'o secret society is guarded by the beautifully carved mask of a chimpanzee, which is used in rituals that relate to the ancestral spirits. These societies serve to offset the power of the chief. Although the Luba people failed to keep the southern Hamba in their kingdom they did have considerable cultural influence. Art forms, including wooden sculptures representing ancestors, are similar in style to Luba sculptures.

RELIGION

The Hamba religion recognizes a creator god and a separate supreme being. The Hamba make sacrifices and present offerings at the shrines of ancestors. When social harmony has been upset, religious leaders may demand offerings to the specific ancestors that have become displeased and are causing the trouble. Each clan owns a kabeja, a statuette with one body and two faces, male and female, on one neck. Sacrifices are made to the kabeja, which will convey them to the spirits. A receptacle on the top of the kabeja is used to receive magic ingredients. A kabeja is dangerous to handle.

ECONOMY AND ARTS

The villagers live by subsistence agriculture, growing manioc, maize, peanuts, and yams. They also hunt and fish to a small extent to supplement their diet. Cash is obtained through panning alluvial copper from the streams. Many Hema men are also employed as miners in the copper belt.

The Hema artistic tradition is well known. Subjects include ancestral figures, spirits, human faces and ceremonial masks. By doing these kind of masks, it encourages them to use proverbs every day and when offering and praying to their ancestors. They also use proverbs during birth ceremony, dowry ceremony and wedding activities.

1

2

3

4



Hema masks

1. Mask from the Bakali-Kwenge region
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3. Male figure, Niembo chiefdom, late 19th to early 20th century
4. Male figure, Niembo chiefdom, late 19th to early 20th century

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A Collection of 100 Hemba Proverbs and Wise Sayings

1. Abato musigwi bimulwi.	
<i>English: Avoid the fight which is not yours</i>	<i>1</i>
2. Abwa uyeba nzovu koongu wikolagosha.	
<i>English: Bad thinking is sin</i>	<i>1</i>
3. Anunu kuchola kumakuange yeshenye mvuyi.	
<i>English: Don't say anything wrong to a person before tomorrow comes</i>	<i>1</i>
4. Anunu muzimina ngee mushenda nvio.	
<i>English: The thief he who caught with the object in hand</i>	<i>1</i>
5. Azi ateele bibi macho gali ubaliba chaulyo.	
<i>English: Eyes and ears have been always on the person who does wrong</i>	<i>1</i>
6. Baa lyabulwe ata timbigiti ndalitubulwa.	
<i>English: A debt must be paid.</i>	<i>2</i>
7. Bega bambana mwanao mwazi nduga mushula bakolyepe.	
<i>English: Accept your fault and you'll be okay</i>	<i>2</i>
8. Bisamba lwindi kandologwa isambi nage ibala zobe.	
<i>English: A good listener is appreciated in the group</i>	<i>2</i>
9. Boga bwami nguvinya mii.	
<i>English: Do not have a light soul</i>	<i>2</i>
10. Bugali boanena mu supu.	
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<i>English: Real friendship is that for both sides</i>	<i>3</i>

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<i>English: He who you do believe that is, he is not him.....</i>	21
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<i>English: You cannot forget a person who did wrong unto you.....</i>	21
93. Ulya sobi na mulilo ndaubuya lya busungu.	
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94. Uma wa mugimba, wali uyu misha.	
<i>English: Do not provoke a humble person.....</i>	22
95. Uwoya lula ulya lu.	
<i>English: Friends must respect friendship.....</i>	22
96. Vuluka tambwe sitakibwi?	
<i>English: When you think about him, he arrives.....</i>	22
97. Wakibanja nowambye mokolo noni.	
<i>English: A baldness person and he with white hair who is the elder one?</i>	23
98. Wamona kaya wataka kagenga.	
<i>English: If you get something new do not despise the old one.....</i>	23
99. Wapeho ekwitwa kokaya.	
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A COLLECTION OF 100 HEMBA (D R CONGO) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

1. Abato musigwi bimulwi.

Swahili: Epuka ugomvi usiokuwa wako.

French: Evite le combat qui n'est pas le tien.

English: Avoid the fight which is not yours.

Meaning: Be a good referee don't fight someone else's war.

Biblical Parallel: *John 5:30 "I can have myself do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is righteous; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."*

2. Abwa uyeba nzovu koongu wikolagosha.

Swahili: Mawazo mabaya ni dhambi.

French: Mal pense c'est du péché.

English: Bad thoughts are a sin.

Meaning: When you think to do something which can hurt someone, you sin before doing it.

Biblical Parallel: *Luke 6:37 "And judge not, and ye shall not be judged: and condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: release, and ye shall be released"*

3. Anunu kuchola kumakuange yeshenye mvuyi.

Swahili: Usiseme neno mbaya kwa mtu kama kesho haijafika.

French: Ne parle pas du mal à une personne avant que le demain arrive.

English: Don't say anything wrong to a person before tomorrow comes.

Meaning: In African culture when you say something hurtful to someone and it comes to happen to that person days after, you are in trouble. You better watch your tongue.

Biblical Parallel: *Rom 3:13 "Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit: The poison of asps is under their lips"*

4. Anunu muzimina ngee mushenda nvio.

Swahili: Mwizi ni ule aliyeshikwa na kitu kwenye mkono.

French: Le voleur est celui qu'on a attrapé avec l'objet en main.

English: The thief is he who was caught with the object in hand.

Meaning: It warns by not jumping on innocent people and say that they are the once who took your things without tangible proof.

Biblical Parallel: *Luke 6:37 "And judge not, and ye shall not be judged: and condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: release, and ye shall be released"*

5. Azi ateele bibi macho gali ubaliba chaulyo.

Swahili: Macho na masikio kila wakati huwa kwa mtu atendaye mabaya.

French: Les yeux et les oreilles ont été toujours à celui qui fait le mal.

English: Eyes and ears have been always on the person who does wrong.

Meaning: Avoid to do disrespect acts because people take attention to you every time and nobody will talk good about you.

Biblical Parallel: *Psalms 25:8, 9 “Good and upright is Jehovah: Therefore will he instruct sinners in the way. The meek will he guide in justice; And the meek will he teach his way.”*

6. **Baa lyabulwe ata timbigiti ndalitubulwa.**

Swahili: Kopa deni lipa deni.

French: Une dette empruntée, doit être payée.

English: Borrow a debt pay a debt.

Meaning: When you are in owe someone his debt, it advisable for you to pay in order to avoid disputes.

Biblical Parallel: *Exodus 21:22 “And if men strive together, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart, and yet no harm follow; he shall be surely fined, according as the woman’s husband shall lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.”*

7. **Bega bambana mwanao mwazi nduga mushula bakolyepe.**

Swahili: Kubali kosa, utapona.

French: Accepte la faute et tu seras bien.

English: Accept your fault and you’ll be healed.

Meaning: Sin kills and truth will set you free. Sometimes people are found guilty when trying to hide the truth.

Biblical Parallel: *Leviticus 26:40 “And they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, in their trespass which they trespassed against me, and also that, because they walked contrary unto me,”*

8. **Bisamba lwindi kandologwa isambi nage ibala zobe.**

Swahili: Msikilizaji mzuri hukubalika katika kikundi.

French: Une personne silencieuse est appréciée dans le groupe.

English: A good listener is appreciated in the group.

Meaning: This proverb encourages you by saying that silence is wealth, wherever silence reigns, love and strength reigns too.

Biblical Parallel: *Luke 4:21 “And he began to say unto them, To-day hath this scripture been fulfilled in your ears.”*

9. **Boga bwami nguvinya mii.**

Swahili: Usiwe na moyo mwepesi.

French: N’accepte pas avoir une âme faible.

English: Do not have a light soul.

Meaning: It dangerous to have a light soul because you cannot sustain to any danger.

Biblical Parallel: *Hebrew 3:8 “Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, like as in the day of the trial in the wilderness”*

10. **Bugali boanena mu supu.**

Swahili: Uhonekana wakati wa mahitaji.

French: On le voit qu'on en a besoin.

English: It is seeing when in need.

Meaning: It means that there are some things which normally happen when people are in need of them. We learn about the true nature of a person when they are in trouble and need help. The way they behave towards people and situations.

Biblical Parallel: *Luke 10:42 "but one thing is needful: for Mary hath chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."*

11. **Bundu bisi bubanda batwa.**

Swahili: Urafiki mzuri ni ule wa pande zote mbili.

French: Une vraie amitié est celle de deux cotes.

English: Real friendship is that for both sides.

Meaning: Friendship is about two people or more, and for it to be strong, it must be from the bottom of the heart of both either friends.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew 26:50 "And Jesus said unto him, Friend, do that for which thou art come. Then they came and laid hands on Jesus, and took him."*

12. **Buta bwa muzero, ngilonda na mutu gilonda, bumweza ubilya.**

Swahili: Mazungumzo ya watu wawili wazima hayakosi suluhu.

French: La conversation entre deux adultes ne manque pas de solution.

English: A talk between two adult never lacks solution.

Meaning: The conversation between two matured men has never ended without a major conclusion.

Biblical Parallel: *Mark 9:4 "And there appeared unto them Elijah with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus."*

13. **Butufu ningungu.**

Swahili: Panapo mali, panaongezeka mali.

French: La richesse s'augmente là où il y a la richesse.

English: Wealth increases where it is.

Meaning: It is obviously rare for wealth to remain long time to a poor place, it uproots rapidly where it was before than anywhere else.

Biblical Parallel: *Matt 19:21 "Jesus said unto him, if thou wouldest be perfect, go, sell that which thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me."*

14. **Chomulyo mwa mwinobe taa bugo bwee.**

Swahili: Saidakwanza ili upate usaidizi pia.

French: Aider pour que tu sois aussi aider.

English: Help first for you to be helped too.

Meaning: Give and you shall receive more than what you give, do not be a good receiver but a humble giver. Be ready to help other people always. Others will want to help you in future.

Biblical Parallel: *2 Corinthians: 9:7 “Let each man do according as he hath purposed in his heart: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loved a cheerful giver.”*

15. **Gigibwa bwi unane mugulungu gilufu.**

Swahili: Sikiza unapokaywa.

French: Ecoute quand on te stop.

English: Listen when you are stopped.

Meaning: It's very thoughtful to listen when you are stopped to do something and blame yourself if you go ahead and things come wrong thereafter.

Biblical Parallel: *Genesis 42:21 “And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.”*

16. **Gile muga ndetugelijibwa.**

Swahili: Tenda wema nenda zako.

French: Fait du bien et vas t'en.

English: Do good and go.

Meaning: People do not appreciate a person while alive, even if you raise the dead nobody will talk about you by that time, but all good praises will come after you leave.

Biblical Parallel: *Ephesians 6:9 “And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, and forbear threatening: knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no respect of persons with him.”*

17. **Ibula bwii wan gee.**

Swahili: Rafiki mwema ujua hali ya mwengine.

French: Un bon ami est celui qui aime savoir la situation de l'autre.

English: A good friend is he who likes to know his friend's situation.

Meaning: The proverb shows you that you can be having several friends but a real one is known by its action at a time you are in good or both situation. Do good deeds and don't wait to be paid for it. Be selfless.

Biblical Parallel: *Zechariah 3:8 “Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou and thy fellows that sit before thee; for they are men that are a sign: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the Branch.”*

18. **Ikamugobe mwinibe nabebe umwaka kugobela.**

Swahili: Usifurahiye mateso ya mtu mwingine.

French: Ne sois pas joyeux de la défaite de la souffrance du quelqu'un.

English: Don't be happy to somebody's fall.

Meaning: What someone is going through is just a trial so don't be happy of it because you never know your tomorrow how it look like.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew 5:42 “Give to him that asked thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.”*

19. **Isi ya luunde imulya nga mulunde.**

Swahili: Mtu hula kwa jasho lake.

French: L'homme mange de sa sueur.

English: Man eats by his sweat.

Meaning: It is good to eat what belongs to you whatever small it is, it still protecting you and help you to fulfill your needs. Depend on your efforts and not on that of others.

Biblical Parallel: *Genesis 3:19 "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it was thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."*

20. **Itundu yatuka muzinda kyachama buto kyalocha na maala.**

Swahili: Malizia kesi, usiende na deni.

French: Termine ton procès, ne vas pas avec une dette.

English: Finish your case, don't go with debt.

Meaning: In each case it must be accomplished.

Biblical Parallel: *John 19:28 "After this Jesus, knowing that all things are now finished, that the scripture might be accomplished, said, I thirst."*

21. **Kigombela mwinobe nabebe chakugu mbelanga.**

Swahili: Usicheke mtu mwenye shida.

French: Ne se moquer pas à quelqu'un qui est dans le probleme.

English: Do not laugh at someone in trouble.

Meaning: This saying wants to warn you that, laughing to someone who is in trouble is not good because you don't know what could happen, you can one day find yourself in the same situation.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew 9:27 "And as Jesus passed by from thence, two blind men followed him, crying out, and saying, Have mercy on us, thou son of David."*

22. **Kulusanga na kulujuka.**

Swahili: Usikimbie, ulikianza mwenyewe.

French: Ne fuis pas, tu l'as commencé toi-seul.

English: Don't run away, you start it alone.

Meaning: It's not good to start the fight and you are not strong enough to fight. Some people have been the first to provoke others and when things come hard they start running away.

Biblical Parallel: *Jeremiah 50:44 "Behold, the enemy shall come up like a lion from the pride of the Jordan against the strong habitation: for I will suddenly make them run away from it; and whoso is chosen, him will I appoint over it: for who is like me? And who will appoint me a time? And who is the shepherd that can stand before me?"*

23. **Kusimuteba luwi uwile ilimunda mwa muteba.**

Swahili: Jaribu uone.

French: Oses-toi et tu verras.

English: Try and you'll see.

Meaning: People seems good to us when we do not provoke them, if you want to know what is in man, slip him.

Biblical Parallel:*John 21:12 "Jesus saith unto them, Come and break your fast. And none of the disciples durst inquire of him, who art thou? Knowing that it was the Lord."*

24. **Kwalela anamagulu asinama gulu amuketesha.**

Swahili: Tetea mtu mwenye akili.

French: On defend une personne intelligente.

English: Defend an intelligent person.

Meaning: There is victory when you help a strong person but if you go to a lazy one you will both lose.

Biblical Parallel:*2Corinthians 12:19 "Ye think all this time that we are excusing ourselves unto you. In the sight of God speak we in Christ. But all things, beloved, are for your edifying."*

25. **Kyobe kyobe kyakulomba kimuwe.**

Swahili: Chako ni chako, lakini cha kuomba huleta aibu.

French: Ce qui est à toi est à toi ; ce qui est à autrui n'est pas tien.

English: Yours is yours, but the borrowed brings shame.

Meaning: You can do anything you want with what is yours, contrary to what doesn't belong to you. So it's advisable to take a good care for your things and stop expecting for what is not yours.

Biblical Parallel:*Exodus: 20:17 "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."*

26. **Lele mwage nginje nante minobakwa majoho nasi ni tambwe.**

Swahili: Nilifikiri nina marafiki kumbe ni maadui bado.

French: je savais que j'ai des frères pourtant ce sont des ennemis.

English: I thought I have friends, but they are enemies still.

Meaning: It is a caution to prudence in relationships. Because our trust can be betrayed leading to great enemy, you better be careful with people you call brother, they can turn to be the really enemies.

Biblical Parallel: *Jeremiah: 20:4 "For thus said the LORD, Behold, I will make thee a terror to thyself, and to all thy friends: and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and thine eyes shall behold it: and I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive into Babylon, and shall slay them with the sword."*

27. **Liano nonkolo nokali.**

Swahili:Ni Baraka kula na jirani, badala ya kula na mpita njia.

French: C'est mieux de partager avec un voisin qu'un passant, car un jour il te viendra en aide.

English: It's a blessing to eat with a neighbour, instead of eating with a passer-by.

Meaning: We have to realize that we cannot just do away with things because we have had new ones. We should value established friendships.

Biblical parallel: *Proverbs 19:20 "Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future."*

28. Lonja bwela magolo kuwela ekatambola ticket Kanya kowela ekahetwa bu temwe.

Swahili: Usipo kaa pahali pamoja, usishangae ukiitwa kuwa shahidi mahakamani.

French: Lorsque tu n'es pas stable, ne sois pas surpris que tu sois témoin d'un événement au tribunal.

English: If you don't stay at one place, do not be surprised if you are called as a witness in court.

Meaning: Stability will put you out of problems you do not know, it's better to stay to your place when idle, going to people's doors without purpose is not good, because you may find yourself in trouble one day.

Biblical Parallel: *Leviticus: 13:28 "And if the bright spot stay in his place, and spread not in the skin, but it be somewhat dark; it is a rising of the burning, and the priest shall pronounce him clean: for it is an inflammation of the burning."*

29. Lowako lolalile nsimba alikobola busiko.

Swahili: Tajiri kila mara hubaki na kitu kidogo kama kumbukumbu ya ukumbusho.

French: Celui qui était riche ne manque jamais des souvenirs.

English: A rich person always remains with something small for remembrance.

Meaning: If you had ability or riches it will be known even without you talk about it. The behaviour and character explain a lot.

Biblical Parallel: *John: 2:22 "When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said."*

30. Lufu miindi ya mungini.

Swahili: Usicheke mtu anapokua na shida.

French: Ne se moquer pas à celui qui est en deuil, tu le seras aussi un jour.

English: Don't laugh at a person in hard situation.

Meaning: Do not laugh at somebody who is in hard situation, it can happen for you one day.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew 5:42 "Give to him that asked thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away."*

31. Lufu ndalutu famishibwa utu kilako.

Swahili: Usimfiche mweny uonevu.

French: On ne cache pas le burrot.

English: Do not hide the bully.

Meaning: It means that, with his wrong actions to other people, the bully never be protected, whenever he hit someone, take him to the policy.

Biblical Parallel: *Genesis 47:18 "And when that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, We will not hide from my lord, how that our money is*

all spent; and the herds of cattle are my lord's; there is naught left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands”

32. Luke Iwendo lukata Iwendo kibengile ni jejeje.

Swahili: Mwenye kula sana na mwenye kula kidogo, wote huchukuliwa kwamba wamekula.

French: Celui qui a consommé la grande part et celui de la petite, tous ont consommé.

English: The one who eats a lot and the one who eat less, all of them are considered to have eaten.

Meaning: The one who stole a chicken and the one who stole a cow, all are considered thieves and this is a sin. People should stop to condemn others for their wrong doing, because nobody is perfect among us.

Biblical Parallel: *Romans: 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*

33. Lundimbwe ulabulibwa utu ndubili.

Swahili: Mtu huuza chakula kama ana kingine.

French: On vend les aliments quant on a d'autres.

English: You sell food if you have more one.

Meaning: You cannot sell all what you have as food without keeping something for tomorrow. Have options.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew 13:12 “For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that which he hath.”*

34. Lyake nyenye luyenende.

Swahili: Heri kufa kuliko kuteseka.

French: Mieux vaut mourir que souffrir.

English: Better to die than suffer.

Meaning: Some people always think that sufferance is permanent and willing to die but the truth is that none of good or bad things is permanent in human beings life except the word of God.

Biblical Parallel: *Jonah 4:8 “And it came to pass, when the sun arose, that God prepared a sultry east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and requested for himself that he might die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.”*

35. Magumu gamutaonga hodi muyende.

Swahili: Saidia ila kwa mpango sio kwa upofu.

French: Aider mais pas aveuglement.

English: Help but not blindly.

Meaning: It's good to help but you must be careful because a person you help today can be your enemy tomorrow.

Biblical parallel: *Deuteronomy 22:1* “Thou shalt not see thy brother’s ox or his sheep go astray, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt surely bring them again unto thy brother.”

36. Maje gekujabukwa gaki muni, gaike mukingo gakotwala.

Swahili: Mto huvukwa wakati maji yako kwa magoti; kama yako shingoni huenda yakakubeba.

French: On traverse la rivière lorsque l’eau est aux genoux, si c’est déjà au cou ça va t’emporter.

English: A river is crossed when water is at your knees; if it’s at your neck it may carry you away.

Meaning: When issues are not complicated, handle them before they kill you. You need to be diligent and careful in what you do.

Biblical Parallel: *Ezekiel: 18:30* “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, said the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.”

37. Mbogo mulugulu bemufula, bwamba.

Swahili: Ni vema kutahadhari kuliko kupona.

French: Vaut mieux prévenir que guérir.

English: Prevention is better than cure.

Meaning: Caution is better enough than cure, do not wait until things went worse, and take action before damage.

Biblical Parallel: *Nehemiah 5:9* “Also I said, the thing that ye do is not good: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God, because of the reproach of the nations our enemies?”

38. Manjo mogomba ekokeba yaya.

Swahili: Mwanamuke asiye zaa ahitaji mlezi wa motto.

French: Une stérile n’a pas besoin d’un garde enfant.

English: A barren woman does not have a child care giver.

Meaning: The person who holds some heavy responsibility is that who needs someone else for help, however for someone who does not have responsibilities do not need a helper,

Biblical Parallel: *Genesis: 16:3* “And Sarai Abram’s wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.”

39. Mbosi giyobe giyobe kokotwa kikono.

Swahili: Unaweza kuowa ama kuzaa mtoto?

French: Peux-tu te marier ou metre au monde un enfant!

English: Can you get married or bear a child?

Meaning: Marriage is a sign of love and unity but it has challenges within, so as a responsible person you must accept and face those challenges until you defeat them.

Biblical Parallel: *Exodus: 18:23* “If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and This entire people shall also go to their place in peace.”

40. Mema gawanja ndagata baba aba.

Swahili: Matumaini hushinda shibe.

French: L'espoir est plus que se rassasier.

English: Expectation exceeds satisfaction.

Meaning: This proverb means that you cannot start a project without any money.

Biblical Parallel: *Proverbs 10:20 "The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver: The heart of the wicked is little worth."*

41. Meso ndogatutambwa mamba gamone mbili.

Swahili: Mpangilio mzuri huwezesha matumizi bora zaidi.

French: Une meilleure préparation est une bonne utilisation.

English: A good plan lead to a better usage.

Meaning: A long journey starts with one step, plan before doing anything else and you get to a better end.

Biblical Parallel: *Proverbs 12:20 "Deceit is in the heart of them that devise evil; But to the counsellors of peace is joy."*

42. Miketo bibele gomo kobota, gonge komukamba.

Swahili: Pesa iliyo kwa mikono yako ndiyo yako; pesa iliyo katika mikono ya mtu mwingine sio yako.

French: L'argent est votre lorsque vous avez ça en main, lorsque c'est dans les mains d'un autre ce n'est pas vôtre.

English: Money in your hand is what is yours; money in another person's hand is not yours.

Meaning: One has to rely and use what they have. Not to misuse what you have presently because you don't know what will happen tomorrow. A thing is what you hold in your hands

Biblical Parallel: *Mathew 6:34 "Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."*

43. Mlonda yenge eshima mbele ya makolo.

Swahili: Tajiri hawezi kumuheshimu maskini.

French: Un homme riche n'a pas du respect pour un pauvre.

English: A rich man can't respect a poor man.

Meaning: It's rare to see a poor man being respected by either his boss or a neighbour who's wealthier. He is always assumed to be of no value to the community.

Biblical Parallel: *Luke: 16:19: "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,"*

44. Mubije wekalele boboje egulu.

Swahili: Huwezi kuikata kamba inayo kushikilia kwa mti kabla ushuke chini.

French: Tu ne peux pas couper la corde qui te soutient lorsque tu n'es pas encore descendu de l'arbre.

English: You cannot cut the rope holding you on a tree before you alight.

Meaning: While still working on issues with people, do not mock those who still struggle to work with you because you can fail to achieve your goals successfully if you work alone without them.

Biblical parallel: *1 Corinthians 1:10* “I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment”

45. **Mugobe wakokwela ngolombe kase.**

Swahili: Mhukumiwa hana hatia, aliye mshtaki ametoroka.

French: Le provocateur fuit, tu attaques les innocents.

English: Prosecuted are innocent, the provocateur has fled.

Meaning: It argues people to be fair while prosecute or deliver their judgement, because if not they might be prosecuting innocent people which is unfair.

Biblical parallel: *1 Samuel 17:32* “And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”

46. **Mukaba ngwangee guvalibwanga utachobe gwali muguvalanga.**

Swahili: Mtu hupigania kilicho cha baba yake.

French: On se bat pour ce qui appartenait à son père.

English: Fight for what belong to his father.

Meaning: A man must fight for what belongs to his father and take care of it as the father did. It teaches that we should protect and preserve family wealth so that future generations also benefit from it. We should control wastefulness and invest further.

Bible parallel: *1 Timothy 5:17-18* “Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honour, especially those who labour in preaching and teaching. For the scriptures say, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and , “ The labourer deserves his wages.”

47. **Mukasi mukolo ekotolwa wekatala noshale nyobe.**

Swahili: Bi mkubwa hafukuzwi

French: Ne divorce pas la première femme.

English: Do not divorce the first wife.

Meaning: We have to realize that we cannot just throw away with things because we have had new ones. We should value established friendships. The old have wisdom which is needed by all.

Biblical Parallel: *Proverbs 19:20* “Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.”

48. **Mukasi waboyana yekoyanwa wi mutema.**

Swahili: Bibi wa rithi ni yule aliye katika mafikira yako.

French: La femme que tu vas hériter est celle que tu as dans ton cœur.

English: An inherited wife is one in your thoughts.

Meaning: This proverb wants to warn you about who should inherit when this occasion happens. Do not let anyone to decide for you because marriage is about love, so you have to live with someone you do love not anything else.

Biblical Parallel: *Mark: 14:64 “Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.”*

49. **Mukolo walombi ngekwe wembwa abengi.**

Swahili: Mtu mzima haombi, lakini akipewa hakatai.

French: Un adulte ne demande pas, mais lorsqu'on lui donne, il ne refuse jamais.

English: An elder person does not beg, but if given he does not refuse.

Meaning: Human values are dried up by begging. All those who live by depending on others, they could be called lazy-bones... However; it is advisable to give those who beg from you.

Biblical Parallel: *Luke: 6:30 “Give to every man that asked of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.”*

50. **Mulunda musoga wekumunwa amujebo.**

Swahili: Rafiki mzuri huonekana wakati wa shida.

French: On découvre un bon ami dans les difficultés.

English: A good friend is known when you are in problems.

Meaning: It's during troubled, difficulties time when friends are seen together to solution problem, not just during good times.

Biblical Parallel: *Judges: 5:31 “So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be as the sun when he gone forth in his might. And the land had rest forty years.”*

51. **Muntu wa bomi ubolishe jongi.**

Swahili: Mtu muongo alimfanya tembo aozee porini.

French: Le menteur a fait pourrir l'éléphant dans la forêt.

English: A liar made an elephant rot in the wild.

Meaning: A call to cultivate a culture of saying the truth. This proverb is used to combat the culture of telling lies which is a vice.

Biblical Parallel: *1Kings:17:24 “And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.”*

52. **Munywe gumo gogukaleke giyase giyagwana mase.**

Swahili: Kidole kimoja kikiumia vyote huwa na damu.

French: Si un seul doigt est blessé les autres seront salis par le sang.

English: If a one finger is cut all of them have blood

Meaning: Unity is strength. Team work, mutual support, solidarity and cooperation can result in bigger achievement.

Biblical Parallel: *Ecclesiastes 4:9 “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.”*

53. **Mupaka wabala kwenye bolonda.**

Swahili: Kwenye mpaka wa shamba urafiki haukubaliwi.

French: Il n'y a pas d'amitiés à la limite d'une parcelle.

English: On a farm boundary friendship is not allowed.

Meaning: For everything that brings a source of income to you, even a friend cannot be allowed to mess with it.

Biblical Parallel: James: 4:4: *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

54. Musau gwa nzige na mutunge.

Swahili: Unapotaka kumtembelea mtu, mbebee kitu.

French: Si tu veux visiter quelqu'un, il est bon de lui amener un cadeau.

English: If you want to visit someone, carry something for him.

Meaning: For you to get a wonderful reception from your host, you better prepare something for him, and you will be remembered even after you left.

Biblical Parallel: Genesis 21:1 *“And Jehovah visited Sarah as he had said, and Jehovah did unto Sarah as he had spoken.”*

55. Musenga kumu nyanyi kuma kosi uku mulongo kumulume uku bibalo.

Swahili: Mke wa rafiki si rafiki yako.

French: La femme de ton amie n'est pas ton amie.

English: Your friend's wife is not your friend.

Meaning: It's clear that once your friend divorces his wife, that woman will not continue to be in friendship with any of her husband's relatives including friends. And it's dangerous for you to be in friendship with your friend's wife.

Biblical Parallel: Romans: 13:9: *“For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”*

56. Mutaba mbonto bukala kifwake bwa tabika.

Swahili: Wema huleta madhara.

French: La bonté peut amener des problèmes.

English: Kindness can bring you problems.

Meaning: There are some people you should not do well to because they will turn against you. You better be very careful when helping people.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs: 23:1: *“When thou sit to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee”*

57. Mutembe ekotokelwa age.

Swahili: Ukiwa mgeni haufai kufanya chochote unachotaka.

French: lorsque tu es visiteur tu ne peux pas faire ce que tu veux.

English: When you are a guest you cannot do everything you like.

Meaning: There is always needed to be prudent in our actions when we are visitors in a place. Behave honourably in the presence of people, and they will respect you and accept you.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs 22:1 *“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.”*

58. Mutongi watwe mumsi naboki bolokoso watwe tikata akwekwe muwo.

Swahili: Mgeni usingiziwa, na si yeye.

French: Quand tu es encore nouveau à un endroit tous les maux te seront attribués sans preuve.

English: A visitor is wrongly accused, and it is not him.

Meaning: There is always needed to be prudent in our actions when we are visitors in a place. Behave honourably in presence of people, and they will respect you and accept you. **Biblical parallel:** *Proverbs 22:1 “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.”*

59. **Mvula ikamunyene mwinobe nabebe imwa ikakunimenwa.**

Swahili: Usimchekelee mtu aliye kwa shida.

French: Ne critique pas une personne en trouble.

English: Don't laugh at a person in trouble.

Meaning: Trouble comes to everybody so it is not good to criticize someone when he/sh is having problems, however console and help if possible. You can find yourself in the same situation tomorrow.

Bible parallel: *Proverbs 3:34 “Toward the scorers he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.”*

60. **Mwaka awange angwe kolombwa kilemba.**

Swahili: Uwezi saidiwa mzigo wakati wa vita.

English: During war, no one can help you carry a load on your head.

French: Pendent la guerre, personne ne peut t'aider à transporter tes biens.

Meaning: Life is important than material things when you compare during war and when there is peace. Everyone runs for their safety only God can help you at that time.

Biblical Parallel: *Isaiah: 50:9: “Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? Lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.”*

61. **Mwaka ngwange egekulobwa kilemba.**

Swahili: Mwaka wa shida hautabiriki.

French: On ne peut pas prédire à quelle année la guerre aura lieu.

English: A year of problems cannot be predicted.

Meaning: Anything can happen in your life at any time, so you need to be prepared. It's important for us to take precaution if we can and be prepared always. We should plan ahead.

Biblical Parallel: *Acts: 2:17 “And it shall come to pass in the last days, said God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:”*

62. **Mwana mukapibwe kwabo wekomona bitonde bya shage no nyange.**

Swahili: Mtoto anapowenda, huonekana akiwa na wazazi wake.

French: On sait que l'enfant est aimé de ses parents, lorsqu'il est avec ses parents.

English: When a child is loved, it's seen when he is with his parents.

Meaning: The love of parents to their children is shown or seen wherever they are together. The relationship between children and parents can be seen by the public easily, from the way they behave towards one another.

Biblical Parallel: *1John:3:2 “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”*

63. Mwana mwa kaulu milinumba na muli mali.

Swahili: Kinywa cha mzee kinanuka lakini hakisemi uongo.

French: La bouche du vieux est sale mais ne ment pas.

English: The mouth of an old man smells bad but cannot lie.

Meaning: It warns that if you can't listen to advisors you will end up to a bad situation.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew: 10:14 “And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, as ye go forth out of that house or that city, shake off the dust of your feet.”*

64. Mwana tonga mulelwa na bwinwa.

Swahili: Mtoto wa ndugu hulelewa kama kufanya kazi kwa bidii.

French: L'enfant de ton frère est élevé avec des travaux durs

English: Your brother's son is raised as doing hard work

Meaning: If a child does not have a home, he is not raised with love like what he would have if he was raised with his real parents.

Biblical Parallel: *Luke: 20:13 “Then said the lord of the vineyard, what shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him. But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying this is the heir: come; let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.”*

65. Mwana wenye ngeni singili kwelilwe majo nene, otwalile kitala kya book.

Swahili: Mtoto asiye na heshima anapo olewa, ni mamake humpelekea babake kikapu cha mahari.

French: Pour les renégats, ce sont leurs mères qui prennent les charges revenant de droit à leurs pères.

English: When an impolite child gets married, it's her mother who takes the dowry basket to her father.

Meaning: A child may lack respect to his or her parents but once he comes across any successful opportunity parents will keep on loving him or her because of what he possesses.

Biblical Parallel: *Genesis: 39:2 “And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.”*

66. Mwanda butavu bigwalufu.

Swahili: Mambo uongewa kwenye matanga.

French: On discute les choses au deuil.

English: Things are talk at the mourning place.

Meaning: African people respect a mourning place but it is at the same place whereby they discuss a lot of things. Some reconcile and other leave there in a strife. Mourning the dead involves a community and therefore we should show respect.

Bible parallel: 1 Samuel 31: Honoring the Dead “*But when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, all the valiant men arose and went all*

night and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan, and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh and fasted seven days.”

67. Mwanike ekotokana egulu, ekotokana egulu asiye mukulu.

Swahili: Mtoto hafanyi jambo bila sababu.

French: L'enfant ne fait rien sans motif.

English: A child does not do anything without purpose.

Meaning: When you see someone you believe that he cannot do you anything in terms of fighting and he keeps on provoking you, think twice, there must be somebody powerful behind him.

Biblical Parallel: *John: 19:10 “Then said Pilate unto him, Speaks thou not unto me? Knows thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.”*

68. Mwiku mwikisha kabwa menyo amekumanyi.

Swahili: Hakuna anayejua utajiri hutoka wapi.

French: La ou l'on trouve la richesse personne ne connaît.

English: No one knows where riches come from.

Meaning: This proverb is a warning to those who could love to obtain riches by all means. The proverb is used to inform that one must work hard in order to change their bad situations. Whether it's poverty or other unacceptable situations. Working hard brings productive.

Biblical Parallel: *Proverbs 20:13 “Love not sleeps, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.”*

69. Mwine kyage ekotokelwa minywe kuhita.

Swahili: Mwenye vyake huwa hatusiwi.

French: Le propriétaire de la chose ne peut être indexé.

English: Someone who has his own is not abused.

Meaning: Anything that is yours, you can use it the way you like and no one can tell you others wise. You have to do what you want for it because it's yours; you have the last word for it as God has the last word for salvation.

Biblical Parallel: *Revelation: 7:10 “And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.”*

70. Mwinsa amwikolobolwa muntu.

Swahili: Anaye kula chakula kilicho mezani ndiye huamua kama ni kizuri au kibaya.

French: C'est celui qui est à la table qui peut déterminer les goûts de mets qui s'y trouvent.

English: The one who eats the food on the table will determine if it's good or bad.

Meaning: It's very hard to testify things what you don't know or you have never either seen or touch with your own hands through imagination, however, to know it better you must see it, touch it or test it unless you are a liar.

Biblical Parallel: *John: 8:55: "Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying."*

71. Ndete kwa sengo mema umugomba

Swahili: Pima umbali kati ya kwako na mahali unafanya kazi, ili usije ukashindwa.

French: Measure la distance entre chez toi et ton lieu du travail, de peur que tu ne l'abandonnes pas.

English: Measure the distance between your home and your work place, and avoid to fail.

Meaning: It warns to encourage you to measure yourself in anything you pretend to do because things may change to the expectation and find yourself in the bad situation.

Biblical Parallel: *Ezekiel 40:19 "Then he measured the breadth from the forefront of the lower gate unto the forefront of the inner court without, a hundred cubits, both on the east and on the north."*

72. Ngunga na ngunga na mwango.

Swahili: Jirani mwema amekuwa mwema kila wakati.

French: Un bon voisin a été toujours bon.

English: A good neighbor has been always good.

Meaning: Love neighbors, because, it is a good neighbor who comes first to help when you are in trouble before your relative arrive.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew 22:39 "And a second like unto it is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."*

73. Ngongo yimusolwa na yalifilibwe.

Swahili: Mchango wa wenye sherehe ni muhimu sana.

French: La contribution de l'organisateur du fete est tres necessaire.

English: The contribution of the fete's organizer is very important.

Meaning: You must be the first person to make an important pledge to your fate before other people contribute, your contribution is very important.

Biblical Parallel: *1 Corinthians 16:2 "Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come."*

74. Ngingo yimusolibwanga yafile.

Swahili: Gharama ya msaada lazima itoke kwa akiba.

French: La dépense d'une aide doit sortir a l'économie.

English: Expense for assistance must come from savings.

Meaning: For you to help someone, it obvious that you must go in to your saving.

Biblical Parallel: *Acts 21:24 "These take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges for them, that they may shave their heads: and all shall know that there is no truth in the things whereof they have been informed concerning thee; but that thou thyself also walked orderly, keeping the law."*

75. Ngingo mundu na masia ndetu gabilibwa mulilo.

Swahili: Mtu mbaya hasaidiwi.

French: On n'aide pas une personne mauvaise.

English: A bad person is not helped.

Meaning: When you help a bad person, do not expect goodness in return from him. They do not realize that anything good was done for them. Help them and leave them.

Biblical Parallel: *1 Corinthians 6:12 "All things are lawful for me; but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful for me; but I will not be brought under the power of any."*

76. Ngulube ikamulya mubilimi bwa munobe ibenge ligimi.

Swahili: Kwa mwenzio upo pale, lakini kwako, kuna joto.

French: Pour ton ami, tu es présent, mais pour toi, c'est chaud.

English: For your friend you are there, but for you, it's hot.

Meaning: Don't be happy when you see someone does wrong, remember nobody is perfect you also can do the same mistake tomorrow.

Biblical Parallel: *Exodus 9:27 "And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: Jehovah is righteous, and I and my people are wicked."*

77. Nyewe yalishe sama yalufa aluwebo yoyimana.

Swahili: Afikapo hasira huisha.

French: Quand il arrive, la colère est finie.

English: When he arrives, the anger is finished.

Meaning: It's useless when you get angry against someone who is older than you because you will do him nothing.

Biblical Parallel: *Isaiah 54:9 "For this is as the waters of Noah unto me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah shall no more go over the earth, so have I sworn that I will not be worth with thee, nor rebuke thee."*

78. Okuwele meso ekubwilisibwa bohoki.

Swahili: Anaye kutendea mema hustastahili kumtendea mabaya.

French: On ne fait pas du mal à celui qui te fait du bien.

English: A person who does good things for you, you should not do bad things to him.

Meaning: It is good to be grateful instead of being gratitude and forget all goodness done to you and counting the wrongs ones.

Biblical Parallel: *Luke: 6:35 "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."*

79. Olele kya maso no olele kya bote nani owandile?

Swahili: Kilicho kibaya ni kibaya na kinaweza kuzidi bado.

French: Celui qui mange la nourriture empoisonnée et celui qui mange la nourriture mélange d'urines, qui sera infecté?

English: What is bad is bad and can be worse still.

Meaning: Something that is bad cannot be rated to be either small or big, it's just bad. You should avoid being in the wrong side because you may end in the wrong way.

Biblical Parallel: Romans: 14:20: *"For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eats with offence."*

80. Paka noshobe twende kubakulu betu kalele?

Swahili: Migogoro kati ya baba na mwanawe haiwezi kupelekwa mahakamani.

French: Une dispute entre père et enfant ne peut être portée au tribunal.

English: Arguments between father and his son cannot be taken to courts.

Meaning: It is important for a solution to come from the family once a dispute occur in the family, because it's complicated to solve the dispute between family members outside the family.

Biblical Parallel: Luke: 22:24-26: *"And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. And he said unto them, the kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve."*

81. Pete ngotwale ku mwisho kwe kashale lugosi.

Swahili: Njia ya muongo ni fupi sana.

French: Si tu trompes quelqu'un sur une situation quelconque, un jour ce mensonge sera dévoilé.

English: The way of liars is very short.

Meaning: It is good to say the truth; lies do not last for a long time.

Biblical Parallel: Matthew: 7:13-14 *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that ledeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which ledeth unto life, and few there be that find it."*

82. Pyana shobwe wekomonwa shobe ulate.

Swahili: Anaye mrithi mamake baada ya babake kufariki huonekana tangu utotoni.

French: L'homme qui a hérité ta mère après le décès de ton père apparait très en forme.

English: A person who inherited his mother after his father's death is seen since childhood.

Meaning: The person who condoles and support the widow is her children no one else, and a person who devour a widow will be condemned seriously.

Biblical Parallel: Mark: 12:40 *"Which devour widows' houses, and for pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation."*

83. Sango lona lombo wakusa ngumi mwibwe.

Swahili: Mkiwa na mtu mbaya katika jamii, mko na shida

French: Si vous avez une mauvaise personne dans la famille, vous avez des problèmes.

English: If you have a bad person in the family, you have problems.

Meaning: If one person in the family or group has a bad habit or behaviour it affects the whole family or community at large, so you should be very carefully with this person, if not he will destroy you all.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew: 26:47 “And while he yet spoke, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.”*

84. Sengele amu kye kaimbo wakye toyе kelelo.

Swahili: Fitina yaweza sababisha ufungwe.

French: Tu peux être emprisonné sans avoir commis un crime partant des calomnies.

English: Causing trouble can make you to be jailed.

Meaning: The one who does not want or like you will always do bad things towards you, and cannot testify what is good to you, just because he hates you.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew: 24:9 “Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.”*

85. Sese gyamulanda agikolagola mugo.

Swahili: Nyumba ya maskini haikosi matatizo.

French: La maison d'un pauvre ne manque jamais des problèmes.

English: A poor person's house does not lack problems.

Meaning: If you are poor, you will be crying all the time if you pretend to be helped by a human being, if you expect to God, he will not let you be troubled again and you be blessed.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew: 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

86. Tambwe gimunwe musese gikubinja bantu.

Swahili: Ukimfungia Simba kwenye kizimba nyumbani kwako atamla mtu wa jamaa wako.

French: Le lion élevé à la maison exterme toute la famille.

English: If you cage a lion in your house it will eat your relative.

Meaning: It is not wise to tempt others or ourselves purposely. Better avoid temptations if possible. We should avoid situations which lead us doing things that we did not intend to do.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew: 26:41 “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

87. Taomonanga mbulu mulugulunde yage machwalo.

Swahili: Heshima yaonya.

French: Le respect averti.

English: Respect warns.

Meaning: This proverb wants to tell you that, once you respect yourself and other people, you will be in alert and nothing will hurt you.

Biblical Parallel: *Hebrews 11:7 “By faith Noah, being warned of God concerning things not seen as yet, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house;*

through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”

88. Tata mukulu lweje kwekema lendya, telele lya boba tama lya siga.

Swahili: Babu ndiye hujawa kuwakaanga panzi hadi waive.

French: c'est le grand père qui sait comment cuire les sauterelles.

English: Grandfather is the one who knows how to fry grasshoppers till well cooked.

Meaning: Every issue has someone who is a specialist in that field, so it's better to leave things you do not know to those who know them better than you.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew: 6:32 “For after all these things do the Gentiles seek for your heavenly Father knows that ye have need of all these things.”*

89. Tobi lyotendeme ndalitu kwa libwa.

Swahili: Utulivu huongea zaidi.

French: La sérénité d'une personne parle beaucoup de choses.

English: Serenity speaks a lot.

Meaning: You must be careful when dealing with a silent person because it will take time for you to know his real position.

Biblical Parallel: *Job 13:5 “Oh that ye would altogether hold your peace! And it would be your wisdom.”*

90. Toni mutalibaa amonga mulomo lukaulu.

Swahili: Usemi wa mtu mzima huonekana.

French: La parole d'un vieux se voit.

English: The words of an elder are seen.

Meaning: Old people normally speak what they went through and the truth, they never lied because they speak about three times; present, past and future.

Biblical Parallel: *Numbers 11:23 “And Jehovah said unto Moses, Is Jehovah's hand waxed short? Now shalt thou see whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.”*

91. Twene kwa abanda twa bandolole, kumbe togila ubandanga.

Swahili: Udhaniaye ndiye, kumbe siye.

French: Celui que tu crois est lui, n'est pas lui.

English: Whoever you believe he is, is not.

Meaning: The proverb reflects to a person you believe that he can be on the front line to help you when you are in trouble contrary he is the one who is coming to ridiculous you.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew 3:11 “I indeed baptize you in water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire.”*

92. Ukulile kafimbo ekwebelelwa.

Swahili: Huwezi msahau mtu aliye kutendea maovu.

French: Onn'oubliera jamais la personne qui t'avait fait du mal même si tu as déjà pardonné ce mal.

English: You cannot forget a person who did wrong unto you.

Meaning: It's hard for someone to forget the wrong that someone did to him in life, but the bible teaches us to forgive and forget, and if you can't forget for what your forgiveness is useless before God.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew: 6:14-15 "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, Your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

93. Ulya sobi na mulilo ndaubuya lya busungu.

Swahili: Haraka haraka haina baraka.

French: Petit à petit le chien a fini un seau d'eau.

English: Hurry hurry has no blessing.

Meaning: If you have something to do, do it in a slowly manner and you will succeed but if you do it in hurry, it will end up bad.

Biblical Parallel: *Leviticus 5:4 "Or if any one swear rashly with his lips to do evil, or to do good, whatsoever it be that a man shall utter rashly with an oath, and it be hid from him; when he knoweth of it, then he shall be guilty in one of these things."*

94. Uma wa mugimba, wali uyu misha.

Swahili: Usimchochee mtu mpole.

French: Ne provoque pas une personne humble.

English: Do not provoke a humble person.

Meaning: The proverbs wants to warn you that a humble person has been like a dog but once you try to touch its tale you declare the war and it is very dangerous to provoke such a person.

Biblical Parallel: *Jeremiah 25:6 "And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and provoke me not to anger with the work of your hands; and I will do you no hurt."*

95. Uwoya lula ulya lu.

Swahili: Marafiki wapaswa kuheshimu urafiki.

French: Les amis doivent respecter l'amitié.

English: Friends must respect friendship.

Meaning: A friend who doesn't respect his friends loses the value of their friendship, so he should protect it.

Biblical Parallel: *Psalms 25:14 "The friendship of Jehovah is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant."*

96. Vuluka tambwe sitakibwi?

Swahili: Unapo muwaza anawasili.

French: Quand tu le penses, il arrive.

English: When you think about him, he arrives.

Meaning: What you plant is what you harvest. Whenever someone is travelling and you expect him and once you think about him, he arrived.

Biblical Parallel: *Matthew 12:44* “Then he said, I will return into my house whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.”

97. **Wakibanja nowambye mokolo noni.**

Swahili: Mtu mwenye kipara na wenve nywele nyeupe, mwenye umri mkubwa ni nani?

French: celui qui a la calvitie et celui des cheveux blancs qui est- ce qui est grand ?

English: A bald person and the one with white hair, who is the elder one?

Meaning: It talks to young people, how wisdom can put you at the high level instead of an old person because who lacks it, so brothers lets carry this burden of wisdom and we shall be justified as good people before our elders and God.

Biblical Parallel: *Deuteronomy: 4:18* “Keep them and do them for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who when they hear all these statutes, will say, surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”

98. **Wamona kaya wataka kagenga.**

Swahili: Unapo pata kitu kipya usidharau cha kale.

French: Lorsque tu as un ustensile neuf, il ne faut pas négliger l’ancien.

English: If you get something new do not despise the old one.

Meaning: It’s good to protect what you have so that whatever comes may find a place, but do not throw it because of this new you get.

Biblical Parallel: *Genesis: 37:20* “Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.”

99. **Wapeho ekwitwa kokaya.**

Swahili: Mwenye baridi haoneshwi moto.

French: On ne montre pas à ce lui qui a froid ou se trouve le feu.

English: He who feels cold is not shown the fire place.

Meaning: If someone has a problem really affecting them and they care about it, they will normally bring it out without someone else doing it for them. They will seek solutions without being forced to do so.

Biblical Parallel: *Mark 1:40-42* “And there cometh to him a leper, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And being moved with compassion, he stretched forth his hand, and touched him, and said unto him, I will; be thou made clean. And straightway the leprosy departed from him, and he was made clean.”

100. **Wataanga bingi utawanga, usiranga mbeba.**

Swahili : Atakayezika maiti nyingi hapati wa kumzika, ana kuliwa na panya

French: Celui qui enterrera beaucoup n’est jamais enterrée, il est exterminé par les souris

English: The one who will bury many people will not been buried, he will be exterminated by rats.

Meaning : Do not do good so that you may earn respect from people; they may take advantage of you and not care about you at all.

Bible parallel: 2 Samuel 9:1 *“David asked, “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul who I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”*

SUMMARY

During the research work, it was very difficult for me to obtain these 100 Hemba proverbs. I can now thank my colleague who is living in Kalemie city in the DRC for all the effort he made to ensure that our work was a success. Challenges were countless, and the first one was communication. Most of the Hemba elders did not speak Swahili and French like other people from the eastern D. R. Congo region. We sometimes had to engage a translator to assist us.

The second challenge was finance. The translator had to be given a token of appreciation on a daily basis. The elders could not accept any conversation without honoring their ancestors with a white chicken, to appease their spirits. Since we intended to discuss the ancestors and their wisdom, we had to appease their spirits first. We had to buy chicken often, and enjoyed the part where we would share in the feast. The culture is very rich and we experienced it first-hand. It was very interesting for us, despite the challenges.

CONCLUSION

The Hemba value human existence, and express this through the proverbs and wise sayings used in the community. Proverb No.11 says that “Real friendship is that for both sides.” (*Bundu bisi bubanda batwa*) It encourages the members of the community to have **genuine friendships** so that they last. Cohesion is upheld so that when there is trouble all people help.

Peace and Reconciliation is very important to these people. The Proverb No. 80 states that “Arguments between father and his son cannot be taken to court.”(*Paka noshobe twende kubakulu betu kalele.*) It is therefore, best to avoid such disagreements within a family or community. There should be peace, and if not, amicable solutions should be found through the correct channels so that all parties are contented. They believe that family disputes, especially cannot be solved by an outsider .

Selflessness is encouraged in this community, such that even bad people are helped when they need help, without expecting any goodness in return from them because they will never realize that a good deed was done for them. Supporting everyone is what is important, not what we receive in return. This is in the proverb No.75 which says that “A bad person is not helped.” (*Ngingo mundu na masia ndetu gabilibwa mulilo.*)

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APPENDIX

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

By Atemu Ishiabwe

INTRODUCTION

LOCATION

The Hemba language belongs to a group of related languages spoken by people in a belt that runs from southern Kasai to northeastern Zambia. Other peoples speaking related languages include the Luba of Kasai and Shaba, the Kanyok, Songye, Kaonde, Sanga, Bemba and the people of Kazembe. Today the Hemba people live in the north of Zambia, and their language is understood throughout Zambia. Some also live in Tanzania. They live west of Lake Tanganyika and Lake Mweru in the DRC, and their villages are found several hundred miles up the Lualaba River. The Hemba language has a 67% lexical similarity with the Bangubangu dialect.

ETHNOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF HEMBA PEOPLE IN THE D.R CONGO



HISTORY

The Hemba people migrated eastward to the Lualaba valley from the Luba Empire, probably sometime after 1600. They traded salt for iron hoes made in the Luba heartland, and wore raphia cloth that came by way of the Luba from the Songye people further to the west. At the time of the eastward expansion of the Luba Kingdom under King Ilunga Sungu around 1800, Hemba people were living in a territory bounded by the Lukuga River in the north, the Luvua River in the south and the Lualaba River to the west. The lower Lukuga and the Lualaba provided natural lines of communication, and the river valleys were densely populated.

CULTURE

The Hemba people live in villages, recognizing chiefs as their political leaders. A chief will be the head of an extended family of landowners, inheriting his title through the maternal line. Hemba people may also belong to secret societies such as the Bukazanzi for men and Bukibilo for women. The So'o secret society is guarded by the beautifully carved mask of a chimpanzee, which is used in rituals that relate to the ancestral spirits. These societies serve to offset the power of the chief.

Although the Luba people failed to keep the southern Hemba in their kingdom they did have considerable cultural influence. Art forms, including wooden sculptures representing ancestors, are similar in style to Luba sculptures. The Hemba religion recognizes a creator god and a separate supreme being. The Hemba make sacrifices and present offerings at the shrines of ancestors. When social harmony has been upset, religious leaders may demand offerings to the specific ancestors that have become displeased and are causing the trouble. Each clan owns a *kabeja*, a statuette with one body and two faces, male and female, on one neck. Sacrifices are made to the *kabeja*, which will convey them to the spirits. A receptacle on the top of the *kabeja* is used to receive magic ingredients. A *kabeja* is dangerous to handle.

Proverbs are used likely to advise people, warning, teaching and so on...they also use proverbs during birth ceremony, funeral process, wedding and when paying dowry.



Hemba family



Wedding ceremony is on going

Here are some of the wise sayings from Hemba People

1. Hemba: Isi ya muluunde imulyanga muluunde.**Swahili:** Mbuvu ula maali ilipo fungwa**French:** La chèvre mange làoù elle est attachée.**English:** A goat eats where it is tied.**Meaning:** It teaches you to be happy and satisfied with what you are getting as income or fruits of your labor, stop envying what is not yours and give to God what belongs to Him. For what God gives you is yours. **Biblical Parallel:** *Genesis: 31:16 "For all the riches which God hath taken away from our father, that is ours and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do."*

2. Hemba: Kigombela mwinobe nabebe chakugu mbelanga.**Swahili:** Usicheke mtu kama yuko kwenye shida.**French:** Ne ris pas a une personne en detresse.**English:** Do not laugh at a person when he is in trouble, you never know what will happen to you in future.**Meaning:** It warns you to not be at the frontline to criticize others or laugh at them when they are in a critical moment of life such as; sickness, hunger, unemployment...it can happen to any living human being and

argue to be at frontline to help them, because by doing so you will be blessed. **Biblical Parallel:** *Deuteronomy 28:2* “and all these blessings shall come upon thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of Jehovah thy God.”



POLITICAL STRUCTURE

During Ilunga Sungu's rule the southern Hamba became tributaries to the Luba. They were headed by a "fire king", who symbolically represented the Luba king. The Hamba fire kingdom cut its links to the Luba Empire after Ilunga Sungu died. His successor, Kumwimbe Ngombe, had to fight several campaigns to recover the eastern territories. Kumwimbe created a client state that united the Hamba villages of the Lukushi River valley, and that played an important role in preserving Luba dominance over other small states in the region. Later the Hamba regained their independence, but were subject to attacks by Arab slave traders in the later part of the nineteenth century, and then to colonization by the Belgians.

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RELIGION

The Hamba religion recognizes a creator god and a separate supreme being. The Hamba make sacrifices and present offerings at the shrines of ancestors. When social harmony has been upset, religious leaders may demand offerings to the specific ancestors that have become displeased and are causing the trouble. Each clan owns a *kabeja*, a statuette with one body and two faces, male and female, on one neck. Sacrifices are made to the *kabeja*, which will convey them to the spirits. A receptacle on the top of the *kabeja* is used to receive magic ingredients. A *kabeja* is dangerous to handle.

ECONOMY AND ARTS

The villagers live by subsistence agriculture, growing manioc, maize, peanuts, and yams. They also hunt and fish to a small extent to supplement their diet. Cash is obtained through panning alluvial copper from the streams. Many Hemba men are also employed as miners in the copper belt.

The Hemba artistic tradition is well known. Subjects include ancestral figures, spirits, human faces and ceremonial masks. By doing these kind of masks, it encourages them to use proverbs every day and when offering and praying to their ancestors. They also use proverbs during birth ceremony, dowry ceremony and wedding activities.

1



2



3



4



5. Mask from the Bakali-Kwenge region
6. *Warrior Ancestor Figure; 19th century*
7. *Male figure, Niembo chiefdom, late 19th to early 20th century*
8. *Male figure, Niembo chiefdom, late 19th to early 20th century*

WRITING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this research are:

1. To collect 100 proverbs and wise sayings from the Hemba ethnic group.
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 illustrates the proverbs.

JUSTIFICATION

To help, people enriching their communication skill, by using Hemba proverbs and wise sayings more frequently and to help them value their origin.

METHODOLOGY

The writer will interview Hemba elders from Kasai and Shaba DR Congo and in Tanzania 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.

REFERENCES

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7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemba_people
8. www.gateway-africa.com/tribe/hemba_tribe.html
9. Elders of the Hemba people.
10. Collaborator: Menga Kabenge, lives in Kabimba (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
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BUDGET

EXPENSES	
Data gathering	\$200
Typing and Printing	\$ 50
Binding	\$ 60
Transport	\$120
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 70</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$500</u>