

A COLLECTION OF 100 PARE (TANZANIA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS



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NAIROBI, KENYA
APRIL, 2019.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to acknowledge and thank the relentless effort for all those who played a major part in completion of this document. My utmost thanks go to Fr. Joseph G. Healey, both financial and moral support.

My special thanks goes to Cephas Agbemenu, Margaret Ileri and Elias Bushiri who guided me accordingly to ensure that my research was completed. Furthermore I also want to thank Mary Tembo for her enormous assistance, without forgetting publishers of Pare proverbs and resources who made this research possible.

DEDICATION

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

INTRODUCTION

Location

The Pare (pronounced "Pahray") people are members of an indigenous ethnic group which inhabits the Pare Mountains of northern Tanzania, Mwanza and Same districts, Manyara, Tanga and Kilimanjaro Region. They speak a language called Asu. It is also known by alternative names - Ashu, Athu, Casu, Chasu, Chiasu, Kiathu, Kipare, Pare, Pare-Asu. The Asu language has two dialects – Gonja and Mbagu. Pareland is also known as Vuasu.

The location lies on one of the northern routes for historic east-African long-distance trade, connecting the hinterland with the coast of the Indian Ocean. The residents of northern Pare recognise two sub-areas based on ethno-linguistic differences: Gweno-speaking Ugweno to the north and Chasu-speaking Usangi to the south.

A Map Showing the Regions of Tanzania



The Ethnographical Location of the Pare Ethnic Group in Tanzania



The neighbors of Pare tribe are Chaga from Moshi and the Wadigo Wasambaa, from Tanga.

Myth of Origin

The Pare people are said to have its origins in western Cameroon, although its is difficult to be so certain over the migration date which is estimated to be four millennium back. What is certain is that these people certainly came from the region of central Africa from where they and or their culture begin expanding to other parts of Sub-Saharan Africa around 2000 BC.

Many Pare people before colonialism lived in low land where they farmed. After the Europeans reach Kilimanjaro took away the land of Pare people. This land alienation forced them to move to the highlands where still live.

Culture

Traditionally music is practiced as an art in Pare community. At any time of the day or night some music was being made. Work songs also existed and were performed both during communal work like building, weeding, weddings and other ceremonies.

From the age of five to adolescence both boys and girls have most contact with their mothers, sisters, and other female relatives. Today, both boys and girls attend school if the parents can afford the fees. If there is not sufficient money for both to attend, the

boy is usually favored and the girl remains at home to help the mother, until she gets married and moves away.

Marriage was traditionally considered to be the most significant event in the lives of both men and woman. The system of polygamy, multiple wives guaranteed that all people get married. The significance of bride wealth is increasing even among educated Africans. Most of Pare believe that divorce cannot occur after dowry has been exchange and children are born. Cattle are the primary items given for bride price. In determining the value of a prospective bride her family takes into account her health and appearance, her level of formal education.

Makande is a typical dish of the Pare which is a kind of stew maize and beans onions, garlic, tomatoes and chicken stock. It is prepared on Friday and lasts through Sunday evening which gives people more time to socialize during the weekend without worrying about cooking the food is kept in a big clay pot on the damp ground so it stays cool.

The Pare people wore minimal clothing. Animal hides were used to cover privates parts, but there was no stigma associated with nudity. Nowadays, clothing style is largely western in the region. They vary according to a person's social class and life style preferences.



Pare people in a traditional dance

With all this cultural activities Pare people used Proverbs and wise sayings daily and their cultural events.

Examples of Asu (Pare) proverbs

1.Khune khuna nia khuna ifanda

Kiswahili: Penye nia pana njia

French: Ou il y a la volonté, il ya le chemin

English: Where is will there is means.

Meaning: With will we can make true our decision, our project and the expectations become reality. With will, successful realizations are made.

2.Newanja isukwi uyanje na munyunguayo

Kiswahili: Kipenda boga upende na mche wake.

French: Si tu aimes la courge, aimes aussi ses grains.

English: Who loves Squash would like its seed.

Meaning: This proverb invites us to total love and not partial of who we love. Hypocrisy is to be excluded when exercising love.

The most prominent and notable belief was that, when a baby was born and milk teeth started to grow from the upper jaw, it was believed to be a curse to the society. The child would be killed by being pushed off the edge of a large rock with the steep slope facing down the mountain. This belief has now been eroded due to literacy among the scholars of the society.

Religion and traditional beliefs

Ancestral spirits were remembered through various rituals and are believed to exert a significant influence on daily life. There were symptoms which were cured using traditional medicine. Roots and leaves of trees and weeds were used as medicine, either crushed, dried, as juice or paste. Respect for the ancestors was shown when drinking beer. People would pour a small libation of beer onto the ground, or left small vessels of beer were left in a special location as an offering to the ancestors. In other cases sacrifices of a chicken or goat were made and their blood spilled on the ground for the ancestors.

Political set up

Mfumwa Chief Muhammad Kibacha Singo was a local ruler who died in January 1982, at the age of between 120 and 140 years. Mfumwa had the assistants who helped him in ruling, and who acted as a link between himself and people. It was Germany colony era lasted until 1963 when the chiefdom was abolished by an independent.

Economic activities

The area chiefly produces tea, coffee, sisal and cinchona. Rice is grown in the swampy plains. The Pare lands, by Tanzanian standards, is quite prosperous as its infrastructure of roads, electricity, telephone and piped water supply attests. An older infrastructure of irrigation furrows, stone-lined terraces and sacred forests lies alongside these newer technologies and shows that the Pare landscape has been carefully managed for centuries.

Also Pare people are engaged in trade of selling goods such as bananas, maize and other farm produce.

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A COLLECTION OF 100 PARE PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

1. Anenda wone ne maingi.

Kiswahili: Kutembea kwingi kuona mengi.

French: Voyager trop, c'est remarquer trop.

English: Walking much is to see much.

Meaning: It means that travel teaches more than books through experiences learnt from the nature.

Biblical parallel: Luke 15:13, 15-16

"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything".

2. Bimanto ong'ee ni ufitha eti ndio dhahabu

Kiswahili: Si vyote ving'aavyo ni dhahabu.

French: Tout ce qui brille n'est pas de l'or.

English: All that glitters is not gold.

Meaning: The appearance is often misleading, so do not trust or judge anyone from his Appearance.

Biblical parallel: 1Samuel16:12-13

"So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah".

3. Dafanda abiri amurenye piri

Kiswahili: Njia mbili zilimshinda fisi.

French: Deux chemins mettent en illusion l'hyène.

English: Two-way confused hyena.

Meaning: This proverb is used once confused by two priorities not knowing which one to do.

Biblical parallel: Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth"

4. Hifanda ra mwegheghe nereghu mphei

Kiswahili: Njia ya mwongo ni fupi.

French: Le chemin du menteur est trop court.

English: Path of a liar is very short.

Meaning: When you are known as a liar you are not believable because no truth in you. You lose confidence.

Biblical parallel: Luke 22:21

“Yet the hand of the man who is betraying me lies with mine at this moment on the table”

5. Hamaru etijie mpakhagwa panga

Kiswahili: Amani haiji ila kwa ncha ya panga

French: La paix ne vient que par l'épée.

English: If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Peace does not come except for the ends of swords

Meaning: It is used when saying that peace must be well kept because without it no progress. Whoever wants peace may prepare the war.

Biblical parallel: Judges 1:5

“ And they found Adoni-Bezek, and fought against him; and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites ”

6. Hihaa ni ughwai

Kiswahili: Akili ni mali

French: L'intelligence est une richesse

English: Intelligence is an asset

Meaning: Knowledge is very important; it can make you earn many things you couldn't expect to have from your parents. To be skillful makes enjoy the life because you can seat with important authorities you couldn't expect to meet.

Biblical parallel: Genesis 41:40

“You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.”

7. Hintu nirikhwa ryitikhowa

Kiswahili: Akiba haiozi.

French: L'investissement ne pourrit pas.

English: Savings do not rot.

Meaning: It urges us to do good to anybody because it is an investment you are banking; there will be a moment of withdrawal and this moment will be a joyful one.

Biblical parallel: 2Samuel 9:1, 7

“Now David said, “Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?” So David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you will eat bread at my table continually.”

8. Hololo ogijiji ithiyuria umijini

Kiswahili: Jogoo wa shamba hawiki mjini.

French: Un coq de la brousse ne chante pas en ville.

English: A rooster of the bush does not sing in town.

Meaning: When foreigner, there are things you are not allowed to do because of customs that are different, so, you have to keep quiet and let them.

Biblical parallel: Esther3:4

“Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told it to Haman, to see whether Mordecai”s words would stand; for Mordecai had toldthem that he was a Jew.”

9. Hune huna nia huna ifanda

Kiswahili: Penye nia pana njia.

French: Ou il y a la volonté, il ya le chemin.

English: Where is will there is means.

Meaning: With will we can make true our decision, our project and the expectations become reality. With will, successful realizations are made.

Biblical parallel: Esther2:4

“Then let the young woman who pleases the king be the queen instead of Vashti.” This thing pleased the king and he did so.”

10. Hara hara ethikweti Baraka

Kiswahili: Haraka haraka haina Baraka.

French: La rapidité n’amène pas la bénédiction.

English: The speed does not bring blessing.

Meaning: This proverb is used when the work is not well done due to hurry. A work done in a hurry always presents errors, so patience and courage are recommended.

Biblical parallel: Proverb19:2-3

”Also it is not good for a person to be without knowledge, And he who hurries his footsteps errs. The foolishness of man ruins his way, And his heart rages against the LORD”.

11. Indya indya ugubaria mala

Kiswahili: Ngoja ngoja huumiza matumbo.

French: A force de trop attendre, on étreint ses intestins.

English: When waiting too much, one clasps his intestines.

Meaning: It means that waiting what you expect to happen may deceive you, so be prudent and console yourself in case of disappointment.

Biblical parallel: Mark16:12

“After that He appeared in another form of two of them as they walked and went into the Country”.

12. Jiho itikwethi ipazia

Kiswahili: Macho hayana pazia.

French: Les yeux n’ont pas de rideau.

English: Eyes do not veil.

Meaning: Eyes have no limits, no boundaries that means that they see everything that are good and that are bad. Its function is to see and to see whatever can be seen.

Biblical parallel: Matthew 6:22

"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light."

13. Jucha ne muja atiurya kansoro

Kiswahili: Msichana mrembo hakosi kasoro.

French: Une belle fille ne manque pas de défaut.

English: Beautiful girl is not without flaws/ imperfection.

Meaning: This proverb is used when showing human imperfect nature with his weaknesses, disrespect of instructions.

Biblical parallel: Esther1:11-12

"To bring Queen Vashti before the king, wearing her royal crown, in order to show her beauty to the people and the officials, for she was beautiful to behold. 12 But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command brought by his eunuchs; therefore the king was furious, and his anger burned within him".

14. Jewahanga nyungu nephea utajughuthe gakhingi

Kiswahili: Ukipata chungu kipya usitupe cha zamani.

French: Si tu as une casserole neuve ne jette pas l'ancienne.

English: If you find a new pot never throw the old one.

Meaning: It urges us to have remembrance of latest friendship and acknowledge this friendship

Biblical parallel: 2Kings20:5-6

"Go back and tell Hezekiah, the ruler of my people, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the LORD. I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.'"

15. Jewanghombifa ughuona meingi

Kiswahili: Kuishi kwingi kuona mengi.

French: Vivre longtemps c'est voir beaucoup.

English: Live long is to see much.

Meaning: It means that those who live long are experienced and advices the old man gives cannot lose you. A long lasting life is a blessing from God.

Biblical parallel: Genesis25:7-8

"These are all the years of Abraham's life that he lived, one hundred and seventy-five years. Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people."

16. Jewasila ulya nguruwe hwarua neughinie

Kiswahili: Ukitaka kumla nguruwe chagua aliyenona.

French: Si tu veux manger un cochon mange le gras.

English: If you want to eat the pig select the fattened one.

Meaning: It means that a guilty is a guilty and the punishment is reserved to persons who commit faults .Then commit a great forfait that will talk about you later.

Biblical parallel: 1Samuel25:22

"May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him?"

17. Jewegunto mwindye fang'e

Kiswahili: Aliye juu mngojee chini.

French: Qui est en haut attends-le en bas.

English: The one who is high positioned wait him on down.

Meaning: This proverb is used when someone is misusing his power.

Biblical parallel: Exodus11:8

"All these your servants will come down to me and bow themselves before me, saying, 'Go out, you and all the people who follow you,' and after that I will go out." And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger."

18. Jiwamusifia khwema njou ugumuhurwira maje

Kiswahili: Mgema akisifiwa tembo hulia maji.

French: l'elephant imbibe le succes d'une mauvaise personne.

English: The elephant wets the success of a bad person.

Meaning: People of ill will does not deserve the praises if they are honored and praised they do harm more. So such persons should be prevented from harming others.

Biblical parallel: Jeremiah 39:12

"Take him and look after him; don't harm him but do for him whatever he asks."

19. Jifee nuthumilia iugufaya nentuni

Kiswahili: Pilipili usiyoila yakuwashia nini?

French: le piment que tu n'as pas mangé pourquoi t'irrite-t-il ?

English: Chili you have not eaten why it irritates you?

Meaning: This proverb asks us to take care of our own business and not interfere with businesses of others.

Biblical parallel: Matthew 2:16

"When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi".

20. Jeria ne musumeno euduma khunu na khunu

Kiswahili: Sheria ni msumeno ukata huko na huko.

French: La loi est un couteau à double tranchant.

English: The law is a double-edged knife/Law is saw that cuts here and there.

Meaning: This proverb is used when talking about impartiality in judgment. There should not be preferred, untouchable in legal matters.

Biblical parallel: Numbers20:12

"And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because xyou did not believe in me, yto uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them."

21. Juvai wa mwena mufafi uwiji

Kiswahili: Uchungu wa mwana aujuaye ni mzazi.

French: La douleur de l'enfantement n'est sentie que par les parents.

English: Bitterness of a son is known by his parents.

Meaning: It talks about pains. Pain is personal and who knows this pain is the sufferer

Biblical parallel: Jeremiah31:15

"Thus says the LORD, "A voice is heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; She refuses to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more."

22. Khunyugunyui ugugi'juya gebaba

Kiswahili: Haba na haba hujaza kibaba

French: Petit à petit on remplit le panier

English: Little by little a bird makes its nest.

Meaning: It means that step by step we can make a tremendous project and achieve the goal that will astonish people for its realization.

Biblical parallel: Proverbs13:11

"Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it"

23. Kigwe neragighea rethyubaria ikhuju

Kiswahili: Jiwe likionekana haliumizi jembe.

French: Une pierre une fois vue n'endommage pas la houe

English: A stone once seen will not damage the hoe

Meaning: It urges us to be prudent and respectful to given regulations and instructions in order to escape to its consequences.

Biblical parallel: Deuteronomy28:1-3

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth." And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God: "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed you shall be in the country"

24. Kifanda ne ririfu ritiurya khona

Kiswahili: Barabara ndefu haikosi kona.

French: Une longue route ne manque pas de courbures.

English: The long road cannot lack corners.

Meaning: This is used when talking about imperfections of the human being: human beings are not perfect so they have their weaknesses that we have to forgive and tolerate and to advise.

Biblical Parallel: Proverbs4:14-15

“Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on”.

25. Kintu nereja reugirija, into nereve reugienendya

Kiswahili: Kizuri chajiuza kibaya chakitangaza.

French: Le beau se vend, le mauvais se fait de publicité.

English: The beautiful sells itself, bad publicity is done.

Meaning: This proverb is used to something beautiful that attracts by its own.

Biblical parallel: Esther2:15

“Now when the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his daughter, to go in to the king, she requested nothing but what Hegai the king’s eunuch, the custodian of the women, advised. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.”

26. Kintu nutiriji ginya utiku wa khityi

Kiswahili: Jambo usilolijua ni kama usiku wa giza.

French: Une information mal connue est une nuit obscure.

English: Unknown information is like a dark night.

Meaning: Ignorance is a vice and not virtue, ignorant is in darkness, he doesn’t see properly and cannot distinguish the truth from the lies.

Biblical parallel: Hosea4:6

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

27. Kuung’i nyasule athumukia mwalimu akiwe

Kiswahili: Mwanafunzi hampiti mwalimu.

French: L’élève ne surpasse pas son enseignant.

English: A student is not above the teacher.

Meaning: A person that is away and serves as a symbol cannot hide.

Biblical parallel: Matthew14:30-31

“But when he saw the fury of the wind he panicked and began to sink, calling out, “Lord save me!” At once Jesus reached out his hand and caught him, saying, “You little-faith! What made you lose your nerve like that?”

28. Kuntu nagigumusua anthugimusua mweso.

Kiswahili: Kinyozi hajinyoyi

French: Le coiffeur ne peut se coiffer seul.

English: Barber cannot cut himself his hair off.

Meaning: Every person needs the support of another one because we don't have the same aptitudes.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Corinthians 12:7-8

"And to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit as a help to him. For through the Spirit is given to one a word of wisdom, and to another a word of knowledge, according to the same Spirit;"

29. Khunyofeja atyughataa newaghatoo umanye wahanga

Kiswahili: Mtafutaji hachoki akichoka hatapata.

French: Quiconque cherche ne se fatigue.

English: Anyone seeking does not get tired.

Meaning: This proverb invites us to the perseverance. You have to persevere when looking for something precious; you sacrifice yourself for the success of a mission.

Biblical parallel: John 18:10-11

"At this, Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and slashed at the High Priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) But Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?"

30. Khunyonya maliwa akwe antina menyaa

Kiswahili: Mla chake hana haibu.

French: Qui mange son mets n'a pas honte.

English: Who eats his food is not ashamed.

Meaning: This proverb is used when independent you enjoy the fruit of your labor.

Biblical parallel: Matthew 25:23

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master'".

31. Kuwadia utegheya inanyo mkhuu ugunikha mughuu

Kiswahili: Asiyesikia la mkuu huvunjika guu.

French: Qui n'écoute pas le sage se casse la jambe.

English: Who does not practice advices of the head has a broken leg.

Meaning: This proverb is used when talking about consequences of those who misbehave after being taught about the truth.

Biblical parallel: Luke 13:3

"I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

32. Kewashangaa ama Musa ukhee, fuafadio ama Firauni

Kiswahili: Ukistahajabu ya Musa, utayaona ya Firauni.

French: Si peureux de Moise tu verras le courroux du Pharaon.

English: If afraid of Moses what about Pharaoh?

Meaning: This proverb is used for fear. If fearing the situation that is happening today what about the situation that will happen tomorrow that you do not know? If frightened by what you are still living what about what will happen in the future?

Biblical parallel: Romans 6:22-23

“But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

33. Kewatinya tunya uguhanga mwana nti wako

Kiswahili: Ngoja ngoja utakuta mwana si wako.

French: A trop attendre, l'enfant peut ne pas t'appartenir.

English: In waiting for so long, the child cannot be yours.

Meaning: This proverb is used for opportunities to take suddenly. It invites us not to wait for tomorrow what you can do today.

Biblical parallel: John 9:4

“We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.”

34. Kumithi guthuria anyojenga

Kiswahili: Kwenye miti hapakosi wajenzi.

French: La ou il y' a d'arbres, il a des maçons.

English: where there is trees there are masons.

Meaning: Where there are food, abundant resources, peace, good governance there are people who come to visit and to invest in that region.

Biblical parallel: Matthew 2:1-2

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Judea, in the days when Herod was king of the province. Not long after his birth there arrived from the east a party of astrologers making for Jerusalem and enquiring as they went, “Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east and we have come here to pay homage to him.”

35. Khusierhea antyi ugwa

Kiswahili: Kutereza sio kuanguka.

French: Glisser n'est pas synonyme de tomber.

English: Slide is not synonymous with fall.

Meaning: This proverb is used for encouragement. If one slides it does not mean he falls forever, he has to up stand again.

Biblical parallel: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest

on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

36. Kuthamuthuke munyofafecha khunu ikiugufafa

Kiswahili: Usimtukane mkunga na uzazi ungalipo.

French: N'insultes pas la sage-femme alors que la maternité te guette.

English: You shall not revile a midwife whenever you are still giving birth.

Meaning: This proverb invites us to mutual respect as each person is important in the community. Do not compromise the need will arise.

Biblical parallel: 1Peter2:17

"Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king".

37. Libee ramayiu rityiuria lombe.

Kiswahili: Ziwa la mama halikosi utamu.

French: Le sein de sa mère est très succulent.

English: Your mother's milk (breast) is very delicious.

Meaning: This proverb is used when expressing love, passion you have for your parents, nation, town, and village. The most wonderful country is your home country; the most generous woman is your mother.

Biblical parallel: Daniel 1:15-16

"At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead"

38. Malili ambua ne malangu.

Kiswahili: Dalili ya mvua ni mawingu

French: Les nuages sont les signes précurseurs de la pluie

English: The clouds are the signs of the rain

Meaning: There must be signs before an event happens that shows us the way of preventing it.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Kings18:44

"Finally the seventh time, his servant told him, "I saw a little cloud about the size of a man's hand rising from the sea."Then Elijah shouted, "Hurry to Ahab and tell him, 'Climb into your chariot and go back home. If you don't hurry, the rain will stop you!'"

39. Maje newayayuire isaa lazima uyoghe

Kiswahili: Maji ukiyafulia nguo huna budi ya kuyaoga.

French: L'eau qui vous a servi pour laver vos habits vous servira pour la baignade.

English: The water used to wash your clothes will serve you for bathing.

Meaning: It means that real friendship is the one that supports weaknesses, failure and success of one another. When you love someone you have to love even his disabilities.

Biblical parallel: John 14:1

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me”.

40. Mfuthu newamanya itu, newaniha wandia utija

Kiswahili: Mjinga akierevuka mwerevu anakuwa mashakani.

French: Quand le sot devient rusé, le malin se suspecte.

English: The enlightenment of the fool is the trouble for the shrewd.

Meaning: When human beings are oppressed by those in power, it reaches a time when they rise up and demand their rights.

Biblical parallel: Zechariah 7:10

“And do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.”

41. Mpampwea ndio mwendo

Kiswahili: Pole pole ndio mwendo.

French: Qui va lentement va sûrement.

English: Who walks slowly and with assurance goes far.

Meaning: Big projects begin from nothing and with determination they grow and become huge and strong, so do not neglect any beginning.

Biblical parallel: 1 Samuel 1:19

“Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her”.

42. Mpuma ethiudaha ona ifaturakwe eonara muyakwe

Kiswahili: Nyani haoni kundule.

French: Le singe ne voit pas ses derrières.

English: Monkey does not see its ass.

Meaning: It means that someone's misbehavior is not seen but quilts of others are strongly condemned.

Biblical parallel: Matthew 7:3-4

“Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye?”

43. Mtu newanantya ngazi ugusima mweso

Kiswahili: Mpanda ngazi hushuka mwenyewe.

French: Qui monte sur un palmier descend seul.

English: Who goes up a palm tree descends himself.

Meaning: It urges us to be responsible of our actions, our behavior. If misbehaving we will experience the consequences of our actions.

Biblical parallel: Matthew 9:31

“But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region”.

44. Mufandya mbeyu uguvuna

Kiswahili: Mpanda mbegu huvuna.

French: Quiconque sème recolte.

English: What you sow you reap.

Meaning: It means that no one can expect to get something more without sweating.

Biblical parallel: Matthew13:12

"For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him"

45. Munyoikhuta ughenda uchoo

Kiswahili: Mwenye haja huenda choo.

French: Qui se sent enrhumé se mouche (quiconque veut faire ses besoins visite les latrines)

English: Who wants his needs to be done has to visit the latrine.

Meaning: This proverb is used to encourage persons in need to continue seeking for solutions.

Biblical parallel: Matthew15:25

"But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

46. Mwaya nemuja uguyechwapete

Kiswahili: Chanda chema huvikwa pete.

French: Les bienfaiteurs ont toujours une bague de mérite au doigt.

English: Good doers are ring clothed.

Meaning: This proverb is used when good doers crowned. The crown is always given to those who deserve it. Let us do good to deserve a crown.

Biblical parallel: Luke12:37

"Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them."

47. Mwenda tenzi na homo marejeo ni ngamani

Kiswahili: Mtu hapotee kwao-hakuna pazuri kama nyumbani.

French: les origines sont difficiles a perdre.

English: one's origins are not easily forgettable.

Meaning: it means that there is no wonderful place else than home, even if you go far away for many years without returning home, you lost even your customs and adopt foreign customs, one day you will return in your country.

Biblical parallel: Luke15:20

"And rising up, he came to his father. But he yet being far away, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. And running, he fell on his neck and kissed him."

48. Mewakwanya mantu abiri rumwendo ryurubika

Kiswahili: Mshika mbili moja humponyoka.

French: Qui trop embrasse mal étreins.

English: He who holds two things one surely will escape.

Meaning: This proverb is used for selfish people and the loss they have to collect everything for themselves.

Biblical parallel: Mark10:21-22

“ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

49. Mewanja isukwi uyanje na munyunguayo

Kiswahili: Kipenda boga upende na mche wake.

French: Si tu aimes la courge, aimes aussi ses grains.

English: who loves Squash would like its seed.

Meaning: This proverb invites us to total love and not partial of who we love. Hypocrisy is to be excluded when exercising love.

Biblical parallel: John13:23

“There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved”.

50. Mwewona ragighea gunto umanye ritendiwe

Kiswahili: Ukiona vyaelea jua vimeundwa.

French: ce qui flotte est fabriqué.

English: Things that fleet are made.

Meaning: This proverb is used when talking about fake things, things that are not original. Let us seek for useful things.

Biblical parallel: 1Corinthians10:23

“As I have said before, the Christian position is this: I may do anything, but everything is not useful. Yes, I may do anything but everything is not constructive”.

51. Miwamocha muntu nuree ugurwa veve mughonjo

Kiswahili: Ukiamsha aliye lala utalala mwenyewe.

French: Ne réveille pas un tigre qui dort.

English: Don't wake someone who is sleeping.

Meaning: This proverb is used for prudence. Sleepy are dangerous so don't awaken them, you can get problems after awakening them. They are almost fierce and disturbing.

Biblical parallel: 1Samuel28:20

“And YAHWEH is doing for Himself as He spoke by my hand. And YAHWEH is tearing the kingdom out of your hand, and is giving it to your neighbor, to David. And Saul hurried and fell the full length of his stature to the earth, and greatly feared from the words of Samuel. And there was no power in him, for he had not eaten food all that day, and all the night”.

52. Miezarau ighuya, ugufuma senyekha

Kiswahili: Mzarau mwiba huota tende.

French: Qui néglige une écharde dans son pied le verra enflé.

English: Whoever despises a thorn in his foot will see it swollen or bloated.

Meaning: Do not neglect anything, because it can further bother you.

Biblical parallel: Psalm37:1

” Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers. For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb....”

53. Mwacha umwe anthuuraghanda

Kiswahili: Kidole kimoja hakivunji chawa.

French: Un seul doigt n’écraie pas un pou.

English: One finger does not crush a louse.

Meaning: It urges us to unity because division is a weakness.

Biblical parallel: 1Corinthians1:10

” I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought”.

54. Myau ne afwanya pokhu iughaa

Kiswahili: Paka akiondoka panya utawala.

French: A l’absence du chat la souris dance.

English: When cat leaves the mouse dances.

Meaning: The lack of authority is the beginning of chaos.

Biblical parallel: 1Corinthians14:32-33

“And the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”

55. Myungu nerikuu ityiurya ikhokho

Kiswahili: Jungu kikuu hakikosi ukoko.

French: Une grande casserole à cuisson ne manque pas de reliefs.

English: A cooking pot has always tailings.

Meaning: It means that if poor or rich, something must make you be identified because the appearance is the proof and a sufficient evidence of what you really are.

Biblical parallel: 1Samuel28:12

“When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, “Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul.”

56. Mpampea amankuu iumuficha kwengi

Kiswahili: Polepole ya kobe humfikisha mbali.

French: La lenteur de la tortue lui fait voyager loin.

English: Slow turtle makes him travel far.

Meaning: This proverb is used when talking about determination and insurance of somebody

Biblical parallel: Romans10:17

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

57. Manyanjo ni ikhari udhudahaufiha

Kiswahili: Mapenzi ni kikohozi kufichika hayazuiliki.

French: L’amour est une toux qu’on ne peut cacher.

English: Love is unavoidable hidden cough.

Meaning: It means that there is no means to hide what you prefer the most

Biblical parallel: John11:35-36

“Jesus wept. So the Jews were saying, “See how He loved him!”

58. Mendera eusambiyaa ufefo.

Kiswahili: Bendera hufuata upepo

French: Le drapeau suit le vent. (L’eau va à la rivière)

English: Flags pursue the wind.

Meaning: It urges us to follow instructions of our community leaders so that we can achieve goals.

Biblical parallel: 1 Samuel 30:3

“When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.”

59. Mukhuu abiri bithagikha musee umwe

Kiswahili: Fahari wawili hawakai zizi moja.

French: Deux taureaux ne vivent pas dans une seule étable

English: Two boasting bulls do not stay in the same stable.

Meaning: Two powerful men can’t govern a country. There must be a leader and subaltern for the harmony of the community

Biblical parallel: 1 Samuel 18:11, 13

“And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.” “Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.”

60. Mukhuu abiri nebagikhwa mahwaa eubara

Kiswahili: Fahari wawili wapiganao nyasi humia.

French: Là que deux éléphants se battent, les herbes souffrent

English: The grass suffers when two proud fighters are fighting between them

Meaning: It means that weak people lack peace, food, security when powerful men are fighting among themselves within the community.

Biblical parallel: Exodus 11:5-6

“ And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the

firstborn of all the animals. Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, not like it again”

61. Mutui intu nerefu neretikweti musiso.

Kiswahili: Hakuna marefu yasiyokuwa na ncha.

French: Toute phrase est composée par ses propres mots

English: Every sentence is composed by own words.

Meaning: It means that any history has its own genesis that influences it and not common to other stories

Biblical parallel: Genesis15:4-5

“Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

62. Ng’imba nienenda papwea ndio neulia ngama

Kiswahili: Simba mwenda pole ndiye mla nyama.

French: Le lion qui ne s’empresse pas mange la viande.

English: Lion that goes slowly eats meat. 23

Meaning: It is not necessary to run after something that belongs to you. Right is deserved and not acquired.

Biblical parallel: Luke22:29-30

“And just as My Father has granted me a kingdom, I grant you that you may eat and drink at My table in my kingdom and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel”.

63. Naje neahunukha uthuyajoa

Kiswahili: Maji yakimwangika hayazoleki.

French: On ne collecte pas l’eau une fois versée.

English: We do not collect water once spread on the ground.

Meaning: Trust once lost cannot be recovered or retrieved. Let's be careful for not losing a friendly relationship.

Biblical parallel: Esther1:19

“If it pleases the king, let a royal decree go out from him, and let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it will not be altered, that Vashti shall come no more before the King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she”.

64. Nyonge tyina haki

Kiswahili: Mnyonge hana haki.

French: Le faible n’a pas raison.

English: Wretched has no right.

Meaning: Nobody cares about powerless and his rights are violated by the powerful and his possessions can be grabbed because he has no one to support him and he cannot claim them anywhere. It is stifled by the strong.

Biblical parallel: 1Kings21:15

“As soon as Jezebel got their message, she told Ahab, “Now you can have the vineyard Naboth refused to sell. He’s dead.” Ahab got up and went to take over the vineyard.”

65. Nwunyasenga nirifang’i faka ainame

Kiswahili: Mtaka cha mvunguni sharti ainame.

French: Qui veut récupérer quelque chose sous le lit doit se courber.

English: who wants something under the bed the condition is to bend.

Meaning: Nothing easy to earn so, sacrifice is to be made for getting something precious

Biblical parallel: John3:1-2

“One night Nicodemus, a leading Jew and a Pharisee, came to see Jesus. “Master,” he began, “we realise that you are a teacher who has come from God. Obviously no one could show the signs that you show unless God were with him.”

66. Nunyoenenda mpampwea athukhangukhwa

Kiswahili: Mwenda pole hajikwai.

French: Qui va lentement ne se heurte pas contre quoi que ce soit.

English: Who walks slowly does not conflict against anything.

Meaning: This proverb is used to caution. A person with attentiveness never runs risks in his life.

Biblical parallel: Matthew1:19-20

“And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”

67. Nunyohoani ikhuju nthimunyorema

Kiswahili: Mchagua jembe si mkulima.

French: Qui choisit la houe n’est pas cultivateur.

English: Who chooses a hoe is not a farmer.

Meaning: This proverb is used when expressing dexterity, finesse and expertise. The one who knows what to do and how to do does not take care about discouraging sayings.

Biblical parallel: Acts13:46

“Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles”.

68. Nuunyokhua ngumi ukuta uguraria mikhono akwe mughonjo

Kiswahili: Mpiga ngumi ukuta uumiza mkonowe.

French: Quiconque bat un mur blesse son poing.

English: Who punches the wall hurts his hand.

Meaning: Those who are involved in businesses such as killings; robbery... hurt themselves when facing consequences.

Biblical parallel: 2Kings5:27

"Therefore, the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever."

69. Nomwamba rukhi athiuamba rimwe

Kiswahili: Mwonja asali haonji mara moja.

French: Qui a goûté au miel le gouterá toujours.

English: Who tasted honey will always taste it.

Meaning: This means that the one who has the habit of doing something will always be doing it. Whether or not habit becomes a second nature and it's difficult to cease with the manner you learnt.

Biblical parallel: Psalms78:17

"Yet they still continued to sin against Him, To rebel against the Most High in the desert."

70. Neguesong'e gwe nguu, nuwumwe umuthotho

Kiswahili: Umoja ni nguvu, utengano ni udhaifu.

French: L'union fait la force, la division est une faiblesse.

English: Unity is strength and division is weakness.

Meaning: This proverb is used when exhorting people to be unite so that they can overcome their struggles. When forces are united, greater projects of development are executed.

Biblical parallel: John17:23

"I in them and you in me, that they may grow complete into one, so that the world may realise that you sent me and have loved them as you loved me. Father, I want those whom you have given me to be with me where I am; I want them to see that glory which you have made mine—for you loved me before the world began."

71. Omwana wakukhu urumuhanga mwewe

Kiswahili: Dua la kuku halimpati mwewe.

French: La prière de la poule n'affecte pas l'aigle.

English: The prayer of the hen does not affect the eagle.

Meaning: Each person has his own priorities that are different from his neighbor's on which he has to focus his efforts for achieving them.

Biblical parallel: 1Samuel25:10-11

"But Nabal answered David's servants and said, "Who is David? And who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants today who are each breaking away from his master."Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men whose origin I do not know?"

72. Omwanjokhane mwanyokha

Kiswahili: Mtoto wa nyoka ni nyoka.

French: Tel père, tel fils.

English: The child of a snake is a snake.

Meaning: This is used when identifying families. It means that you can't give what you don't have to your children so they will become further what you had to be.

Biblical parallel: John17:1-3

“When Jesus had said these words, he raised his eyes to Heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son now so that he may bring glory to you, for you have given him authority over all men to give eternal life for all that you have given to him. And this is eternal life, to know you, the only true God, and him whom you have sent—Jesus Christ.”

73. Omerena mwandyo rina mwisho

Kiswahili: Chenye mwanzo kina mwisho.

French: Tout ce qui a un début a une fin.

English: Something that has a beginning has an end.

Meaning: It means that nothing is eternal, everything has to pass.

Biblical parallel: Ecclesiastes1:2

“Vanity of vanities, and all is vanity “

74. Paune khuna iyukhi gutyuria motho

Kiswahili: Palipo na moshi hapakosi moto.

French:il n'y a pas des fumées sans feu

English: Where there is smoke there does not fail fire

Meaning: It urges us not to reject information before verifying them because there is a small average of truth in lying

Biblical parallel: Mark 9:32

“Do not stop him,” Jesus said.”For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me.”

75. Sughenyi ni kukhu ni njeu

Kiswahili: Mgeni ni kuku mweupe.

French: L'étranger, c'est une poule blanche.

English: Alien is a white chicken.

Meaning: A person in a foreign country is always remarkable; he cannot hide his identity, the philosophy of his citizenship. Anybody in the host country recognizes him by the difference of culture and customs.

Biblical parallel: Daniel3:28

“Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.”

76. Suntu neatiuwiya atijiumanya intu

Kiswahili: Asiyauliza hana ajifunzalo.

French: Qui ne pose pas de questions n'apprend pas.

English: Who does not ask does not learn.

Meaning: This proverb is used about awareness and ignorance. Whoever inquires has clarifications about any questions that should trouble him. Who wants to be aware has to ask questions and be lightened.

Biblical parallel: Mark 10:38

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I have to drink? Can you go through the baptism I have to bear?"

77. Siamba neurya nyama eulya

Kiswahili: Simba akikosa nyama hula nyasi.

French: A l'absence de la viande, le lion mange l'herbe.

English: If the lion lacks meat it eats grass.

Meaning: It is used when doing what you are not expected to do.

Biblical parallel: Luke 18:5

"Yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out."

78. Sambya njukhi ulie rukhi

Kiswahili: Fuata nyuki ule asali.

French: suis les abeilles et déguste son miel.

English: follow the bees and taste its honey.

Meaning: It means that if you are a faithful and perseverant servant you will enjoy your master's favor.

Biblical parallel: Psalm 34:8

"O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!"

79. Thyuthendeka enthyuthendeka mpaka atendeka.

Kiswahili: Hayawi hayawi huwa

French: Ce qui ne sera pas est

English: Unexpected events occur

Meaning: This proverb is used for preventing us from astonishment when unexpected event occurs

Biblical parallel: Luke 2:29-32

"Now dismiss your servant in peace, Adonai, according to your word. Because my eyes saw Your Salvation, which You prepared before the face of all the peoples; a Light for revelation to the nations, and the Glory of Your people Israel".

80. Tunyugunyui ugumeya ng'ufa arukhi

Kiswahili: Chomvya chomvya humaliza buyu la asali

French: Avec l'habitude de laper le miel, on finit par terminer tout le vase

English: With the habit of sucking honey within the vase, you eventually finish it all.

Meaning: It means that getting used to doing something creates everyday's habit. The habit now creates a second nature, a nature that transforms positively or negatively the human being.

Biblical parallel: Judges 16:19

"After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him."

81. Tintwi negakhuya gontuntegheya mahukha

Kiswahili: Sikio la kufa halisikii dawa.

French: Une oreille morte ne comprend pas de médicaments

English: A dying ear is not cured.

Meaning: This proverb is used when in danger the one who does not understand and follows instructions or advices.

Biblical parallel: Judges 14:3

"His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me. She's the right one for me."

82. Twindia gwetha baraka

Kiswahili: Subira huvuta heri.

French: La patience attire le bonheur.

English: Patience draws blessed.

Meaning: It means that one can achieve his goal when he endures, with patience we can overcome bad situations and be promoted to a better one.

Biblical parallel: Ruth3:10:11

"Then he said, "May you be blessed of the LORD, my daughter. You have shown your last kindness to be better than the first by not going after young men, whether poor or rich. "Now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you whatever you ask, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence"

83. Tabia etuna mahukha

Kiswahili: Tabia haina dawa.

French: Le comportement n'a pas de remèdes.

English: Character is incurable.

Meaning: It is difficult to cure character; it has no medication because no means to remediate to bad behaviors, so death and prison are the only way to prevent these misbehaviors from hurting others.

Biblical parallel: John17:12

"While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled".

84. Viata amapandi enthumhanga kunguu.

Kiswahili: Vita vya panzi furaha ya kunguru.

French: La guerre des criquets est une joie pour les corbeaux

English: The war between grasshoppers is the happiness of a crow

Meaning: It means that division is weakness so; let us be united so that we can overcome our struggle.

Biblical parallel: Psalms 78:62

"He also delivered His people to the sword, And was filled with wrath at His inheritance."

85. Viata amantu nuguvua somba euja hasira ama somba.

Kiswahili: Furaha ya mvuvi hasira ya mkizi

French: Joie du pêcheur, colère du poisson.

English: Happiness of the fisherman is the anger of the sepia

Meaning: The misfortune of some is the happiness of others.

Biblical parallel: Esther 6:6

"And Esther said, "A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen".

86. Vifutaa ryina tabu

Kiswahili: Mazoea yana taabu

French: Les habitudes créent des difficultés.

English: Habits create a second nature.

Meaning: It means that the habits become a second nature and a problem always occurs when enjoying with these behaviors you learnt and you won't quit these habits easily.

Biblical parallel: 1Samuel2:25

"If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the Lord, who will intercede for him?" Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, because the Lord desired to kill them."

87. Videbe rityufu runkweya mukhindo.

Kiswahili: Debe tupu hupiga kelele.

French: C'est le tonneau vide qui fait de bruits

English: The empty vessels make the most sounds. (The empty bucket always shouts)

Meaning: Ignorant people always try to convince by their ideas and want these to be accepted as true.

Biblical parallel: Matthew 25:11-12

"Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'"

88. Vikhoti ramababa retyuria ndama

Kiswahili: Koti la babu halikosi chawa.

French: Le manteau du vieillard ne manque pas des poux.

English: The coat of an old man does not lack lice.

Meaning: It means that an old man has many things to give and among them wise advices

Biblical parallel: 2 Kings2:13-14

“He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of Jordan. Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over”

89. Unyoficha akhonde atyufafa

Kiswahili: Mficha uchi hazai.

French: Qui cache son sexe ne met pas au monde.

English: Naked hidden does not give birth.

Meaning: This proverb is used for introverts and hypocrites. Who hides his problems does not get them solved.

Biblical parallel: Proverbs28:13

“He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.”

90. Unyoheka mtu neughajikie nokhakwe nogilema khipo

Kiswahili: Mcheka kilema kwake kingalipo.

French: Quelqu’un rit de l’handicap du prochain alors qu’il en a un.

English: someone laughs at his neighbor’s disability and forgets his own.

Meaning: We must not underestimate the woe of his neighbor on the contrary it may be taken with compassion because that misfortune can reach you also as a human-being.

Biblical parallel: Job 42:8

“Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, and go to My servant Job, and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves, and My servant Job will pray for you. For I will accept him so that I may not do with you according to your folly, because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.”

91. Unyokhua ruji ugukhya mweso

Kiswahili: Mchimba kisima uingia mwenyewe.

French: Qui creuse un puits s’y enfonce.

English: Who digs a well sinks in it.

Meaning: Once warned of a danger and do not pay attention to it, you will certainly run into risks.

Biblical parallel: Ezekiel33:2-4

“Son of man, speak to your people and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman, 3 and he sees the

sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people, 4 then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not heed the warning and the sword comes and takes their life, their blood will be on their own head.”

92. Unyothenda mutihani nanugothe ndisya ifanda rao neremwe

Kiswahili: Mtahini na mtahiniwa njia yao ni moja.

French: L'examineur et l'examiné suivent une seule voie.

English: Examiner and the candidates are one. 18

Meaning: This proverb is used when expressing the same goal to achieve by a group of people.

Biblical parallel: Matthew28:19

“You, then, are to go and make disciples of all the nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you and, remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.”

93. Uchafu waghainge uthunyunka

Kiswahili: Mavi ya kale hayanuki.

French: les vieux excréments ne puent pas.

English: Excrement of the past does not stink.

Meaning: Once forgiven, sins are not remembered and they are cleaned out

Biblical parallel: Hebrews8:12

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

94. Wunyodiodfundusya na nyinya ugukundusya nang'ee

Kiswahili: Asiyesikiya la mamae hufunzwa na ulimwengu.

French: Le monde éduque quiconque n'écoute pas sa mère.

English: The world educates anyone who does not listen to his mother.

Meaning: This proverb is used for advising stubborn and urged to follow respectfully advices and become trusty.

Biblical parallel: Luke13:3

“No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish”

95. Wathanda getufafa haramu

Kiswahili: Kitanda hakizai haramu

French: Un lit n'enfante pas d'avorton

English: Bed does not bear illegal adopters

Meaning: Born the same way but when growing we become different according to the position we have in the society and the abilities you have.

Biblical parallel: Judges 11:7

“Then Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did you not hate me and drive me from my father's house? So why have you come to me now when you are in trouble?"

96. Yatyikhu amwivi ni mirongo

Kiswahili: Siku za mwizi ni arubahini.

French: Les jours du voleurs sont quarante.

English: Days of a thief are known.

Meaning: This proverb is used when someone is caught in the act committing offenses

Biblical parallel: 2Samuel12:7

“Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and delivered you from the hands of Saul.’”

97. Yughanga atyugikhinkaa

Kiswahili: Mganga hajigangi.

French: Le médecin ne se soigne pas lui-même.

English: Physician does not cure himself.

Meaning: This proverb is employed to show that we do not have the same abilities, hence complementarily is needed.

Biblical parallel: 1Kings19:3

“Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there”.

98. Zunyoghememeya ujolya nemaja

Kiswahili: Mvumilivu hula mbivu.

French: L’homme patient mange du fruit mur.

English: The patient man eats ripe fruit.

Meaning: This proverb calls upon patience. The welfare comes to who knows to wait because it’s the fruit of courage and perseverance.

Biblical parallel: Job42:12-13

“The LORD blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. And he also had seven sons and three daughters”.

99. Zomba mekhunje nekhee nyui, neakuwa ijounikha

Kiswahili: Samaki mkunje angali mbichi.

French: Plie le poisson quand il est frais.

English: Fold the fish when it is still fresh.

Meaning: It is said about education. It means that you teach good principles to people when they are still young.

Biblical parallel: Proverbs22:6

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

100. Zikhuya roghisighiya rethekwetigereo

Kiswahili: Msiba wa kujitakia hauna kilio.

French: Pas de funérailles pour une mort souhaitée (voulue).

English: No funeral for a desired death.

Meaning: The Tragedy of the self-imposed is minimized by brethren because they do not care about you and about the way you took. We have to think twice before making a decision.

Biblical parallel: Matthew 27:5

“Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.”

SUMMARY

The collection of Pare proverbs and wise saying has been an interesting and educative experience for both me and my collaborator. Pare people being Bantu and majoring in Swahili as their main language have made this period an educative one especially for me. I have grown in my understanding and speaking of the Swahili language.

During gathering and collection the proverbs and wise sayings, there was a major challenge which was communication especially through the internet. The Pare village areas are not well developed and, therefore, do not have access to internet. This made it difficult in terms of communication between me and my collaborator.

In conclusion, the collection of Pare proverbs and wise sayings has been a long journey full of up and down but with the ultimate goal and objective which was achieved eventually.

CONCLUSION

The Pare people harmonized their society by the entrenchment of basic human values among the community members to ensure continuity, love, respect, peace and harmony. Their social structure is followed to ensure each member of the society is accorded the respect they deserve and play a crucial role in the society. To maintain this fabric and ensure its continuity, Proverbs and wise sayings have been used by the Pare people from one generation to another.

The most basic core human values are evident in the proverbs and wise saying among the Pare people, some of these include; Happiness, love, peace, freedom, intelligence, respect, justice, safety among others. The core human value of unity is shown in proverb No.28 which says “Barber cannot cut himself his hair off.” This proverb express that having unity in the community is vital for the growth of the community. There is no person who can survive alone without the help of others.

This is just but a few of basic core human values which are represented in the collection of Pare proverbs and wise sayings. This is an indication that these values cuts across the universe.

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APPENDIX

A RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR THE COLLECTION OF ASU (PARE - TANZANIA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

By **Annastasi Oisebe**

INTRODUCTION

Location

The **Pare** (pronounced "Pahray") people are members of an indigenous ethnic group which habits the Pare Mountains of northern Tanzania, Mwanza and Same districts, Manyara, Tanga and, Kilimanjaro Region. They speak a language called **Asu**. It is also known by alternative names - *Ashu, Athu, Casu, Chasu, Chiasu, Kiathu, Kipare, Pare, Pare-Asu*. The Asu language has two dialects – Gonja and Mbaga. Pareland is also known as Vuasu.

The location lies on one of the northern routes for historic east-African long-distance trade, connecting the hinterland with the coast of the Indian Ocean. The residents of northern Pare recognise two sub-areas based on ethno-linguistic differences: Gweno-speaking Ugweno to the north and Chasu-speaking Usangi to the south.

A Map Showing the Regions of Tanzania



The Ethnographical Location of the Pare Ethnic Group in Tanzania



The neighbors of Pare tribe are Chaga from Moshi and the Wadigo Wasambaa, from Tanga.

Myth of Origin

The Pare people are said to have its origins in western Cameroon, although it is difficult to be so certain over the migration date which is estimated to be four millennium back. What is certain is that these people certainly came from the region of central Africa from where they and or their culture begin expanding to other parts of Sub-Saharan Africa around 2000 BC.

Many Pare people before colonialism lived in low land where they farmed. After the Europeans reach Kilimanjaro took away the land of Pare people. This land alienation forced them to move to the highlands where still live.

Culture

Traditionally music is practiced as an art in Pare community. At any time of the day or night some music was being made. Work songs also existed and were performed both during communal work like building, weeding, weddings and other ceremonies.

From the age of five to adolescence both boys and girls have most contact with their mothers, sisters, and other female relatives. Today, both boys and girls attend school if the parents can afford the fees. If there is not sufficient money for both to attend, the boy is usually favored and the girl remains at home to help the mother, until she gets married and moves away.

Marriage was traditionally considered to be the most significant event in the lives of both men and woman. The system of polygamy, multiple wives guaranteed that all people get married. The significance of bride wealth is increasing even among educated Africans. Most of Pare believe that divorce cannot occur after dowry has been exchange and children are born. Cattle are the primary items given for bride price. In determining the value of a prospective bride her family takes into account her health and appearance, her level of formal education.

Makande is a typical dish of the Pare which is a kind of stew maize and beans onions, garlic, tomatoes and chicken stock. It is prepared on Friday and lasts through Sunday evening which gives people more time to socialize during the weekend without worrying about cooking the food is kept in a big clay pot on the damp ground so it stays cool.

The Pare people wore minimal clothing. Animal hides were used to cover privates parts, but there was no stigma associated with nudity. Nowadays, clothing style is largely western

in the region. They vary according to a person's social class and life style preferences.



Pare people in a traditional dance

With all this cultural activities Pare people used Proverbs and wise sayings daily and their cultural events.

Examples of Asu (Pare) proverbs

1. Khune khuna nia khuna ifanda

Kiswahili: Penye nia pana njia

French: Ou il y a la volonté, il ya le chemin

English: Where is will there is means.

Meaning: With will we can make true our decision, our project and the expectations become reality. With will, successful realizations are made.

2. Newanja isukwi uyanje na munyunguayo

Kiswahili: Kipenda boga upende na mche wake.

French: Si tu aimes la courge, aimes aussi ses grains.

English: Who loves Squash would like its seed.

Meaning: This proverb invites us to total love and not partial of who we love. Hypocrisy is to be excluded when exercising love.

The most prominent and notable belief was that, when a baby was born and milk teeth started to grow from the upper jaw, it was believed to be a curse to the society. The child would be killed by being pushed off the edge of a large rock with the steep slope facing down the mountain. This belief has now been eroded due to literacy among the scholars of the society.

Religion and traditional beliefs

Ancestral spirits were remembered through various rituals and are believed to exert a significant influence on daily life. There were symptoms which were cured using traditional medicine. Roots and leaves of trees and weeds were used as medicine, either crushed, dried, as juice or paste. Respect for the ancestors was shown when drinking beer. People would pour a small libation of beer onto the ground, or left small vessels of beer were left in a special location as an offering to the ancestors. In other cases sacrifices of a chicken or goat were made and their blood spilled on the ground for the ancestors.

Political set up

Mfumwa Chief Muhammad Kibacha Singo was a local ruler who died in January 1982, at the age of between 120 and 140 years. Mfumwa had the assistants who helped him in ruling, and who acted as a link between himself and people. It was Germany colony era lasted until 1993 when the chieftom was abolished by an independent.

Economic activities

The areas chief produces of tea, coffee, sisal and cinchona. Rice is grown in the swampy plains. The Pare lands are by Tanzanian standards, is quite prosperous as its infrastructure of roads, electricity, telephone and piped water supply attests. An older infrastructure of irrigation furrows, stone lived terraces and sacred forests lies alongside these never technologies and shows that the Pare landscape has been carefully managed for centuries. Also Pare people engaged in trade of selling goods such as bananas, maize and other farm produces.

WRITING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this research on Pare ethnic group are:

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

JUSTIFICATION

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

METHODOLOGY

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

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BUDGET

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|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Data gathering and processing | \$ 180 |
| 2. | Typing and printing | \$ 100 |
| 3. | Binding | \$ 70 |
| 4. | Transport | \$ 100 |
| 5. | Editorial cost | \$ 50 |
| TOTAL | | \$ 500 |