

A COLLECTION OF 100 BORANA (KENYA) PROVERBS



By

Angelica Chelo & Benon Chelo

In memoriam of Calvin Chelo

For

**African Proverb Working Group
Nairobi, Kenya**

<http://www.afriprov.org>

1 November 2013

PREFACE

After several interaction and evangelism to the Borana people with DIGUNA Ministry, Rev Chelo decided to undertake some academic work on this ethnic group. On December 1st 2007, he submitted his ThD dissertation to Covington Seminary for the grade of Doctor of Theology. The dissertation was entitled “A comparative Study on the Value and Benefits of Truth in Borana Saying and in the Book of Proverbs: Theological Implication for Faith and Salvation.” This piece of work was based on the presupposition that Christianity is a translatable religion because it can adapt itself to any cultural context. In this study, Chelo discovered so much similarity between the Borana proverbs and the Bible’s proverbs in term of value and benefits of the truth. According to him, the Borana proverbs and many other African proverbs “are part of the revelation of the Law that God has given to the Gentiles who did not have the Law of Moses (Romans 2:14-18). Therefore, they can be used for the contextualization of the Gospel through their theological implications.”¹

In June 2011, Rev Dr Chelo travelled to Mombasa to meet Mr. Abraham Guyo, a Borana fellow working with tourism to seek some assistance for his project to publish 100 Borana proverbs for African Proverbs and Saying (www.afriprov.org). Guyo was happy about the project and helped him in collecting the 100 needed proverbs. Unfortunately, Chelo did not live long after this trip. On July 10th 2011, after sickness from his liver dysfunction, he went to be with the Lord, leaving this project on the table.

Then, Angelica Chelo (wife of the late Chelo) Benon Chelo (son of the late Chelo) and George Atido (PhD Student in Intercultural Studies-World Christianity at Africa International University) decided to finalize the work. After consulting with African Proverb working Group, the project was accepted. Socrate Kaluta Alimasi, a Congolese French Teacher came in to volunteer with French translation service while Hannah wa Mriri from SWAM Bureau Service assisted in typing the work.

We are very grateful for all contributors who came in to finalize of this work and for the African Proverbs Working Group for financial and moral support. To God be the glory.

George Pirwoth Atido, Editor

¹ Calvin, K. Chelo. *A comparative Study on the value and Benefits of Truth in Borana Saying and in the Book of proverbs: Theological Implication for Faith and Salvation*, Covington Seminary, 2007, p. 185.

INTRODUCTION

According to Francis Omondi and Orville Boyd Jenkins², where we have collected most of our information, the Borana who are part of a very much larger group of the Oromo, left the southern highlands of Ethiopia in the 1500's. They are mainly found in Ethiopia but some also live in Kenya and can be estimated at about 4 million in these two countries.

Those on the Kenya side of the border live in a large area of barren northern Kenya. About 44% of the Kenya Borana live in Marsabit District, into Tana River District, Garissa District and in Moyale District. The heaviest concentration live in the Sololo area of Marsabit District and in Moyale District. Those in Isiolo District are concentrated in Merti and Garba Tula. Since the early 1990s many Borana have lived in Nairobi. They maintain contacts with their home area.³

Because there are several peoples who now speak the Borana language, the Borana proper may be further distinguished as the Gutu Borana. Their language has been adopted by the Gabbra and Sakuye, who originally came from the same roots as the Somali and Rendille peoples. Linguists sometimes consider the speech of the Sakuye and Gabbra as sub-dialects of the Borana dialect of Borana-Arsi-Guji. About 8,000 of the Ajuuraan also speak Borana.⁴

Customs

The economy and life style are organized around cattle, though the formerly taboo camels are becoming more important, and they now herd sheep and goats. Young men do the daily herding while the women do all family nurturing. The homestead groups may be required to move three or four times each year, often as far as 100 km, because of the low rainfall and poor land.

Sturdy modular houses, constructed by the women, consist of interwoven branches thatched with grass all the way to the ground. This is in contrast with the Gabbra who weave mats to cover the framework. When movement of the homestead is required, the transportable portions are loaded onto the back of a camel or a woman and carried to the new location. They settle temporarily in groups of 10 to 30 houses.

² Francis Omondi and Orville Boyd Jenkins, "The Borana People of Ethiopia and Kenya" <http://orvillejenkins.com/profiles/orma.html>, Internet Accessed December 30, 2011.

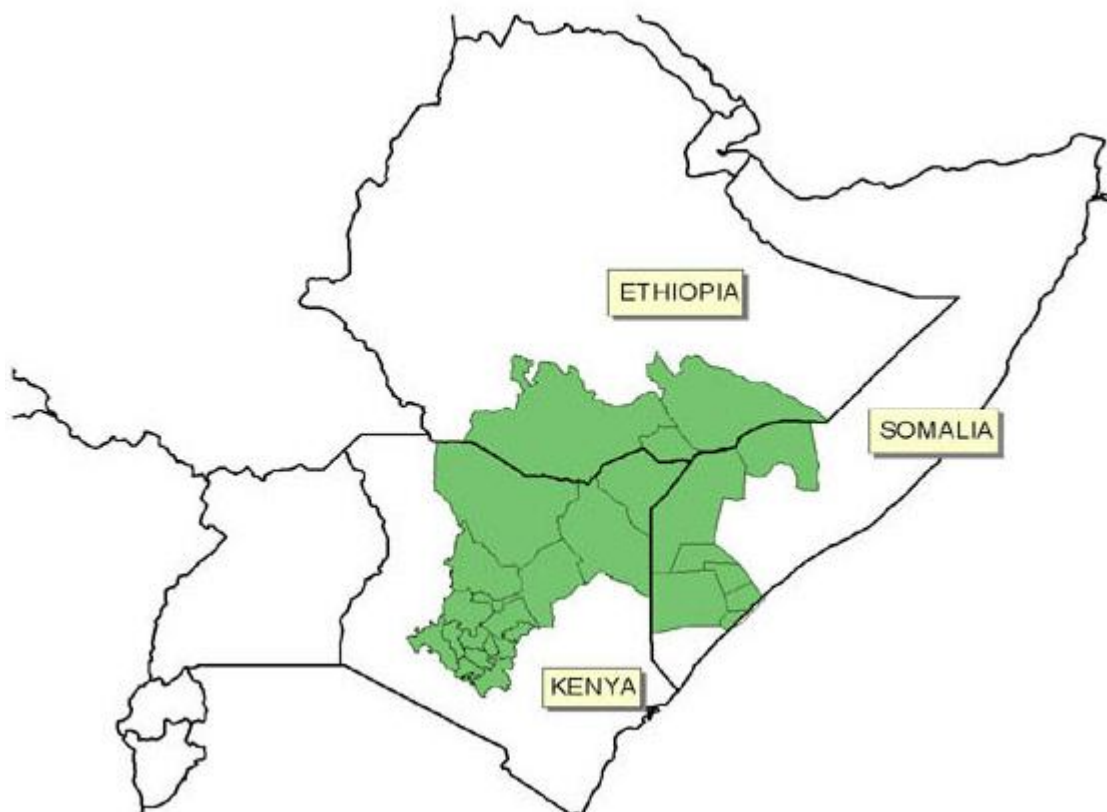
³ Francis Omondi and Orville Boyd Jenkins, "The Borana People of Ethiopia and Kenya" <http://orvillejenkins.com/profiles/orma.html>, Internet Accessed December 30, 2011.

⁴ Francis Omondi and Orville Boyd Jenkins, "The Borana People of Ethiopia and Kenya" <http://orvillejenkins.com/profiles/orma.html>, Internet Accessed December 30, 2011.

Every aspect of their culture is captured in song and handed down from one generation to the next. Children are educated and enculturated through music.⁵

BORANA MAP

By Eyes on Africa Travel and Safaris at <http://www.eyesonafrica.net/african-safari-kenya/borana.htm>



⁵ Francis Omondi and Orville Boyd Jenkins, “The Borana People of Ethiopia and Kenya” <http://orvillejenkins.com/profiles/orma.html>, Internet Accessed December 30, 2011.

CONTENT

1. Obsan qalomani.

English: Patience leads to an honorable position.

2. Chubbun tok daqabi, tok ordofi.

English: You can be punished as you do sin on the spot. But for others it can come later.

Meaning: As for the punishment of sin, some are immediate; and others come later.

3. Waagaran qabu arrbi namhata.

English: What was withheld as secret thought will come out through a slip of tongue.

4. Ittiallatin nyatu wahi ingartu ; gurri allatin nyatu wahi ind'agau.

English: An eye that the vultures peck at, does not see; an ear that the vultures peck at does not

5. Huqondarba alati, muyonidua dursa alati.

English: The weak cow will blame whoever pushes it for its fall; the weak woman will blame her husband's death for her downfall.

6. Arbitir ufiindadabu.

English: The elephant does not get tired carrying his heavy tusks.

7. At Mormadafatu siimma.

English: You may deny that you were fed, but your body will tell.

8. Okon wan asana fudjete.

English: A rake recommends that it be used first to fetch the rubbish that is nearest.

9. Arki tokochi nafindqu.

English: One hand alone cannot wash the body.

10. Ade an Gafabou, Gur naramuran get aren.

English: The donkey lamented that while it was pleading for horns, its ears were cut off.

11. Aki marot waldiq.

English: Hand was each other in turn.

12. Adho akijedanjiru akijechanam diba.

English: While we know what to say, saying it that way is often difficult.

13. Guyya amma ijoolet qae nam d'eeta.

English: On a bad day children will flee from your sight.

14. Idjiru idi inyatani.

English: While relatives exist, one cannot eat the sodom apple.

15. Wan oketen inqamne moqan infud'u.

English: The ladle cannot serve anything if the pot is empty.

16. Warridua dibbe ind'agatu.

English: People who are on the verge of death do not hear the drum beat

17. Koblan don jet saren d'ad'anubir t'aljenan.

English: This is amusing; said the dog when asked to guard a container of cheese.

18. Nam Duu, Dubbi Indone.

English: A man dies, but his word lives forever.

19. Waan namitok it fidamu, to kit fidamu indandau.

English: The conditions that one can comfortably live with, might be unacceptable to another.

20. Tolikijiba abba qolesa.

English: One who gives to earn praise will impoverish himself.

21. Gargalcha waaga mili mata oge.

English: Observing God's wonders; the baboon scratches his head with his leg.

22. Qaro nafi illa.

English: The body of wise man has eyes.

23. Gowa man it naqi, qaro fuulit debisi.

English: Lead a fool into the house but just show the path to the wise.

24. Sabord'alule wahin egatine.

English: Even if the cow may give birth tomorrow, there has to be something to feed on till then.

25. Galanat wait yaa male, garachi walt iyau.

English: Rivers flow into each other but stomach do not.

26. Dubbi qamna, hujji gamnat irjira.

English: It's more pleasing to hear of someone busy with work, than hearing of them busy handling dispute.

27. Galatam gati injenne, a chuman bad injenne.

English: I did not ask for a payback for a generous act, nor did expect it to disappear altogether.

28. Wan lafit didan lafit ch'lchan didan.

English: Food that is rejected at one place is accepted at another.

29. Garrin wanjetu, yaaditaka, firin gargar.

English: Even people who share the same opinions have different individual thoughts.

30. Dukubi iyeesa, mada binensa.

English: A poor man's ailment is like a wild animal wound.

31. Itgomti bella iltid'ooti, jet nad'een.

English: Women's say that it's fairer for the blind man that his eyes are gouged out.

32. Magalaria demt ak duresabelae.

English: Why are you staggering like a rich man who is hungry; they ask.

33. Woinjed'ini, woojed'iwarabesati

English: Do not say woo, say woo, the hyena taught people the correct way to howl.

34. Hiyes Aad'daltet jiba.

English: A poor man is detested by his own mother.

35. Afuran garacha tap'ata uftolcha.

English: One greedy for food makes himself playful.

36. Fardi arre kees ollu, dufu barata.

English: A horse that grazes, in the same field with donkey, learns how to fart.

37. Kadua egan jarsa kaduu dargagesa, yet sidamti

English: Those who are thought to be dying are the old, but those who actually die are the young; said sidam.

38. Mucha bou fed'u yabben irejote.

English: The boy who wanted to cry was stepped on by a calf.

39. D'amala inhorani faro male indhegani.

English: Optimism leads to riches and pessimism leads to poverty.

40. Ulen yowal irat qaban ta abba murate taat.

English: If an argument over ownership arises about stick, the person who original cut it from the tree assumes ownership.

41. Jarsi tok wanjed'e, kijiba woma imbau, kijibilem womanaa imba u.

English: An old man said; I do not benefit from a lie and neither does a lie benefit from my lie

42. Mali ijeese warani lubbu kuta.

English: The plan kills, the weapon only does the deed.

43. Galani nam inyaatu, wan ham nyaatati namgees.

English: The river is not a predator by itself but it takes you to a predator.

44. Walim gaan ta fin kutacha lama.

English: If generously shared, a flea can be bitten twice.

45. Warri Abba daab kessuma inteesisu.

English: A house hold in which the owner is kept standing has no room for the guest to sit.

46. Lon ado na inhijemne abbo nat yaama jeal'ani.

English: The cow requested to see the owner before being killed.

47. Itich'eer imbetu, gulla Aad'a Abbale inlalti.

English: The eyes do not shy away from anything; they can dare to see the parents' nakedness.

48. Abban ufinhargu, d'akhan ufindarbu.

English: One cannot see oneself, a stone cannot push itself.

49. Bir baani, dubbit affa ; d'uggadubbe tani namat wald'aba.

*English: If facts are ignored, justice cannot be rendered yet, if one refuses to ignore the facts
enmity is created.*

50. Sukhela d'abod'abi nititofate.

English: Having not found another one she became the man's undisputed wife.

51. Antun yodiibae.

English: The worst shall be revealed when the moon rises.

52. Fonfed' itand'acha inyaatani.

English: One does not eat swollen glands to appease a strong desire for meat.

53. Safartichi wan jed'e, malikaan dabre, kaan ya afe.

English: If one plan is out of hand another one remains.

Meaning: If one plan doesn't work out, there is always another.

Swahili : Kama moja wapo ya mpango imeshindikana, kingine kitabakia.

*French : Quand un plan rate, il ya toujours un deuxième plan. Malgré qu'on échoue, il y a
toujours la possibilité de réussir.*

Biblical Parallel

55. Adobiyya dunnu ufi duna sare.

English: While we bark for others we also bark for ourselves; said the dog.

56. Nami wan je'de', ulfin mata qacheeri imbekhatu.

English: The neck does not recognize that the head is heavy.

57. Nami wan jed'e D'erattule ilumen mata mgolchitu.

English: However long it may grow, the neck will never surpass the head.

58. Adoka batu ind'ad'amne,ka baatani d'ate.

*English: When a person is carrying someone on his back, the one being carried gets tired before he
does.*

59. Safartichi wanjede, silalaf jiran keesa mulachu malani, yokhani keesa aljirachu malani.

English: Where one lives it is good to be prominent if not it is better to live elsewhere.

60. Ollan dubr wal inkad'atu, kadatu wal ira ind'abu.

English: Villagers do not marry one another if they do, they always meet their objections.

61. Nami wan je'de', ulfan d'ufeet, ulfa in elman.

English: The arrival of an honoured guest does not warrant milking a pregnant cow.

62. Abban uf inimu ufira bahu ind'abu.

English: One is not barred from referring to oneself.

63. Sige moti warri issiri mot bade.

English: If the woman takes over the house, the family she rules is doomed.

64. Ganibir d abranjiha, gain itdema ni dukana.

English: The past years are in moonlight, the years to come are in darkness.

65. Waaga jete kara kees inchiisin.

English: Do not say; on God, and sleep on the road

66. Sareetin kopa imbatu, irko mukha male, deegi kopa ingo damu irko dureesa male.

English: A climbing plant with tendrils cannot grow on it's own without the support of a tree.

67. Onnat moun ima onot ufhima.

English: Those who know you speak well about you; but one who is not liked or respected has to brag about himself.

68. Yokhaan tullu tani, yekhaan yokha an tullut irkatani.

English: One should either become a pillar or lean against one.

69. Farti farti, jed'qampiso gummi.

English: There is different hand writings, said qampiso gummi.

70. Hiyesi d'ira hiyesa olat.

English: A poor man is like an orphaned ram.

71. Nami yo male deme yo dansa gale.

English: One who travels at an unfavorable time comes home at a favorable time.

72. Sidamtichi wanjed'e, tabaqan ijole ta diram wag lalte galgal laflaltu.

English: A clever child is one who looks up in morning (rude) and down in the afternoon.

73. Nami wanjed'e, wanbir injire, wan birjirtun bekhil.

English: One should understand what happens in one's absence by relating to what used to happen in one's presence.

74. Qorgoron yo gubani, garfooni gulrifati.

English: When put in fire, a hide of skin crumples toward the fleshy side.

75. D'uga waeli waaga.

English: God is the companion of truth.

76. Taa alkan galt it barisifatani.

English: That which occurs at night will await dawn.

77. Galgalishon inqabu.

English: Evening has no supplement.

78. Sigube ingare ibidan tap'ata.

English: You play with fire because you have not seen it burn.

79. Tabira bate, atiboha ind'agetu.

English: A mother will not hear the cry of her married daughter who is now living far away

80. Sirati war Hassan Gababa gallate ham seme, furdate namkessa baha.

English: When befriending people, the family of Hassan Gababa enters narrowly and leaves broadly.

81. Laf roban garte bonangarte, jed'ani?

English: Have you seen in a dry season the place you had seen during the rainy season?

82. Daon fago d'amocha ind'owartu.

English: A distant shelter does not shield one from cold.

83. Chiresi bola, bol guyyabuan imbekhani.

English: A doctor is like a pit, one can not know when one will fall into it.

84. Dafana in hadin guyya issasi inha d'u. Dale inqorin guyya kheetin si inqon.

English: Do not fight for a coward, he will not fight for you. Similarly, do not support a fool in a dispute, he will not support you in yours.

85. Mant, Jabdu janan wandirti fute jed'an.

English: What is certain is that which a man vows to undertake.

86. Mali dirad'ae, d'aatu bofa arge.

English: Men's ideas helped to locate the snake.

87. Ilmen qafelan d'ufte, ad'ale indibdy ufile ind'ibdu.

English: A new born that comes in the right position relieves the mother and relieves itself.

88. Metan d'alote lafqa, dvisa lafinangatch.

English: The head that touches the ground at birth, will not fail to touch the ground at death

89. Ballan, wan gaf il gabu dubbata.

English: A blind man speaks the good old days before he became blind.

90. Qaron wan bori jenan, gowan warn arrajed'a.

English: A wise man plans for tomorrow, a fool plans only for today.

91. Dirti waya keesa.

English: Manhood is beneath the clothing.

92. Firfakate d'ad'an waya balesa.

English: In a friendly way, the oil spoils the cloth.

93. Dabeesa d'ad'an d'eed'i.

English: For the weak ones, fat is raw.

94. Ganka d'ufu man jaran male, kadabre man injaran.

English: One builds a house for the future, not for the past.

95. Abban ka ufi jed'guyo kiti.

English: The owner is entitled to first rights.

96. Nafi abba took abbatokot qoricha.

English: A person's body is precious to him but nothing to someone else.

97. Sidam tichi wanjed'e, gangen sirat bade na immarare, lime sirat malebadet na marare.

English: Sidam said, I was not annoyed by the mule that got lost without my knowledge but the needle that got lost due to my carelessness annoyed me.

98. Nam gurratibule, namgurach d'ugeet ir jira.

English: It is better to drink blood that has no milk than to sleep hungry.

99. Lam indebitu jet awaitun.

English: After the burrial the undertakers said, the body will not re-surface.

100. Iyes dootitasa, ama dooti mama.

English: A poor man's death is surprising and a mean man's death is unbelievable.

BORANA PROVERBS

1. Obsan qalomani.

English: Patience leads to an honorable position.

Meaning: *Without patience we cannot reach an honorable position.*

Swahili: uvumilivu yatakuongoza kwa cheo ya heshima.

French: La patience conduit a une position honorable.

Biblical Parallel

Psalm 37:7-9

Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. Stop being angry! Turn from your rage! Do not lose your temper—it only leads to harm. For the wicked will be destroyed, but those who trust in the Lord will possess the land.

2. Chubbun tok daqabi, tok ordofi.

English: You can be punished as you do sin on the spot. But for others it can come later.

Meaning: *As for the punishment of sin, some are immediate; and others come later.*

Swahili: Kwa adhabu ya dhambi kwa wengine huja badaye.

French: Pour les uns la rétribution du péché vient immédiatement tandis que pour d'autres cela vient avec retard.

Biblical Parallel

None

3. Waagaran qabu arrbi namhata.

English: What was withheld as secret thought will come out through a slip of tongue.

Meaning: *Without using wisdom, we can expose many secrets; by sliding of our tongues.*

Swahili: Yale yalikusudiwa kuwa ya siri yatatokea kwa kujikwa kwa ulimi.

French: Le secret se divulgue quand la langue glisse.

Biblical Parallel

None

4. Ittiallatin nyatu wahi ingartu ; gurri allatin nyatu wahi ind'agau.

English: An eye that the vultures peck at, does not see; an ear that the vultures peck at does not hear.

Meaning: *People who have chosen a bad way of life, do so with zest, without showing any sign of guilt.*

Swahili: Watu waliyo chagua njia mbaya za maisha, hufanya mambo zao bila kuonyesha dalili za uoga au kufathaika.

French: Ceux qui choisissent une mauvaise voie le font sans remord.

Biblical Parallel

None

5. Huqondarba alati, muyonidua dursa alati.

English: The weak cow will blame whoever pushes it for its fall; the weak woman will blame her husband's death for her downfall.

Meaning: *Weaklings never accept responsibility; they have to blame others for what happens to them.*

Swahili: Wadhaifu, hawajawahi kukiri udhaifu wao, bali utafuta kizingizio ya udhaifu wao kutoka wengine.

French: Les faibles ne reconnaissent jamais leurs faiblesses, et cherchent à incriminer les autres.

Biblical Parallel

None

6. Arbitir ufiindadabu.

English: The elephant does not get tired carrying his heavy tusks.

Meaning: *Each can try his own burden*

Swahili: Ndovu hachoshwe nauzito wa meno yake.

Maana : Kila mmoja huvumilia mzigo wake.

French: L'éléphant ne se fatigue pas de sa trompe, malgré son poids.

Biblical Parallel

Galatians 6:5 "For each one should carry their own load."

7. At Mormadafatu siimma.

English: You may deny that you were fed, but your body will tell.

Meaning: *Some facts speak for themselves.*

Swahili: Ingawaje unaweza kukataa yakuwa umelishwa, lakini mwili wako mwenyewe yata kusema.

French: Certains faits se prouvent eux-mêmes.

Biblical Parallel

None

8. Okon wan asana fudjete.

English: A rake recommends that it be used first to fetch the rubbish that is nearest.

Meaning: *Solve your problems first before you solve those of others.*

Swahili: Fagio kadhibitisha yakuwa kawaida hutumiwa kwanza, kufagia taka iliyo karibu.

French: Resoud ton problem avant de resoudre celui des autres.

Biblical Parallel

Luke 6:42: "How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

9. Arki tokochi nafindqu.

English: One hand alone cannot wash the body.

Meaning: *There is strength in unity. "many hands make light work"*

Swahili: Mkono mmoja haiwezi kuosha mwili wote.

French: L'union fait la force.

Biblical Parallel

Psalm 33

How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!

It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,

down on the collar of his robe.
It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.

10. Ade an Gafabou, Gur naramuran get aren.

English: The donkey lamented that while it was pleading for horns, its ears were cut off.

Meaning: *A servant may demand a pay rise only to find himself sacked.*

Swahili: Punda ka simulia yakuwa huku akidai pembe sikio lake likakatwa.

French: L âne se plaignait de n'avoir pas les cornes ; il se retrouva les oreilles coupées.

Biblical Parallel

None

11. Aki marot waldiqa.

English: Hand was each other in turn.

Meaning: *Good deeds should be reciprocated.*

Swahili: Mema hurudia mwenye kuyatenda.

French: Les bienfaits, engendrent d'autres bienfaits.

Biblical Parallel

Galatians 6:7 "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man **reaps** what he sows."

12. Adho akijedanjiru akijechnam diba.

English: While we know what to say, saying it that way is often difficult.

Meaning: *Hard facts are not always palatable and need careful wording.*

Swahili: Ingawaje twajua ya kuyasema, kuyasema yenyewe; yakawa magumu.

French: Même si, nous savons la vérité parfois, nous manquons les mots pour l'exprimer.

Biblical Parallel

None

13. Guyya amma ijoolet qae nam d'eeta.

English: On a bad day children will flee from your sight.

Meaning: *Even children who are usually friendly will hide from you on a bad day.*

Swahili: Hata hao watoto walio rafiki zako, watakutoroka, wakati wasiku mbaya.

French: Pendant les jours de malheurs les enfants vous abandonnent.

Biblical Parallel

None

14. Idjiru idi inyatani.

English: While relatives exist, one cannot eat the sodom apple.

Meaning: *One should seek assistance from relatives, rather than living a terrible life.*

French: Autant demander l'aide aux frères que de continuer à souffrir seul dans la vie.

Biblical Parallel

Matthew 7: 7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

15. Wan oketen inqamne moqan infud'u.

English: The ladle cannot serve anything if the pot is empty.

Meaning: *You cannot assist someone if you do not have anything yourself.*

Swahili: Kimamio hakina kazi yeyote, ikiwa sufuria iko wazi.

French: On rit avec ses dents, on ce que l'on a.

Biblical Parallel

None

16. Warridua dibbe ind'agatu.

English: People who are on the verge of death do not hear the drum beat

Meaning: *A person who is dying cannot heed or even hear advice.*

Swahili: Kwa mtu anaye kufa, hawezi tena sikiya mashauri.

French: Devant sa destination le conseil ne peut rien changer.

Biblical Parallel

None

17. Koblan don jet saren d'ad'anubir t'aljenan.

English: This is amusing; said the dog when asked to guard a container of cheese.

Meaning: *Do not engage a potential thief as a guard.*

Swahili: Ni neon la kushangaza, kuambia umbwa awe mlinzi wa siagi.

French: Ne demander jamais à un voleur de devenir un gardien.

Biblical Parallel

None

18. Nam Duu, Dubbi Indone.

English: A man dies, but his word lives forever.

Meaning: *A man can pass, but his word survives*

Swahili: Mtu hufa lakini maneno yake yanaishi milele.

French: L'homme meurt mais ses actes demeurent.

Biblical Parallel

Revelation 14 :13 Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

19. Waan namitok it fidamu, to kit fidamu indandau.

English: The conditions that one can comfortably live with, might be unacceptable to another.

Meaning: *Each one has his ability to survived the nature or the life condition.*

Swahili: Mambo magumu, mtu kuishi nayo, kwa wengine ni shida.

French : Chaque personne, a ses habiletés de supporter des problèmes.

Biblical Parallel

Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

20. Tolikijiba abba qolesa.

English: One who gives to earn praise will impoverish himself.

Meaning: *You must consider your commitments first before assisting others.*

Swahili: Mtu yule anaye peana kitu hivi tu ili asifiwe hupata shida.

French: Celui, qui donne avec prétention détruit sa ressource.

Biblical Parallel

Matthew 6:3 “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.”

21. Gargalcha waaga mili mata oge.

English: Observing God’s wonders; the baboon scratches his head with his leg.

Meaning: *One is puzzled, by things one doesn’t understand.*

Swahili: Kustajabia, majabu za Mungu, nyani kujikuna kichwani na miguu yake.

French: Il y a plusieurs façons d’apprécier les merveilles de Dieu.

Biblical Parallel

None

22. Qaro nafi illa.

English: The body of wise man has eyes.

Meaning: *A wise man doesn’t have to see a problem, to know about it.*

Swahili: Mwili ya mwenye hekima ina macho.

French: Le sage, a un sens de vue supranaturel.

Biblical Parallel

Proverbs 17 :24 : “A discerning person keeps wisdom in view, but a fool’s eyes wander to the ends of the earth.”

23. Gowa man it naqi, qaro fuulit debisi.

English: Lead a fool into the house but just show the path to the wise.

Meaning: *A wise man just need pointing in the right direction; a fool needs leading.*

Swahili: Muongoze mpumbavu kwenye nyumba lakini muonye! She njia ya hekima.

French: Le sage, est toujours utile à la société, mais un idiot est un lourd fardeau.

Biblical Parallel

Proverbs 24 :7 “Wisdom is too high for fools; in the assembly at the gate they must not open their mouths.”

24. Sabord’alule wahin egatine.

English: Even if the cow may give birth tomorrow, there has to be something to feed on till then.

Meaning: *You cannot count on what is coming tomorrow to help you today.*

Swahili: Hata kama ngombe niwakuzaa kesho, lazima awe na lishe ya yeye kula hadi hapo.

French: Autant compter sur le présent que de compter sur le futur.

Binblical Parallel

James 4 : 13-15 “Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

25. Galanat wait yaa male, garachi walt iyau.

English: Rivers flow into each other but stomach do not.

Meaning: *Rivers feed each other, but a man can only feed his own stomach.*

Swahili: Mto kwa kawaida hupeleka maji yake kwa mto nyingine, walakini mtu hupeleka kwa tumbo yake.

French: Les rivières se nourrissent entre elles. Tandis que l’homme nourrit seulement son propre ventre. *Ne soyons pas, égoïstes, comme des hommes, mais soyons solidaires comme les rivières.*

Biblical Parallel

Galatians 6:2 “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

26. Dubbi qamna, hujji gamnat irjira.

English: It’s more pleasing to hear of someone busy with work, than hearing of them busy handling dispute.

Meaning: *Better to fight for our daily bread, than spending our time judging helpless things.*

Swahili: Ni jambo ya kufurahisha jukisia mtu Fulani, anashuguli nyingi za kazi kuliko kusikia wanazoshuguli za kutaua ugomvi.

French: Mieux vaut se battre pour son pain quotidien, que de passer son temps dans le jugement de querelles inutiles.

Biblical Parallel

Titus 3:8-9 “This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.”

27. Galatam gati injenne, a chuman bad injenne.

English: I did not ask for a payback for a generous act, nor did expect it to disappear altogether.

Meaning: *Do good thing in your life without hoping a pay back.*

Swahili: Mimi sikuuliza malipo kwa ukarimu wangu, hata hivyo singetarajia ya potee hivyo tu kwa jumla.

French: Fais du bien sans attendre la récompense.

Biblical Parallel

Matthew 6:3 “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.”

28. Wan lafit didan lafit ch’lchan didan.

English: Food that is rejected at one place is accepted at another.

Meaning: *What you accept depends on how hungry you are.*

Swahili: Chakula ile imekataliwa pahali fulani itakubaliwa kuingine.

French: Le repas rejeté par une personne peut être mangé ailleurs.

Biblical Parallel

Leviticus 23:22 “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the LORD your God.”

29. Garrin wanjetu, yaaditaka, firin gargar.

English: Even people who share the same opinions have different individual thoughts.

Meaning: *Even if we walk on the same way, everyone has his own ideas.*

Swahili: Hata kama watu wanausemi au maoni sawa wanatofauti, kimawazo

French: Même si, on marche dans la même voie, chacun a sa manière de penser. On peut partager la même opinion mais chacun a ses propres idées.

Biblical Parallel

None

30. Dukubi iyeesa, mada binensa.

English: A poor man's ailment is like a wild animal wound.

Meaning: *Both must heal naturally as neither will have a doctor.*

Swahili: Maoni ya maskini, ni kama kidonda ya mnyama wa mwituni.

French: Les opinions d'un pauvre sont comme la blessure d'une bête sauvage. Nul ne prête attention au discours d'un pauvre.

Biblical Parallel

None

31. Itgomti bella iltid'ooti, jet nad'een.

English: Women's say that it's fairer for the blind man that his eyes are gouged out.

Meaning: *The blind man's problem is obvious but some people problems are not.*

Swahili: Wanawake wanasema ni afadhali kwa kipofu mwanaume, ule macho yake yametolewa.

French: Les femmes disent, mieux vaud un homme aveugle, dont les yeux ont été arrachés : les problèmes d'un aveugle ne concernent pas tout le monde, mais l'aveugle pense que sa situation est normal.

Biblical Parallel

Matthew 15:14 "If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

32. Magagaria demt ak duresabelae.

English: Why are you staggering like a rich man who is hungry; they ask.

Meaning: *Rich men are not used to hunger so everyone will notice when they stagger.*

Swahili: Mbona wewe unagaga kama mtu tajiri mwenye njaa wakauliza.

French: Pourquoi, tu marches et titubant comme un riche affamé ?

Biblical Parallel

1Peter 2:12 "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

33. Woinjed'ini, woojed'iwarabesati

English: Do not say woo, say woo, the hyena taught people the correct way to howl.

Meaning: *Some people beg to differ in opinion only to express the same idea.*

Swahili: Musiwahi kusema woo, semeni woo; fisi kafunza watu jinsi ya kubweka.

French: Chacun a son expression pour demander, mais l'objectif est le même : on peut utiliser plusieurs chemins mais l'essentiel est d'atteindre l'objectif.

Biblical Parallel

None

34. Hiyes Aad'daltet jiba.

English: A poor man is detested by his own mother.

Meaning: *A man who fails cannot even get respect from his own parents.*

Swahili: Mwanaume maskini, akahaibishwa na mamaye.

French: Le pauvre est détesté par sa propre mère : Un homme qui n'a pas réussi dans la vie n'est pas honoré, même par ses propres parents.

Biblical Parallel

None

35. Afuran garacha tap'ata uftolcha.

English: One greedy for food makes himself playful.

Meaning: *A conman always appears friendly and polite.*

Swahili: Mtu mchoyo kwa chakula, hujifanya macharichari.

French: Le gourmand cherche à remplir son assiette : l'escroc paraît toujours gentil.

Biblical Parallel

John 7:24 "Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly."

36. Fardi arre kees ollu, dufu barata.

English: A horse that grazes, in the same field with donkey, learns how to fart.

Meaning: *You become like those you mix with.*

Swahili: Farasi mwenye hulishwa pamoja na punda kwa shamba moja, hujifunza kunyamba.

French: Un cheval, vivant avec un âne dans la même étable apprend à dire faire comme lui : On ressemble à celui qu'on fréquente.

Biblical Parallel

2 Corinthians 6:14 "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"

37. Kadua egan jarsa kaduu dargagesa, yet sidamti

English: Those who are thought to be dying are the old, but those who actually die are the young; said sidam.

Meaning: *Death is unpredictable. It picks randomly both on the old and young.*

Swahili: Kwa wale walio funzwa wakufe wakawa ni wazee, lakini walio kufa wakawa ni wadogo.

French: Les gens ont toujours pensé à la mort des vieux, mais les jeunes meurent aussi tôt.

Biblical Parallel

Ecclesiastes 7:2 "It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart."

38. Mucha bou fed'u yabben irejote.

English: The boy who wanted to cry was stepped on by a calf.

Meaning: *He had other reasons for being in a bad mood. The calf only triggered the cry.*

Swahili: Yule kijana aliyetaka kulia, alikanyangwa tu na ndama.

French: L'enfant avait envie de pleurer, mais le veau a été le provocateur de ses pleurs.

Biblical Parallel

None

39. D'amala inhorani faro male indhegani.

English: Optimism leads to riches and pessimism leads to poverty.

Meaning: *You will get what you expect and believe in.*

Swahili: Bidii itakuongoza, kwa utajiri, lakini uvivu itakuongoza kuwa maskini.

French: L'optimisme conduit à la richesse tandis que le pessimisme conduit à la pauvreté. L'homme devient, sa propre imagination.

Biblical Parallel

Hebrew 11:1 "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for."

40. Ulen yowal irat qaban ta abba murate taat.

English: If an argument over ownership arises about stick, the person who original cut it from the tree assumes ownership.

Meaning: *The owners richness is the one who know the beginning of it.*

Swahili: Kama ubihi kuhusu mwenye fimbo halisi ni hani, yule mwenye alikata mwanzo fimbo enyewe kwa mti atajiondoa.

French: Si l'on discute à propos d'une tige, le propriétaire est originellement la personne qui l'a coupé à partir de l'arbre. Le poperéniste du bien est la personne qui connaît le début de la chose.

Biblical Parallel

None

41. Jarsi tok wanjed'e, kijiba woma imbau, kijibilem womanaa imba u.

English: An old man said; I do not benefit from a lie and neither does a lie benefit from my lie

Meaning: *Lies lead to other lies, and no one benefit.*

Swahili: Mwanaume mzee akasema; mimi sifaidiki kwa uwongo, na hata hivyo uwongo haifaidiki kutoka kwa uwongo wangu.

French: Les mensonges engendrent les mensonges ; ils ne profitent a personne.

Biblical Parallel

John 8:44 "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

42. Mali ijeese warani lubbu kuta.

English: The plan kills, the weapon only does the deed.

Meaning: *The one who hatches, the plan is the real murderer; the one who carries out the act is only obeying the orders.*

Swahili: Maarifa huuwa, mkuki hukata roho.

French: Le plan tue, pendant que l'arme vient accomplir la tâche : celui qui organise le plan de tuer est le véritable assassin.

Biblical Parallel

Matthew 5 :21-22 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."

43. Galani nam inyaatu, wan ham nyaatati namees.

English: The river is not a predator by itself but it takes you to a predator.

Meaning: *The river doesn't eat someone, but the killer is in the river.*

Swahili: Kwa kweli mto haikuli mtu walakini, hupeleka mtu kwa mlaji.

French: La rivière ne tue pas mais la mort est dans la rivière. Ce n'est pas celui qui t'amène qui va te tuer, mais tu trouves la mort là où tu es emporté.

Biblical Parallel

Romans 6: 23 "For the wages of **sin is death**, but the gift of God **is** eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

44. Walim gaan ta fin kutacha lama.

English: If generously shared, a flea can be bitten twice.

Meaning: *If there is willingness to share, nothing is too small.*

Swahili: Kama ukarimu ingegawanywa inzi yamezwa kupigwa mara.

French: Là où l'amour règne il n'y a pas de difficulté de partage.

Biblical Parallel

1 Corinthians 13:4 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud."

45. Warri Abba daab kessuma inteesisu.

English: A house hold in which the owner is kept standing has no room for the guest to sit.

Meaning: *If something cannot fit the owner, there is no hope for another person.*

Swahili: Kwa nyumba ambaye mwenyewe anaishi wima, mgeni hana pakukaa.

French: Dans une maison, où le maître vit debout, le visiteur n'a plus de place. Quand on n'a pas de quoi donner, on ne peut rien offrir.

Biblical Parallel

None

46. Lon ado na inhijemne abbo nat yaama jeal'ani.

English: The cow requested to see the owner before being killed.

Meaning: *The owner has the overall authority to decide if the cow is to be killed or not.*

Swahili: Ngombe kaomba kumuona mwenye aliye mufuga kabla haja chinjwa.

French: La vache recommanda de contacter son propriétaire avant de l'abattre. Avant d'utiliser le bien d'autrui il faut toujours demander le propriétaire.

Biblical Parallel

None

47. Iitich'eer imbetu, gulla Aad'a Abbale inlalti.

English: The eyes do not shy away from anything; they can dare to see the parents' nakedness.

Meaning: *The eyes do not have a limit.*

Swahili: Macho haina aibu kwa chochote ingeweza hata kutazama uchi ya wazazi.

French: Lu yeux n'ont pas la honte de regarder n'importe quoi, car ils peuvent même regarder la nudité de parents. Les yeux n'ont pas de frontière.

Biblical Parallel

None

48. Abban ufinhargu, d'akhan ufindarbu.

English: One cannot see oneself, a stone cannot push itself.

Meaning: *One cannot examine one's own weaknesses, so other people's advice or help is important.*

Swahili: Mtu hawezi kujiona, jiwe haliwezi kujisukuma.

French: On s'édifie avec les conseils des autres.

Biblical Parallel

Proverbs 19:20 "Listen to **advice** and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise."

49. Bir baani, dubbit affa ; d'uggadubbe tani namat wald'aba.

English: If facts are ignored, justice cannot be rendered yet, if one refuses to ignore the facts enmity is created.

Meaning: *If truth and justice are rejected, that is the beginning of enmity.*

Swahili: Kama ukweli ni wakupuhuzwa haki haiwezi kutekelezwa, kwani kama mtu atakaye kweli, kuihuza, ukweli uwadui uhanza.

French: Si la vérité est rejetée, la justice ne sera point rendue, par conséquent c'est l'inimitié qui va naître. Quand on refuse la justice ou la vérité on récolte le malheur.

Biblical Parallel

Isaiah 59:14 "So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter."

50. Sukhela d'abod'abi nititofate.

English: Having not found another one she became the man's undisputed wife.

Meaning: *If there is only one wife, she will have no challengers.*

Swahili: Baada ya yeye kukosa kuona mwingine, yeye akawa mwana mke musumbufu kwa mwanaume.

French: Une femme monogame se comporte sans égard envers son mari. La compétition, engendre l'amélioration.

Biblical Parallel

None

51. Antun yodiibae.

English: The worst shall be revealed when the moon rises.

Meaning: *Things done in the dark cannot be hidden when light comes.*

Swahili: Mambo mabaya yatajulikana punde mbalamwezi, ichmoze.

French: Les choses mauvaises cachées dans le noir seront révélées à l'apparition de la lune. Tôt au tard la vérité sera dévoilée.

Biblical Parallel

Romans 2 :15-16 "They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares."

52. Fonfed' itand'acha inyaatani.

English: One does not eat swollen glands to appease a strong desire for meat.

Meaning: *Do not opt for what you do not really want; strive to satisfy the real need.*

Swahili: Wataka kula nyama, diposa ule nyama haramu.

French: Tu as soif de manger la viande jusqu'au niveau de manger la partie tabou. Bien qu'on ait envie de quelque chose il faudrait avoir des limites.

Biblical Parallel

Proverbs 16:32 "Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city."

53. Safartichi wan jed'e, malikaan dabre, kaan ya afe.

English: If one plan is out of hand another one remains.

Meaning: *If one plan doesn't work out, there is always another.*

Swahili: Kama moja wapo ya mpango imeshindikana, kingine kitabakia.

French: Quand un plan rate, il y a toujours un deuxième plan. Malgré qu'on échoue, il y a toujours la possibilité de réussir.

Biblical Parallel

Deuteronomy 31:8 "The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

54. Safartichi wan jede, nam marto tiy argeti allatyi fud'ate.

English: Whoever stole my camel saw the knots of the calic wrapped around my waist.

Meaning: *The situation therefore it was an inside job.*

Swahili: Mtu yoyote yule ameona mshipi wakiuno yangu ndio amelba ngamia yangu.

French: Quiconque a vu ma ceinture est celui qui a volé mon chameau. Ne pourra me nuire que celui qui connaît le secret de ma vie.

Biblical Parallel

None

55. Adobiyya dunnu ufi duna sare.

English: While we bark for others we also bark for ourselves; said the dog.

Meaning: *When serving others we also protect ourselves.*

Swahili: Tunapo endelea kubweka kwa ajili yaw engine, na sisi pia tujiboekeya asema umbwa.

French: Le chien dit : « nous aboyions pour protéger les autres, mais aussi pour notre protection. »
En travaillant pour les intérêts des autres on satisfait ses propres intérêts.

Biblical Parallel

Proverbs 19:17 “Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.”

56. Nami wan je'de', ulfin mata qacheeri imbekhatu.

English: The neck does not recognize that the head is heavy.

Meaning: *Family burdens are handily left.*

Swahili: Shingo kwa kawaida, haitambui, yakuwa kichwa ni mzito.

French: Le cou ne ressent jamais le poids delà tête. Le fardeau de la famille et moins senti par le responsable.

Biblical Parallel

None

57. Nami wan jed'e D'erattule ilumen mata mgolchitu.

English: However long it may grow, the neck will never surpass the head.

Meaning: *The father, will always be the head of the family no matter how big or strong the family members gro.*

Swahili: Iwe refu vipi shingo hakuna siku itawai pita kichwa.

French: Malgré la longueur du cou, elle ne dépassera jamais la tête.

Biblical Parallel

John 13:16 “Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.”

58. Adoka batu ind'ad'amne,ka baatani d'ate.

English: When a person is carrying someone on his back, the one being carried gets tired before he does.

Meaning: *People are not grateful for help.*

Swahili: Wakati mtu anabeba mtu mwingine kwa mugongo wake, yule anaye bebwa huchoka kabla kipindi cha kubebana kufika.

French: En transportant quelque un sur son dos, la personne transportée, déclare être fatiguée. Les gens ne sont pas reconnaissant des services qu'on leur rende.

Biblical Parallel

None

59. Safartichi wanjede, silalaf jiran keesa mulachu malani, yokhani keesa aljirachu malani.

English: Where one lives it is good to be prominent if not it is better to live elsewhere.

Meaning: *Its better to live a role model in our life.*

Swahili: Pahali mtu anapoishi ni vizuri kuwa kielelezo; au sivyo ni heri kuishi kuingine.

French: Cherchons à être le modèle dans le milieu ou nous vivons.

Biblical Parallel

2 Corinthians 3:3 “You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”

60. Ollan dubr wal inkad’atu, kadatu wal ira ind’abu.

English: Villagers do not marry one another if they do, they always meet their objections.

Meaning: *There should be objections to things which are not right.*

Swahili: Majirani wa kijiji moja hawapozani mabinti zao; na kama watapozana hufikia malengo yao.

French: On ne se marie pas dans le meme village ; et si ceci arrive, on tombe dans l’objection.

Biblical Parallel

James 4:7 “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

61. Nami wan je’de’, ulfan d’ufect, ulfa in elman.

English: The arrival of an honoured guest does not warrant milking a pregnant cow.

Meaning: *In an effort to please someone, do not make your family suffer.*

Swahili: Kuwasili kwa muheshimiwa (mgeni) haimanishi garanti ya kumkamua ngombe mjamzito.

French: L’arrivé d’un visiteur ne doit pas nous conduire à traire notre grosse vache. Evitons d’offrir tout aux autres, au détriment de la famille.

Biblical Parallel

1 Timothy 5:8 “Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

62. Abban uf inimu ufira bahu ind’abu.

English: One is not barred from referring to oneself.

Meaning: *Do not praise yourself. But you can refer yourself to others.*

Swahili: Mtu asiwe niwakumsifu mwingine, lakini mtu sio vita ya kutoa mfano kwa mwingine.

French: Ne vous glorifiez pas, referez vous aux autres.

Biblical Parallel

Proverbs 11:2 “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.”

63. Sige moti warri issiri mot bade.

English: If the woman takes over the house, the family she rules is doomed.

Meaning: *Women cannot be the head of the family. She will not rule it well.*

Swahili: Kama kwa kweli mwanamuke achukue mamlaka ya nyumba, jamii anaye ongoza waakuwa fukara.

French: Une famille gérée par la femme échoue.

1 Corinthians 11:3 “But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”

64. Ganibir d abranjiha, gain itdema ni dukana.

English: The past years are in moonlight, the years to come are in darkness.

Meaning: *We know the past, but not the future.*

Swahili: Miaka zilizopita ziko kwa mbalamwezi, miaka zijazo ziko kwa giza.

French: Le passé peut être est connu, mais le future demeure inconnu.

Biblical Parallel

Deuteronomy 29:29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.”

65. Waaga jete kara kees inchiisin.

English: Do not say; on God, and sleep on the road

Meaning: *Do not just pray to God and sit back, make an effort yourself.*

Swahili: Usidhubutu kulala barabarani ukisema Mungu yuko.

French: N’appelez pas son Dieu, en croisant ses bras.

Biblical Parallel

Matthew 7 :7-8 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

66. Sareetin kopa imbatu, irko mukha male, deegi kopa ingo damu irko dureesa male.

English: A climbing plant with tendrils cannot grow on it’s own without the support of a tree.

Meaning: *A poor man cannot move without a support of a rich man.*

Swahili: Mumea wa kutambaa chini au kwa kitu haiwezi, kumea yenyewe bila kusaidiwa na ruti nyingine.

French: Une plante grimpeante, ne peut grandir sans support. Le pauvre a toujours besoin d’un riche.

Biblical Parallel

Romans 15:1 “We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.”

67. Onnat moun ima onot ufhima.

English: Those who know you speak well about you; but one who is not liked or respected has to brag about himself.

Meaning: *If someone knows you, he can speak good things about you, but the one who doesn’t know you, boast about himself.*

Swahili: Watu wanaokufahamu kawaida huzungumza mazuri yako. Lakini mtu yule akupendi, au hakuheshimu, hukisifu mwenyewe.

French: Les gens qui te commissent parlent positivement de toi tandis que les orgueilleux, se ventent eux-mêmes.

Biblical Parallel

2 Corinthians 2:15 “For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.”

68. Yokhaan tullu tani, yekhaan yokha an tullut irkatani.

English: One should either become a pillar or lean against one.

Meaning: *One should either be economically stable or depend on someone else who is strong.*

Swahili: Mtu awe ametegemewa, ama akuwe nguzo kwa mtu.

French: Pour devenir un pilier, il faut étudier à travers les autres.

Biblical Parallel

Colossians 3:16 “Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”

69. Farti farti, jed’qampiso gummi.

English: There is different hand writings, said qampiso gummi.

Meaning: There are different ways to solve one problem.

Swahili: *Kuna tafauti ya maandishi za mkono; kanena pampicha gammia.*

French: *Il y a plusieurs façons de résoudre un problème.*

Biblical Parallel

None

70. Hiyesi d’ira hiyesa olat.

English: A poor man is like an orphaned ram.

Meaning: *Both have to survive in bad times.*

Swahili: Mtu maskini ni kama yatima wa ndama.

French: Un homme pauvre ressemble à un vau éprouvé.

Biblical Parallel

None

71. Nami yo male deme yo dansa gale.

English: One who travels at an unfavorable time comes home at a favorable time.

Meaning: *Leave home when things are bad, make money, then come back .*

Swahili: Mtu anaye safari wakati wa majira isiopendeza hurudi nyumbani wakati wa majira ya kupendeza.

French: Celui qui voyage de la maison pendant un temps défavorable doit rentrer à la maison à un moment favorable

Biblical Parallel

None

72. Sidamtichi wanjed’e, tabaqan ijole ta diram wag lalte galgal laflaltu.

English: A clever child is one who looks up in morning (rude) and down in the afternoon.

Meaning: *A wise child is the one who knows how to live in every season.*

Swahili: Mtoto mwerevu, ni yule hutazama juu asubuhi, na chini majira ya alasiri.

French: Un enfant intelligent, est celui qui leve son regard le jour et baisse son regard le soir. Un enfant sage, est celui qui cornait vivre a cheque saison.

Biblical parallel

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

1 There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

73. Nami wanjed’e, wanbir injire, wan birjirtun bekhil.

English: One should understand what happens in one’s absence by relating to what used to happen in one’s presence.

Meaning: *The standards one sets should be followed when one is not around.*

Swahili: Mtu ni viema aelewe niyapi yalitokea wakati mtu hayuko, kwa kulinganisha nay ale mtu yupo.

French: On doit comprendre ce qui arrive à son absence en relation avec ce qui est arrivé à sa présence.

Biblical Parallel

None

74. Qorgoron yo gubani, garfooni gulrifati.

English: When put in fire, a hide of skin crumples toward the fleshy side.

Meaning: *When in trouble, one would turn to a relative.*

Swahili: Wakati wakupwa kwa moto manyoya ya ngozi, hunyauka upande wa nyama.

French: *Quand on est en difficulté on cherche le soutien des frères.*

Biblical Parallel

Galatians 6:2 “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

75. D’uga waeli waaga.

English: God is the companion of truth.

Meaning: *Even if there is no witness to support you, speak the truth because God is your witness and will reward you.*

Swahili: Mungu, ndiye musaidizi wa ukweli. Hata kama hauna mshuda, sema ukweli sababu Mungu atakutunukia.

French: Dieu, est le compagnon de la vérité. *Même si il n’ya pas un témoin pour te supporter ; seule Dieu pourra être ton témoin.*

Biblical Parallel

John 8:32 “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

76. Taa alkan galt it barisifatani.

English: That which occurs at night will await dawn.

Meaning: *A dispute occurs at night is solved the next day.*

Swahili: Yalio jiri usiku au tukio ya usiku itashugulikiwa asubuhi.

French: Un problème qui se pose la nuit sera résolu le lendemain matin.

Biblical Parallel

Proverbs 19:11 “A person’s wisdom yields patience; it is to one’s glory to overlook an offense.”

77. Galgalishon inqabu.

English: Evening has no supplement.

Meaning: *One should finish the day’s assignments in time.*

Swahili: Usiku haina mabadilisho.

French: La nuit n’a pas d’équivalent. Chacun devra s’acquitter de ses obligations.

Biblical Parallel

Genesis 2:2 “By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.”

78. Sigube ingare ibidan tap’ata.

English: You play with fire because you have not seen it burn.

Meaning: *You people should heed the elder’s advice because they cannot always know what will harm them.*

Swahili: Wacheza na moto kwa sababu hauja kuchoma.

French: Tu joue au feu parce que tu n’as pas encore expérimenté, comment ça brule. *Il faut toujours prendre en considération les conseils des vieux, pour éviter les malheurs.*

Biblical parallel

Proverbs 19:20 “Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.”

79. Tabira bate, atiboha ind’agetu.

English: A mother will not hear the cry of her married daughter who is now living far away

Meaning: *One can only rescue a situation that is within reach.*

Swahili: Mama hawezi kusikia kilio cha bintiye ambaye ameolewa, na akiishi mbali

French: La mère ne peut pas écouter les cris des sa fille mariée à logue distance. On ne peut pas intervenir, à une situation, a grande distance.

Biblical Parallel

None

80. Sirati war Hassan Gababa gallate ham seme, furdate namkessa baha.

English: When befriending people, the family of Hassan Gababa enters narrowly and leaves broadly.

Meaning: *Some friends are harmful.*

Swahili: Wakati unakuwa na urafiki na watu, jamii ya Hassan Gababa hupenya unyo unyo, lakini wakaondoka kwa shida

French: Certains amis sont nocifs.

Biblical Parallel

None

81. Laf roban garte bonangarte, jed'ani?

English: Have you seen in a dry season the place you had seen during the rainy season?

Meaning: *Things change with time.*

Swahili: Pahali au eneo umewahi ona musimu ya mvua, jee umeona musimu ya kiangazi?

French: Les choses changent avec le temps.

Biblical Parallel

Daniel 2:21 “He changes times and **seasons**; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.”

82. Daon fago d'amocha ind'owartu.

English: A distant shelter does not shield one from cold.

Meaning: *Make use of what is near you.*

Swahili: Nyumba iliyo mbali haiwezi kukuinga baridi.

French: On ne peut pas se conterter d'un bien à distance, par contre on se contente de ce qu'on a.

Biblical Parallel

None

83. Chiresi bola, bol guyyabuan imbekhani.

English: A doctor is like a pit, one can not know when one will fall into it.

Meaning: *You should not insult a doctor as you might need him in future.*

Swahili: Daktari ni kama shimo, mtu hawezi jua lini ataanguka hapo.

French: Un Docteur, est comme une fosse : nul ne peut savoir quand on va y tomber. Ne tenez jamais de mauvais propos au docteur, comme on ne connaît pas, quand on aura besoin de lui.

Biblical Parallel

None

84. Dafana in hadin guyya issasi inha d'u. Dale inqorin guyya kheetin si inqon.

English: Do not fight for a coward, he will not fight for you. Similarly, do not support a fool in a dispute, he will not support you in yours.

Meaning: *Never do good to some one who is not able to do so for you.*

Swahili: Usije ukamupigania muoga, yeye hata kupigania wewe vile vile usije ukamsaidia mtu mpumbavu akiwa na ugomvi yeye hata kusaidia ukiwa na shida

French: Ne vous battez pas pour un lâche étant donnée, qu'il ne pourra jamais se battre pour vous. Ne faites pas du bien, pour un sujet qui sera incapable de le rendre.

Biblical Parallel

None

85. Mant, Jabdu janan wandirti fute jed'an.

English: What is certain is that which a man vows to undertake.

Meaning: *Never promise to do something which you will not be able to accomplish.*

Swahili: Nini iliyo ngumu, ni ahadi mwanaume kuyatekeleza.

French: Ne jamais donner de fausses promesses.

Biblical Parallel

Matthew 5:37 “All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

86. Mali dirad’ae, d’aatu bofa arge.

English: Men’s ideas helped to locate the snake.

Meaning: *Shared suggestions help to solve a problem quicker.*

Swahili: Mausia ya mwanaume ikasaidia kufurusha nyoka.

French: Les conseils d’un homme sage aide à déloger un serpent. *L’échange des idées aide à résoudre des problèmes.*

Biblical Parallel

Proverbs 12:15 “The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.”

87. Imen qafelan d’ufte, ad’ale indibdy ufile ind’ibdu.

English: A new born that comes in the right position relieves the mother and relieves itself.

Meaning: *Work done in the right way rewards both the employer and the employee.*

Swahili: Mtoto tayari kuzaliwa anapokuja kwa njia inayofaa, husaidia mamaye na yeye binafsi.

French: Un travail bienfait, récompensera l’employeur et son employé.

Biblical Parallel

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

88. Metan d’alote lafqaе, dvisa lafinangatch.

English: The head that touches the ground a birth, will not fail to touch the ground at death

Meaning: *Anything which is born will eventually die.*

Swahili: Kichwa inayo guza chini wakati wa kuzaliwa, haita kosa kugusa chini wakati wa kufa

French: Tout ce qui nous observons est passager.

Biblical Parallel

Ecclesiastes 1: 2 “Meaningless! Meaningless! says the Teacher. Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

89. Ballan, wan gaf il gabu dubbata.

English: A blind man speaks the good old days before he became blind.

Meaning: *When we are in trouble, we remember the good times.*

Swahili: Mtu kipofu husimulia mazuri ya kale kabla haja povuka.

French: L’aveugle se souvient de bonnes choses avant de devenir aveugle. C’est au moment de difficultés qu’on souvient de bons jours.

Biblical Parallel

Amos 8:11 “The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign LORD, “when I will send a famine through the land— not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.

90. Qaron wan bori jenan, gowan warn arrajed’a.

English: A wise man plans for tomorrow, a fool plans only for today.

Meaning: *A wise man has a large vision but the stupid one has short vision.*

Swahili: Mtu mwenye hekima hupanga mambo ya kesho, lakini yule mpumbavu, hupanga tu ya leo.

French: Le sage panifie pour demain, le fou pour aujourd’hui.

Biblical Parallel

Matthew 7:24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

91. Dirti waya keesa.

English: Manhood is beneath the clothing.

Meaning: *A man cannot be judged by his clothes.*

Swahili: Mtu mchupavu sio nguo.

French: Ne juger pas l'homme par son apparence. L'habit ne fait pas le moine.

Biblical Parallel

2 Peter 2:1 "But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves."

92. Firfakate d'ad'an waya balesa.

English: In a friendly way, the oil spoils the cloth.

Meaning: *Damage can be done without you being aware of it.*

Swahili: Kwa njia ya urafiki mafuta ikaharibu nguo.

French: Dans une voie amicale, l'huile peut tacheter les vêtements.

Biblical Parallel

None

93. Dabeesa d'ad'an d'eed'i.

English: For the weak ones, fat is raw.

Meaning: *The weak do not adapt to some situations and find life hard.*

Swahili: Kwa walio wanyonge mafuta ni haba.

French: Devant les hommes faibles, la graisse est rare à trouver.

Biblical Parallel

None

94. Ganka d'ufu man jaran male, kadabre man injaran.

English: One builds a house for the future, not for the past.

Meaning: *You can't prepare your past but the future.*

Swahili: Mtu hujenga nyumba kwa ajili ya siku za usoni, sio kwa siku zanyuma.

French: Quelqu'un construit la maison pour l'avenir, mais jamais, pour le passé. On prépare son avenir, pendant que le passé a disparu.

Biblical Parallel

None

95. Abban ka ufi jed'guyo kiti.

English: The owner is entitled to first rights.

Meaning: *The owner has the first priority.*

Swahili: Kwanza ujipe nafasi (au fursa) ya haki.

French: Le propriétaire vient à la première place. Le possesseur a toujours droit de dire un mot.

Biblical Parallel

None

96. Nafi abba took abbatokot qoricha.

English: A person's body is precious to him but nothing to someone else.

Meaning: *Charity begins at home.*

Swahili: Mwili wa mtu ni wadhamana kwa mwenyewe, lakini sio kitu cha dhamana kwa mwingine.

French: Mon corps, reste ma priorité. *La charité commence par soi même continue ailleurs.*

Biblical Parallel

1 Timothy 5:8 “Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

97. Sidam tichi wanjed’e, gangen sirat bade na immarare, lime sirat malebadet na marare.

English: Sidam said, I was not annoyed by the mule that got lost without my knowledge but the needle that got lost due to my carelessness annoyed me.

Meaning: *My responsibility is about the small thing I care about, but not about big thing I do not know about.*

Swahili: Sidam kasema, sikwamba nimekasirishwa na kupotea kwa punda, iliyopotea pasipo mimi kujua, bali kupotea kwa shindano juu ya uzembe wangu.

French: *Ma responsabilité est sur la petite chose sous ma gestion, mais pas pour des grandes choses qui n’ont pas été mise sous ma responsabilité.*

Biblical Parallel

Luke 16 :10-12 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?”

98. Nam gurratibule, namgurach d’ugeet ir jira.

English: It is better to drink blood that has no milk than to sleep hungry.

Meaning: *If you can’t get the right thing, settle for the next alternative.*

Swahili: Ni heri kunywa damu bila maziwa kuliko kuteseka na njaa.

French: Mieux vaut boire du sang sans lait que de mourir de faim. A faute de mieux, on utilise le moins.

Biblical Parallel

None

99. Lam indebitu jet awaitun.

English: After the burrial the undertakers said, the body will not re-surface.

Meaning: *Once thing is finished (died) it is over and will not come again.*

Swahili: Kwa mtu aliyekufa, kisha hawezi rudi tena, kasema mlinda kaburi.

French: Celui qui est mort ne revient jamais.

Biblical Parallel

Hebrew 9:26 “Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.”

100. Iyes dootitasa, ama dooti mama.

English: A poor man’s death is surprising and a mean man’s death is unbelievable.

Meaning: *Nobody bothered to check when people like this are sick.*

Swahili: Kifo cha mtu maskini, kinashitua watu, lakini kifo cha mtu muhimu hakuna anayesadiki.

French: La mort d’un pauvre, est une surprise, tandis que la mort d’un homme important est incroyable. *La mort est vite, acceptée pour le pauvre, alors que pour les riche elle est acceptée difficilement.*

Biblical Parallel

None