



Amano Mambulwa

Wisdom Is Acquired

Amano mambulwa

300 nsoselo sha

mu cilala na mu cisungu

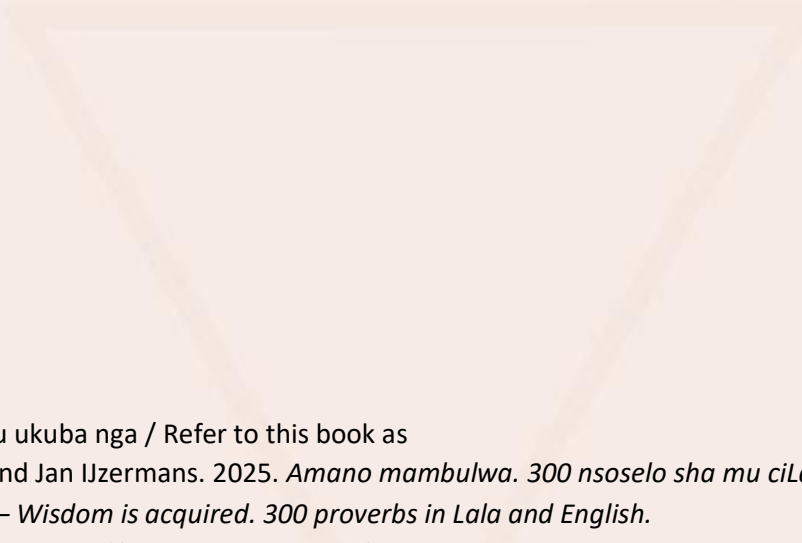
Abapitulukilemo nokukolanganika
pamo ni ba Basil Chisonta na ba Jan
IJzermans

Wisdom is acquired

300 proverbs

in Lala and English

Compiled and edited by
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Ishibeni ndi buku ukuba nga / Refer to this book as

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Ubulondoloshi

Umusoso walikwata incende ikulu mu ntambi. Mukati kamusoso, insoselo shilanga ubwinenene ne misuminine yaba mukati ka ntambi, mu musango wakuyabomfya pambi ulo teti cicitike. Ilingi mukukwata ukwibukisha, nsoselo shalikwata utumisango twakubwenako kubati kwibukisha apali ukulondolola apakulu mumashiwi anono.

Ndi buku likopela amano amukati ayaba mu nsoselo sha ciLala. Insoselo shili mu musoso wa ciLala nomba kuti shaumfwikila apatantalile ukucila pa buLala bweka. Kwati nifi, ifipaleneko amakumi ane nafibili pa mwanda umo kuti fyasangwa mu nce nde ya baLamba, boneni buku lya ba Doke ilya ba Lamba nshimi, nyimbo ifishalemwapo (1927). Ba Doke bali kukonkomesha: Ubukankala bwa nsoselo shamubumi bwe Lamba tekutipo bucile mucipimo.

Introduction

Language is an important part of culture. Within language, proverbs are the elements expressing the values and beliefs held in that culture, usually in a metaphorical manner. Often, for the sake of memorability, proverbs have stylistic characteristics like extreme pithiness and play with words.

This book gives insight in the wisdom available in the proverbs of the Lala region (Mkushi and Serenje Districts, Zambia). The proverbs are in the Lala language but can be understood in a far wider area than the Lala region only. For instance, variants of 42% of them can be found in the adjacent Lamba region, see Clement Doke's *Lamba Folklore* (1927). Doke stated: "The importance of the proverbs in Lamba life can not be overestimated."

Mu nshiku sha kale, ukusoshanya kwa bantu abakulu kwali kwa mu nsoselo. Shalikwitwa ati *mu mapinda*. Tacalikuwamapo kati niwe utalikumfwa ifi kososwa!

Ukulingana nobwingi bwa nsoselo shisa nokulinga nakashita ukufuma mutunini mpaka nakushikosele mukumfwa pantu inshita ilapusana, namano nao ene alinga ukuya ili apusana. Tukosanga ati shimbi nsoselo shilola kufya citike akale nomba nanduno shibomba ulo tucili tukosanga nashimbi ishabwangu.

Nomba mu masabililo anduno aya mu cisungu, insoselo tashisambishiwapo mu masukulu. Ici ecingalenga ukwebati amano a ciLala tayalipo mano anduno. Bakalemba tabakosuminishapo kuli nku kulanguluka: belengeni nsoselo shili muli ndi buku mwalatotela amano shapela.

In those days, conversations between adults could be entirely in proverbs, metaphors and allusions. This is called *mu mapinda*: proverbial language. It was not nice when you were the one not understanding what was being discussed!

The set of often used proverbs evolves over time because circumstances change and wisdom must evolve as well. So, we find some proverbs referring to situations of old that are still found to be valuable, and we find some newer proverbs as well.

Now with basic education being in English, proverbs are not taught at school. This might be an expression of the opinion that Lala wisdom is not present-day wisdom. The authors do not share this opinion: look at the proverbs in this book and you will appreciate the wisdom they provide.

Twaleta nashimbi nsoselo ishaseka sha mucisungu ishikolanga 'ukucenjela kwa ku Bulaya'. Twayaletela mu filangililo ukukonka neficitwa mu buLala, pakwebati abene abantu babone kati fingaba ifya kwafwa.

Ndi buku alingile abakulu na baice.
Insoselo shalangwa mu fipande fitatu, cimo cili nsoselo umwanda umo.
Icipande caku balilapo muli nsoselo isho abantu mwa Chibale bamona ukuti shingomfwika (ngashabomfishiwe mu sukulu shalinga ba geledi 5 na 6).
Icipande cabubili cikwete nsoselo ishiko fwailishiwa (geledi 7 na 8).
Elo mucipande ca butatu mukosangwa ishilemeshe sana nsoselo (geledi 9 na 10).

We also bring about sixty commonly used European proverbs, to show what constitutes 'European wisdom'. In examples we have applied them to normal situations in Lalaland, just for people to assess whether they could be useful.

This book is intended for young and old.
The proverbs are presented in three parts, each containing 100 proverbs.
The first part contains the proverbs that people in Chibale generally consider to be easily understandable (if used at school, they are suitable for grades 5 and 6).
The second part contains proverbs that are a bit more demanding (grades 7 and 8).
And in the third part, you will find the deeper proverbs (grades 9 and 10).

Insoselo muli ndi buku shikomaile pafyo twingacita yangula ukusubila ukucitika munshita shimo shimo. Ukukwata amano amo eka mufyo ifintu ficitika palwa fiko. Shimbi nsoselo shitweba ifyakuisunga ukupusana na mafya angula ukutwafwa ifyakucimfya ngalya mafya ulo aisa.

Tushibikile nshi nsoselo muli cila cipande mu mabumba atatu:

Ifya kusunga mibele ne fyakucita
Ifyakucetekela nefyo fibomba.

Bulala/Bulaya, 2025

The proverbs in this book often deal with what we can or should expect in certain situations. They share the knowledge of how things inevitably work. Other proverbs tell us how to behave to evade problems or what to do to solve them once they are there.

We have used this division to group the proverbs in each of the three parts:

How to behave and what to do
What to expect and how things work.

Lalaland/the Netherlands, 2025



Icipande I – Nsoselo ishipubile

Part I – Simple proverbs



Ifya kusunga míbele ne fyakucíta

How to behave and what to do

Nsoselo 1

Nkaya mailo abala pa cungulo

Mube abaipekanya ngamukofwaya ukucitapo cimo.

Nga uli nokuyapo kumbi mailo, calinga watampilapo ukupekanya pa cungulo. Calilinga ukupekanya lintu taulaima. Nga bulendo, bona ukwebati fyonse ifikofwaikwa fyaba pa ncende imo. Ulwendo lwa mukulunga, boneni ati imfuti, akasembe, ubonga bwa mufti epo buli, kati malala fwaileni limo icakulya cakusenda kati bunga, natumbi utufwaikwa mu mpanga.

Leaving tomorrow starts in the evening

Be prepared when you undertake something.

If you are to go out tomorrow, it is better to start preparing on the evening before the trip. It is essential to prepare before going out. If it is an ordinary trip, see that all what is needed is put in one place. If it is a hunting trip, see that a gun, an axe and bullets are there, and if you are to go out for more than a day, prepare food to carry and other essentials needed in the wild.

Nsoselo 2

Uufunda lushishi taulateba

Icakubalilapo citangile. Citeni cakubalilapo icikulu pali njilya nshita elyo icitakofwaikapo panshita imbi.

Ngatwaya mukuteba inkuni, tulingile ukuteba inkuni pa kulekelesha elyo twafunda ulushishi.

Abakunaila inshima, tekuti usambepo ku minwe ulo inshima taingaisa pantu unga sambapo bwaka.

Do not prepare the rope before collecting firewood

First things first. First do what is most important at that moment and then what is important at a later stage.

When we go to get firewood, we make sure that we collect firewood first and then to get the fibre at that place to make a rope to tie the wood.

You can wash your hands when the food is brought. Washing them somewhere else might result in you not having something to eat because in the meantime the others have already finished it.

Nsoselo 3

Pakwakana ubunga tapaba nsoni

Twilokuba nensoni pa cintu tukofwaisha, twalinga twasosa nabambi baishiba.

Ubunga cintu cimo icifwaikwa ku mubili wesu pakuti tukule namaka, kanshi ilyo mu le akana, akanenifye bwino umulinganganya, takuli ukumfwa insoni iyoo, nga bwacepa landa.

There is no shame when it comes to sharing mealie meal

Let us not be bashful about something essential, please say it out so that others know.

Mealie meal is essential for our bodies. So, when you are sharing, share equally. Never be shy: if your share is small, just say so.



Nsoselo 4

Mungulube alilile umwando emukuputuka

Tekulusapo isubilo.

Angula ifyo tukofwaya bwangu tafibonekelepo, tekulusapo isubilo. Tulingile kukonkanyapo pakwisa kukwata yangula ukupwisha amapange esu.

The warthog cried as the rope was about to be cut

Don't give up hope.

Even if we don't see immediate results, we shouldn't lose hope. We must keep going in order to accomplish our goals.

Nsoselo 5

Amakanga abili alapuluka

Cita cimo panshita imo.

Ulo ukosowa ikanga, tacakwafwe ukweshu ukusowa abili. Sowa lyenka limo.

Ukucita/ukusenda fibili yangula nafimbi weka panshita imo tacawamepo pantu wakulusa fyonse nokushalapo bwaka. Calinga wakoselela pacintu cimo mpaka ucipwishe. Elo nombu ungaya ku cakonkapo.

Chasing two guinea fowls you will fail

Take things one at a time.

When you are chasing guinea fowl, it will not help when you try to chase two. Chase only one.

Taking two or more things on at the same time is not smart because in the end you will have nothing. You better concentrate on one thing until you finish it. That's when you can go to the next one.

Nsoselo 6

Abana bankashi baebene ulushaba

Icitemwiko ecilanga ukuti mbaa bantu ba mulupwa lumo pa fintu fikoboneka.

Tumo utuntu tatwalinga nokwakana, nombafye pantu mwalitemwana filacitika. Kapansha umo teti mu mwakane no munobe, nomba apo paliba icitemwiko kwakana.

Tekuti fibefye mu cakulya, cili namukwafwana naba nobe.

The children of the sisters shared one peanut

Love for all shows that these people are from the same family in whatever they do, however small it may seem.

Some foods are too small to be shared. Peanuts are a good example! One peanut here is shared between the children of sisters, a thing which can not be extended to an outsider.

This may not be only in food sharing but also helping others through work.

Nsoselo 7

Bulapo, tekupa

Ifilandwa kwati nimfi, ku mulwendo uuwu wayawaya ukupokelela ico bamupa.

Ukuba ngo mwine, niwe walinga ukwakanya na banobe. Abalwendo nganaba kufikila pananda yobe, ni nsambu shobe ukubakanya.

Take, it is not up to you to give

This is said, for instance, to a visitor who hesitates to take what is being offered.

As the host, you must take the lead in sharing with others. When you have visitors at your home, it is your duty to share with them and their 'duty' not to refuse your hospitality.

Nsoselo 8

Mungulube, akalindi ako; abali babili balabulana

Ukubombela mukumfwana capamo ciweme sana.

Tulingile ukuba abakumfwana lyonsefye pakusopenshanya ifingaleta ubusanso kubanensu.

Ilyo abantu babili yangula abengi bakoya mukashila-tondo uyo utangile alabulako abanankwe ifili kuntanshi, kati muuso yangula akalindi pakuti abali kunuma baibukila.

"Warthog", "there is a hole"; two persons warn one another

An understanding working relationship is a good thing.

We have to be united at all times to alert each other of potential dangers.

When people walk in single file, the one at the front will call out if he comes to a hole in order to warn those behind against stumbling.



Nsoselo 9

Nawe, kwenu takwali bakulu!

Tawafundwapo?

Kwaliba intambi isha seka ku mitundu yonse kwati pakupokelela icintu ku bakulu kupoka na maboko abili, nomba iwe wabomfya fye ukuboko kumo! Nomba epa kumwebati nawe twafundwa pantu konse bwaka abakulu eko baba.

As for you, there were no elders at your home!

Have you not been taught at home?

There are certain manners common to all regions like using both hands when receiving a gift from an older person. Now, if you use only one hand, that is when they will say that you must have grown up in a village without elders. Elders who could have taught you are everywhere else.

Nsoselo 10

Kabusha takolelwe bowa

Ukwipusha ekwishilapo nafimbi. Ibukisheni: amano mambulwa. Calinga ukwipusha ekukwata icacine.

Inshita sha mainsa, ubowa ubwa pusana pusana bulamena mpanga yonse. Umo mwine bumbi tabulikwa nangu bwapalana no bulikwa. Eico ngataukoipushapo ukalya nefya kukukola, pambi ufwe no kufwa. Awaipusha mbo abaishiba bwino ubowa wanukula, tawakolwepo. Ifyakulya fisangwa mu mainsa fingi kanshi ulingile ukwipusha pafintu filikwa pakweba ati wikolwapo.

The one who asks will not be poisoned by the mushroom

Asking is knowing more. Remember: wisdom is being told. It is advisable to ask to get the truth. During the rainy season, different types of mushrooms grow. Among them some are poisonous and are never eaten, though they look like those eaten. Now, if you don't ask, you may eat poison leading you to suffer. If you ask those who know about the kind of mushroom you have picked, you will not be poisoned. There are a lot of fruits you can eat during rainy season, so make sure you ask which ones are safe.

Nsoselo 11

Ncenjeshi musha wa cipuba

Tacawama ukutumfya abanobe pantu pakulekelesha ukesa moneka icipuba.

Ukubepa abanobe lintu ifyo ukososa fyabufi, pakulekelesha ukesa sangwa mu bwafya nabanobe bakakuseke.

Fond-of-fooling-others will end up a fool

Cheating your friends is not a good habit, since you will end up looking foolish.

Imagine that you fooled friends that you were in a financial situation when you were not. Because you cheated them earlier, they will not come to your aid when you really are in such a situation.

Nsoselo 12

Cindika akaice nako eli kakucindike

Nci cilalandwa ku muntu ufwaya umucinshi, cibe ena talangapo mucinshi kuli bambi, maka maka kuli mbo abaice kuli ena.

Abana abanini basambilila imisango iibi neiweme kufuma kubakulu. Imisango yonse abaice bamona eyo bapashanya ukucita. Eico twalinga ukubalanga isuma pakuti nabena baba abantu abenenene. Ilyo wacindika umwaice, naena akatampa ukucindika abantu bambi, ekukula na mano. Ico conse umwaice aumfwa kumukulu, eco naena acita.

Respect the young and they will respect you

This is said to someone who asks for respect while he himself does not show much respect to others, especially to those younger than him.

There's no escaping the fact that the young will learn good and bad manners from the elders. Young people emulate the behaviours they see. We need to show them good behaviour, so they'll become good citizens. Giving respect to the young will make them respect other people too since young people follow what elders tell them.

Nsoselo 13

Nawe, uli musombo tawikuta!

Uku pashanya kumuntu uwatemwa ukulya icitala.

Ukulya kwa citala, kanshi takupo kubona abakolya kano naye alyeko bamupashanya ku musombo wa mpendwa uwo nangu amwaitilako amenshi tawisulapo.

As for you, you are a burrow that is never filled!

This is said to a person who is fond of eating.

The one who is fond of eating each time he sees others eating is likened to an ant-bear's hole which will never get filled when water is poured in.



Nsoselo 14

Mwe baume, mwebali babili tabalwa!

Ukumfwana mwebali babili kuweme.

Ulo mwebali babili muli palwendo lutali, caliwana bonse mukoumfwanina pamo ukucila ukutalikana.

Companions, two together do not fight!

Understanding one another is vital.

When you are on a long journey together, it is advisable to agree with each other rather than argue.

Nsoselo 15

Nawe, uli kangulungulu, tawishi nefibalabila!

Ukukana ishiba ifya kusosa.

Umuntu uwaya ku cilye mukulubulula afwile apekanya bwino ifyakulabila pa mulandu. Talingile ukulaisosha umwine ilyo akopela bunte bwakwe pantu umulandu kuti wamu wila.

As for you, you are a fool, you do not know what you are talking about!

This is said to a person who makes inconsistent statements.

When you go to a court session, you should have proper evidence. It shouldn't conflict with the other things you have already said, otherwise you will be found guilty.

Nsoselo 16

Nawe, uli mwitwa-libili!

Utomfwisha kano libili.

Abantu bamo tabomfwishapo amwamwita umuku umo kano mwabwekeshapo libili. Mu nshila shimo bamo nabo kano wakomailapo pa cintu mukofwaya ulya muntu acite.

As for you, you want to be called twice!

This is said to a person who never listens properly.

There are people who do not hear properly until you call them twice. Often this means constantly having to push that person to do what you want.

Nsoselo 17

Akaboko kalakonka kabyakwe

Icilangilo ciweme cilakonkwa. Tusubile kupoka kati nafwe tulapela.

Ukwikala weka kwabula fibusa tacawamapo iyoo. Tulokuba no mute wakupela, nafwe ekupelwa.

We muntu weka tekukwanishapo kukwata fyonse. Ngawafungulula kuboko, nawe bakukufungulwila.

The hand follows the hand of another

A good example tends to be followed. Let us hope to receive if we also give.

Living alone without friends is not good. Let us be helpful to others when approached.

As a person alone you cannot have everything. When you stretch your hand to others, they will also reach out to you.

Nsoselo 18

Ukulepa ngo munwe wapakati

Ukuba pantanshi sana ilyo taushininkishe.

Ilyashi nga lyafika mu mushi cibe talili lyobe iwe nomba kwima waya ili ushimika konse konse.
Calinga walekela abene balileta ukubilisha pantu ngaba kwipusha ukafilwa ukwasuka.

You stand out like the middle finger

Said in situations in which someone is in the forefront while not really involved.

When news reaches the villages, you go out to inform others, though the news is not yours. It is better for those who know more to inform others because you will fail to answer when asked.



Nsoselo 19

Umulinganya wa mapuli ulaponweshia

Wikwata icilumba ku mulandu wakupusana mutuntu ututakwetepo ubuyo.

Ukulinganya ifiputulwa fya mibili ku bwaice kwalikuleta ukupusana apo bekele.

Mukukonka insoselo, abaice ilyo bali kumpanga balikufula nokulwishanya abene beka ukumona ati nani akwete amabolo akulu, ninshi uyu emukulu. Bamo abali namapuli anini bali bakulu ukucila nabakwete amapuli ayakulu.

Competing in size of testicles leads to fighting

Don't feel proud because of irrelevant differences.

Seeing who has the biggest body parts among the children brought differences among them.

Following the proverb: children went into the bush and undressed. They wanted to see who had big testicles and therefore was to be declared old among them. But there were those who had small testicles in size but were older in age than those with big ones. And for sure, none of them could tell who would have healthy children in the future.

Nsoselo 20

Limbula isaka ifyo talilalimbuka

Ukubangila ukucita ifintu caliwama pantu acatwala imishu panshi, tacakese kulimbuka.

Nga mwabona umuntu ifyo akocita tafiwemepo, calinga mwamukanya penka pakutampa. Inshita ya mainsa ulo tubomba mu mabala esu, amasaka balimbula ilyo tucili tunini ne mishila.

Ngamwalolela yakula, tekuti ese alimbukepo amwaisa kwesha ukulimbula.

Transplant a seedling before it can not be relocated anymore

Do things timely. This might mean: do things much earlier than you think.

During rainy season, we transplant seedlings, for example sorghum, when it is still tiny. We do not wait till it is strong.

When you see your friend doing things badly or behaving badly, it is better to advise him as soon as possible to stop that behaviour.

Nsoselo 21

Tabalimba bulema weutalakula

Ubulema bwali pusana pusana elyo tatwishiba ulo umo angalwala. Teti twishibe nolo umo angalema naye.

We muntu ulo ucili mwaice nokubaseka abalema, yangula ukaiseka we mwine ku ntanshi.

Do not speak evil of the handicapped, you who are still young

Diseases differ and we don't know when one will get ill. One does not know whether or when one will become handicapped too.

As a young boy, you say a lot of evil to the handicapped and laugh at them. Maybe you laugh at your future self.

Nsoselo 22

Amenshi balinga no bunga

Ilyo ukocita icintu, bona ukwebati ifintu ukofwaya ukubomfya, fililingene.

Kati mukofwaya ukunaya inshima, icakubalilapo ulo mutanga bika amenshi mu mpoto, boneni ifyo ubunga buli, epakwisa kubika amenshi mu mpoto.

Nangu kati fyakushita, mwifushapo iyo, nishinga mukwete? Epa kwishiba nefyakuya mukushita.

First mealie meal then water

When preparing to do something, see to it that what you want to use is enough.

When you want to cook food, the first thing to do before you put water in the pot, is to check how much mealie meal you have, then you know the level of water needed in the pot.

When you go out to buy things, see how much money you have and then budget on this amount.

Nsoselo 23

Mwebho muli cimbwí, tamulya nabanenu

Ukuitemwa nako kubi.

We waikala mu mushi ngawali itemwa, ubushiku fikakushupa tawaka kwate kwakulola. Kanshi calinga ilingi ako wawkatako wapelako nabanobe pantu nabo mailo bakakwibukisha.

You are a hyena, you do not eat with your companions

Loving oneself without considering others is bad.

When you live in a village and think of yourself alone, the day when you will be in problems you will have nowhere to go. So, it is better to share whatever you have because others will remember and think about you.



Nsoselo 24

Ubukulu mano

Tekulosha mukukwata myaka iyingi, cili pa mano. Amano ilingi line alola mummyaka iyingi. Nakuno bo namano alasangwa namu bakwete myaka inono. Icifuma ku mutima mukuwamina bantu abali mumbali yobe efikubwenesha ukuba na mano. Aya mano kuti afuma kumuntu uwa caice tekutipo ati kano abe umukulu.

Kutontomesha pa fintu fingafwilisha abo twaikala nabo. Cila umo pali ifwe umo umo alikwata amaka akulanga amano umo abo twaikala nabo banga kwatila filambu.

To be recognised as a fully grown-up you have to show wisdom

Of old, wisdom is associated with the elderly. But wisdom can also be found in younger people. What makes you wise is what comes out of your heart for the good of the people around you. Such wisdom may come from a young person and not necessarily from an old one.

We need to focus on what helps our community. Each of us has the ability to demonstrate wisdom that benefits the community.

Nsoselo 25

Utukoshi tuli tubili tatupusa

Taulingile ukubomba incito ikankala weka.

Pakuti ikose noku pwililika, ulingile ukwafwako bambi epakuti nabo bakwafwe. Nci cintu tacitika ceka. Cifwaya wabikako akalango namaka.

Ukuba weka, tawakasangemo ubuyo ubo ufwaya. Ukafilwa.

Two falcons together do not miss

Don't work alone on important projects.

To be effective, you must help others and others must help you. Of course, this does not just happen. It requires attention and effort

By yourself, you will not achieve the results you desire. You will fail.

Nsoselo 26

Mwikala apatalala mwine apatalalika

Ukuisunga we mwine ukutalokulaka naba nobe, umutende mwine aleta apo ekele pakati kobe nabena mupalamano.

Mu mushi umo mwaikala walinga ukuisunga we mwine no lupwa nensansa. Mukuba mfi, abaena mupalamano bakafilwa apa kwingila pa nganda yenu pantu mwalikala ku matwi tondolo, abena mupalamano mwaliba pela umucinshi.

Creating a quarrel-free environment starts with you

If you keep yourself from petty discussions and talks, peace will prevail in your home and between you and your neighbours.

Living with neighbours, you take care that you and your family are cheerful. If you do that, your neighbours, especially those with hatred, will find it difficult to unsettle your home because you are living peacefully and you are giving them respect.

Nsoselo 27

Akacila ka mbushi kasengula apo kekele

Ukubombela pancende imo apo waikala nokukwishiba.

Ukucita ifintu ifiweme pa ncende waikala kuleta insansa. Ecilenga nabena mupalamano, ukupela umucinshi pantu imilimo ubomba ilaboneka.

Tekuti usosepo ati nebo nalibomba fyakuti nafyakuti kumbi, nabantu tekuti bakusumine ifyo ukolabila.

The goat's little tail sweeps where it is positioned

Do things at the places where you stay and where you are known.

Doing good things in your area of residence brings happiness. Your neighbours will give you the respect you deserve because they see what you are doing.

You cannot say 'I did this and this in that far-away place' and expect respect because they can not believe in whatever you are saying.

Nsoselo 28

Winshinda nshilanya

Lindila mpwishe ifyo ndecita elintu walanjipusha panuma.

Icintu conse calikwata intampilo ne nshilisho, kanshi calinga kwaba akashita kakumfwa fyonse elyo panuma twaipusha.

Umuntu nga akolondololapo fimo, calilinga ukumupela akashita pakuti apwishe, elyo pa numa, mwamwipusha pafintu mutomfwile bwino. Te kumukala pakati.

Do not clean my anus before I defecate

Do not interrupt me before I finish what I am saying or doing.

Everything has a beginning and an ending. So, time should be taken to listen to everything and then ask your questions at last.

When somebody is explaining what has happened, it is better to give him or her the chance to finish off. Following that, you are now free to ask any questions you still have. Do not do this during the explanation.



Nsoselo 29

Umuswema ukukula kutina nshila

Akatino kala pususha ku fibi.

Insoka ya muswema pakuti ikule yalinga ukutina ukupita pakati ka nshila pantu kuti baipaya.

Nangu niwe we muntu, ngolafwaya ukukula bwino walinga ukutina ifikali pantu kuti wafwa ucili mwaice ukwabula ukufika ku bukote.

For a snake to grow, it must shun the road

Apprehension is a necessary part of living.

In order to grow well, a snake shouldn't lie down in the middle of the road, as it might easily get killed there.

This also holds for human beings. You must fear bad things because you may die in your youthful age without reaching old age.

Nsoselo 30

Sungo mukoshi ubulungu tabwafya

Pa fintu fibili, sungishapo cimo icacila icinankwe.

Ku fipande fya mubili wa muntu, umukoshi ngawalyonaike takuli uko wingasanga uwakubwekeshapo, nomba ubulungu kuti waya fwaya kumbi.

Take care of your neck, the beads are no problem

When there are two things to take care of the important one comes first.

Looking at the human body parts, you can not replace a neck once it is broken, while beads can be fetched elsewhere.

Nsoselo 31

Akati uli nako eko bakuswilako mbwa

Ukubomfya icili mupepi nangu ico ukwete.

Nembwa ine kuti wabomfya akati ukwete apo pene, ukucila ukuya mukufwaya kambi pantu kuti wasanga imbwa yaya.

Imilimo tubomba tulinganya namaka tukwete. Tekutipo njeshe ukwimya icipe ico mbwene ati cilemene ukucila amaka anji. Namu bwikashi bwesu, tulya ifyakulya ukulingana nendalama tukwete.

The little stick at hand suffices to strike the dog

You should live and work within your limits.

When striking a dog, we are compelled to use the little stick at hand instead of going out to look for a bigger one because it is likely that when we return, we shall find the dog gone!

Looking at various types of work around us, we choose according to our strength. You can not and will not try lifting a load of which you can easily see that it is too heavy for your strength. And in our way of living, we eat the kind of food which our money can buy.

Nsoselo 32

Teka mutima fili pamulilo

Ukuteka umutima lyonse caliwama, ukucila ukutwala mu kasaku.

We muntu ngawalumbilila umwanakashi wakupa, calinga watekanya pakupela abafyashi ba mwakashi ukupekanya fyonse ififwaikwa. Pambi kuti we waebati balikana, awe fyonse fintu fyaba nakashita. Ifyakutwala mulubilo, emfilya fitakokolapo.

Be patient, food is still on the fire

Patience is always good, do not take things in a hurry.

When you propose a girl for marriage, you should take your time. The girl's parents need to prepare all that is required. Perhaps, you think things are not okay when in fact they only need care and time.

Nsoselo 33

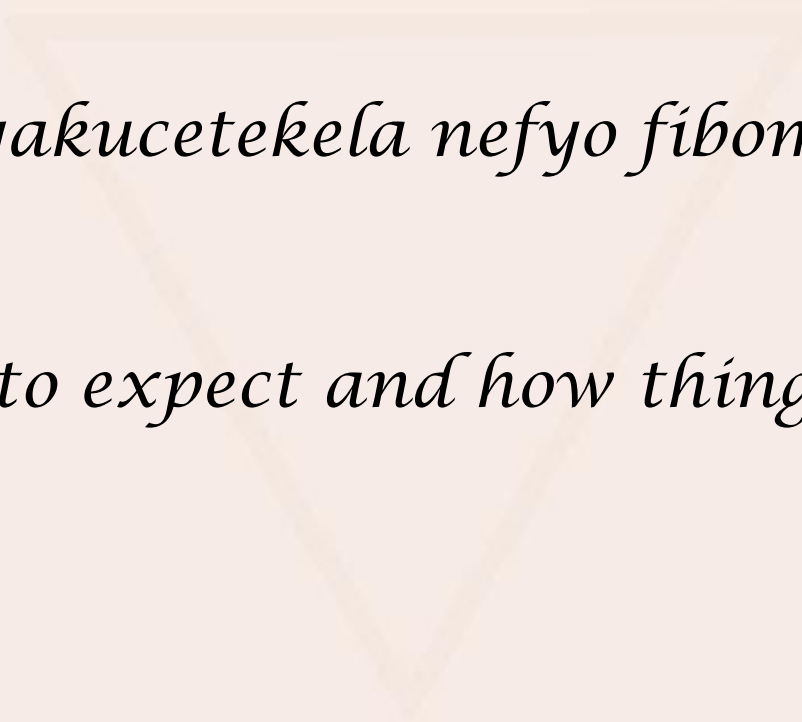
Tondolo muweme

Ukwikala tondolo ukwabula icongo kwaliwama sana, pantu takuletelela.

Umuntu uwatemwa utwakulabila labila ilingi line asangwa mu milandu ukutaikalila, lyonse kulondolola. Awa umfwapo akelyashi, we ninshi kuya mukusosa nakuli bambi, nangu taushininkishe! Niwe bakwisa kwebati ulim wabufi.

It is good to remain quiet

You'll always be free if you respect yourself without getting involved in unknown discussions. If you are fond of gossiping at the end you get involved in cases and you will not be free. If you start broadcasting issues without any proof, you'll be called a liar or a troublemaker!



Ifyakucetekela nefyo fibomba

What to expect and how things work

Nsoselo 34

Akabangile takanwene nkundwa

Ukubangila kuti wasanga ifiweme.

Kwalibako inshita shimo shimo ilyo amenshi yamu nika akama. Kanshi mu ncende musangwa amenshi kuba ukukumaninapo ne nama. Eico abantunse balabangila lintu takalatula sana ukuya tapapo amenshi ilyo ubwinanama tabulayapo.

Namu kusambala, ababalilapo eba pinta ifiweme, mwebalekelesha mwapintapo ifitaweme.

The early one never drank dirty water

Being the first you get the best.

At times in certain areas water becomes very scarce in the rivers. So, wherever there's water, even animals come to drink. People then will go there before the animal kingdom goes there.

Also in business, those who first visit the shops often get the best.



Nsoselo 35

Akanwa ka mwefu takabepa

Ukukokola pano calo kulenga umuntu ukubona ifintu ifingi ifyapusana pusana, ifibi ne fiweme. Ulo umuntu akokula, kumubili wakwe kulamena imyefu iyiisa apapita imyaka iyingi. Kanshi mukukula kwakwe, alabona ifintu ifipusene pusene, kanshi ici ciba masambililo nokwishiba ifyo ifi fintu fileta kutanshi! Nolo akasosa ku bana kukula, aleshiba icikatumbukamo pakuti baishibila limo. Umwana kuti bacomukanya ukulungana naba lalume nangu abanansungu pantu icifuma muu lifumo.

A mouth with a moustache will never tell lies

Older people often are wiser. Having lived many years has made them experience so many different things, bad and good.

When a person continues to grow, some hair starts growing after a long period. During his period of life, he sees a lot of events and they are lessons to him knowing what would be seen ahead. And when he narrates to the children, he already knows what came out of this. A child may be advised not to be too loose with sex because pregnancy comes second.

Nsoselo 36

Ulubilo lwa mwipi kubangila

Ngatawakwatisha amaka akwenda, calinga wabangilako ukucila ukutampila pamo nabanobe.

Ukucita ico caishibikwa icalinga tacinga citwa ku muntu onse.

Ukwenda kwalipusana pa bantu abepi naba tali. We mwipi walinga ukubangilako ulwendo pantu ungesa kushalila inuma.

The speed of the short person makes him start off earlier

You must do it with the faculties that you have, not with those that people in general have.

To do what is generally regarded to be favourable might not apply to every person.

Walking is quite different according to people's heights. When you are short, it is better to start earlier because you have short strides.

Nsoselo 37

Umwana kasembe, kakukoma wabwela wakobeka

Fimbi ifintu fyalikatana sana, tekuti mufilekanyepo iyoo.

Akasembe no mwana fintu fyalingana mumibomfeshe. Boneni, umwana limbi alakwata ukukalifya mwe bafyashi icakuti mwe bafyashi mwafilwa ifyakucita. Apo mwana wenu ngali nemilandu, nimwe mulingile ukumwafwa nangu acaba shani.

Ecimo na kasembe ilyo wile mukutema, kanga kukoma ku lukasa, tawaebepo ati nkokaposa akasembe! Kubula bwaka kokobeka watampa nokuya ku mushi.

A child is like an axe: it may cut you, but you keep on carrying it

Some things are too important: you can not leave them out.

An axe and a child are the same in certain ways. You can see, your own child may at times wrong you and you wouldn't know what to do. And when your child is in trouble, you are the one who should be responsible to bail him/her out.

It is the same way when you go out to cut trees, the same axe may cut you and you will not think of throwing or abandoning it, no! You will pick and hang on your shoulder as you go home.

Nsoselo 38

Umulandu taubolapo

Imisango iibi tailabwapo, nangu apapita imyaka iyinji, bonse bakebukisha. Kanshi calinga mwaupwisha bwangu no kusulako.

Fwe bantu tuli bena kuluba umo twaikala. Ulo twapusana naba byesu twalinga twaikala panshi nokupitulukamo mu mulandu pakuti tusange inshila yakuwamyamo. Nomba nga wafyuka ukuya kumbi, umulandu wacitile ulashala uko kupembela. Elo nobushiku ukabwela cikesa kuboneka kubati pambi elo waucita.

A case does not waste away

Acts done in bad faith will never be forgotten, though many years may pass, everybody will be remembering. So, it is better to sit and discuss over it and clear it out.

As human beings, we are subjected to making mistakes. And when we differ with friends, we are supposed to sit down and go over the difference and see the way forward to clear it out. But if you decide to sneak out that area, the case will remain still fresh waiting for you. And the day when you will come back, it will be as though you have just committed it!

Nsoselo 39

Ubufi bulaya no kubwela

Ubufi bwali shupa ukufisa.

Nangu mungatontonkanyati mukaba neshuko lyakupusukilamo, ico mutenekele cikesa kumubika apaswetele kwebati nimwe mwabepele.

Ukusabankanya bufi kukesha kumwalukila ulo iciine cikesa palwalwa; nabonse mbo abamupele umucinshi, bakaleka ukumucetekela.

Lies say goodbye and then come back

Lies are difficult to conceal.

Although you may think you have a lucky escape, something unexpected will eventually expose you as a fraud.

Spreading lies may backfire when truth comes to light: all those who respected you will no longer trust you.



Nsoselo 40

Icikalilwa pa nsaka ni nshima

Fintu fyaba umo fyabela.

Insaka nincende imo umo abantu abalalume bekala nokutusha yangula ukulabilapo utwa malyashi utwa mu mushi bekala. Nakambi encende aba mu mushi abalalume naba baice balila icakulya. Abanakashi batwala inshima ku nsaka ekwakulila. Nomba ulo ico bakonkele capwa kufumamo.

Takwabapo uko abekala calo bangabomba umulimo utakwetepo ubuyo ngabakofwaya ubuyantanshi. Ukubako, benji bakakomailapo pali nji nsoselo yangula pa fintu umo fyabela. Enco pakucita icili conse kano mwabonapo ifyo cakumubombela.

Men in the resting shelter means food will be brought in

Things are as they are.

A village shelter is a place where the men of the village go to rest and go through issues pertaining to the village. It is also a place where men plus young boys eat communally. Women take plates of food to the resting shelter. And after that, men leave because they have had what they needed.

The local community will only do new things once it is clear that they will bring fruitful results. Otherwise, they will react with this proverb or with 'Things are as they are'. So, before embarking on a project, people should be aware of what it will bring to them.

Nsoselo 41

Bwaca fimbí lelo

Ifintu fyonse fyalikwata akashita cila bushiku.

Ishuko ku muntu lisa lintu tenekele ukuti kuti lyabako. Ciba kwati ebushiku apelwe. Abaluse kuti baisa mupela ico akofwaisha nge ndalama shakubomfya pa nganda, pamo nge cakulya.

It is dawn, today other things may happen

Each day has time passing from dawn to sunset in another way.

Luck comes to a person when one is not aware! It is seen as “a given day” to him/her. Maybe sympathisers will come and give her/him some money that could be used at home to buy the much-needed food.

Nsoselo 42

Icifu ca baice, imbeba ya bakulu

Abaice nangu babombe shani, abakulu ebesa mukusekelamo mufyo abaice babombele.
Kulaba ukuya mumpanga mukwimba imbeba nabaice. Palaba imbeba ishikulu ne shinini.
Ngababwelela ku mushi, abakulu balasalapo ishikulu no kulya, bashila abaice utunini.

The trap is for children, the mouse is for the elders

The fruit of the children's hard work is often seized by one or more elders.
Children go out in the wild to dig out mice which are in different sizes. When the children return home, the elders pick the biggest leaving the small ones for the children.

Nsoselo 43

Umulandu mume

Mu mume no mulandu mwaliba ifyapalana.

Ngawa sangwa no mulandu, ulalambata kuli iwe kubati mume ku cani mu kacelo.

Umume ulekata kuli onse uwapitama mu cani. Munshila imo ine, uuli onse angasangwa mu mulandu.

Umulandu waba kubati mume uwikata ku molu onse mu kacelo. Ukaba naimwe muntampulo shonse ukwenda. Mu mulandu mwaba ifiteyo fingi umo ungawila.

Nomba nshita ya kasuba yalilepa ukucila akacelo: umume ukoma penkapo ukomfwako na bwino.

A case is like dew

There are similarities between dew and a case.

When you are involved in a case, it sticks on you like dew on the grass in the morning.

A case is like the dew you get on your legs. It will get on you with every step you make. In a case, there are so many pitfalls into which you can fall.

The dew will cling to anyone who walks through that field. In the same way, anyone can become involved in a case.

But the day is longer than a morning, the dew will disappear. You will feel better once the case is over.

Nsoselo 44

Kwapa tacila kubeya

Umuli monse mungaba, palaba umo uwakukwata maka ayenji kupitila mufyo aishibisha nokongola banankwe. Aba bambi bashala bena kukonka ifyo alabila.

Ibumba lya mupila wakumakasa lili mu cibansa, kalisha wa pintu ewupingula fyonse, teba kateya iyoo.

Kuli abo intungulushi, ebali namaka akutungulula nokupingula icikofwaikwa.

The armpit is not above the shoulder

In every situation, there is someone with more authority based on experience and influence. The others should follow her advice.

When a football team goes into the field of play, the referee takes charge and not the players.

For those who are leaders, it is their duty to instruct and make decisions for the benefit of all.

They are not of a different order than the others.

Nsoselo 45

Ubushiku insofu ifwile nelyashi liba pa nsofu

Ulo kwacitika icintu icikulu, bonse bala labilapo.

Insofu ni nama ikulu sana elyo yalishibikwa, ngayafwa bonse basosa pali ngulya mulandu.

Intungulushi sha calo makamaka ba kateka ngabafwa, onse umuntu uwamulya mu calo alaba nobulanda sana. Kanshi isho nshiku ilyashi abantu basosapo nipali kateka wabo uwafwa.

When an elephant has died, everybody talks about the elephant

When something important happens, everybody is talking about it.

An elephant is a well known and big animal. When it is killed everybody talks about it.

The loss of a country's leader, especially the president, is felt by everyone in that country. During that period the main topic of discussion is on that great leader.

Nsoselo 46

Mwe baice, imiti ili pamo eikwesana

Mu bwaice ilingi kulaba ukupusana.

Imiti imenena mupepi pamo, yalikukwesana.

Ilyo abaice bakokulila pamo, balapusana sana pantu emikulile yabo tapali uwakusula ifyo mubyakwe asosa. Inshita inini nakambi batampa kwangalila pamo.

Youngsters, trees close together rub against each other

When children grow up together, they sometimes disagree.

When trees grow close to each other, they will often rub against each other.

It is normal for children during their growing-up to disagree and to ignore what the other one says. Soon after, they begin playing together again.



Nsoselo 47

Mu bantu abengi balakoselamo

Mu bwinji nga mukoumfwana incito ilanaka.

Umuntu nga imaka inanda, icishalako kufimba. Ala pekanyapo utwa musunga utwa kufimbila. No bushiku bwakufimba abantu abenji balesako mukwafwa mu kashita akanini ne nanda ninshi yapwa ukufimba.

Na mubulimi cimo ceka abantu balesako mukulima icakwebati pakashita akanini impanga balimapo ikulu sana.

Many together make strong

Many hands make light work. When you are many with good co-operation work becomes easier. After a person has built a house what remains is roofing! He prepares some beer for this work. And the day of roofing many people come to help and in no time the house is completely roofed. The same goes in farming where people go to hoe and within a short time a big land is hoed.

Nsoselo 48

Munshenda alifyele mwana kaenda

Umuntu tekuti eshibepo ifyakucita icintu cimo nomba tacilolelemo kwebati angafilwa ukubomba na fimbi.

Ngata twishibe intulo yabo, tatulingile ukubapingula mu nshila bekalilamo. Napo mungalabila ifyo mwana uwo banyina balema no kwenda tabenda? Nani angeshiba pambi akabe shing'anga angula Kateka!

The cripple gave birth to a child who could walk

A person may not be capable to do one thing but that does not mean he is incapable to do other things!

If we don't understand people's backgrounds, we shouldn't judge them for how they live. Can you predict the future condition of a child whose mother is cripple and never walks? Who knows, he will be a doctor or a president!

Nsoselo 49

Taipaya wamina mate

Nangu kangaba kanono teti ufwe ku nsala.

Kulaba inshita shimo ilyo ubwikashi bushupa sana icakuti mwafilwa kusanga icakulya imiku ibili akasuba kamo. Ku ceshuko aba luse kuti bamupako tunono uto mwingalalya panono ukucila ukulala insala.

Hunger does not kill who has swallowed saliva

In times of hunger something is better than nothing.

There are times when better living is not within reach, and you cannot find food for a day. Now should someone give you a little, you will work on the supply to at least have something for each meal instead of going without anything.

Nsoselo 50

Ukuli uwobe, takwitika muto

Ukuba ne fibusa ifiweme.

Umuto tekuti witike calola ukwebati: tapali icingalubana.

Umunobe mumfwana nankwe kuti akucinkulako kufyo abantu ababi bakokupingila pakuti waikala uwailuka.

Where you have a close friend/relative, soup can never be spilt

It is important to have faithful friends.

Soup can never be spilt means: nothing can go wrong.

When your friend hears of a threat by your enemies, he will notify you so that you are aware.

Nsoselo 51

Amenshi akonko mufolo

Tekweshapo ukupatikisha ifintu ifitangalulwa.

Cacine amenshi tekutipo aninike umulundu, ku konka ukuli umufolo pantu kwasulama. Pa lupwa kati pacitika umulandu, niba lupwa ebalilapo ukwishiba nokubona ukwingafuma ubwafwilisho. Mwana mwalalume nga aimisha ifumo ku mwanansungu, ba lupwa ebeshiba pakuti bafwilishe ngulya mwana. Abena buko uloba mwita, ulupwa eluyako mukumfwa ubupingushi. Ngakulipila indalama, balupwa ebasonka pakuti bakumaninshe nokulipila. Ndi lyashi likonka ba lupwa epela, efili na menshi ukukonka umufolo.

Ecimo cenka ukulabilati ukushita ifipe ukulingana ne ndalama mukwete.

Water follows the furrow

Do not force things in trying to evade the inevitable.

It is evident that water can not go just anywhere, for instance upwards. It only follows where there is a furrow. In a family when there is an issue, family members should know about it and look for possible solutions. A young boy may impregnate a girl, family members must be informed about this issue. When the girl's family summons them, nearby family members gather to hear the fine imposed. They will then contribute towards it. This issue is shared among the family, so goes the saying: water follows the furrow.

The proverb can also be used to express that you must buy goods worth the amount you have.



Nsoselo 52

Akeshibilo ka kuloke mfula makumbi ili abako

Kufyo mwabona, eko mwakwishibila. Icintu conse caliba necishibilo cakwebati cikocitika. Icimuti umukunyu ulatwala amaluba ninshi bonse bakoshibila ati imfula ili mupepi. Namu mainsa mwine, kumulu akutapo makumbi ninshi imfula takupo.

The sign that rain is coming is the gathering of clouds

From what you see, you will know what comes thereafter. Everything has symptoms/signs that something is going to take place.

When the *mukuyu* tree starts flowering, everyone knows that the rainy season is nearby. Also, during the rainy season, if in the sky there are no clouds, it means there will not be rains.

Nsoselo 53

Uuleta pansaka tonaula

Twashininkisha ukuti amano tupelana fye napalinga ukutwala nipa nsaka apo abalalume bekala nokwambaula mu malyashi apusenepusene.

Ilyashi ukulyangusha kano walitwala pa cintu bwingi bakwafwako umwakutwalila, pantu amano twaakana fye. Uuleta pa nsaka tonaula, umulandu wakuti apo umwine ashumfwile bwino abanabo kuti bamupindululako.

Umwana nganalwala, ili lyashi nga lyafika pa nsaka, ku ceshuko kuti paba umo uwaishhiba umuti.

To take issues to the resting shelter is not a waste of time

We know that knowledge must be shared and the place where this happens is the resting shelter in a village. To find possible solutions, it is advisable to take any issue where sober people gather to chat. There you could be enlightened on parts that were not clear to you.

In case of a sick child, one of the persons at the shelter may know what herbs could treat the kind of illness the child has.

Nsoselo 54

Munyena pa citenge tabula kubweleshapo

Umuntu uwabelela ukucita icintu cimo cine alabwekeshapo.

Umuntu ngani kabwalala calishupa ukuleka pantu umwine encito asanga inakile ukucila iyakupibe libe. Nga bulimi bufwaya ukubombesha sana pakuti ifyakulya fisanguke! Kuli ukulima, ukubyalala, ukusekwila nokusombola.

He who excretes on clothes will not fail to do it again

People who do bad things will keep doing them.

If a person is a thief, it is very difficult to stop because he finds it to be easier than doing something that would make him sweat like in farming for which you need to be working hard until you have crops: ploughing, planting, weeding and harvesting.

Nsoselo 55

Imputi isula, taibula kubwekeshapo

Ukukwata imisango imo imo iibi, ilingi line kulaba ukubwekeshapo.

We muntu ngawalitemwa nokwishibikwa ukuti uleba ifipe fyabene, nelintu ifipe fimo fikaluba, tabakatwishike abebile, bakebafye ati iyo lindileni tukamwishiba uwiba, mpaka naiwe pantu efyo ucita basuka bakusanga ukoiba pantu bakaipekanya abene bafipe.

The anus that emits gas will do it again

Once you are used to doing something, usually bad, people will know you for that and in every case will assume that you were the one who did it.

Imagine you love stealing and you are known for that. Now, when something is missing, people will not hesitate assuming who stole it! They might set up a trap that you will not know until you are caught red-handed.

Nsoselo 56

Mwalombela mwishamo, fyashila kale

Nga tenshita yobe, teti upelwe.

Ilyo twapelebela muli fimo twebe ati, tatukwete umucele. Elo pancende twikala pali bamo abo twashimpamo amano ukuti bena bangatwafwa. Ifyo ukolanguluka efyo nabambi bakolanguluka ukuteshibati eko nabo baciya mukufwayako umucele.

Ulo wafika ukulomba, kuti baebati mwaendela mwishamo ulipwile.

You have begged in misfortune: everything is already gone

If it is not your day, you can not be assisted.

When you run short of certain essentials such as salt, you may have a person you always think can help. Not knowing that what you are planning is what others had planned also, to beg some salt, you go there to ask. Now, that person will only say you have come at the wrong time because all what she had is finished.

Nsoselo 57

Ukulu wolwele umunobe, eko bakupantilako

Tulokubala katu tontonkanya bwino ulo tatulacita icintu! Twilokusaikwapo, tulokulanguluka nefya kunuma.

Umuntu nga afunika ukulu, we munankwe kulaba ukumfwa ubulanda elyo waya mukumutensha, ukualacina kulya kulu mpaka apola.

Ku ceshamo ngawa mulufyanyako panono waisa sanga akupantila nakukulu walikumucina.

Abo twafwilisha pakubala, panuma ebese mukutulufyanya.

The friend's leg you nursed may be the one kicking you in the end

Before doing or acting on something we must think more. We should think of the past and not be in a hurry.

People we help/support may turn against us at a moment later in time.

When your friend is hurt or has a fractured leg, you as a friend, feel sad and take care of him through nursing the leg until it is healed. After some time, you may hurt him through talking after which he will kick you using the same leg you were nursing.

Nsoselo 58

Akobe kaweme, balalya nekabishi

Waliba nensambu ukucita pafintu fyobe ukofwaya.

Twaliba ne nsambu ukubomba ifyo tukofwaya cikulu imilimo yesu taipulungenye bambi.

Ilyo tuya mu mpanga mukutola ifinsabwansabwa, kwati masuku, tutola ayapya nomba we mwine ngawafwaya kuti watola nayabishi, tapapo uwinga kwipusha ico watolela alya.

Your little bit of food is good, you may eat it raw as well

You have the right to decide what to do with your own things.

We have this right bearing in mind that this will not disturb other people.

When we go out in the bush to pick fruits, like *masuku* fruits, we only pick ripe ones but when you pick a raw one, no-one should question why you did that.



Nsoselo 59

Amenso tayalya

Ukucita ekufwaikwa. Ukulolesha fye teti kusende ifili fyonse.

Ulo waya mukutandala ku mashitolo, twilako fye mukubona ifipe nokutampa ukupekanya ifyakuya mukufishita ulo twakukwata indalama. Nomba muli nji nshila, tatwakalyepo mfi fipe; kubonako cabe.

Eyes do not eat

Action is needed. Looking at something alone does not fill your belly.

When we visit the shops for window shopping, we merely see goods and plan to buy them when financially okay. But by that way, you will not be able to eat the goods; you are merely looking at them.

Nsoselo 60

Tafilya wenda

Ambi amashuko esa fye ukwabula ukuyenekela. Ako walya ni ako kene.

Ilyo tuli palwendo, kwaliba inshita tusanga abantu bakolya mu mishi tupita. Ngabatwita ukuya lya nabo, ninshi nifilya fine, lishuko lyesu. Tatusubila ukuti batunaile nabumbi pantu tuli mulupita.

When on a journey, do not expect to eat full meals

Some chances come unexpectedly. Accept and be thankful for what is given to you.

There are times when we are on a journey, when by chance we find people eating in one of the villages we pass through who invite us to join them. It is our chance, and we should not expect them to cook more food for us since we are only passing.

Nsoselo 61

Akafumbe kunona katampile mwabo kunona

Ifyo abakulu baboneka mu misango itampila ku bwaice bobe.

Akafumbe ka beba akanona sana, noku kunona kwatampile ku bwaice bwakako.

Na fwe bantu imisango yesu ngacakuti abafyashi besu balitukushishe bwino itampila ku bunya nwesu, emo twakulila.

The little mouse started from an early age to get fat

The behaviour of adults can be traced back to their childhood.

The *kafumbe* is a little mouse that has a lot of fat and therefore tastes good. To have that fat, it started from its infancy.

This is the same with us as human beings as to our behaviour. If our parents took care of us well, starting from our childhood, we grow up to good behaviour.

Nsoselo 62

Umulilo ucingilile abakulu taoca

Ukukonka amafunde ciweme sana.

Abakulu balikala muno calo nokubona ificitika, kanshi kuti bapandako amano abaice pakutu nabo baikala aba mutende.

A fire surrounded by the elders will not burn you

Taking advice from more experienced people is essential.

Elders have lived in the world for quite some time and so have vast experience to advise the young how to lead a good life.

Nsoselo 63

Mwe baice, ni kafyalweni te kapalaneni!

Mukufyalwa tekutipo ati mwakupalana.

Nangu ni mulupwa lumu lwine, abana bafyalwa balikwatapo icibapusanyana ku mu nankwe.

Youngsters, it is being born in the same family, not resembling one another!

Being born in the same family does not mean that you resemble one another.

It is normal for the children in one family to have different features.



Nsoselo 64

Tafilya ulima

Upekanya umo elyo nabambi baponenamo. Nomba, twilalubako kubatasha.

Ngani mu bulimi, umo alima nokusanga ati abesa mukulyako bengi. Eico ecintu tulingile ukwibukisha. Ukulolesha ku lubali lumbi, tekuti alime ifyakwe eka kati alafwaya ukukwata abana, bafyashi abakote, ifibusa naba lwendo bambi.

Farmers do not eat everything they cultivate

Only a few persons take care of the food with the rest benefiting from this. So, we should not forget to thank them.

In farming, one does the ploughing, but many people help in the consuming and we must remember this. From the other side, you cannot only cultivate for yourself if you would like to have children and take care of older parents, friends and other visitors.

Nsoselo 65

Mayo mpapa, naine nkakupapa

Ungafweko nduno – nandi nkakwafwako kuntanshi.

Ilyo tufyalwa, tatubako elyo tatwishibapo nefikocitika mpaka twakula twaba namano epakutampa ukwishiba tumo tumo. Kanshi ulu twaishiba ifyali kunuma, tufwile nafwe twalipila pamafya abafyashi batwafwile. Ilyo umufyashi akula, fwe balinga nomba ukumu tentemba nifwe, mukumu fwaila icakulya, ukumufwika nokumusunga bwino.

Mother, carry me on your back, I shall also carry you

You help me now – I shall help you later.

When we are born, we are not yet really there. We don't know what is going on until at a stage when we start reasoning, knowing something. So, at a given moment we realise what has been done by our parents earlier on. Then we feel compelled to “pay” back on what they went through. Therefore, when our parents grow old, we will take care of them by providing food and clothing.

Nsoselo 66

Uumfwa uko impundu shikopona, untu ali mu mupundu

Kati niwe fikumine ifintu niwe waba na matontonkanyo apusene nabo fitakumine. Ukulanguluka kobe ekukwete ubuleme sana.

Icililo ngacapona, abomfwa ubulanda sana bantu bafwilwa ukucila abantu lukoso. Nangu umuntu alya impilipili, uumfwa sana ukubaba ningu asa kulya, tebaibelele iyoo.

Only the one under the mupundu tree knows how many fruits have fallen

When you are closely connected to something you have different feelings for it than the ones less connected. In that case, your opinion should be given more weight.

When a funeral occurs, family members feel more sadness compared to outsiders. Hot chilli is only felt by the one who eats it.

Nsoselo 67

Amenso tepaya

Itontonkanyo takuli ekucita.

Ba cibinda mumpanga ebakwata ukulanguluka mfi. Cibinda nga aya mumpanga afwaya ukwipaya inama sha kutobela. Ilabako nshita imbi ulo asanga inama ishingwi mwi lungi shikolya angula shili minine! Apa epo atonntonkanya ati amenso ngeyali kwipaya inama lelo shonse nshi, nga munani wanjwa. Inama nasho sheba ati nga amenso yepaya fwense ngatwalipwa ukufwa.

Eyes don't kill

Wishes are not actions.

Hunters in the forests always have this wish that their eyes could kill. When a hunter goes out hunting, his mission is to kill animals. At one time he finds a lot of animals in the plains eating grass or just standing! Here now he thinks that if eyes could kill, today I could have killed all these animals as my relish! Maybe animals have the same feeling: if eyes were killers, we all would have been killed and none of us could have lived.

Nsoselo 68

Mu butala emuli amano

Abantu ababona nefya kuntanshi kucila pakashita kenka nko kuti basangwa mu mafya anini. Ukukwata ubutala cilanga amano. Twalishiba ati ifya kuntanshi tefya kwenekela. Calinga ukupekanishisha libela ukutesa kubutukila ulo nshita ilipwile.

There is wisdom in a granary

People who look beyond the present may experience fewer problems. To have a granary shows wisdom. We all know the future is uncertain. One needs to prepare in advance, not to rush when it's too late.

Nsoselo 69

Ukupeshe lungu, kwendamo

Tekutipo mulabile pa cintu, kano mwali cipitamo mwe mwebene.

Ukwishiba bwino ifyo ilungu lyakula kano waendamo lyonse.

Ukuba kambone wa cine mu mulandu kano waishiba intampilo yelyashi pantu eko wali.

To explore a plain, you need to walk in it

You cannot speak about something unless you've experienced it yourself.

When you want to know how big the plain is, you need to go round it.

When you claim to be a witness in a case, you should know it from the start.

Nsoselo 70

Naposa mu menshi

Nalusa bwaka. Tapapo isubilo lyakuti mungacipoka.

Kuti wayafwa umuntu ku cakufwala pantu takwete, nomba waisa sanga ukuti cilia cintu aile cikabusha no bwalwa ukucila ukuti alokufwala.

I have thrown it into the water

I have wasted it all. There is no chance that I can get it back.

You can help a person with some clothing because he had none, but then you find that the same clothing was bartered for beer instead of that person putting it on.



Nsoselo 71

Umukulu tapusa kebo, apusa kabwe

Ulo mukofwailisha amaka ayo muntu akwata, kwateni mu mano imyaka ne mibele yangulya muntu.

Umuntu ilyo afyalwa, alapita nangu alabona ifintu ifingi. Kanshi ndu ulo akososa, fyakacine pantu alifibwene. Ifyo angapusa nimfi ifyakuposa kati mabwe, pantu limbi takwatapo amalunga.

Mu citemi mwaliba imisango yakwanshilamo ifiti iyo yatampile akale sana. Kwaliba kulakula ne myunda. Muli nji misango amale alabamo sana, kanshi ukufika nalelo bacili bakoibomfya.

An elderly person is good with words but less good with throwing stones

When assessing a person's abilities, bear in mind the age and other qualities of that person.

When a person is born, he experiences so many things. When an elderly person narrates, take it as being true because he witnessed it. But he may not be good in some work for which you need the abilities of young people.

In our agriculture there are several ways of laying cut branches for instance in narrow stretches and in circles. This started long time ago and through these methods up to now the yield of finger millet has always been quite high and the methods are still being used, as told by elders.

Nsoselo 72

Ukuboko bapota kwakosa

Ukumfwana kuweme ngamwapusana.

Ilingi line mu buntu bwesu mu mikalile tamubula ukupusana. Nomba ici tecingalenga ukuti mwi ikala panshi nokwesha ukubona apo mwapusanine. Nga niwe uli mu cilubo, calinga wasumina nokulomba ubwelelo ku nobe ukucila ukutalika pantu ififuma umu kuti fyabipila umo.

They twist your arm only if you resist

We must settle disputes peacefully when we differ.

It is normal for people living in one community to differ over certain issues from time to time.

This doesn't mean the end of everything! You must sit down and see where one went wrong. If you were wrong, it is better to accept this and ask for forgiveness than to keep on resisting.

Nsoselo 73

Niba cumbu munshololwa

Umuntu ushifwaya ukumuloshako pakuti acite iciweme.

Ukupandashanya amano umo twikele cintu ici weme sana. Nomba bambi tabafwayapo kanofye icili ku mano akwe epela, nomba ulo asangwa mu bwafya elo ailuka ati kanshi nganasa kukonka ifyo basa kumbulako.

He's like a sweet potato: he can not be bent

This is said of a person who doesn't listen to advice.

Where we live, sharing ideas is regarded to be a part of being full-grown. Still there are people who do not want to get any advice from friends. Now, when in problems, that is the time they have to think of what they failed to accept: the advice of family and friends.

Nsoselo 74

Umwana ashenda atota banyina ukunaya

Ukutasha fye ifintu umona pa ncende waikala tacawama.

Ukutandalila incende ishalekana lekana kulapela amano enji nokwishiba ifintu ifingi. Ificitwa pa ncende waikala ukebati efyapelako kanshi eko bali nabambi abaishibisha ukucila ifyo ubona.

Who never visits other places praises his mother as the best cook

Praising what you only see at your residential area as the best is naive.

Visiting different areas will give you wider knowledge and experience. Concluding that what happens around you is the best shows lack of experience. There are many others who know better.

Nsoselo 75

Umweni tabamulolesha pa mpumi, bamulolesha pa mala

Bombeleni pa fintu ifikulu.

Umulwendo wenu mubakeni bwino, tekumulolesha pa mpumi iyo, boneni pa mala.

Ico mulingile ukwisha ulo umulwendo wenu afika pa mushi wenu, cakwebati kale emine kwabo elyo apa ali nensala. Munailepo akashima elyo pa numa mwise mubandike ukwipusha ifyo endele.

Do not look at your visitor's forehead, look at the belly

Concentrate on what is important.

To treat your visitor well, don't just look at the forehead, think of the belly.

What you should know about your visitor when he arrives at your home, is that he left his home sometime ago and for sure he is hungry. Cook him food first and then have a nice time to chat on his mission.



Nsoselo 76

Umunwe umo tautola nda

Ukuba wekafye tapapo ico wingacita. Incito mu bwinji taikosapo pantu muli benji.

Umuntu kuti apwa ukwimaka icimbusu nokubangila akamutenge panshi elo kwashala ukukabika pamulu. Iyi ncito tekuicitapo weka kano nabambi bakwafwako uku kemya pa kubika pa mulu.

Ne mililmo iba pa cililo, bengi baya mukwimbe manda, napakutwala mbokoshi napo pene ukuba ukwafwana ukupinta.

One finger cannot pick lice

Being alone you can not succeed. It's easier to do work when you're many.

A person can easily construct a toilet building and prepare the roof on the ground. But then remains the task of taking it up on the toilet building. This needs a lot of people to help him.

Another example is that of a funeral, many people go to dig the grave and help in carrying the corpse. Alone this would be impossible.

Nsoselo 77

Uuli ukufwa, tomfwapo

Ube uwakumfwikisha, pantu limbi niwe wemwine ukasangwa necilubo.

Ngacakuti inama taitampile kubutuka penkapo aya umfwa uko imbwa ishilungi uko shikoisa ikepaiwa.

Tawakokolapo mu bwikashi, eico umfwila sana ifyo bakokusopesha namaka abakokola mubwikashi nokupitamo pantu ukasangwa mumpela umubi. Aba bantu abako kusopesha pafyo babona kunuma nku.

The one who is going to die, does not hear

Be attentive, otherwise you only have yourself to blame.

If an animal does not start running as soon as it hears the hunting dogs, it will be killed.

If you are not that experienced in life, take warnings from people with experience seriously or you may end up in a bad situation. These people are warning you based on their past experiences.

Nsoselo 78

Icifinya cumfwo mwine

Nga uli mu bwafya ubukulu, abantu bambi abaibelele balafwaya ukuti ulabeko. Kwaliba abang’o abakuti bena ngabainjila munanda mukwiba, basenda tonse utupe ukubikapo notwakufimbana. Ulo we mwine waisa kusanga ificitikwe, umutima ulakalipa sana, icakwebati kufwaya noku ikulika! Nomba balya abesa mukuku nasha ati: iyo wisakamana, eflyo caba, natumbipo, tabeshiba ndalama waposele pali fyo fibilwe. We mwine nacikukalipa sana pantu niwe cacitikila.

The pain is felt by the one affected

When you find yourself in big trouble, outsiders do not feel likewise and often will like you to forget about it!

Imagine that thieves would sweep your house with all households, including beddings, leaving completely nothing. When you find this, you become so enraged that you even consider committing suicide. Now those who come to comfort you will say: “Don’t worry, that is how it is, it happened” and so forth. They don’t realise how much effort it took for you to gather the money to buy those items. You alone are the one feeling the impact of this theft.



Nsoseso shaku Bulaya

European proverbs

Proverb 79

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you

Whatever is hurtful to you, do not do that to any other person.

Treat other people with the concern and kindness you would like them to show toward you.

Muyinga: Mupeta has still not returned the money I lent him.

Pande: I hear you saying this: the one who never repays a loan. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Citila abanobe ifyo nawe ungafwayako bakucitile

Icili conse icingakucena, wicicitila kuli onse.

Tentemba abantu bambi noluse ngefyo ungatemwa nabo bacita kuli we.

Muyinga: Mupeta nanomba tangabweshwa indalama namukopele.

Pande: Naumfwa ukososa ati: uyo utabweshwa ifyo akopa. Citila abanobe ifyo nawe ungafwaya bakucitile.

Proverb 80

Honesty is the best policy

Lies may get you out of trouble at first, but once the truth comes out, you'll be even worse off.

Kalale: I am completely entangled in lies after lying about the reason I came back from town.

Kalunga: Yes, hundred lies must be told to hide one act of dishonesty, honesty is the best policy.

Icishinka enshila yakukonka

Ubufi kuti bwakufumya mu mafya pakutampa nomba muku lekelesha yakutwala ku bubi ubwacilamo ulo icishinka casangwa.

Kalale: Nashingwana mu bufi ulo nabepele ati nici mfumine ku tauni.

Kalunga: Ina, ubufi umwanda umo bulalandwa pakufisa icintu cimo ica bufi, icishinka enshila yakukonka.

Proverb 81

A penny saved is a penny earned

First consider whether you really want or need to spend the money you are about to spend. If not, do not spend it. By doing so, you save it or, some even say, you earned it.

Save your money for it to grow. Saving is another form of earning.

Chibuye: I can hire that tractor for 10% less than it was in the previous year. So, the money I put aside for it, is more than I need.

Chola: A penny saved is a penny earned.

Ikobili lyasungwa ekobili lyanonkwa

Icakubalilapo salapo kati ukofwaya ukusunga angula konaula ndalama ukofwaya ukubomfya. Kati tefyo, wionaula. Mukucite ifyo, waisunga, nangu wati, wainonka.

Sungeni ndalama shenu pantu shilakula. Ukusunga ninshila imbi iya kunonka.

Chibuye: Kuti naita talakita pamutengo wayako panshi ngefyo cali ngu mwaka. Kanshi ndalama naibikile pambali niyo nshalikufwayapo.

Chola: Ikobili lyasungwa ekobili lyanonkwa.

Proverb 82

Actions speak louder than words

What you do is more significant than what you say. Just saying that you'll do something doesn't mean much, doing it is harder and more meaningful.

You must prepare for what your opponents could do, not what they say they'll do.

Chibale: You keep saying that you'll do your fair share of the housework but remember that actions speak louder than words.

Ukucita kwalicila ukulabila

Ifyo wacita fiba ifinenene ukucila ifyo ukolabila. Ukulabila bwaka ati nakucita mfi tafipela ukufikapo, ukucita icintu kwali kosa nokulondolola bwino.

Ulo kwishibile kale ifyo abo mukocimfanyanya nabo bangacita, ukuteba ifyo bakolabila ati bakucita.

Chibale: Ukulabila bwaka ati nakubombako nande imilimo ya munanda, nomba ulokwibukile ati ukucita kwalicila ukulabila.

Proverb 83

Good things come to those who wait

Be patient. Intervening in a process or situation in many instances will not further the case. Some things first must take their course.

Musonda: I am glad I did not interfere in the disagreement between my sisters. It might have made things worse. And at present, they are getting along fine again. Good things come to those who wait.

Ifiweme fisa kulimbo abakofilindila

Teka umutima. Uingilapo mulyashi ilyo wipwishe, ilingi line talipwapo bwino. Fimo ifintu fyaba nakashita.

Musonda: Natemwa nshasakuiposamo mu kutosha kwasa mukuli pakati ka nkashi shandi. Nga elo ifintu fyaisa kubipilako. Pali njino mpindi, balitampile ukumfwana bwino. Ifiweme fisa kulimbo abakofilindila.



Proverb 84

There's no place like home

Your own home is the most comfortable place to be, no matter how humble it may be.

Kunda: Are you glad to be home from school?

Bupe: Yes, father, there's no place like home.

Takwabapo icifulo icaba nga kwenu

Kwenu encende inga kusansamusha ukwikalako, nangula ingaba inono.

Kunda: Napo watemwa sana ukubwela kwenu kufuma ku sukulu?

Bupe: Ina, bata, takwabapo icifulo icaba nga kwenu.

Proverb 85

The early bird catches the worm

If you do it now, you'll do better than if you do it at the last minute. Life will not wait for you.

If a bird goes out worm hunting earlier than the other birds, he will be the first, and maybe even the only, one to get a worm.

Kasubika: What time are we going trapping tomorrow?

Mulenga: Four in the morning.

Kasubika: Why so early?

Mulenga: The early bird catches the worm!

Don't miss this year's best deal! The sale in Cairo Road will start tomorrow morning at six. The early bird catches the worm.

Akoni kabangile ekekata umwambo

Ngawabomba nduno, walabomba bwino ukucila ukubomba pakulekelesha. Ubumi tabwakulindlelo. Kati akoni kaima ulu kalya imyambo kubangila ukucila tumbi utuni, kakuba akantangile angula ekakuba keka ukukwata umwambo.

Kasubika: Ninshita ndo twakwima mukuteya mailo?

Mulenga: Folo koloko akacelo.

Kasubika: Nindo ukucelela?

Mulenga: Akoni kabangile ekaikete umwambo.

Mwipuswako uno mwaka kufikoisa!! Ukushitisha kwakuba mu Kailo Lodi kwakutampa mailo pa shikishi koloko. Akoni kabangile ekaikete umwambo.

Proverb 86

Easy come, easy go

If something good happens easily it easily can be taken away or destroyed.

When you get money quickly, like by winning it, it's easy to spend it or lose it quickly as well. Those who get money without effort usually squander it.

Mwape has worked hard to earn enough money to buy shoes for all the family. While traveling to buy them, she ventures to participate in a wager. She loses all the money. With much irony, she concludes: *Easy come, easy go* and is left with nothing but regret.

Icisa ceka, nokuya efyo ciya

Cimo icintu ngacacitika apatali maka cilasendwa angula ukonaika.

Ngawakwatapo indalama munshila yamubwipi, muku iwina, calyanguka ukuibomfya angula ukulufya. Mbo abakwata indalama ukwabula ukuiculila ilingi line balaposaika.

Mwape alibomba sana mukukwata indalama shakushita insapato sha bonse palupwa. Ulo alikuya mukushita, aitumpile mu cangalo ca ndalama. Alilushile shonse. Mukusangwa nefyo taibukile, asosele: *Icisa ceka, nokuya efyo ciya* nokushala nangu nindalama namalangulushi.

Proverb 87

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree

Children are like their parents.

Some of the character and personality of the parent or grandparent appear to be inherited by the children.

Chibolele: Kabinda seems to be suspicious of everything!

Mumba: You know how her father is. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Icitwalo taciponenapo ukutali ne citi

Abana baba kubati bafyashi babo.

Imibele imbi nefyo baba abafyashi nangu ifikolwe fibonekela mu bana babo.

Chibolele: Kabinda akoboneka uwakutwishika muli fyonse!

Mumba: Walishiba ifyo ba wishi baba. Icitwalo taciponena ukutali ne citi.

Proverb 88

The first step is always the hardest

Starting a new endeavour is the hardest part of it. It gets easier once you get started.

Changwe: I want to quit drinking too much, but I can't get myself started.

Ngosa: If you are just able to start this project, I know the rest will be easy. The first step is always the hardest.

Ndashe: I have always wanted to start with a larger field, but I can never decide on the place.

Katumpa: The first step is always the hardest.

Ulutampulo lwakubalilapo elwakosa

Pakutampa umulimo epa kosa sana, ilaya ulo inaka pantu nautampa kale.

Changwe: Nkofwaya ukuleka ukunwa ubwalwa, nomba cikokosa ukucicita.

Ngosa: Awantampako ninshi fikanaka kuntanshi. Ulutampulo lwakubalilapo elwakosa.

Ndashe: Ndafwaya ukulima apakulu, nomba ndafilwa ukusanga incende.

Katumpa: Ulutampulo lwakubalilapo elwakosa.

Proverb 89

No pain, no gain

Without suffering we cannot achieve our goal.

Nunda: This work is difficult!

Kabamba: True, but it will help you gain the money for your daughter to be helped. No pain, no gain.

Apatali kucula, tapaba ico ulekabila

Ukwabula ukucula tekuti tukwatepo ico tukofwaya.

Nunda: Nji ncito ikosele sana!

Kabamba: Cacine nomba cakukwafwa ukukwata indalama shabana banakashi ukubafwalishako. Apatali kucula tapaba ico ulekabila.

Proverb 90

You can't have your cake and eat it too

You can't have the best of both worlds.

One should not want more than one deserves or can handle.

One cannot or should not try to have two incompatible things: you can eat the cake and then not have it anymore or you keep it but then you can't eat it.

Mumba: I could spend the money on fertilisers but from the other side I would like to keep it to be able to hold out against any misfortune.

Munsele: Of course, but you can't have your cake and eat it too.

Tekutipo ulye keke nokuikwata nakambi

Tekuti ukwatepo fyonse ifiwamishe imiku fibili.

Umo talingile kutemwa ukwatapo ifingi ukucila cimo icimulingile nangu ukukwanisha.

Umo tekuti angula ukufwaisha ukukwata ifitangekala fibili panshita imo yenka: ungalya keke nokutai kwata nakambi, nangu icilipo kuisunga nokutailya.

Mumba: Ningatemwa ukushita umufundo mu ndalama yanji nomba lubali lumbi ningatemwa ukuisunga pakuti yangafwilishako mu mafya.

Munsele: Shuwa, nomba tekutipo ulyepo keke nokuikwata nakambi.



Proverb 91

Where there is smoke, there is fire

If it looks like something is wrong, something probably is wrong.

Some things cannot be separated. Smoke is always there after a fire has been lit.

Mondwa: Mukosha heard someone say that Bangwa has been mistreated by Mupeta. There must be some truth in it though they seemed such a nice couple.

Muyinga: So, you think that where there's smoke, there's fire? You could be a little bit more critical...

Ukuli cushi, kuli umulilo

Acaboneka ukuti calubana, nachine ninshi kuli icilubene.

Fimbi fintu tafipatulwapo. Icushi cilabako amwa asha umulilo.

Mondwa: Mukosha alyumfwile uko umbi muntu alabile ati Bangwa tasungilwepo bwino kuli Mupeta. Mulingile ukuba icine angula balikuboneka ukuba abaupana bwino.

Muyinga: Nomba mukotontonkanya ati ukuli cushi, no mulilo eko uli? Mulokubako limbi ukwikanya...

Proverb 92

You can't judge a book by its cover

Don't base your judgement on outward appearances alone.

Things sometimes look different than they really are. People must know each other better, otherwise they continue judging each other based on outward appearances alone.

A restaurant that looks old and small might have amazing food.

Mangala: She doesn't look very bright, but you can't judge a book by its cover.

Tekuti wishibe ifyamukati ke buku ku cikopa caciko

Wipingula pamubele fiblelelemo fyeka kunse.

Ifintu fiboneka ifyapusana kufyo fyaba. Abantu balingile ukwishibana bwino, ukucila ukupwisha ifyo baba pa fintu baboneka.

Inanda ya malila iboneka iyakale no bunini pambi eingakwata ifyakulya ifiwene.

Mangala: Tamonekapo ukucenjela, nomba tekuti wishibe ifya mukati ke buku ku cikopa caciko.

Proverb 93

The person who laughs last laughs best

Only in the end we will know who gets the better of the situation. So, don't despair when things do not work out as planned while the situation is still on the move.

Mambwe: Chibale was nagging me that he got away with his lie about my involvement in the fight yesterday.

Kasubika: Chibale will not be able to continue lying; you will laugh last and best.

Useka pakulelekesha, ewusekako bwino

Penka pakulekelesha twakwishiba uwakucimfya bwino. Nomba muibwelamo ulo ifintu tafikoyendapo bwino ukulingana nobupekanyo bwenu pantu inshita icili ikoya.

Mambwe: Chibale asakunkalifya pabufi bwakuti nine nali mukulwa mailo.

Kasubika: Chibale takakonkanyepo ukubepa, ukaseka nokuwama elo cikawama.

Proverb 94

Better late than never

To do something later than expected isn't good, but it is better than not at all.

Though it is too late, I am glad something has been done. Relief or sarcasm may colour the sentence and provide a clue for its correct interpretation.

Musonda: Here is the money that I borrowed from you; my excuses that I am two weeks too late.

Changwe: Ah well, better late than never.

Cawama wacelwako ukucila tapapo

Ukucita icintu mukucelwa ulo cikofwaikwa tacawamapo, cawama tapali nagu cimo.

Angula line cacelwa, natemwa sana paliko icacitikwa. Ukusubila kuti kwaonaula ifyo ukusosa kukopilibula.

Musonda: Tenshi ndalama nakopele kuli we, nomba nalomaba ubwelelo mukweba ati nacelwako pa milungu ibili.

Changwe: Ah, ciwama wacelwa ukucila tapapo.

Proverb 95

Haste makes waste

Acting too quickly may actually slow things down.

You do not save any time by working too fast.

Hurrying will cause you to make mistakes and you will have to take extra time to do the job over again.

Kaluba: Hurry up and get my cart fixed.

Kalunga: Don't rush me; haste makes waste.

Akasaku kalonaula

Ukucita mukasaku kungalenga milimo kucitwa panono.

Tausungapo akashita mukubomba mu kasaku.

Ukwangufyanya kulaleta ifilubo icikupela nomba kukwata nakambi akashita ukupitulukamo.

Kaluba: Endesheni muwamye cikoti kala.

Kalunga: Mwintwala ulubilo, akasaku kalonaula.

Proverb 96

Practice makes perfect

It takes a lot of practice to get good at something.

Doing something over and over again makes one better at it. The more you do something, the easier it becomes.

Making of clay pots starts at the early age by small girls. When she continues doing so, at end she becomes an expert in this skill, hence earns some money from sales.

Chisenga: You should go out with a hunter in the bush where he will show you how to handle a gun and aim at the animals, especially which parts to aim at. Practice makes perfect.

Ukweshako kuleta ukwishibisha

Uli nokweshakacito konse pakuti ukeshibishe.

Ukubomba ncito imiku ne miku kulenga ukwishibisha. Nga wabombapo ilingi, cilanaka kuntanshi.

Ukubumba inongo ukutampa kubwaice bwabakashana. Nga akonkanyapo ukubumba, pakulekelesha aba uwaishibisha muli nga mano, ico atampa nokukwatako indalama nga ashitisha.

Chisenga: Ukuya mu mpanga nana bacibinda umo bangaya mukulanga ifyakuleme mfuti ukuloshapa nama, makamaka incende apa kulashila. Ukweshako kuleta ukwishibisha.

Proverb 97

When the cat's away, the mice will play

In the absence of a person in authority, people will take advantage of the circumstances.

When the teacher left for a few minutes, the children started running through the classroom.
When the cat's away, the mice will play.

Chibuye: You shouldn't be playing a game at your desk.

Chola: The boss isn't here. And when the cat's away, the mice will play.

Ulo kapushi takalipo, bakoswe balangala sana

Ulo umuntu wakumubona tapo, abantu baba fye ukulingana nenshita njilya.

Umusambishi nga afumapo pakashita akanini, abaice bangalila ukubutauka mu cipinda camasambililo. Ulo kapushi takalipo bakoswe balayangalila.

Chibuye: Tamulingile kwangalila apo mukolembela.

Chola: Abakutusopa tabamo muno. Nolo kapushi takalipo bakoswe balayangila.



Proverb 98

Two heads are better than one

When two people cooperate with each other, they come up with better ideas.

Mushili: Without your knowledge of growing this type of seedlings it would never have worked out.

Ndashe: And without your skill in woodcarving, I would have lost a lot of time. Two heads are better than one.

Imitwi ibili yawamapo ukucila umo

Ulo abantu babili babombela pamo, balesa mukukwatilapo amano nayambi.

Mushili: Ngatemano yobe aya kwishiba imilimine yambuto, ngatacibombekelepo bwino.

Ndashe: Nawe ngate mano akwishiba ifyakubasa basa nga mposele ishita yandi bwaka. Imitwi ibili yawamapo ukucila umo.

Proverb 99

Well begun is half done

A good beginning is an appropriate indicator for success.

Once you have begun a project well, you do not need to put in much more effort to finish it.

Beginning a project well makes it easier to do the rest.

Mwape: I'm afraid I'll never be able to finish this field.

Mwewa: You've already hoed a fair stretch. Well begun is half done.

Ukutampa bwino ekubomba ukufika pakati

Intampilo iweme cilangililo cakupwisha bwino.

Ulo watampa umulimo bwino, taulingile ukubikako nayambi amaka ukuti upwishe. Ukutampa bwino umulimo kulangusha ukubomba iyashalako.

Mwape: Ndino mwenso, nshapwishepo ili bala.

Mwewa: Naulima apalingile apakulu. Ukutampa bwino ekubomba ukufika pakati.

Proverb 100

You're never too old to learn

You can always learn something new, no matter how old you are.

However much you know, you can always learn more.

Kabamba: I have some maize left and want to brew beer, but I don't know how to do it.

Kabinda: You're never too old to learn, the brewers will teach you.

Tawakulapo sana ku masambililo

Lyonse kuti wasambilila ifya bwangu, nangu wingakula shani.

Nomba pafyo waishiba ifingi, kuti walundapo ukusambilila nafimbi.

Kabamba: Ndiko ne fitonga fishele nomba nkofwaya uku kumbako ubwalwa, nshishipo ifyo bacita.

Kabinda: Tawakulapo sana kuku sambilila, ba cikumbe bakakusambilisha.



Icipande II – Nsoso ishikofwaikwa

Part II – More demanding proverbs



Ifya kusunga míbele ne fyakucíta

How to behave and what to do

Nsoselo 101

Ifunda talicenjela, ucejela mwine we funda

Abantu, ukuteba ifintu, ebalufyanya.

Balupwa wambo baleta ebeshiba inshila sha kuwamishamo/kupwishishamo njo imilandu.

Kwaliba imilandu iyo icitika nawe mwine ulishi ati mulandu uyu. Boneni ubuteko bwalikanya ukwipaya inama ukwabula ipaso. Ulo we waya kwipaya inama mumpanga, ifunda lyobe talishibapo noko likoya, kanshi we mwine wandi funda niwe ulingile ukwishiba imyendele pakuti ukafishe uko ukofwaya. Ulo bakwikata, nawe waluka kubati lifunda. Ulupwa lobe ebakupususha.

The load is not careful, careful is the owner of the load

It's people who make mistakes, not things.

The people behind young people are responsible for their mistakes. When a child or an erring family member makes mistakes, it is the family that takes care of the issue.

There are people who do illegal things while knowing what they are doing. You see, the Government has put up measures to follow if you want to kill game: you need to get a licence. So, when you secretly go out to hunt, the meat loads you carry do not know where they are being taken. Once arrested you look like a fool and your family members will have to use all means to rescue you.

Nsoselo 102

Akasuba kamo takaboosha nama/mbeba

Ukuteka umutima pakucita ifintu, tekucitapo mukasaku iyoo.

Fimo ifintu fifwaya akashita akatali pakuti fise fibe bwino.

Pakukumba ubwalwa, bapela amashiku asano na abili pakuti bupye ukufikapo.

Mu mikumbile mwaliba ifikomo ifyakukonka mpaka no bushiku bwa kunwa. Nga bwapya panshiku ishitapendwa ninshi tabulipo bwino. Ukukumba kufwaya akashita.

One day will not make the game/mouse rot

Take time to do things, don't do them in a hurry.

Certain tasks to be fully accomplished need enough time.

In the brewing process of local beer, from start to drinking day, it takes 7 days, because the whole process has stages to follow. If drunk earlier than these 7 days, it is not the real thing. Brewing needs time.

Nsoselo 103

Ngatwime kumaca, umufu wansala ili ucilele

Katucite mfi ulo ifitaweme talingaisa mukucilinganya.

Ulo mwabuka, mulomfwa ukuba ababwangu na maka. Kuntanshi mungafilwa kupwishisha ifyo mutampile kumulandu wa kulema no kupwa maka elyo na mafya ayangesa muli nji nshita.

Let's start early in the morning, while the hunger pangs are still asleep

Let's do this before negative influences arise.

As you wake up, you still feel fresh with energy. Later you may fail finishing what you started due to tiredness or problems that arise in the meantime.

Nsoselo 104

Umucinshi wa nseba kwimina pamo

Imilimo yacintu bwingi yalinga ukubombela pamo elo yanguka.

Inseba tuni utwinji utwendela pamo, elo twaliba nomusango wakwimina pamo, takubapo akashalila. Enco bapashanyako nakubantu ukuti kamo ngakwaba ukubomba imilimo yacintu bwingi, kano bonse mwaimina pamo. Taciwamapo bambi bashala pantu ulo ngulya mulimo wakupwa, ukalabombela bonse abantu. Icilangililo kufika kwa bulalo pakanika apo abana baya mukusambililaku sukulu bangalokwabuka ukwabula ubwafya.

The respect of the nseba birds consists in flying out all together

Communal work is supposed to be done by all, and at the same time, so that it doesn't take long. The *nseba*, small birds flying in large numbers, start all at once flying out and none remain behind. That is why a proverb was derived from this: people must act likewise. When a communal job has to be done, it demands all concerned to stand up to do it. It is not good to see others shun. Once that project is completed, it will serve all the people in the surrounds. An example of such a project is putting up a bridge across a stream to let the school going children cross it without problems.

Nsoselo 105

Nkoya! Nkoya! Nkoya! alepaisha

Mailo tekwisapo.

Bamo abantu tabafwaya ukubomba imilimo ingabaletela icuma kuntanshi.

Umuntu uwaishiba ubune bwa bulimi, alaya mukulima pakuti akakwate icakulya icingi. Nomba ye aikalila ati, nebo nkaya nibwangu noma umo mwine emo acelelwa nangu kuyapo. Pakulekelesha kucula mulandu wa nsala.

I will go! I will go! I will go! causes suffering

Tomorrow never comes, do it now.

Some people don't want to do work that will only bring them prosperity in the future.

Knowing the importance of farming, one goes out to cultivate so that there will be enough food to eat in the future. Then there are others saying 'I will be leaving for cultivation soon' who never leave! At the end they will starve.



Nsoselo 106

Nakana ifyakene mbwa kuseka/kufwala

Cilingile ukuba umo akofwala.

Ukupashanya ifya kene mbwa ukuseka nangu ukufwala ecimo cine ukwebati ifyo ndefwaya nifyo fine takuli ukwaluka iyoo. Akaninina fyekefyo.

I refuse in the same way as the dog refuses to laugh/to dress

It has to be exactly how he wants it.

Acting in the same way the dog refused to laugh or dress means that that person wants it the way he has decided, and it is irreversible.

Nsoselo 107

Uwaitwa tafwala bwino

Ukukonka akashita ulo cikofwayikwa.

Nga waitwa, cakubalilapo bona kati nshita ikulu eko ili angula iyo.

Wipela icilubo ku muntu pakukana fikilisha utukofwaikwa utunini libe ifya kucita ifikulu efikofwaikwa.

Calinga ukukonkana nobwite, ukwabula ukuposa inshita, ulo taulaishiba ico bakokwitila.

Ilyo waitwa, taulingile nomba ukutampa ukupekanya, ukumonati bushe nalafwala indo. Empali walacelwa ku bwite.

The one who is being called, doesn't put on nice clothes

Know when action is required.

When you are invited or called, consider first the reason. Does it allow for more time or not. Don't blame a person for not fulfilling less important requirement when other urgent action was needed.

If you are being called for an urgent matter, you have to follow-up immediately without wasting time, because this may need your immediate intervention instead of, for instance, looking for nice clothes to put on.

Nsoselo 108

Mposa mabwe ninkanshi akwete

Tulokuba abacenjela mu fintu tucita pantu kuti fyatuletelela.

Ukwangalakubi kuti kwalenga waibika mu bwafya. Mukwangala ngali temwa ukuposa amabwe, ukalasa mwana wa bene pambi ukamutibule shiso ko mulemanika. Ba lupwa bakesa kufwayab ati apo wamulemanika, niwe ukomupa inkashi yobe ope, pantu bambi abanakashi tabakamusuminepo ukupwa kuli ngulya cilema.

If you like to throw stones, you should have a sister

If you take risks, you should be able to cover what happens when things do not work out well. We must be very careful in what we do because if we don't, we shall be in trouble. Dangerous games can put you into troubles. In games if you are fond of throwing stones to others, one day you will hit someone and damage his eye or make him lame. In the past, the relatives of the injured would demand your sister to marry him because other girls would not accept him because he was handicapped.

Nsoselo 109

Akalulu pa mulamu kalikwata umukoshi

Bucibusa bwaba mukupimwa/ukulinganya.

Ico utangapela umuntu umbi, ku muntu waba mupepi nawe mu lupwa ena kuti wamupa.

Kwaliba limbi wakwatafye akamunani akanini, bambi abantu abatali balupwa lobe teti ubapeko, kusosa ati kacepa. Nomba uwamulupwa lobe nangu cibusa obe ukwafwa libili libili ena kumupako.

A rabbit has a neck when you are with your brother-in-law

Friendship comes in different degrees.

What you would not give to an outsider, you can give to a close relative. With close friends and relatives, you feel less easily ashamed.

There are times/opportunities when you have very little to share. You will not share certain food with people who are not too close with you because you feel it is too small. But as for the ones close to you, it will be shared.

Nsoselo 110

Sampa ukufwila nankwe ubulobo, balamulekela

Ukunakilila mukucita ifintu kulaleta insansa. Tekweshapo ukuba uwakutemwa ukukwatisha noku pupumina pa fintu bwangu bwangu.

Ilyo mwaya mukuloba isabi, calinga muletekanya empali mwalusa ubulobo pamo ne sabi line. Nga mwamona lilelila, imwe kunakulila pakufumya.

When the sampa fish fights with your hook, you give it the chance to do so

You must be flexible in handling things that can bring you happiness. Do not be greedy or jump on things too quickly.

When fishing, be stable otherwise you lose hook and fish. When the fish bites the bait, take it lightly when pulling it out.

Nsoselo 111

Kokoto kokoto taileta

Icintu ukofwaisha makamaka umunani usuma uwa nama wisa ukufuma muku bombesha.
Icikasha teti ciye ngacakuti taubombeshe. Ngo kofwaya ukulya umunani wa nama, cili kuli iwe,
pantu uku kokota ifupa kano wabombeshe sana.

Good meat doesn't serve itself

Anything you want will only become real after you have worked hard for it.
A very strong want of eating good food is not enough to be served good food. To have meat you
have to work for it very hard.

Nsoselo 112

Tabalila bulungu ninshiku shileta

Ifiletwa nangu ukuboneka, Lesa emwine waishiba ico angakupela muli mbulya bushiku.

Icakulya pananda, indupwa shimi shimo shalasungilila pakuti tafipwile bwangu, nolo ulu lupwa taluleikuta pantu basubile ukwisa lya mu nshiku sha kuntanshi. Kanshi te kulingapo kati fyakulya ati mfi fyakutufisha muli mbulya bushiku.

Do not cry for beads, the days will bring them

Make the most of what you have, because you do not know what you will have in the future.

With the food stocks of a given family, the mother strongly keeps the ration to a minimum, so that it doesn't finish so soon, even though the family members do not get satisfied. It is not good to use more, for then the food would be finished too soon.



Nsoselo 113

Nshilala mwesu, mano alimo

Nci cisoswa ulo muntu alabila ati akomba bwino ifyo bonse balesubila no kumfwikwa.

Ifintu fyonse fyaliba nakashita apo fitangacitika napo fingacitika. Umwana nga akula, alakwata ukufuma muba fyashi nokutampa ukulala eka mu nanda yakwe. Pali njilya mpindi, telinji engjila njila munanda yaba fyashi nokulala. Nomba ulu alwalisha, amano akukana ukulala mwabo alapwa icakwebati abafyashi bakwe abanakashi batampa nokumu pipa nga alilwalisha, pantu umufyashi mufyashi.

"I don't sleep in my parents' house" means you are sane

This is said when a person states to be doing something that is only to be expected or already understood.

Everything has times or periods when it can be done and when it can not be done. When a child grows big enough, it leaves the parents' house and starts sleeping in another house. From that point, he doesn't go to the parents' house frequently to sleep there. But time comes when he falls sick, too sick to refuse sleeping in the parents' house. This may even go to the extent that his mother starts cleaning him because a parent is a parent.

Nsoselo 114

Mulinda bwalwa, alinda inkoto

Lintu tuli mukwangala, tukwate inshita yakuipima ati nomba capwa tubwelelemo ku nanda ukucila ukulindilila ico mutabwene.

Kwaliba ukwangala nabanensu, cibe limbi mukutandala nangu ukuya mukunwa ubwalwa. Nomba ilesa inshita umwine apekenye utu bwalwa alandati “ubwalwa bwapwa nomba”. Nomba apo iwe waumfwa bwino kwikalilila ukutayapo. Umuya inshita, pambi palya pese pabuke ulubuli elyo ku ceshamo bese bakupaminepo iciti walemana! Elyo waibukisha ati kanshi nganasa mwile akale.

Lingering when the beer is finished is lingering to be beaten

When we visit places, let us take care to leave on time instead of waiting for ... we don't know.

When we are enjoying with friends at a certain place, the owner may say it's over now at a given moment. But as for you, you think you have to wait longer. As time goes on, there could be a fight and unluckily you are hit by a stick, this is the time you realise that you should have left earlier.

Nsoselo 115

Ifyakulya ubushiku bafibwena ku malushi

Tulokuba abaibukila ukuti ifintu tulokucita kuntanshi fikeshibikwa.

Umuntu uwatemwa ubucende, iciisa muku boneka lifumo. Ilyo bakokumana no mwanalume, takwali uwaishibe, nomba ukwisa ishibikilwa kwi fumo. Nangu kati walile amasana abene, ulo ukoisa kuliuka bonse bakeshiba ati niwe walile kumulandu wa musungushi.

What you ate at night will be known when you vomit

You can be secretive but bear in mind that what you do will one day be known to others.

A person who is adulterous will be known through her pregnancy. While she was meeting the man, nobody knew what was happening until a pregnancy occurred. The same thing happens, when you eat other people's eggs, it will be known who ate them after you have vomited as the yoke will show.

Nsoselo 116

Tailila apo yaikatila

Ulo wapelwa icabupe, taulingile kucelwa kucisungila penka apo bakupelela, walinga wacisungishako kumbi.

Ulo inkalamo yaikata inama, ilasesha njilya nama ukutwala pancende imbi apafiseme.

The lion never eats at the place where it has killed

When you receive a gift, it is not wise to leave it behind with the intention to collect it later. It is better to take it somewhere for safety.

When a lion catches and kills an animal, it drags it to another place to hide it.

Nsoselo 117

Umwēni wakolwe alyā ifyo kolwe alyako

Calilinga ukukonka ifyo abo mukotandala, pantu teti musubile ifi bacilile.

We muntu ngawatandalila abakankala, tulakwata isubilo ilya kuti tukaya mukulala apaweme elyo nefyakulya fyakuba ifilondolokele ifiweme. Kati ni ncushi, tulingile ukupokelela ifyo batupekanishisha.

Visiting the monkeys you eat what the monkeys eat

You'd better follow the practices of the one you visit or the area where you came to live. Try not to expect more than what can be offered.

When visiting a well-to-do person, you can hope to have a good reception, like blankets for sleeping and good food. But if the one visited is poor, we must accept what is offered.



Nsoselo 118

Akana kanshiwa kaumfwile mano mulukolo

Ngoli mwana wanshiwa, amano ukapula kuli bambi abatali bafyashi bobé.

Ukuba weka nangu wakukwafwa, ubwafwilisho bukatula kumbi kati wanakilila. Ecimo cine nobwana bwa nshiwa. We walilufya abafyashi bobé uko winga tola amano akubomfya mu bwikalo bobé. Ngoli umwana musuma, bambi aba ibelele ebaka kwebako ifyakucita ngawaba no bwafya.

The orphan got knowledge while sitting outside the house

When you are an orphan, knowledge will be got from other people than your parents.

You have lost both your parents who could have given you good advice on the way you can live. If you are well mannered, other people will advise you how to go about when you are in trouble.

This holds for others too. When you are alone with none of the ones you know to help you, the help you need will come from other people as long as you are well-mannered.

Nsoselo 119

Tabunwa mukamfwilwa

Mubwalwa emo ilyashi lya nkama lisokolokwa pantu abantu nabakolwa.

Mu malo akunwenamo bwalwa, abantu bayamo balipusana pusana. Ngomo mwine mwingila abafwilwa, bata nangula bama, nabambi abaibelele ne ficitwa fyabo. Nomba ulo wakolwa, cilesa kumano ukulabila pafyo uli. Limbi ngauli muka mfwilwa watampa ukutopa abena buko kati balicelwa uku kupyanika, yangula ukulabila pa tupe bapita. Ili lyashi lyalingile ukwikala pamo pa ncende imbi, nomba we watwala pa bwalwa. Ici tacilangapo umucinshi.

Beer should not be taken excessively by those in widowhood

In drinking places, confidential information is revealed after being drunk which is not good.

At drinking places, people show many types of behaviour. Some of them, like widowers and widows, may have personal, confidential issues. When becoming drunk, they start thinking of bringing in issues like accusing their in-laws that they have delayed in giving them a new spouse or about items that were snatched from them. Of course, these matters are supposed to be discussed at home with all stakeholders present, not in public.

Nsoselo 120

Ubweni bwapeteke ba mbwa umucila

Ulokusha imibele yobe ku ncende waikala kwenu.

Pela umucinshi kuli mbo wasanga ku ncende shimbi, nabo baka kulanga imibele yabo iweme.

Umuntu aishibikwa ku ncende ekala, ecilenga nokuti ngawatandala ku ncende imbi, uicefye pakuti wanonkelamo na mano ambi ku fintu waishiba kale.

We muntu ngawatandalila balupwa obe kumbi uko tabakwishiba, walinga waicefya sana pakuti abantu tabakwishibe imisango wakwata. Imibele yobe wakwata ishale kwenu. Abo wasangako babike pa mulu elo bangafisulula ne misango yabo.

At a new place the dog keeps its tail between its legs

Leave your behaviour at home.

Respect those whom you find somewhere else, and they will eventually show you how well-behaved they are. You are well known in the area where you reside, but when visiting other areas, you must act differently so that you learn more from those whom you didn't know yet.

When you visit relatives in a new area, the other people there do not know you. Now, you need to be humble, not showing all of the behaviour you are used to at home.

Nsoselo 121

Nkaya nkaya ashilile ubunga mu katondo

Tacalinga ukulanda ku bantu amapange obe ilyo taulaishiba ati fili nokucitika.

Ilyo taulacita icintu, ba uwaipekanya ukucila ukukwata isubilo ukuti eko cikafuma. Umunobe kuti limbi akulaya ati tukese ya mu mpanga, ukapekanyepo utu bunga. Nomba inshita takwebele iyakwilapo, iwe waikalafye ukulolela wasuka wapwisha no tubunga wasungile utwakusenda mu mpanga.

"I'm going to ...", "I'm going to ..." finished the mealie meal in the little pot

It is not advisable to mention your plans when you are not sure when these will take place.

Before you do something, be prepared with what is required, instead of having hope of getting these things from someone else. A friend may ask you to go with him in the wild hunting and he asks you to prepare some food. Because he didn't tell you when this would take place, you continue waiting till you eat all what was to be used in the wild.

Nsoselo 122

Nyina ng'ombe pa bana tasela

Namayo ekasunga nokucingilila abana, emulandu wine abamwenapo.

Ulo abana baya mukwangala beka elo kwaumfwikapo ifyalubana, yangula kwaba ulubuli pali beka beka, ukuteka mitima nabafyashi kulingile kwakonkwa pantu tabeshibapo uwalutampa.

Umufyashi umo nga atampa ukukalipila mwana umbi, nci cingaleta ubonaushi.

Imisendele ilingile ukuba iyabucibusa. Abafyashi bonse ebalolesha pa bana bonse.

Mother cow never loses sight of her children

A mother is the custodian and protector of the children, so she takes care.

When children play alone and something goes wrong, or when there is a fight among them, patience must be taken by parents because no one knows who started the issue. Should one parent blame the other child, this may spark the whole thing.

The approach should be friendly. All parents take care of all children.

Nsoselo 123

Amano ndi ikwatile aile no tufi ku buko

Abengi bamona kwati balikwata amano ukucila abanabo. Tekuti tube lyonse aba mano ukucila bambi abanensu.

Umuntu utayapo ku tauni, afwile ukwipusha abayako pakuti aba uwaibukila.

I-have-the-wisdom went to his in-laws with shit on his clothes

It is better not to pretend to know everything. We cannot always be smarter than our peers.

A person who has never visited the towns, should first get the impressions from those who went there so that he is aware of what is there.

Nsoselo 124

Nawe, ulushimu lukakumema!

Nci cilabilwa ku muntu ngo uwakusenda ati walinakilila: ukacimfya ulo nomba ngu mulandu tawakapwe, ukweshu ku kumema nawe.

Nangu njino nshita kuti wanshupa, wibukishe bumbi bushiku ukeshibikwa ne cilandushi cika kuponena.

As for you, a bee will hover round you!

This is said to a person who wants to take advantage of your weakness: you may succeed now but this case will not stop, it will hover around you.

Though this time you can mistreat me, remember that one day you will be known, and vengeance will be taken on you.



Nsoselo 125

Umupama pamo watibwile ingoma

Bika amano pacintu ukofwaya, tepa fingi iyo.

Ukutibula ngoma ecomunga bwenako ukukonkanya. Ukubombela pa cintu cimo pakashita akatali, ku kulekelesha emo ungabwena ifyo walefwaya cibe fiweme angula fibi.

Mubwikashi bwesu fwe bantunse, kulaba ifyo tufwaisha, nomba ifi fintu fisa mukuboneka pa nshita ntali. Kanshi pakuti ici cintu cimoneke, kano watala waipesha sana ukubombapo elyo panuma caisa moneka.

Hitting the drum at one place only will make it break

Concentrate on some things to achieve, not on many.

Breaking the drum is a positive image of perseverance. Working on one thing for a long time, at the end you would get the fruits out of it, good or bad.

During our stay in this world, there are certain matters we would like to have or achieve some of which may come about only after a long, long time. You must give a lot of time and effort to it so that in the end you enjoy what you have achieved.

Nsoselo 126

Mutota nsha enda na kafunda

Kwateni icilangililo pakuti abantu bamusumine pafyo mukososa.

Uyo ulabila pali nakasha ulo abwela kufuma uko aile alinga aletako cipandwa ca nama paku shininkisha.

Ngawaile mukutandala ku tauni pakashita akatali, pa kubwelela ku mushi kano wapintako natumo tumo pakuti abali ku mushi bakabone. Tekwebapo bwaka twali kulila ku tauni ukwabula icilangililo.

Praising a duiker's meat goes with something to show it

Carry with you a proof or sample of what you are talking about so people will believe you.

The one who talks about a duiker from a trip should bring with him a piece of it to prove.

After visiting towns for some time, as you come back to the village, it is better to carry with you something that will make those you left behind accept what you say about town life.

Nsoselo 127

Twishílila nshima ku muto

Pantu ifintu fyawama sana, walabako nokwebati nafimbi fikoisa ificilile apa. Tulingile ukuteka umutima.

Inshima yenda no munani, ungaba uwa buswete! Ilyo inshima baleta mu nsaka, tabatwalapo lubilo ukutampa ukulya, yangula ukutobela muli supu. Kubona ati fyonse baleta empali umunani wa nama ucili kunuma.

Let us not finish off the nshima with soup alone

Because the things are so good, you forget that there is more to come. We must patiently go on. Nshima goes with relish, sometimes with meat. When it is brought into the eating place, do not panic to start eating it with soup only! Wait until all are served, may be meat is still being prepared for this meal.

Nsoselo 128

Nawe, níwe ntoshabape, tatota!

Tautotelapo ngaba kwafwa.

Utakwatapo mafunde aweme atampa no kulaka nabantu abamwafwa.

As for you, you quarrel with your benefactors, you don't thank!

Said to one quarrelling with those who support him.

An ill-mannered person will quarrel with those who help him.

Nsoselo 129

Uwakwensho bushiku bamutotela abwaca

Uwa kwafwilisha nshita ya bushiku mutashe nga bwaca.

Cabafye ku fintu umuntu uli onse akucitila, pakulekelesha walinga ukumutasha pa mulimo ulya.

You thank the night guide at dawn

A guide at night is praised the following morning when it has turned out that he has done his work well.

You don't thank for work that is not finished yet.



Nsoselo 130

Nikwenkwe uyu, talalansala, nalelo alokupita

Ngu ni Kwenkwe, lyonse alafwaya nshila yakuissekeshamo nakambi tuli nankwe muli baifwe. Ifi efilandwa pali ngo usekelela mu bufwayo (bwa bulale lale) bwakwe. Mwilanguluka ati abantu bamusango ngu bekala kumbi, baba muli baifwe.

This is a hyena who never sleeps hungry, and now you will see him passing by

This is a hustler, he will always find a way to serve himself, and he is just among us. This is said of someone who is keen on serving his own (sexual) needs. Do not think that such people live elsewhere, they are here among us.

Nsoselo 131

Mutima e muntu wine

Ubuntu bweka tabwa pwililikapo.

Tulafwaya amano akubwena bambi mu micitile yabo. Twalibatemwa paficitwa fyabo ifiweme nokubapata pa ficitwa fyabo ifibipile. Amano alasokolola buciine bwa bantu kupitila mu micitile yabo. Tekutipo fibombe fyeka, ukwabula ukwikatana.

The heart is the human self

Human beings alone are not complete.

We need wisdom to see others as they are through their actions. We will love them when they do good and hate them when they do evil. Wisdom will reveal people's true nature through their actions. It cannot function in isolation, without social interaction.

Nsoselo 132

Umwaice aboseshe akatiti mwitumba

Ukubangila, kuweme. Mwilindila nshita itali limbi mungaisanga fyamu bipila ifya fumamo.

Uku kulanguluka kwabipa, ukuteshiba ati ulo kafwile fye, elintu kali nokwipikwa. Tekulindilapo ati njipailepo nakambi akali mu mpanga ekuti njipike tubili.

Umo nga ali nobulwele ubukofwaikwa kucitila pekapo, ishibishako nabambi bakulosheko ifya kubondapa ulo tabulafika panshita itali ya kukana citila.

Eventually the small bird rotted in the boy's pocket

The sooner, the better. Don't wait too long or you might end up with a bad outcome.

It is poor thinking not to know that as fresh as the small bird was, it has to be cooked soon. Not to wait until you kill another in the bush so you can cook two.

If one has an illness that requires immediate action, inform others for guidance to cure it before it becomes incurable.

Nsoselo 133

Umwana atomfwa omfwila mu musuku

Amafunde abafyashi bapela abana alinga ukuyakonka pantu bena balipitamo ukufuma ku kale, kanshi balishiba nefitumbukamo.

Ngefyo cili shino nshiku, amalwele nayaseka sana icakwebati abana misepele bapwa ukufwa. Necikolenga mulandu wakuti balilekele ukumfwa amafunde. Boneni abakulu bebati, mwebana tekwesha ukulala nabanakashi pantu limbi ulya mwanakashi alilwala akasele, nombamba we kukana ati mubepelefywe.

Icakulekelesha kusanga umwana alilwala akasele nombamba abakulu epa kumushinina ati wabona nombamba! Apo ninshi ali mukupelwa umuti ku bakulu.

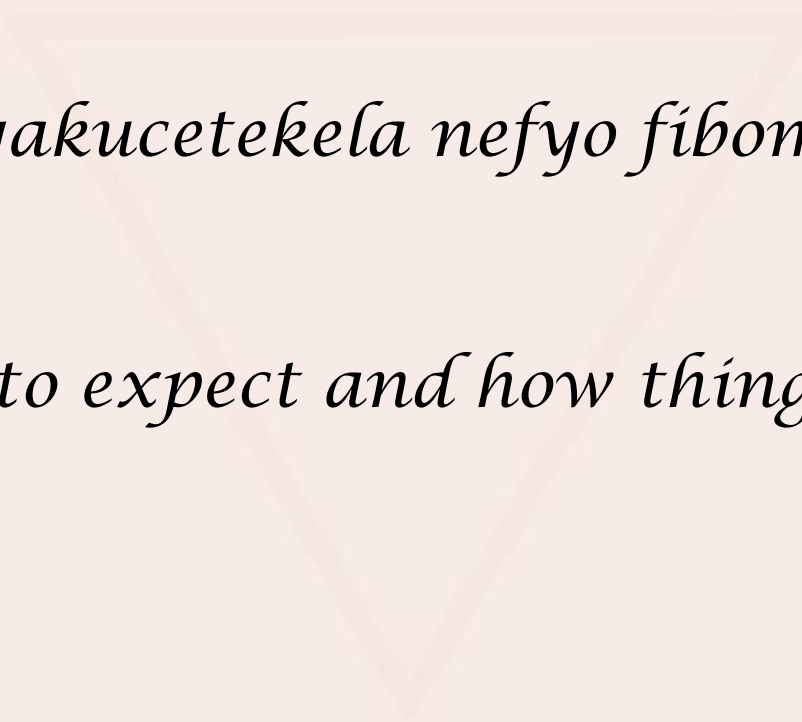
The wayward child will only listen if it is already receiving treatment

Rules that parents give their children can best be followed because they, the parents, have gone through that and know what comes out of it.

The child in this proverb only started listening when he was treated by the cupping horn.

Nowadays, there are many diseases that are claiming the lives of the young. The reason is that children are not taking advice seriously. For example, the advice not to engage in casual sex.

Imagine the boy having syphilis while you reject the advice! At the end when you are sick, you still call the elders to help in the treatment.



Ifyakucetekela nefyo fibomba

What to expect and how things work

Nsoselo 134

Amenshi ní noko, tabipa

Wikanapo ifintu ifikankala kuli iwe.

Pafintu tufwaisha sana sana ku mubili, menshi. Ulo waba ne cilaka ca menshi, ufwaisha sana ukunwa amenshi nangu limbi tayakobonekapo ukwela, ukanwa. Eico umufyashi obe mwanakashi nangu aboneke umbi pa menso, ni noko walinga ukumupa umucinshi. Kuti abanobe balanda ifibi pali ba noko, iwe tekuti ufisumine.

Water and your mother: they can never be bad for you

Don't deny the things that are important for you.

Of all the bodily needs, water comes first. When you are thirsty, there is great desire to drink water though it may not be clean. So even if your mother is looking ugly, she is your mother and she deserves respect. Other friends may talk bad things against your mother, you will not take part.

Nsoselo 135

Kanshi ishamo limonekela nakutulo

Tuli bantu na mano. Ilyo tucili abomi, libe natubuka yangula tulilele, tubomfya amano mu kwikala bwino nokwafwa bambi.

Limbi limbi kuti fyacitika ulo ulele walota ukusangwa ne shamo munshila utenekele. Elo, apapita utwanshiku, iwe, yangula umbi umwina mupalamano, wasangwa bu bwafya ubukulu. Tekubapo fyeka ifyo walotele mbulya bushilu, lelo mu musango umbi uwakukusha, yangula muli ngulya mu musango we shamo.

Misfortune may reveal itself during sleep

We are humans with wisdom. As long as we live, whether awake or asleep, we will use wisdom to order our lives and help others.

It may occasionally happen that during your sleep you dream of experiencing misfortune in an unexpected situation. Then, a few days later, you, or someone else close to you, are in hot soup. It is not necessarily what you dreamed that night, but something else that leaves you, or that person, in misfortune.



Nsoselo 136

Inanda tabaibwena kumutenge ubune

Te fintu tubona ku menso efingalenga ukushininkisha ati efyo fyaba.

Ulo tubona abantu abaikala mu cupo kunse yananda bali abansansa, tekwebapo ati fyonse fiweme mu nanda. Ifilandwa mukati ka nanda fimbi yangula ifitawemepo ifingalenga icupo ukupwa.

The value of a house can not be seen from its roof only

What we see is often not enough to be able to conclude that it is good or always that way.

When we see married couples being happy outside their houses, we cannot conclude that all is okay. What is said inside the house can be different and lead to divorce.

Nsoselo 137

Mungulube tabuka bwaka, kubona ici mubusha

Icintu ngaca citika ninshi kulipo icalenga.

Mungulube mukasuba tendaukapo, nomba amwasanga akobutuka ninshi pali abamubusha
afwayepo ukwakuti akafisame.

Na bantu bene, tekutipo ukalipe bwaka apatapo nangu cimo, kano bakukalifya nawe epakulalipa.

The warthog does not wake up for nothing: something must have roused him

When something happens, then there is a cause.

During the day, the warthog does not run about. So, when you see him running just know that something made him wake up and run for safety.

The same thing with people: you don't get angry just like that, something will have provoked it!

Nsoselo 138

Uko tauli imbwa yobe taibutuka/taikata

Bambi abantu balasankanya malyashi, nakuli mbo aba bafwako.

Ilyo umuntu aashima imbwa yenu mukulunga, bali ishiba ati ilabutuka nokwipaya inama. Nomba kubucenjeshi bwabo pantu tabakofwayapo naiwe we mwine bakulumbeko, besa mukubeba ati teyopo ikete inama. Nakambi akesa kwashima mbwa imo yeka.

When you are not there, your dog suddenly fails to run/catch

Some people make up stories, even for those who help them.

When a person borrows a hunting dog, he knows that it is a very good dog in running and killing animals. Because he thinks he is too clever and doesn't want to share the spoils with the dog's owner, he cheats the owner saying the dog failed to run after/catch the animal. Still, he will borrow the same dog again next time.

Nsoselo 139

Icila cansaka umo acileta

Nji nsoselo ikwete umwakullosha mubili. Ku lubali lumu ikokosho kwebati onse uwikala mu mushi ali nomulimo wakuleta ifiweme notwashala tumbi. Ulubali lumbi ikopanda mano akwebati ngo uwaletete ngalya mano alingile uku asunga mukubonati fyonse fyaletwa nokupwa ifyakuwamina bonse ngefyo cicitwa ulo umo atatula ulwimbo.

At the meeting place, one person brings a song/dance/discussion/activity

This proverb has a double meaning. On the one hand, it states that every person in a village has the responsibility to bring forward good things and issues. On the other hand, it advises that once something is brought forward, the starter must (be able to) keep the initiative to bring everything to a good end like it is done when someone brings a song.

Nsoselo 140

Inshiku tashicela mumo

Ifintu kuti fyayaluka fimbi, tuleba abakusubila.

Ificitika umuye nshiku filapusana.

Nga wali cula, telyonse ukabelelela, bumo bushiku bamo bakesa kwafwa.

Days do not dawn all the same

Things can change; we should remain expectant.

What happens during the days differs per day or period of days.

If you are poor, it is not that you will be like that for ever, one day people may come and help you.



Nsoselo 141

Iciiba mutima, iminwe taibapo

Fwailisheni fili ku mutima ifilenga fimo ukucitika.

Umutima ku muntu ekampingu wafintu akofwaya ukucita. Ulunkumbwa nalo ilyo amenso abona lulenga umutima ukufwailisha inshila yakukwatilamo cilya cintu.

Icikonkapo kutemwa ukubula cilya cintu nangu ukwiba pakuti ba mutima basekelemo. Mwabona nombu, iminwe eyisenda ncilya cintu. Kunuma nku, kabwalala bali kumuputula amaboko pakuti bonse bamubone. Iminwe yaculilamo, libe umutima wikele tondolo.

Fwe bantu ilinji line bambi balafwaya ukutubomfya pakuti ngawaikatwa bonse bakaseka iwe.

Kanshi tube abaibukila pa fintu abantu bambi bakofwaya fwe tubacitile.

The thief is the heart, not the fingers

Try to find out what is behind a certain action.

The heart in a person decides what to do. Want of something after the eyes have seen it, makes the heart look for ways in which to act. What follows is the desire to have that item through theft. Now you can see: the hands pick that item! but the decision was made by the heart. Long ago, a thief had his hand cut off so that everybody could see! The hands suffered while the heart was safe. Often ordinary people are the ones who are being used in evil acts so that at the end they will be blamed instead of the real perpetrators. So let us be careful to check what assignments they want us to undertake on their behalf.

Nsoselo 142

Umweni acindamina ku mukaya

Abanga cindika umulwendo nimbalya abo aya atandalila, te bantu bambi abatamwishibilepo iyoo. Umuntu kati afuma ku mushi ukuya ku tauni mukubona ulupwa, mbalya abo asanga nkulya bamwishiba eba kumusansamukila ukulanga bambi ati ulya muntu mukaya wabo. Nabambi abaibelele bakakwata ukucindika ngulya muntu. Amwa mupufya, cingapela kwisa ku bantu bambi?

A visitor is treated with respect by the people who know him well

It is normal to expect when you visit people who know you well that they pay respect to you and that it will not be those who don't know you.

When one leaves home and visits towns to see relatives, those he finds there who know him well will receive him with respect, just to show others that they know him well. Then others will also give respect. If you while knowing that person show a negative attitude, what will you do unto unknown people?

Nsoselo 143

Kwenu ni kwikoshi

Ukwishiba no kwibukisha intuntuko yobe calilinga pantu ukaluba ukwakuya nga wapelelwa uko waya.

No muntu nawo ilabako inshita ekata kwi koshi, kanshi epa fuma ne nsoselo nji.

Umuntu mwalalume ngaima ukuya mukupa, alasha ulupwa lwakwe nokuya ikala ku buko. Nomba nangu angekala ifyo, alilinga ukuloku tandalila ku mushi wakwe pakuti akoishiba ifikocitika nkulya, tekulabililako iyoo.

Your home is like the back of your neck

Knowing and remembering your roots is advisable because when confronted with major problems, you will hesitate to go back to your village when you were not visiting them.

Touching the back of the neck is a habit of many especially when they want to think carefully.

When a man leaves his home going out to marry, he makes a new home over there leaving behind his relatives. It is advisable to frequently visit your home so that you remain updated, instead of forgetting it completely.

Nsoselo 144

Kasolo afulila pa lubwebwe tekuti akelepo

Kufintu fikoboneka mungeshiba icikonkapo.

Kasolo uwaimbila ifuli pa mabwe, kwishiba bwaka ati taikalepo apa nshita itali.

Nabantu bene pakwimaka umushi, balabala babona incende ilingile apali umushili wa filyo, apa tekalilwa amenshi ne miti yakutemamo utwakwimakila.

If a mouse digs a hole where there are many stones, it won't stay there for long

From what you see you can tell what will come next.

When a mouse digs where there are many stones you know that it will not stay for too long there because the hole will not go deep enough.

This also is applicable to people who want to have a new village. The first thing to do is to see if the soil is good enough for the crops, the area is not waterlogged and has enough trees for other projects. If you do not look for these signs, you might be surprised and leave sooner than you want.

Nsoselo 145

Akafupa utemenwe ekakusho mucena

Ukutemwisha icintu cimo, kuti cakuletelelela imilandu pa kulekelesha.

We muntu ngawalitemwisha amano abi, ku ntanshi kuti waba mubwafya. Ulubuli nalwena kuti wasangilwamo ne milandu. Kati ukoumfwikila mukulwa na bantu, mailo kuceshamo ukasanga ati waipaya umuntu. Tataluke ku misango iibipile.

Fondness for gnawing bones will make you lose your teeth

Even a harmless habit of doing one thing all the time, may lead to problems in the end.

Now what will happen with bad habits? When you have bad manners, at the end you will be in troubles. If you are always fighting with other people, one day when you are not lucky, you will kill someone! Let us leave bad manners.

Nsoselo 146

Mwipika umo alashatisha

Cikankala ukukwata ifyakupusana pusanako mu bumi bobe.

Ngatakuli ifyakupusanako, ukulya kukaba ukwacepela elyo nefikashalapo mu mpoto fikalala.

Ukwipika Nako kuti kwacitwa mu nshila ishapusana. Ngateifyo, cikapela mbo abakolya ukutendwa nemipikile yenu. Nge cilangililo nci, kati ni cilemba, natumbi tulingile ukusanshwako pakuti iboneke kubati niyimbi.

Nci tekwebati Niku cakulya ceka iyo cili nakufintu fimbi kubati kwikala mu ncende ishipusene pusene nokumona nafimbi yangula ukufwala ifyakufwala ifipusene pusene.

Always the same recipe makes the pot burn what's inside

It is important to have variation in your life.

If there is no variation, there will be less eating and the food remaining in the pot will be burnt.

Cooking can be done in different ways. If not, it will make those eating get bored with your cooking. For example, if it is beans, then something should be added as a balanced diet to look different.

This does not only hold for food but also for other things like change of residences to see more or putting on different clothes.

Nsoselo 147

Ifitenge fibili filefyanya

Amabumba alekene kuti akwata ulupato ku inankwe. Amabumba abili tayakwata amalangulushi amo ene.

Ngamwali belela uku kumana nabantu bamo bene mwibumba limo pa ncende imo ine yakutushishapo, tekuti ukwate kususha kwabula umwenso kufyo bacita nokukonka ifya mwi bumba apo bakumanina libili libili mu ncende shimbi.

Ico bakonka ca bantu ukupanga utubungwe ututafwaya kufwailisha ifilenga tumbi utubungwe ukusela.

Two groups despise one another

Separate groups may dislike one another. Two camps often do not have the same views.

When you are used to meeting with the same group of people in one resting place, you may not be open to the practices and considerations of another group meeting regularly in a different resting place.

The tendency is for people to form groups that are reluctant to explore what moves other groups.



Nsoselo 148

Mwenda mainsa taceba kwiulu

Tulingile ukuba abaipekanya mu ncito ili yonse twaibimbamo nokwishibati nshita ikapingula ifya kucita.

Inshita amainsa aisa, tuleshiba ati ni mfula nombaba. Kanshi twalinga ukuipekanya ifyakufwala fya iyi nshita. Na mu mainsa tulokubomba nga lyonse.

Katulabile ati ulabombela umuntu. Nombaba, lyonse bwaka alakupela ifya kucita, napo ungaisosha ati aliba nensambu shakucita ifyo?

When traveling in the rainy season, one does not look at the sky

We must be prepared in any work we involve ourselves in, but circumstances dictate what to do. During the rainy season, we know that it will be raining, so we have to prepare ourselves with the type of clothing during that period. We should continue working normally though it is raining a lot.

Say you work for someone. Now, every time he gives an assignment, are you going to dispute whether he is authorised to do so?

Nsoselo 149

Nkalamo ukukalipa itampila pabo

Ubukali bwa nkalamo butampila cabe ilyo yafyalwa, ico icaba cimo ceka no muntu umunkalwe ufyalwa.

Kwaliba abantu bamo abatafwayapo ukulengululwa, kano ico basosa ecekeco. Nangu mweshe shani, kano ifyo asosa eflyo mucite. Limbi babetati, bamunshololwa.

The fierceness of the lion starts at its home

The lion's behaviour of being vicious starts when it is born. The same holds for a bad-hearted man.

There are certain people who never want to be corrected, only want others to follow what they say. Even if you try hard to convince them, they will only ask you to do what they want. Sometimes they are known as the intractables.

Nsoselo 150

Ubukulu bwa nkoko, masako

Inkoko ipimwa ulo ikolola ukubikapo na masako. Nomba cilya cipimo tecopo pantu fimbi ifilinga amasako tatulyapo!

Ulo tukoshitisha inkoko tupimina kumo na masako, takwabapo uko bafukula elo bashitisha iyoo. Kanshi ubucindami bwa nkoko masako.

The size of a chicken: its feathers

Though it is true that you can only judge something on its appearance, you should be aware of the downside of judging by outward appearance.

When we want to sell a chicken, we consider its size with feathers. So, the appeal of the chicken are its feathers. But that is not good because feathers are not eaten.

Nsoselo 151

Tabwakwete munkumbi kabumena?

Icintu conse calikwata intampilo.

Kuti wapusanya shani icintu libe taulatampako ukubombelapo?

Mubwikashi bwesu muno calo, umuntu onse alakwata ico atemwisha pakuti akese ba bwino kuntanshi. Ulo tuya ku sukulu tulafwaya ukusambilila pakuti nafwe twise tubeko ifyo tukofwaya.

If it had no stem, would it grow?

Everything we do is based on things that we've done or prepared before.

How can you achieve something if you do not start working on it?

In this world we all have future plans we want to achieve. When we go to school, we want to learn so that we become what we want. We prepare for a long journey. We raise our children to make sure they do well.

Nsoselo 152

Akoni kacenjele kalala pa nsansu

Ba uwapamulola.

Akoni kalishiba ukuti kalafwaikwa ku bantu. Emulandu wine icinsa cakako cibela pancende mpo patangafika na bantu nokuba akaibukila nga kwaumfwika icongo ca nsansu sha fiti ishumine mupepi ne cinsa.

We muntu wewapatwa, walinga ukoibaka ukwishiba myendele yobe, nefintu mulokulanshanya nabantu bambi.

The smart little bird sleeps where there are small dry pieces of woods

Be on your guard.

A little bird knows that people want it as relish for their food. That is why it makes its nest at a place not reachable by people and takes care that it be notified by the noise they make while walking on the dry pieces of wood near the nest.

When you are hated by people, you must be very careful in the way you move around and how you communicate with others.



Nsoselo 153

Apali umunwe epali ne bala

Ico wimininepo eci citika.

Mwaliba imilimo iingi nomba cila umo alikwata uko camutwala nokukoselela eko abikisha amano pakuti imoneke.

Wherever your finger points, there will be a field for you

The intentions of people differ like people differ.

There are many types of talents in the world but each one of us goes for what is good to her so that fruits are seen at the end.

Nsoselo 154

Uwa kalema takaleka

Ndeta misoka taleka.

Uwabelela ukwiba ifyabene mu mabala nangu mu mayanda naena eko fyamutwala. Kanshi lyonse bwaka wakusangwa mu fifungo.

A bad habit is hard to break

Once you live like that, you can not stop.

Someone who is used to stealing from the fields or from homes because he has become dependent on stealing will only stop when he ends up in prison.

Nsoselo 155

Akalyo akanini kalaleta umulyolyo

Ngawapelwa utunini, epa kufwaya nafimbi.

Nji nsoselo ilabilwa patwa bwalwa utunini namu makwebo afyakulya. Balapela dyonko pakuti wishibe ubune bulimo. Bukulu bwa cipimfya wapelwa ebulenga ukushitilapo nafimbi.

A little food makes you want more

When you get little, you want more.

This proverb is applied by small beer and food businesses. They give you a small foretaste, so you know what the quality is. It is the small size of the portion given that draws you to buy more.

Nsoselo 156

Akanwa kamufungo kene kailetelele

Nga ulipo nacimo mu mano, kuti wailetelela nga taucenjele mukusosa.

Ilyashi lisoswa mucalo lingi, eico umuntu uuli no mulandu, ala supa lyonse eukososa pakuti abantu bamumfwe. Nomba mukulabila labila nangu tewepo bepwishe, bonse baleshiba ati niwe umulandu ukumine.

The mouth of the guilty one will betray him

Even though your guilt is not yet clear, your reckless language indicates that you are connected. Topics of discussion are many in this world, so for one who is guilty it is not smart to take up the leading role so that people listen to him. Because of this continuous talking, though you were not asked, they will conclude that you must be connected!

Nsoselo 157

Nalilile mu mpanga, tamuli icamwine

Ifyasangwa fyonse fya bonse, takupo umwine.

Mu mpanga ba Lesa babikamo ifintu ifya pusana pusana pakuti fyafwe abantunse. Kanshi takwabapo umwine fya bonse uwabalilapo ku fibona.

I ate it while in the wild, so it belongs to no one

Everything found in the wild is for all, there is no ownership.

In order to help mankind, Lesa put so many different things in the wild. You cannot claim them as your own!

Nsoselo 158

Akalilile nyina, ni mwisaana kafumine

Ifya fiseme fikasokoloka ku ntanshi.

Abana banono balafyengwa ilyo abafyashi babo babepaya, nomba ico balingile ukwishiba cakuti aba bana bakesa ishiba nowacitile filya mpaka nabo bakacite icilandushi icabipa.

The thing that cried for its mother came out of the egg

Eventually, what's hidden will come out.

For instance, small children who have not been treated fairly, when they've grown up, will understand and will come to bring trouble to the wrongdoer.

Nsoselo 159

Ubushiku bwaluba umukote ne cimbwi canye mfwi

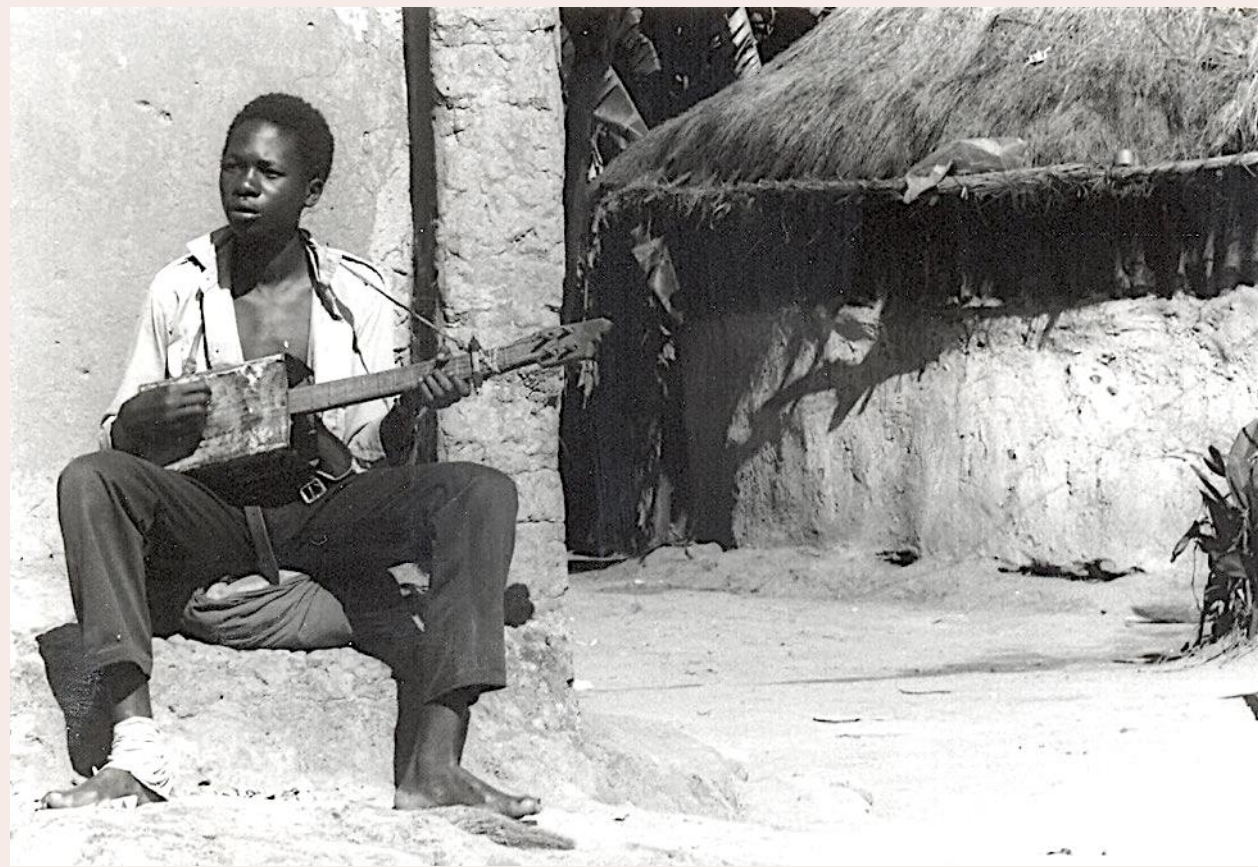
Apa calola mukwebati, ificitika fyaba nenshila/nangu impela iyakubwenako.

Mu nganda mwikala, abana ilinji balaya mukwangala kubanabo. Kulya kwine ulo bafyashi babanabo bapekanya icakulya, nabalya bana bambi balalyako. Ulo babwelela kunanda yabo, abafyashi tyabeshibapo ati abana babo nabalya. Ngabapekanya icakulya, nabalya balile ku mulandu wa mwenso pantu balibakanya balaya mukulya. Ico besa mukubwenako mikutile! Uli apa nebo naikuta, libe inshima icily ikulu. Epo beshibila ati balililepo kumbi. Nokulingana ne nsoselo, ulo umukote aluba, nakonse uko bakosanga apa nyelele icimbwi pakuboneka mfwi mfwi, bakatontonkanyati cimbwi calile bakuti nabakuti.

An old man goes missing and the hyena excretes grey hair

We always must look at the relation of things and the hints about this relation that are given to us. When an old person with grey hair goes missing, the faeces of a hyena can tell the story of that missing grey-haired person.

In a home, children go out to play with friends. Where they are, the parents prepare food for all, so for them as well. But when they return home, their parents also will have prepared food, not knowing that they have already eaten. Because they have been warned never to eat at other homes, the children will still take part in the eating at their home but will not eat much or will not eat for a longer period. Then the parents will know that the children took food somewhere else.



Nsoselo 160

Akalimba ka kwashima takapwa misango

Icakhwashima tacilipo cobe. Tontonkanya pa kashita ka kubomba.

Umntu nga aashima icipe, alinga ukucibomfya bwangu bwangu pantu abane kuti baisa mukupoka panshita ateneke.

Tatulingile ukucisunga pa nshita itali kubati cesu.

A borrowed musical instrument won't give you time to play all types of music

A borrowed thing is not yours. Think of the time factor.

When you borrow any item, be it a bicycle or a banjo, you should start using it for the intended purpose because the owner may come in when you are not ready yet.

Do not keep it for too long as if it is your own.

Nsoselo 161

Mwaice kulumbula akabondo kansha, ninshi alikabwene

Abaice taba bepapo mu fintu fimo. Ifyo umwana umwaice asosa ninshi alikabwene, tekuti asosepo ifyo atabwene.

Pa nanda kati abalume baipayapo akanama (ubuswete) ngabana bena liba elyashi uko baya mu kwangala naba nabo. Necilenga ninci: tabeshibapo ati ili lyashi lingaleta ulupato kubakulu bambi pantu tababa peleko ifyo abana bakolabila.

A child who mentions a duiker's leg has seen one

Children do not lie about certain things. This type of thing cannot be made up by a child, so it must have been seen recently.

When a man kills an animal and brings it home, his children may make it an important news item for other children. They do not know that those stories might end in families differing because the meat wasn't shared.

Nsoselo 162

Imfula pakuya epo yonaula ifisabo

Ilapwa nga yapwililila.

Imilimo iyingi isa mukonaika lilya line yaya mukupwa.

Shimbi nshita ifilyo fya mwibala filonaika ku mfula pa kulekelesha, nokukula fyalikula kale.

Icipupu ca mfula cilenga amataba esu ukuwa panshi ilyo nenshita ya mfula ukupwa ili mupepi, elo teti mu abushe yonse mwibala, elo yonse yacili abishi!

It is only when the rainy season is almost ending, that crops are spoiled

It is only finished when it is really finished.

Most work runs the risk of being spoiled especially when almost finished.

Sometimes, crops in the fields that are already ready to be eaten get spoiled when rains are almost ending. Rains that come with strong wind push the maize stalks down at the end of the season, and you can not raise them all as they are still fresh.

Nsoselo 163

Uwashingwana oonta nobuta bwakwe

Ngataukwete cimbi icakubomfya, kubomfya conse icilipo.

Ba cibinda ilyo baya mumpanga, mwaliba muncende shino umutaba nkuni, nomba acashupa balabula ubuta nokukonawila pa mulilo pakuti onteko.

When stranded one even uses the bow as firewood

When there are no other options, one must use what is available.

In the past when hunters went out hunting, there were areas where you could not get firewood and when necessitated the hunters would have to use their bows to make fire for warmth.

Nsoselo 164

Ubucushí bupa amano

Ngatapali icilekokushupa, tatukwata ukutontonkanya ukucilile palya pantu fyonse fili bwino. Icalo ca Zambia caba pakati kafyalo ifingi elyo nobukwebo bwafintu tukabila sana bupita muli ifi fyalo. Kununa uku ifipe fyesu fyalikupita mu Southern Rhodesia (lelo Zimbabwe) mpaka Ian Smith aishile poka icalo ku maka. Apa pene nokumfwana kwalipwile, kanshi nomba Zambia atontonkenye inshila shimbi ishakubomfya pakuti ifipe filokufika muno calo. Pa nshita imo ine Zambia alikwafwako nokulwila ubuntungwa bwa calo ca Southern Rhodesia. Kanshi ukucula kwa Zambia kwalengele ukukwata umupaipi wakuleta amafuta ukufuma ku Tanzania, babikapo ne njanji Tazara.

Poverty gives wisdom

When there is nothing troubling you, you do not need to use your wits that much because everything is alright.

Zambia is a land-locked country, and all its cargoes/essentials have to pass through the surrounding countries. Now, all our imports passed through Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) until Ian Smith declared a Unilateral Declaration of Independence of that country. From then, the relationship became bad. Because Zambia suffered a lot, a plan for the oil pipeline from Tanzania and a Tanzania Zambia Railway was put in place.



Nsoselo 165

Ubwalwa tabunwa mwipi

Ubukali bwa bwalwa bukalenga walabila nefe kucilile cimo.

Icakonkapo cilangililo cimo pa nsoselo nji pamulu ngoli necikokushupa mu mano. Nga waya mukunwa bwalwa kulaba inshita ulo wakolwa, watampa lyashi likuucusha pancende apatalingile, mumano ati yangula banga ngafwako ababyanji.

Worried people shouldn't drink beer

The strength of the beer will make you say things you shouldn't.

The proverb applies to everyone who has something troubling on their mind. When he/she goes out to drink and gets drunk, the issues troubling him/her are brought to the wrong place, thinking friends will help them.

Nsoselo 166

Ubunga bupelele noko tabalyamo

Tekuti ucetekele uli onse ukucila ulupwa lobe angula ifibusa ifinga kusunga.

Umufyashi umwanakashi abaka abana bakwe pakubalilapo. Iwe kati teba noko tabaka kupe icakulya bapekenye.

Mealie meal prepared by the mother will not be shared to others

You can not expect anyone other than your family and close friends to take care of you.

A mother feeds her children first. So, if she's not your mother, she won't feed you.

Nsoselo 167

Cungulo alāpeteka/alanasha

Epa kunaka nomba. Icintu conse caliba nakashita apo cikesa kupwila. Akasuba kalafuma akacelo nokuwa icungulo.

Tulingile ukwishiba ukuti nangu twingacita icilishani, kuntanshi cili nokupwa. Kwaliba abana bashumfwapo kubafyashi babo. Mukasanga atumpa nokubutuka ukufuma pananda. Abafyashi tabasakamana, beba fye ati akobwela. Nomba ulo kawa akasuba, yakwana inshita yakulala, ulya uwabutwike amano esamo kubwelela ku nanda, apa nomba anaka. Nomba ninshita ya mufyashi ukumufundako panono kuka bwembya pakuti eshibe ati ifyo acitile filubo.

The evening makes humble

Time will tell. Everything takes its time to come to an end. The sun rises and at one time it will set down.

With whatever we do, we should remember that one time it will come to an end. There are children who are very naughty with parents. They tend to run away from home thinking that it is over. Parents do not worry because they know that time will come when the child comes back. When the sun sets down, the guilty child comes back humbled, and the parents treat him by a few strokes so that he realises the wrong thing he did.

Nsoselo 168

Mfundā buteshi e uwa

Tulokucenjelela pafyo tukocenjeshako abanensu.

Utushila tuya ku nika twaba utunini ukulinga amolu. Nelingi amwapalamina ku nika utu tushila tuba utwa telela sana. Icisa mukuboneka cakuti ulya uko cenjeshako banakwe ukuti babe abaibukila ati kuno kutelele ewisa mukuwa panshi nabonse eko babwena ati cachine kutelele. Cibafye nakuli mbo abakopepesha, mukosanga abakofunda muma caliki ebakolufyanya pafyo bakufunda, bafilwa ukucita ifyo bakososa.

The one who is always warning for slipperiness is the one to fall

Let us be prudent when we warn others.

Little paths leading to the riverbanks are usually too small for two people walking abreast and these paths are usually slippery. What is observed is that the one who warns others about the 'slippery' spot drops off on that spot. This confirms to others that the area is slippery.

It is also the same to leaders in the church: they warn for all kinds of misbehaviour and are not rarely found to show this misbehaviour.

Nsoselo 169

Ako tutalya tukalila mukanakwe

Nangu wingayumfwa kukwata maka pa fintu fimbi, telyonse wingafikwatila.

Ifyo 'tatulya' limbi tungalila kupitila mu fyakulya fyaibela.

Ifishimu, kwati nina munsungwe nsungwe, fyakulya libe fitula ku fipempele ifyo tutafwaya ukulya. Nakambi tatulyapo imyambo nomba isabi ilyotulya lyena lilalya.

Nangu tungaseka abantu abalya imyambo yangula ifipempele, kuku lekekesha bonse tulalya imyambo ne fipempele.

"We don't eat that" but we might do so through other forms of food

No matter how much control you think you have over things, you don't always have it.

What "we don't eat" we may eat in other foods. Some caterpillars are food but they come from larvae which we don't want to eat. Also, we don't eat worms, but the fish we eat do.

Even though we can laugh at people who eat worms or larvae, in the end we all eat worms and larvae.

Nsoselo 170

Kalulu tapusuka mpya shibili

Nci cila labilwa umo casangwa nokupwisha bwafya pantu usangilwemo talikukwata ishuko ilya kutekatwa.

Tekutipo akalulu kapusuke amwakateya imiku ibili mu ncende shibili ishipusene. Mu mpanga amwapita umulilo, kulaba ukuteya utululu pakukwatako umunani. Nga mwateya pamo apendela akalulu, elyo mwaya kuteya nakumbi, nangu acabashani, pambi kakoisa kwikatwa.

Ecimo cine nangu kati ulu mung'o, bumbi bushiku ukekatwa.

A hare will not escape from the traps in two areas

This is said of a situation which will eventually be solved because the one involved will not always be lucky enough not to get caught.

A hare will one day get trapped by one of the traps prepared in two different areas. When forest is burnt, people usually put animal traps especially for hares as relish. When you put traps in two different areas, under any circumstance one trap will kill.

The same goes to a thief, one day he will be caught.

Nsoselo 171

Musekela nama emulya cifupa

Ukuba uwaipesha mukubomba imilimo kuntanshi kuti twalambulwa.

Ulo bacibinda baya mu mpanga, bambi abantu balaipesha ukuya nabo pakuti baya bafwako ukusenda inama pakubwela. Aba ebo na cibinda alambula pa mulimo babombela. Nomba ulya uushala mu mushi pakuti ese alyeko bwaka tapali ico asangamo, tei nao asubile ukukwatako icipinswa.

Helping to pick up the meat ends in eating a bone

When you volunteer to help, at the end you are likely to be rewarded.

When hunters go out hunting, some people volunteer to go out with them so that they go and help in carrying meat after the hunt. These are the people the hunter rewards on the work done. But those who remain in the village waiting to partake in the eating, should not expect a good share.



Nsoselo 172

Akanika kupota bwino nipa mabwe

Ifintu fyaikatana tafilekanapo.

Tulomfwa uko utunika tupota bwino nico panshi apa ponena amenshi paliba amabwe.

Nangu bafyashi abakwata abana balamoneka bwino pantu balaba tangata mukubafwailako ifyakufwala ne ndalama shakubomfya ku milimo iyalekana lekana kwati bulimi.

Imfumu nayo pakuti baite ati mfumu kano ili nabantu mu calo.

Ne mfumu ilingile ukusunga abantu baiko bwino.

The waterfall in a river sounds nice because of the stones

Some things cannot be separated.

When you hear a good sound coming from the waterfalls, this is because the water drops on to the stones. When something is the result of two or more things, we can not just choose one of these to call it the cause.

Parents do not only take care of their children: once the parents become old, they will depend on their children to support them in providing decent clothes and money to use on various projects like farming.

A chief to be called a chief must fulfil the duty to look after the people in his chiefdom.

Nsoselo 173

Sontwa minwe mwana takula

Umwana ncita fibi balamusontaula, teti abe neshuko.

Abantu balatasha iciweme mukwita amashina nayambi abacitile. Nomba nduno kati bakusonta lelo na mailo weka we, tawakakwate ishuko mu bumi bobe. Umwana kati lyonse nincita fibi lyonse kusontwa nangu wakula ukaba umuntu umubi.

Umwana pakukula, abafyashi bakwe eba mubona imisango yakwe no kwishiba kati akaba bwino yangula iyoo. Nga wacumfwila balamutemwa sana, nomba ngatomfwapo yonse nshita kusontwa iminwe, imikulile yakwe taiba bwino pambi alemana mukutangalapo bwino ngali temenwe ukulwa naba nankwe.

The child who has fingers continuously pointing at him does not grow well

A bad child who is always pointed at may not be blessed.

People praise what is good by calling the names of the ones who did it. But now if today you are pointed at and tomorrow the same, you may not be lucky in your life. When a child is often doing bad things and therefore it is pointed at often, it will also as an adult be a bad person.

During a child's growth, parents see all the behaviour and know into what type of person he will grow. If well-mannered, parents love him so much but if bad mannered with fingers always pointing at him, his growth become not stable, he may get lame because of fighting with friends.

Nsoselo 174

Mutuka bakulu tashuka

Ngata wakwata imisango ibipile, bonse tabakakutemwepo elo teti ukwate ne shuko.

Mu mikalile ya lutambi, abaice baling ukucindika abakulu epakuti bakwate ishuko. Abaice kano bakwata ukubomfya amashiwi aya mucinshi kubakulu, eku basalula iyo. Ng aba kutuma ukubomba akamulimo walinga ukubomba, wasanga abakulu nabapita icipe kano upoke ubafweko ukupinta.

Slandering an elder will not make one prosper

If you are bad-mannered, all will be against you, and you will have no luck.

In our culture children should respect the elders for them to have blessings. The children should watch out what language they use when talking to the elders and not be abusive. When asked to do some work, you must do it. When you find an elderly person with a load, try to help him carry it.

Nsoselo 175

Imfinshi tailya, icilya cintu cenda mumfinshi

Abantu ababi bomfwa bwino ukucita ifibi kwabula ukubabona, mumfinshi.

Kanshi kano lyonse mwaba abakucenjela kufyo musosa palwelele, pantu abantu babi bakakwata apakwingilila nokucita nco cilubo kunuma yobe. Bonse abaumfwileko kufyo walabile bakesa kweba bwaka ati niwe.

Icilangililo nipa buloshi. Awa eba muntu ati nkakulowa! Bancita fibi ebakacita nabonse bakalanguluka ati niwe wacitile. Mukwipifya, ifintu fibi ficitwa mu mfinshi.

Darkness does not hurt but what hurts is what moves in the dark

Bad people feel it's always good to do their actions, unseen, in the dark.

So, you need to be careful to what you say openly, as bad people may take advantage of it and act behind your back. Everybody who heard you say will conclude that you are the one.

An example is that of witchcraft. If you said to a person: I shall bewitch you! The bad people will do it, and all will think of you as the one who did it. In short, bad actions are done in darkness.

Nsoselo 176

Umungu wambuto ni Lesa wabika

Fimbi fintu, tatwalinga nokwipusha ifyo fyatampile, kufisenda ngefyo fili.

Lesa ewapangile fyonse fintu. Nokuta twishika alibikilemo ne mbuto.

Kubana kufyalwa, abakulu balalondololapo utwamalyashi utwakale pantu bali pitilemo nokubona. Tapali nshila iyo mba banakufyalwa benga shininkishishamo muli nga malyashi kati acine. Ubwasuko nimbu: Tamwaliko, fisendeni fye.

The seed for this pumpkin, Lesa put it there

With certain things we don't have to ask ourselves how they came to be, we can take them as they are.

Lesa created all things. This obviously included seeds for plants.

To the young, elders tell stories of the past just because they experienced what was there. There is no way for the young to verify this information. The answer is: You weren't there, just take it.



Nsoselo 177

Amenso abwene ing'ombe, lelo ese atambe imbushi?

Ukwishiba nokukwata ifyaliko e kafundisha wacine pantu alelula ifyaliko. Kati walibwenepo ing'ombe ku ncende imo, tekutipo ikucimfye kwebati ni mbushi wabwene. Kuti baesha kukweshwa, elo ungabomfya nji nsoselo.

Abantu balafwa, nge cilangililo, kumulandu wakuteshiba imiti. Ulo njimiti yabwangu ('mbushi') yatampile ukubomfiwa, abantu balikwete nshila ('ngombe') yakucimfishishamo amalwele. Lesa eka ewaishibe ifyo yakobomba nokubomba bwino. Lisambililo kubana kufyalwa ukupokelela nokubomfya amano akale mukuyasumina nokweshwa ukuyabomfya.

Eyes that once saw cattle now see goats?

First-hand experience is the best teacher, because it reveals what was there.

If you saw cattle somewhere, they will not convince you that you saw goats. But they might try, and then you can use this proverb.

People die, for example, due to lack of knowledge of herbs. Before scientific drugs ('goats') were introduced, people had a way ('cattle') to overcome illnesses. Only Lesa knows how it worked but it worked nicely. It's a lesson to the young sometimes to take 'old' advice with full belief that it is worth trying.

Nsoselo 178

Uwaingila mu mushitu tomfwapo inswaswa

Ukuba uwashipa ne ncito twasenda.

Kwaba incito ishipusene pusene nomba cili ukuipima fwebene ukusala incito tukofwaya ukubomba.

Muli bucibinda balaya, mu mpanga umwaba ifiswango ifyo ifinga twipaya. Kanshi tulingile ukushipa ukukana ba no mwenso. Incito yabu malukula, yakusunge fitumbi fyabantu abakofwa ku malwashi nangu mu masanso apa musebo. Nomba ngataushipile tekuti uyi bombe ilya ncito.

Who enters a thicket in the wild should not fear the rustling of dry leaves

In for a penny, in for a pound.

Before joining any type of work or activity, you must ask yourself if you are ready to do the whole work.

In hunting, one goes out into the wild where we know that there are beasts that may kill us if not careful, so we must be courageous, not to be afraid. The work also of being a mortuary attendant, checking and keeping dead bodies resulting from illnesses or from road accidents. If one is not courageous, one cannot do that work.



Nsoselo shaku Bulaya

European proverbs

Proverb 179

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

Each person has his/her own opinion about what or who is beautiful. Different people have different ideas about what's beautiful and to discuss these is rather hard and sometimes useless.

Chibale: Have you seen Kalale's new baby? He looks ugly to my eyes.

Chipolo: You can say what you want; beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Chabala: Personally, I can't understand why Mupeta finds him attractive, but they do say beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Ubulombe bwaba ku menso amwine

Cila muntu alikwata ifimusekesha ifyo eta ati fiweme elo tafilingile ukumu bona ati taishibapo ifiweme.

Chibale: Napo ulimubwene mwana wakwa Kalale uwabwangu? Akoboneka mubipile ku menso anji.

Chipolo: Ungalabila fyonse ukofwaya, ubulombe bwaba mu linso lyamwine.

Chabala: Palwanji, nshumfwilepo mulandu uwo Mupeta amubwena uweme, eco basosela ati ubulombe bwaba no mwine wabuko.

Proverb 180

Cleanliness is next to godliness

It is not a personal choice but a moral obligation to keep yourself and your home clean.
It is very important to keep yourself clean.

Mulenga: Why do I have to take a bath, mother?

Mother: Cleanliness is next to godliness. I think Kapenda who was sitting next to me in the shelter never heard of it ...

Ubunyino bwakonka ukwishiba mibele iweme

Tacili cakusala we mwine pantu mubele uweme uwakuisunga we mwine ubusaka napa nanda yobe.

Cikankala ukuisunga ubusaka we mwine.

Mulenga: Nindo nali kusambila bai bama?

Banyina: Ubunyino bwakonka ukwishiba mibele iweme. Natontonkanya ati Kapenda uwaikele mupepi nanebo mu nsaka tatala umfwapo ...

Proverb 181

Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today

Each day has its own work to be done, and so it is better to finish what you have started this day as tomorrow a lot of work will be on your agenda, and you will fail to do all the work.

Kabinda: I had such an interesting conversation with Chikoloma, but the result is that my work is not finished at all. I will do it tomorrow morning.

Changwe: Bad idea, tomorrow morning you already have all your morning duties, you can not combine them with this unfinished work. Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today.

Wileka ukuti fibe fya mailo ifyo ungabomba lelo

Cila bushiku bwalikwata imilimo yakubomba, kanshi calinga ukupwisha ifyo utampile lelo pantu mailo imilimo ikafula iyakubomba nokufilwa ukafilwa ukupwisha.

Kabinda: Nalikwete ukulanshanya kuweme na Chikoloma nombamba imilimo yandi tayapwile iyo. Nakuibomba mailo akacelo.

Changwe: Amano ububi, mailo akacelo uli nefyakubomba cila kacelo, tekuti ufibikepo pamo nefitangashila. Wileka ukuti fibe fya mailo ifyo ungabomba lelo.

Proverb 182

A bird in the hand is worth two in the wild

Better have something than nothing.

Mwenda: If only some of the traps wouldn't have failed, I would have had four rabbits instead of one.

Kalunga: That may be true but a bird in the hand is worth two in the wild.

Akoni kali muminwe kawamapo kucila tubili utuli mu mpanga

Cawamapo ukukwatapo cimo ukucila nangu kamo.

Mwenda: Ngacakuti ifiteyo tafyacifilwapo, nganakwata utululu tune ukucila kamo.

Kalunga: Cacine, ekwebati akoni kali muminwe kawamapo kucila tumbi tubili ututi mumpanga.



Proverb 183

If it ain't broken, don't fix it

We, humans, seem to have the urge to improve things. But if something is working adequately well, please leave it alone.

Don't try to improve something that already works well enough. You'll probably end up causing more problems than already existed.

Mushili: Why does your family arrange these matters in this peculiar way?

Mambwe: We are quite content with it, why fix something if it isn't broken?

Ngatacikonekelepo, wilungisha

Ifwe, fwe bantu twaba namano akuwamya ifintu. Nomba kati ncilya cintu cikobomba bwino, cilekeni ceka.

Tacawama ukweshu ukulungisha icintu icikobomba bwino. Kuti pakulekelesha wasanga ati caba na mafya na ambi ukucila ayo cakwete.

Mushili: Nindo ulupwa lobe lupekanishisha mfi mu nshila iyibelele?

Mambwe: Efyo tubona bwino, nindo wingalungishisha icitakonelepo?

Proverb 184

Don't count your chickens before they hatch

Don't rely on something you are unsure about.

Your plans might not work out, so don't start thinking about what you'll do after you succeed. Wait until you've already succeeded, and then you can think about what to do next.

Musonda: You might be able to get a loan from the bank, but don't count your chickens ...

Ngosa: When I win this card game, I will buy a blanket with the money won. This is good as I have to return a blanket to Chibuye before tomorrow.

Kabamba: I warn you not to count your chickens before they hatch.

Tababelenga nkoko ulo tashilatotwa

Tekweshwa ukushintilila kucintu mutashininkishepo.

Ukupekanya kwenu angula tekuti kubombepo, kanshi tekulangulukapo ifyo mwakucita amwapwa.

Lindileni mpaka mwapwisha epakwishiba ifyakucita kuntanshi.

Musonda: Mungaba neshuko lyakwashima indalama ku banki, nomba mwibelenga inkoko shenu ulo tashilatowa.

Ngosa: Kati ngwine pano nakushita ilangeti mu ndalama nawina. Nci cawama pantu nakubweshwa ilangeti kuli Chibuye ulo mailo tailafika.

Kabamba: Nkokucenjeshako ukutabelenga inkoko ulo tashila totwa.

Proverb 185

Never look a gift horse in the mouth

If someone offers you a gift, don't question it.

Don't examine a gift, like looking at the length of the horse's teeth to see if it's old or young, especially not if the one who gave it is still present.

Chinguwa: I prefer light shirts, but my uncle gave me some dark ones. Well, I shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth and will joyfully try them on.

Wiloleshapo pa bupe kabalwe mukanwa

Ngaumo akupela ubupe, wifumbapo.

Wilolesha pa bupe, kubati kubona ameno aku kabalwe nga atali, kati yana nangu ikote makamaka nomwine akupe epo acili.

Chinguwa: Mfwaishapo utwa mashati utupubile nomba bayama bo kabampa ilitikeme. Cisuma, nshilingile kulolekesha pa bupe bwa kabalwe mukanwa elo nensansa nkesha fyonse.

Proverb 186

Old habits die hard

Existing habits are hard to change. People in general find it very difficult to change their behaviour.

Mwape came back from town after retiring but he still gets up rather late, like he used to while working in town. Old habits die hard.

Imibele yakale taifwa

Imibele ilipo nduno ikosele ukucinjishiwa. Abantu mubwingi basanga ati calyafya ukucinja imibele.

Mwape elo abwelele kufuma ku tauni ulo alakele incito, nomba nanomba abuka mukucelwa kwati ngefyo alikucita ulo ali pa ncito. Imibele yakale taifwa.

Proverb 187

Fortune favours the bold

People who bravely go after what they want are more successful than people who try to live safely. Opportunities are not for everyone; they are for those who are determined to seize them.

Chisenga: Why must my life be so miserable?

Kunda: Sorry, Chisenga, but when did you ever ventured to take a risk, and I don't mean reckless behaviour? Fortune favours the bold.

Ishuko lyatemwa abashipikisha

Abantu abashipa mukufwaya ico bakofwayaisha, ilingi balafisanga ukucila mbo abekala umo bakofwaila.

Ishuko talyabapo kuli onse, liba kuli mbo abaibokako mukulifwaisha.

Chisenga: Nindo ubwikashi bwanji bwabela mukucula cula?

Kunda: Cabipa, Chisenga, nomba nilwisa ulo waeshako ukucisenda muli kaya kaya, na nshikososa ati mukuilekelesha? Ishuko lyatemwa abashipikisha.

Proverb 188

Birds of a feather flock together

People like to spend time with others who are like them.

Like-minded people flock together.

Kapenda: Why do you think Mwewa is dishonest?

Muyinga: All his friends are dishonest. Birds of a feather flock together.

Utuni twa masako apalene twendela pamo

Abantu batemwa ukuposa inshita nabantu ababa nganibo.

Abalya cimo cine bapanga ibumba limo.

Kapenda: Nindo ulangulukila ati Mwewa tabapo uwacine?

Muyinga: Bonse abanankwe tababapo abacine. Utuni twamasako apalene twendela pamo.

Proverb 189

The road to hell is paved with good intentions

There is no merit in good intentions. People may have the intention to undertake good actions but nevertheless fail to take action. In that case, the well-intended plans can have harmful results.

Chola: I really intended to help you solve the problems with your girl friend.

Kaluba: Yes, thank you so much, and in the process, you fell in love with her; the road to hell is paved with good intentions!

Nshila yaku ncende ya kuculilako yalitantikwa na mabwe na mapange ayaweme

Takwaba cilambu mukukwata amapange aweme. Abantu kuti bakwata amapange yakucita ifintu fiweme nomba balacelwa ukutampako. Amapange mukwete limbi kuti yapwa bubi bubi.

Chola: Mpekenye ukuti nkwapwe mu mafya ukwete no mutemwikwa obe mwanakashi.

Kaluba: Ina, natotela sana nomba munshita mukotwafwa wasuka wamukumbwa; nshila yakuncende yakuculilako yatantikwa na mabwe na mapange ayaweme.



Proverb 190

Beggars can't be choosers

If you're asking for a favour from someone else, you must take whatever they give you. People who are in great need must accept any help that is offered, even if it is not a complete solution to their problems. When you cannot have what you want, you must accept whatever you can get.

Kalale: I asked Mukosha to lend me his bicycle, and he gave me this old, rusty one. But beggars can't be choosers.

Katumpa: Let me wear your green dress; I don't like the blue one you lent me.

Mangala: Beggars can't be choosers.

Abapushi tabasalapo

Kati ukofwaya bambi bakwafweko, walinga wapokelela icili conse bakupa. Abantu abali mukufwailisha balingile ukusumina bonse ubwalisho bapelwa, nangu line tebwingapwisha amafya abo. Ulo utangakwata ifyo ukofwaya, walinga wapokelela ico conse wasanga.

Kalale: Naipwishe Mukosha ukungashimako incinga yakwe, nomba ampele iyakale ne ndalabwa. Nomba abapushi tabasalapo.

Katumpa: Kamfwaleko ilaya lyobe ilya katapa katapa; nshatemenwepo lilya ilya bulu wangashimeko.

Mangala: Abapushi tabasalapo.

Proverb 191

No man is an island

You cannot live completely independently. Everyone needs help from other people. No one is self-sufficient, everyone relies on others for survival.

You are not alone in this world; your actions will always affect someone else.

Chibolele: I did not realise that I would hurt you when I decided to go to my aunt for a few months.

Chikoloma: It did since I had prepared a nice surprise for you but then suddenly you were gone.

Chibolele: Yes, I will try not to be an island in the future.

Takwaba muntu uwaba eka palwakwe

Tekuti wikale weka umupwilapo. Cila umo umo afwaya ubwafwilisho kufuma ku bantu bambi.

Takwaba uwaikwatila fyonse, cila umo ekalila muli bambi pakuti apusuke.

Takwaba weka muli ncino calo; imicitile yobe ikakuma kuli bambi abaibela.

Chibolele: Nshaishibe ati kuti wacenekwa ulo nafwaile ukuya kuli ba nkashi-tata pa myeshi inonofye.

Chikoloma: Calincena pantu nali pekenye icaku kusungusha nomba fye pantu waliya.

Chibolele: ee nakulaesha ukutekala palwandi neka mu nshiku shikoisa.

Proverb 192

A leopard cannot change its spots

People can not change who they are. They can not change their nature.

What is meant is that you shouldn't *expect* this to happen. Luckily enough it certainly happens that people change a bad habit for the better.

Maseya: After his first marriage stopped because of his cheating, he now has cheated on his new wife as well.

Mondwa: Though it is said a leopard cannot change its spots, he could make other choices.

Imbwili tekuti icinje amabala aiko

Abantu tekutipo bacinje ifyo baba. Abantu tekutipo bacinje ifyo bafyalwa.

Umo calola nimukweba ati taulingile *kusubila* nci ukucitika. Muceshuko cila citika abantu ukucinga imisango ibi ku iweme.

Maseya: Ulo icupo cakubalilapo capwile kumulandu wa bufi, elo nomba aibepele umwine mubwikashi bwakwe bwa bwangu.

Mondwa: Nangu baeba ati imbwili tekuti icinje amabala aiko, kuti akwatapo inshila imbi.

Proverb 193

You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs

You must give up something to gain something. When you try to do something great, you'll probably make a few people annoyed or angry. Like so many proverbs, people often use this one ironically. Only a few justify that it does not matter what you, or especially others, lose as long as you gain.

Chabala: My plans to go and settle somewhere else met with a lot of resistance from my wife's parents.

Kapenda: You can't make an omelette without breaking a few eggs. It's just your parents-in-law who don't want to be one of these eggs.

Tekuti upangepo munani wamani akubobaula ukwabula ukuyatoba ngale

Ulingile ukipelesha pakuti unonkelepo cimo. Ngokofwaya ukucitapo cimo icikulu, angula wakukalifyapo abantu bamo abanono.

Kubati ni nsoselo ishing, nji yo yibomfeshiwa muma nkumanya: banono bafwaya ukushininkisha kweba ati temulandu ifyo we, angula bambi, unga lusa we cikulu wanonka.

Chabala: Amapenge anji akuya ikala kumbi ali mukukanishiwa no lupwa lwabakashi bandi.

Kapenda: Tekuti upangepo umunani wamani akutobaula ukwabula uku atobapo amo. Beka bena buko ebatakofwayapo ukuba nge lino limo.

Proverb 194

No news is good news

Not hearing about a situation suggests that nothing bad has happened.
Having no information means that bad developments are unlikely.

Chipolo: I'm worried about my sister. She hasn't called me for weeks.
Kalunga: No news is good news, isn't it?

Takwabapo ilyashi ukuba iliweme

Amutomfwilepo ifili fyone kweba ati tapapo ifilubene.
Ukutomfwapo ilyashi nako kweba ati kuti kwaba ifyalubana.

Chipolo: Ndi sakamene pali nkashi yanji, tantuminapo foni pa milungu yapita.
Kalunga: Takwabapo ilyashi ukuba iliweme, tefyo?

Proverb 195

Too many cooks spoil the broth

When there are too many people trying to lead and give their opinions, it's confusing and it will lead to bad results. Jobs and projects should have one or two clear leaders.

In our areas not many people own guns, so we use dogs in hunting. These dogs are called through whistling. Now when they are many people whistling, this confuses dogs not knowing where to go!

Kunda: Something's wrong here. They spend more time conferring than acting.

Kasubika: Munsele and Chisenga seem to be too many cooks and spoil the broth.

Bakepika abafula balonaula umuto

Ngakuli abantu abengi abakoesha ukutungulula nokupela amalangulushi, cilapusaula nokutapwishapo bwino. Imilimo yonse ikwate umo angul babili abakutungulula.

Umo twikala tebonse bakwata imfuti, kanshi tubomfya imbwa mukulunga. Nshi mbwa shitwa ku miloshi. Nomba ngacakuti bafula abakolisha imiloshi, imbwa shilafulungana nokuteshiba ukwakulola.

Kunda: Pali ifyalubana pano. Baposa nshita ikulu mu twakulabila labila ukucila ukubomba.

Kasubika: Munsele kubikapo na Chisenga, baba kubati nga; abakwipika bafula, ebonaula umuto.

Proverb 196

Strike while the iron is hot

When you have an opportunity to do something, do it before you lose that chance.

The black smith puts a piece of iron in fire for it to get soft. Once soft it becomes easy to be hit and bend in a form desired.

Pande: Hey, I just saw Mwewa; she's in a good mood. Maybe this is the time to ask her for a favour. Mushili: Oh, I hurry to her and strike while the iron is hot.

Chibuye: It may happen that you are offered some work that day. It is not good to postpone because the one engaging you for that work may offer it to someone else. Strike while the iron is hot.

Pomposha ulo icela cicikabile

Ngawashukila akashita kakubomba, bomba ulo taulalusa ndilye shuko.

Bakapomposha babika icela mu mulilo pakuti cinake. Ngacanaka ninshi calyanguka ukucipeteka mumusango mukocifwailamo.

Pande: Mwebo, nasakubona ba Mwewa, bakoboneka ukuba bwino. Pambi ekashita kenka aka ukubepushako bwafwilisho. Mushili: O kanyendeshe kuli ye nokupomposha ulo icela cicikabile.

Chibuye: Kuti caba kwati lelo elo bakupapo akacito. Tacingawama ukutantalisha pantu ngo uwakupela nkalya kacito kuti apela umbi. Pomposha ulo icela cicikabile.



Proverb 197

Nothing ventured, nothing gained

If you are hesitant, lazy or afraid to be disappointed, you will gain less than some others. Just go for it and see what the results will be.

Kabamba: I doubt and doubt if I will start with that new crop. I think about it a lot, but I can not come to a decision.

Bangwa: Come on, just try it out: nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Apatali kubomba, tapabapo icakunonka

Ngawaba uwakuibwelamo, umukatashi nangu wamwenso ukutasekwa, lyonse tapali ico ukakwata kubati bambi. Bomba bwaka incito pakuti ukabone ifyo wakunonkamo.

Kabamba: Nshiko shinkishapo kati ningatampapo nanjo mbuto iyabwangu. Nkolangulapo sana elyo nshilaishiba ifyakucita.

Bwanga: Webo, wesheko bwaka pantu apatali kubombamo tapapo icakunonkamo.

Proverb 198

When the going gets tough, the tough get going

Strong people don't give up when they come across challenges. They just work harder. Challenges separate the resilient from the feeble.

While digging out semiprecious stones one can come across all sorts of problems. The tough will keep on going, even if heavy obstacles have to be removed or if it takes many days to find what they want.

Bupe: I didn't expect that Changwe would be the one to help us out when things got chaotic.

Mulenga: Yes, it turned out that our quiet Changwe was the tough one who got going.

Ncito iya afya kubomba, mu kwafya kwine ninshi incito ikoenda

Abantu abashipa nokukosa tabalekelesha ngabasanagamo ubwafya. Balakonyapo ukubomba. Ifili kuntansi ifyakosa fipatula abashipa kubafila.

Pakwimba amabwe aba nobukumu kuti wapita mumafya apusanapusana. Kukaba ukukonyapo nangu kwingaba ifikolesha angula cingaposa inshiku ishingi pakuyasanga ifyo bakofwaya.

Bupe: Nshasubile ukwebati fyonse fintu ngafyalubana Changwe ewunga nokwafwako.

Mulenga: Ina, casangilwe ukweba ati ngu uwatalala Changwe ewali ukwakosa noku konkanyapo.

Proverb 199

Two wrongs don't make a right

When someone makes a mistake, it is not an open invitation to you to make a mistake as well. Your mistake is not neutralised by the mistake another person makes.

When someone has done something bad to you, trying to get revenge will only make things worse.

Chibale: Why did you pinch that peanut?

Kunda: Ngosa already had pinched one.

Chibale: Aha, so two wrongs make a right?

Ifilubo fibili efinga kupanga icilungeme

Kati umunobe akubifya, ukubwekeshamo nawe kulenga ifintu ukubipilamo.

Ukulufyanya kwenu tekushilapo necilubo umbi angacita.

Umunobe nga akucitila icilubo, we ukwesha ukubwelelamo kukalenga ifintu ukubipilako.

Chibale: Nindo wasa kulilamo imbalala?

Kunda: Ngosa ewubalilepo ukulyamo.

Chibale: Ifilubo fibili tekupangapo icilungeme.

Proverb 200

A watched pot never boils

If something takes time to finish, don't watch it too closely because it will seem like it's taking forever. Time flows much slower once you give it too much attention.

Mwape: Why does it take so long for her to just change clothes?

Muyinga: We all want to go to the party, so while waiting time flows slowly. A watched pot never boils.

Mpoto yakulolela tayipya bwangu

Icintu ngacilasenda inshita ikulu pakuti cipwe, tacalinga ukuilolela pantu calaposa inshita. Akashita kaboneka ukukokola nganamwabikako amano.

Mwape: Nindo cikoposela akashita akakulu pakuti afwale fyakufwala fimbi?

Muyinga: Bonse tukofwaya ukuya mukusefya, ngatukololela akashita kaboneka ukwenda panono panono. Impoto yakulolela tayipya bwangu.



Icipande III – Nsoselo ishilemene

Part III – Deep proverbs



Ifya kusunga míbele ne fyakucíta

How to behave and what to do

Nsoselo 201

Bwela kabwa kanji, kutanda kwa nshiku shonse

Ulo icintu cakanga ukucitika mbulya bushiku, kwesha nakambi pantu ngawaleka ukwesha ninshi ukafilwa.

Cibinda ewalokwita akabwa kakwe, ati bwelako, apo wafilwa ukwikata inama lelo, wakwisa kwikata lumbi inshiku shinji.

Ulo umuntu aya mukulunga mu mpanga, ela mwi shuko ngaya kwipaya inama. Kati tendelepo bwino tekuti alekepo ati nomba capwa! Akesa kuyamo bumbi bushiku mu kwesha.

Come back, my dog, there are so many more days to come

When something does not work out, try again. You only fail if you stop trying.

The hunter is asking his dog to return for not being successful in hunting that day but wishes it good work in coming days.

When a hunter goes out hunting, he goes there with a hope to kill. When not successful, he will continue doing so till one day he is successful.

Nsoselo 202

Insala ni ndiminwa te mpulilwa iyoo

Nji nsoselo ilabomfeshiwa lyonse ulo inshita imilimo ya bulimi yafika ku mpelo. Ikotwibukishako ukwebati tatulingile ukulolesha pali bambi ukutufwaila ifyakulya mukuya mukulomba lomba. Calinga tukoicimfya insala muku bombesha na maka mu mabala nokufumya ifingi. Ukulomba cilanga fye ukuti tatwakwetepo amaka akuilimina fwe bene no lupwa.

Hunger requires cultivation, not begging

This proverb is repeatedly used at the end of each farming season. It reminds us that we shouldn't depend on others to provide food for us by going begging.

You have to overcome hunger by working hard in the fields to produce more. Having to beg shows that you've been too inactive in cultivating for yourself and your family.

Nsoselo 203

Mwalya imo mwashika no bucinga

Mwati ukulya inama imo, elo mwashika no bucinga mwaliba nokulokesha ifya mupepi mu fintu kucita nokuta languluka ifya kuntanshi.

Ciba kubati amwa ikata nama mubucingo bwenu, peka apo mwashika mbo bucinga kubati empela yafyonse. Mulingile ukulanguluka fyaku bomfya bweka mbu bucinga nakuntanshi.

You have eaten one animal, and you have buried the trap

You are being short-sighted in your dealings and not thinking about the future.

It's like after trapping an animal in the animal trap, you decide to bury the trap as though it's the end of everything. You need to think of using the same hole for further use.



Nsoselo 204

Nawe, uli ne mangala kupena!

Uwa mutima ubi ku bantu nokufwaya ukutinwa.

Umuntu utafwaya kumwalula bamwebati ubukali bwakwe bwa cibanda pantu tomfwapo ku bantu, abyata kwati kampeshi.

As for you, you have a head dress that flashes like lightning!

This is said about those who want others to fear them for their hard hearts.

A person who refuses to take advice is referred to as acting like lightning.

Nsoselo 205

Akatili kafwa kulushinga lwakako

Ukuba abaibukila nefintu tusosa nangu ukucita. Ukubebeta ukumona ifingesa pantanshi pali fwebo.

Epamo nakatili, kesa mukufwa ku lushinga, pantu umwando bapyata ufuma ku mpapa yakako. Abapanga amafunde bantu abene, nomba ciboneka kubati yabantu bambi maka maka ngauli necifulo capamulu. Ku ceshamo palya pa cifulo ngawafumapo, wakusanga ati amafunde mwapangile akukosela.

A steinbuck dies by its own bow string

Be extra careful with what you say or do. Check what effects it has in the long run.

The steinbuck dies from being shot with a bow the string of which has been made from its tendons.

People themselves, especially the ones holding a higher position in society, make laws, and the others are the ones to follow these laws. However, when vacating that higher position, they find the laws to be tough for themselves.

Nsoselo 206

Nkaka ku maboko, ku molu ndokwenda

Tulokukwata umutima wa luse ku banesu pantu nafwe limbi tungasangwa mu mafya amo ene. Umuntu ilyo aba na mafya, niku bantu tubutukila pakuti batwafwe. Nomba kulaba inshita imbi wacelwa ukubweshwa ico wapokele. Umwine nga aisa mukufwaya, tweba ati, unkake ku maboko pakuti ndokubomfya amolu ukwenda mu kufwaya icipe cobe.

Tie my hands so I can go using my legs

Let us give some room to our debtors so that they have time to look for our money or item in question.

When we are in problems, we rush to see neighbours for help. But once you are late to pay back and the owner comes to ask for it, we say: tie my hands only so that I can walk to find your item.

Nsoselo 207

Ndi mumbulu nshilangwa mabinda

Mu milimo naishiba sana tekutipo unange ifyakucita.

Imimbulu ninama shimo ishaishiba amabinda ampanga, elyo shenda ishing. Shalishibikwa mu musango shumfwanimamo pa kulunga nokubesha. Ngecilangilo pakusowa inama, shicita iyasunako kunama ikobutuka kushala ikolya.

I am a wild dog, don't tell me how to hunt

This is my specialisation. I don't need anyone to show me how to do it.

Wild dogs are animals that know all the hunting areas of the wild and they move in large numbers. They are well known for their hunting prowess and organisation. For instance, when chasing an animal, the one that tears a piece from the running animal remains behind to eat.

Nsoselo 208

Cimbwí afwíle ntangalílo

Cimo cimo pakashita kamo. Tubombe imilimo apo amaka esu angatupesha.

Imilimo ngayafula tulingile ukubomba umo umo ukutasendela pamo yonse. We muntu umo wine ulokufwayako ukuya mukutema icitemi elyo nakambi pamo penka utekepo inshima!

Ngawalabomba shani? Lekelako bambi nabo babombe.

The hyena died for wanting to go into two paths

One thing at a time. Let us do our work according to our possibilities.

When there is too much work to be done, let us do one thing at a time. When you plan to go out to cut trees and at the same time you want to cook food, how are you going to do that? Leave other works to be undertaken by others.

Nsoselo 209

Noko wamunobe tekatilwa pa lwino

Ubusunge bucililepo buya ku ba kuifyalila.

Walinga ulokupusanya imibombele nabafyashi ba munobe. Takwaba mufyashi unga kusunga ngabanoko.

Mu lupwa, abafyashi baleshiba ifya kusunga cila umo umo. Lelo teti basunge cimo cine aba mu lupwa bonse.

Your friend's mother will not allow you in the kitchen

Good care will go to the first-degree children.

You must change your behaviour when dealing with your friend's mother. No other woman takes care of you like your own mother.

In a family, the parents know how to treat each one of the members. But they can not similarly take care of all children of the whole extended family.

Nsoselo 210

Uwawa taimina

Cikotukonkomesha ukuba abakwafwana na banensu.

Abena mupalamano ebesa mukwafwa umo nga aba mubwafya pantu takwete amaka. Ilyo we muntu waba namasanso nge cililo, abo wingasubila ukukwafwa bena mupalamano.

Fallen and not able to lift himself up

Be helpful to your neighbours.

Neighbours always help each other out when one of them is powerless. When you have a funeral, the people you expect to come to your aid are your neighbours.



Nsoselo 211

Shimucita panini panini, apokele mwikalafye umukashi

Ukunonka mukubomba akamulimo nangu kacepeshe, pa kulekelesha ukakwatilamo amalipilo ukucila ukwikala fye.

Telyonse wingakwatilamo ishuko lyakukupako uto ukabila mu bumi bobbe. Mu cine ngataukobombesha teti usubile akalusangu ukufuma kuli onse. Iwe ngawaikalafye tapali neco ucita, umwanakashi uwa upwa kumunangani kuti afumako nokwisa upwa kuli iwe pantu ulabombako nokusanga utufwaikwa mu bwikashi bwa muntu.

The man who did the work little by little gained himself the wife of the lazy person

Working, though little by little, in the end will make you receive a reward. Sitting idle will make you lose.

It is not always the case that the essentials to your life are dished out to you as gifts! If you don't work, for sure, don't expect gifts from anyone. When you spend your time lazily, eventually the woman married to you will need a divorce and be married to a laborious man where life will be easier, having life's essentials.

Nsoselo 212

Ubukala bwa mbwa bwingila pacepace

Ukupoka icintu ukofwaya ukufuma ku bantu bambi walinga wapelako akashita/watekanya ukutatwala mukasaku. Ukucita nangu njebe ukwimaka inanda, kulaba ifyakukonka. Icibalilapo kutama injelwa, ashauma elo mwaishiba apa kwimakila. Boneni nakambi mwapekanya ifi fwaikwa fyonse. Fyonse ifi fibe umo fikonkanina. Nga ni kunanda, umutenge eulekelesha. Ensoselo imo kalwila wa buntungwa umuyashi Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe atemenwe ukubomfya ukullosha ku basungu. Ilyo baingilefye muno calo, bakwete ululimi uluweme pa umulandu wa mukuba wesu mpaka batampa ukututeka ngefyallo ifi: Nyasaland, Northern na Southern Rhodesia. Kwali kulwisha sana mpaka baisesa tupa no buntungwa.

The dog's penis enters slowly slowly

When you want to succeed in achieving something important, you must give it time and not be in a hurry. We take an example of building a house, there are steps to follow. The first thing is to mould bricks, when dried then you see where to build. See to it that all the requirements are on site. And so on until putting on the preconstructed roof. One of Zambia's freedom fighters, Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe, liked to use this proverb while referring to the whites. As they came in the early days, they had sweet talk, but because of the rich copper deposits they eventually colonised the countries Nyasaland, Northern and Southern Rhodesia. And it was tooth and nail to remove them out till independence was granted. This is how Kapwepwe felt because the colonisers did not want to give independence to the blacks too soon.

Nsoselo 213

Katili we kanama leka abakulu bakushile isaala

Ulo uli mwaice nabakulu epo bali, calinga waicefya mukucita ifintu pantu nawe akashita kobe takalafika.

Ukuba mwine mushi, kano waikala muli ngulya mushi pakashita akatali pakuti waishiba nabantu walikubonapo. Ukwishiba imisango yabo yonse nawe bakwishibe bwino. Kati mwine mushi afwa, elo bangatontonkanya ukukubikapo kati walinga.

You, steenbok, little animal, let the big ones leave the place to you

When you are still young and elders are there, it is always good to downgrade yourself when doing things because time for you to act will come.

To become a village headman, you need to stay in that village for a long time so that you have come to know the people you'll be leading. Becoming familiar with their behaviour and making sure they're familiar with yours. After the current headman dies, that's when the elders could think of giving you headmanship.

Nsoselo 214

Inama imakene ilalengesha ilele

Ukuba pa ntanshi mukucita ifya bipa kuti basuka abantu babifishishamo nabaikalile. Bwaba kwati bulwele bwa palupwa.

Palupwa ngapali baa bantu abashitekanya mukusosa sosa balengesha nokuti nabalupwa bambi babipilamo pa mulandu obe uwakuitakisha.

A standing animal also endangers the lying animals

Attracting the attention of others by a negative habit also has consequences for the ones related to you that do not stand out negatively.

When a family has talkative members who are not careful with what they say, others may start thinking that all in that family are the same.

Nsoselo 215

Mumbwe ukulila kubona uko ashintile amatako

Mube abaipekanya. Umuntu pakucita cimo amona uko ashintilile amaka.

Calyafya ukupangila ukwipaya insofu ngata ulapekanya ifi fwaikwa. Nangu ukofwaya ukushita icintu, kano wabala wapekanya indalama shakushita ico.

Before the jackal makes a sound, it will make sure it has a hideout

Be well-prepared.

When a person wants to do something difficult, he should know the things required, for instance where to get help.

It is unsound for someone to plan to kill an elephant when he has not prepared what is required. Also, when you want to buy something, you must see to it that you have the money at hand to buy that item.



Nsoselo 216

Akafumbe kantu ufumbete

Sekela mu fintu ukwete.

Akafumbe ako wikete muminwe eko ucetekele ukulya, pantu utuli mumpanga te tobe iyoo. Napa kupekanya icakulya balinga umunani ukwete.

Na mu bwikashi bwesu pakukwata icuma, tulingile ukulinga napo tupelele amaka. Ciba namukufwaisha ifyo mungabomfya pa mananda yesu, uku kumbwa ifyo bambi bakwete tacawamapo, emwisa amano akwiba. Shiteni ifintu ukulingana ne ndalama mukwete, apa pelele amaka enu.

Stick to the little oily mouse in your hand

Be happy with what you've got.

The little oily mouse you are holding in your hand is what you really have for relish, not all those large animals still in the wild or at the butcher's.

In the way we live regarding wealth, we should be happy with what is available, let us not go beyond our limits. This includes the limit what is to be used by the family, not to be swayed by life in our neighbours' homes as this may force us to steal. Buy what matches your budget.

Nsoselo 217

Tailowela ukutumene

Ukutaisunga mu cilabile labile kunga leta amashamo.

Tecakweshu ukulanda ifintu ifyo utangacita we mwine pantu kuti wailetelela.

Ilingi line abantu balasumina mu bufwiti, kanshi ulu ukososa pa cintu bwingi wishibe ifyakusosa pantu kuti wailengesha.

Tacalinga ukusosa ifyo utangacita kwati kusosa ati: uyo onse uwaibile katondolo yanji, nkamulowa. Tawishibe pali lilya ibumba palipo naumo uwakwata amano abufwiti. Ena akesha ukucita elyo ngafyacitika, bakeba ati ni ulya asosele pacintu bwingi, libe teopo kwalifye ukutinya, kanshi ni umbi.

Do not harm yourself by being reckless in talking

Reckless talking may cause misfortune.

It is not advisable to speak over things which you yourself are not involved in or claim knowledge you do not possess.

Imagine you claiming that you can bewitch someone: 'I am going to bewitch the person who stole my sweet potatoes', while you can not do such a thing. Now others will do it, and everybody will conclude that you did it, because you said it yourself.

Nsoselo 218

Mungulube alapaminwa pa ako alya

Ilyo tatula cita icintu conse, tulingile twashininkinsha ukusanga iciine, uku tacita mukasaku!

Munjili bali mupamine pantu ewali kwiba fyakulya mu cifwani.

Ngatwaumfwa ilyashi ili tatusekeshe pafya citika, twalinga twatekanya pantu limbi tukabepesha no muntu ushacitile.

The warthog is beaten for what he has eaten

Before deciding on what to do, we must find the truth and not do things in a hurry!

The warthog is beaten because he was the one stealing food from the field.

If we get messages that do not please us, we have to take them lightly and find out what they mean. This is before we accuse someone who never did it.

Nsoselo 219

Uwapama nafyala, apamina limo

Tekwesha ukukwata mutima wa cifukushi.

Mulutambi lwa ciLala, umuko talinga kwikata banafyala, mulandu. Kanshi ulu kuli ukutosha pakati ka muko nabanafyala, pambi angabapuma pantu ukubekatamo bwaka naco clangs ukubapama.

Ukuba nji nsoselo yapela cilangililo umo taulingile ukushinshikila. Tekwebapo ati eflyo ungacita kupama banoko fyala.

When you intend to beat your mother-in-law, do it fully

Don't be half-hearted.

In the Lala culture, a son-in-law is not allowed to touch his mother-in-law, it is an offence. So, when there would be quarrelling between him and the mother-in-law, he might as well physically beat her because mere touching her is already regarded as beating.

Of course, this proverb comes up with an extreme example of a situation in which you should not be half-hearted. It is not meant as an incitation to beat your mother-in-law.

Nsoselo 220

Nawe, uli icipekepeke icisabi ica mu Lubembe!

Ku mwana utatina balwendo.

Ici sabi cipekepeke bacilinganya ku mwana utatina abalwendo abo teshibe kwati alibeshiba. Ba mupalanya ku cisabi icipekepeke icisangwa mu nika beta Lubembe ici tatina abantu.

As for you, you are the big pekepeke fish in the Lubembe river!

This is said to a child who does not fear strangers.

To a child who is not careful with strangers but goes there as though he knows them. He is likened to cipekepeke fish found in Lubembe river that does not fear people.

Nsoselo 221

Niwe pungwa, munshiponya isako!

Tekwasha ukuyumfwa. Umuntu alinga ukuba uwakwafwa abanankwe ilyo baba mu mafia. Pungwa alishibikwa ukukana ponyapo nangu isako limo panshi. Kwise tola onse masako akopona ulo akopupuka.

Mu mikalalile yesu tatwakwanishapo kukwata fyonse, eico ilyo wasanga ukuti cimo icintu pamo nga umucele, walinga ukuya pokako paba nenu. Nomba ngawaba nga pungwa, ukesa shupikwa kuntanshi ilyo ukabulilwa kamo.

You are the scavenger eagle, the non-dropper of feathers!

Don't be too self-centred. A human being should be helpful to others when they are in problems. The scavenger eagle is famous for never having one of its feathers drop to the ground. It will pick up every feather that falls from its plumage.

The way we live, we don't have all the necessities we require. So, when you miss one thing, say some salt, you have to seek it from your neighbours. Now when you behave like the scavenger eagle you will find it hard once you run short of anything.

Nsoselo 222

Peepe pabena wishí tasalapo

Tekuti lyonse ube 'weka'.

Ulo wafika muncende iyabwangu, calinga waishibana nabena mupalamano obe pantu ebakakwishiba amano obe, nokukwafwa ebakakwafwa.

The he-goat will not choose from his father's family

You can not always 'be yourself'.

When you visit a new area, it is better to get to know those next to you so that they know your behaviour because once in trouble, they will be the ones to help you.



Nsoselo 223

Tabasala nkuni, nobuselekete bonse ninkuni

Tawalinga ukukana ico bakupela ngo bupe. Tekuba uwakusala, lyonse kufwaya fintu ifikulile, notunono nato tuli bwino kuli iwe.

Twaikala mu calo ca malanda ukushingwana no bucushi ubwalekanalekana. Ilyo umo uwa luse akumfwilo luse noku kupa cimo, iwe walinga ukupokelela, tekususha ati kano mwampela cakuti na cakuti. Ne nkuni shine kuteba ishili shonse.

Don't be selective as to firewood, all wood will do

Receive whatever you are given as a gift. Don't be choosy, only wanting the bigger things, also the simple ones are good for you.

We are living in a world with all kinds of problems. Now, when one is so kind to give something to you, you as recipient are supposed to receive, not to choose. Even firewood from other trees can do the same.

Nsoselo 224

Shíkala no mwabo

Bikeniko onse amano kufintu mwapelwa.

Bomfyeni italanta mwaba nalyo ukucila kwesha ifyo mushapelwa ifyo mutali nokucita.

Nshimu shaishibikwa cipi cipi nomwabo, mubumi bwabo bonse. Takwabapo ukulekaleka ukwesha fimbi ukucila mukusenda mwabo wakupangila ubuci.

Bees with nectar

Focus on what's been given to you.

Take advantage of your talent instead of trying all kinds of things you weren't meant to do.

Bees are always associated with nectar, for all their lives. That's their thing. They don't change for any other livelihood than nectar collection, in order to make honey.

Nsoselo 225

Niwe pungwa ukolelemba, nabashukile bakotola lelo!

Sumina kuli mbo abanga kwafwa.

Ba pungwa nangu ifyuni fimbi filangilila abantu apali icakulya/ maka maka inama. Ulo abantu ngabaya nkulya, cacine balasanga inama ilifwile. Nangu pungwa aba uwakuibwenesha, alafwa bambi kusanga buswete.

Incito shaba ishapusana pusana. Mbalya basambisha babomba bwaka, nomba mwenka mulya emufuma intungulushi shiteka. Abalengele nimbalya baba sambishe pakuti babe pali mfilya fifulo ifyo bataibukilepo.

You are a scavenger eagle hovering, and the lucky ones are going to pick meat!

Recognise those who (could) help you.

Scavenger-eagles and other birds that hover in the sky acknowledge to the people that there is an animal killed there. And when people go there for sure they find a dead animal. So, even though the scavenger eagle is very self-centred, it helps others to find meat.

There are many different types of work. The teachers do their work of teaching the young and others become leaders. However, the main reason they hold such high positions is their teachers. Will they be aware of that?

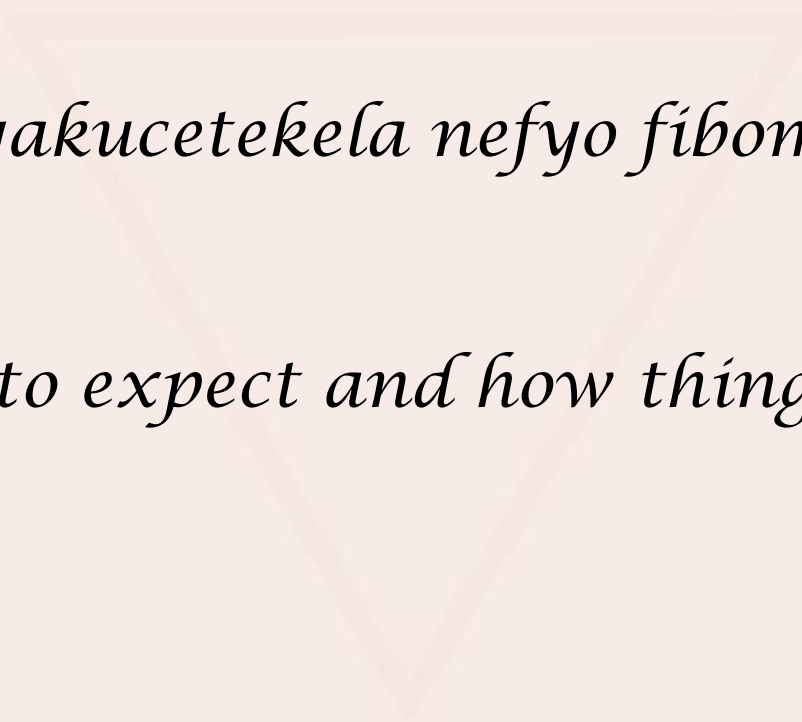
Nsoselo 226

Nawe, uli shikilwe taumfwa!

Nji nsoselo ilabilwa ku muntu uuli be miya ya kutomfwa nokukana sumina ifunde.
Ngataukoumfwapo ifyo abanobe bakososa ninshi mu buntu tawabamo.

As for you, you are resolute in not listening!

This is said to a person who is stubborn when it comes to listening and taking advice.
If you don't take good advice from friends, then you are not worth being a human being.



Ifyakucetekela nefyo fibomba

What to expect and how things work

Nsoselo 227

Mwaume, kasembe

Efilandwa pa fintu ifyendela pamo.

Ukwitwa ati mwaume mu bumi bwakwe kano ali na kasembe lyonse, icilanga ukuti wamilimo.

Ukwikala kwesu fwe balala ne mitundu imbi, umuntu pakuya mu kupa kano asenda isembe ico iciba Icilangililo cakuti uyu muntu ali kaaba wa milimo, talipo umunang'ani.

Isembe lilanga ukuti kuti amupususha ulo mwaba mu bwafya bwakusanswa ne ciswango!

A man, an axe

This is said of two things that are supposed or required to be closely connected.

A man in real life needs his axe very much as he uses it for all kind of purposes. Therefore, "to be regarded as a man" one must always carry an axe, a symbol of being laborious, able to work.

The way we live as Lala people, and in other regions: when a man goes out to marry, he should carry an axe, as a symbol for being energetic in doing work and not being lazy. Also, a weapon, the axe shows that you will save or take care of others when confronted by a wild animal trying to attack.

Nsoselo 228

Tabatana mucele munama, ngokalonga kwisa?

Kwaliba ifintu ifyaikatana, cimo cifwaikwa mu cinakwe.

Ilyo mwanakashi aipika inama mu nongo, pakuti iyi nama yumfwike bwino, kano babikamo umucele. Nomba kati taulungile ngu mucele wakulunga mwisa? Efyo umunani uuli onse ufwaya pakuti umuntu ukosa kulya omfwike bwino.

Why not add salt to the meat, for what else will you use it?

There are certain things that form perfect combinations and can not be separated.

When a woman is cooking meat in a pot, for it to taste well salt has to be added to it. Then if you have no salt, what are you going to do? It is what all relishes require so that when a person comes to eat it, it tastes well. There's no meat without salt.

Nsoselo 229

Icíkolo kolo cikubepa, cufi munobe mukwanu

Umwana wabene mutaupilapo pamo angakubepa ukucila uo mwaikatana mu cupo. Ulo waupila mu nanda, umunobe nao aisa kupilamo mweko mo, mwe nomba babili mwaba abanankanshi mu cupo. Ifyo angomfwa kubuko bakolabila pali we, akesa kukucenjeshako.

An outsider may cheat you, while a brother in marriage is your brother

An outsider who is not connected to you in any way may cheat you while the ones you are connected to in marriage will not.

Suppose you marry in a home and another one will also marry in the same family. Now you two are brothers in marriage. When one hears what the in-laws say about the other, he will warn/inform him accordingly.

Nsoselo 230

Abakulu babwene ulukasa lwa nkalamo kabashikapo

Ukuba ngo mukulu uwa mano, kukwata amano aku shinshintila ifintu ifingaleta ulupato, nangu umwenso ku baice.

Umukulu ali nabaice mu mpanga elyo abwene apapitile ulukasa lwa nkalamo. Atontonkenye ukushikapo ukuteba abaice ico abona. Atinine ati nganabeba ninshi bonse balakwata umwenso, tatwaendepo bwino.

The elder saw the lion's paw print on the sand and wiped it out

A wise person always tries to avoid bringing out things to the public that may cause confusion or fear.

An older man went hunting with young people. Then he spotted a lion's footprint on the ground. He rubbed off the print and did not inform the young ones about it. He feared that if he told them, everyone would become even more afraid, and the hunt would not go well.



Nsoselo 231

Amano mambulwa

Amano twakwata afuma ku mano acifyalilwa ku benji. Tulapandashanya amano na banensu umo twaikala. Takwabapo umuntu ufyalwa namano, pantu amano twisa muku asanga panwe sonde. Ilingi line ngatatwishibe ifyakucita ne cintu cimo, twalinga twaipusha pakuti abacishibile batwebako ifyakucita. Yaliisa amasukulu umo tuya mukunonka amano, ayo nafwe tungapelako abanensu abateshibilepo ayo bakofwaya.

Ukukwata amano ayo utakobomfyapo ninshi na pindu tapapo, cimo nokutayakwatapo. Awayabomfya, nabanobe kuti bakutasha nokusambililako.

Wisdom is acquired

The wisdom we have is the product and heritage of many. We share ideas and knowledge with the ones we know. No one is born with knowledge: we come to find it here on earth.

When we don't know how to go about with an issue, we must ask so that those with the know-how can tell us how to go about with it. And at school we learn knowledge which we can pass on to those in need.

To be knowledgeable and not using this knowledge means there is no justification for you to have acquired it. When you use it for others you are likely to be praised by your friends and at the same time they learn from you.

Nsoselo 232

Akana kabubele bunkumbwa

Icakubalilapo cila tentembwa sana. Ubwafya bonse buleta ubulanda ku bafyashi.

Umwana ibeli alatentembwa sana ukucila bambi, elyo ngakwacitike cibipile kuli ngu, cilaleta ubulanda sana.

The first-born is sorrow

The first-born is adored more than the ones following. Every trouble that this child has is felt like sorrow by the parents.

With the first-born child utmost care is taken and should something bad happen to him/her this brings more sorrow.

Nsoselo 233

Aka kubulile mfwa yaba noko, limo kalabile

Ilyashi libipile lilendesha kwenda; sumina ico wabalilapo ukupokelela.

Umuntu uuli pa lwendo, ngabamutuma ukutwala ilyashi. Lyakuti bacite nabacite mukabebe ati banyinenwe balifwile. Ifyo alabila pamuku umo mulingile ukufikonka.

Who ever informs you of your mother's death, will have only one thing to say

Bad news travels fast; accept what you get first.

Imagine a person on a journey is asked to pass the message to you that your mother has passed away. He will not know more than this, so it is useless for you to start asking questions. So, you must take what he says as it is.

Nsoselo 234

Akabwelelo kalafya

Ukubwelela inuma kula twala mu mafya.

Abantu abaupana, ilingi balapusana mu mikalile batampa noku tosha nangu ukulwa.

Pa miku iinji lyonse kulwa, icishele balalekana, pakuti baya ikalila umo umo.

Umuye nshiku limbi umwaume nangu umwanakashi atemwa ukubwelela nakambi mu cupo.

Icikonkapo balya bantu kutampa nakambi ukushupana limbi mwaisa fuma nemfwa ya umo.

Epa fuma nanji nsoselo.

Retracing your footsteps may be risky

U-turning sometimes is dangerous.

Married couples at times differ in their homes, resulting in quarrelling or even fighting. If this continues, they decide to separate to live lives alone. As days pass, they may decide to live together again. But eventually they go back to fights which may result one of them losing life. This proverb is based upon this.

Nsoselo 235

Ku mbonshi takuya ubwela

Fimbi ifyo mwalwile tafibwelelapo ifyo fyali. Mube nokwishiba ulo mukosuminisha pa lwakwalula.

Mu buntunse bwesu, abantu abafwa balabashika ku mbonshi ya mishi uko amatontonkanyo esu atupela ukulanguluka ati tabakabwele nakambi. Ku mbonshi kuba ukwatikama eco ne manda shabafwa eko babika.

From the west no one returns

Certain changes are irreversible. Therefore, take care when making big decisions.

In our Lalaland the west is regarded to be not good for living, people who die are buried at the western side of the villages. To the west it's thick and that's why cemeteries of the dead are placed in the west.

Nsoselo 236

Ubucilanshila tabwafya

Mubwikashi bwesu tamwafya amafya umo twikala.

Ulo twafyalwa tulasanga amafya ayo tuli nokupitamo. Mu calo mwaba naba tupata kanshi ubwafya bwalikwisa palifwe.

Crossing roads is inevitable

In the way we live, we will not be free from problems we have to go through.

When we are born, we find problems through which we must go. In this world there are some people who hate you, so be prepared for problems befalling you.

Nsoselo 237

Abapalu tabendela mwiyaamba limo

Abantu bakwata imilimo imo ine tabafwaya ukubombela pamo.

Abapalu banama ilingi tabafwayapo ukwendela pamo pantu imisango babomfya pakwipaya inama yalipusana. Eico tekuti afwaye umunabo ukwishiba.

Master hunters will not go together on a hunting trip

People with similar special skills do not like to work together.

Master hunters do not like to go hunting together because their methods of hunting animals are different. They do not want others to know how they do it.



Nsoselo 238

Ikanga ililele insala kumutwi mupupulo

Ngawa pusa icilefwaikwa cimo, nasyonse fimbi filakosa.

Ikanga litalile bushiku bwafumapo talilalapo ukufikapo pantu mutwi uba uwaipekanya ngakwa citikapo cimo ubushiku.

Umo twaikalila panshita imo, tukumanya amafya ngo afwaya ukuya bombelapo lwenkolo.

Mpakafye yabombelwepo, tatwaikalile. Yakula tupela bwafya bwakulanguluka. Mpaka ubwasuko buboneke epakuti amano ekalile.

A hungry guinea fowl may sleep but its head is always on guard

When you miss one relevant thing, everything else is harder.

A guinea fowl that had no food the previous day will not sleep fully as the head will always be alert in case something strikes at night.

In our daily dealings at one point, we will encounter a problem that needs an urgent solution. But until that solution is found, we shall not be at ease. It will give us headaches. Only when a solution is found will our minds be free again.

Nsoselo 239

Abapushí taba fwayanapo

Ukuitemwa ekulenga abantu uku kana fwaya ukuba pamo ukutontonkanya ati nakalimo tafyatukumane.

Abantu abanang'ani abaikalila fye ukulomba lomba tabafwaya bantu bambi nabena ukulomba pa ncende bekalila kano nibofye beka.

Beggars do not like each other

Selfishness draws people away from loving each other, thinking that there will be not enough for all of them.

Lazy people who only want to live an easy life, would not like other lazy ones in their village since that might expose them.

Nsoselo 240

Mwimbona mamba mu numa nine nafyele imbeka

Wikwata ubupingushi pafyo ubwene kunse.

Nangu ningaboneka uwafiko, lelo ifyo nabomba teti musumine ati nine nafibombe.

Kwaliba bana abanansungu abaweme sana icakwebati awabona banyinabo, tekuti usuminepo ati ebabafyele. Kanshi twilasula ifyo abantu bamoneka. Nibani beshiba ati uyu namayo akafyala kateka wa calo? Takwabapo.

Don't look at the dirt on my back, it is me who has produced the beautiful one

Don't base your judgement on outward appearances.

I look dirty, so you can't believe that I was the one who did this.

There are beautiful girls and when you happen to see their mothers, you might be amazed. So let us not make conclusions based on the way people look. Who can know which woman is or will be the mother of a president governing a country? There is no one.

Nsoselo 241

Umukulu nga awa tafya kabepesho

Ulo twapanga icilubo, tususha abaibelele ukuba ne cilubo. Fimbi fintu fipona bwaka nomba cilatukosela ngafya citika kuli ifwe.

Twalinga ukubomfya amano ambi nokusumina ati tungafilwa. Tepakuletela lyashi limbi ukufilwa kumfwisha ifikomo.

When adults fall down/fail, they will look for excuses

Whenever we make a mistake, we try to blame someone or something else. Certain things just happen but we find it challenging when they happen to us.

We need to change our mindset and accept that sometimes we'll fail. Don't make up stories or ignore the facts.

Nsoselo 242

Akanama wingishe ku bwimba, takakatashapo kwimba

Icicetekelo ne subilo filangusha imilimo.

Tatusakamana ukuti apa ndeimba akanama palikosa pantu tuleshiba ukuti ako tukoimba kali panshi apa, kanshi epa kukosa sana mpaka tukembe. Nci cilatupela ukukosa muku kutaibwelamo.

Ulo twimba imbeba, shilafuma nokubutukila mu kwaingila ku memba ambi. Pantu wasakushibona ku menso obe, epa kukwata icicetekelo nokutaibwelamo.

The little animal that entered its hole while you were chasing it, will not be difficult to dig out

It's easier to work when you have hope and expectations.

We do not mind even if the ground is very hard to dig. We continue to do that because we know the little animal is there underground. This gives us determination and prevents us to despair.

When you go out to dig mice, they will come out running fast and enter other holes. Just because you saw them with your own eyes, you will have more determination and despair less easily.



Nsoselo 243

Ulushaba lumu lwaimishe mfumu pa cipuna

Akantu nelyo kacepe shani, imbi inshita kalakwata umucinshi wakuka konkela. Indupwa shilakwata inshita yakulilamo icakulya.

Nomba palaba limbi ilyo mukolya, pakulya penka mwaponyapo cimo ico muli nokubomfya, tamwaikale fye, mwalaima mukubula cilya cintu pakuti mukonkanyepo ukulya.

Ngefyo nji nsoselo ikolabila, imfumu yalikulya kapansha nomba lumu ulubalala kalupona, elyo imfumu yaimine mukutola ndulya lubalala

One peanut forced the chief to leave his throne

How small a thing may be, at one time you will be forced to go and do something with it. Small cases can have big consequences.

There are times when you are eating and something drops on the ground. You will not let it, you will stand to pick it so that you continue eating.

The chief was eating some peanuts. One dropped and the chief had to leave his throne just to pick it up.

Nsoselo 244

Ameno mafupa

Mu bwikashi bwesu, telyonse ungatetekela ukweba ati abanandi balintemwa ku fintu ubona. Ulo pakati kenu nabanobe kwalubana, nabakupata nabo bakulaisa pa nanda yobe nokulanga ukuseka sana. Nawe pakubona ameno abo ulo bakoseka, ukeba ati balintemwa libe balikupata. Ifili mukati kabo fimbi.

Teeth are just bones

Even though a person may laugh at you, you can not know what's inside him/her. When there are differences with your friends, even those who hate you will be visiting your home and enjoy laughing with you. When you see their teeth as they laugh, never conclude that there is mutual friendship when there is hatred. You never know what's inside of them.

Nsoselo 245

Nafwe nsonso, lelo balokwisa abalwendo

Uku neng'ena kwa ncende imo iya mubili kulangapo fimo.

Kulaba inshita imo ilyo icipeni cisunkana libililibili kwati kututuma, nangu mu minwe nangu mukati ka lukasa mwaneng'ena ninshi mwishibe ati twalapokelapo fimo nangu kwalacitikapo cimo.

I have this tingling in the sole of my foot, visitors are coming today

The tingling of any part of the body indicates something to happen.

There are times when for instance the eyelids behave differently by shaking automatically. The tingling means something will happen at your place or somewhere else. This may be the coming of visitors or another event taking place.

Nsoselo 246

Pacaabu, betapo uwo wishi

Ukubombela muli cilupwa nangu ifibusa pakubala.

Akashita nenshita, ifingi tufwaya ukubombela indupwa ne fibusa. Calyanguka ukupele cilangililo ca muntu waishiba ngokososa kwi bumba, ukucila umuntu umbi utakwishiba.

Nowabusha abantu pa caabu (apo abantu babukila inika) mwakusanga'ti aitapo abo eshibile ngale ukubabusha ilyo atangatampa ukwabusha bambi.

At the ferrying point they start first with friends and relatives

Consideration of family and close friends before others is normal.

Priority is given to close friends and relatives before others. This is mostly seen at a ferrying point in the river. The ferryman will start with relatives/friends before others are given the service of being ferried.

It is easier to give a close friend's name as an example when addressing a public meeting, rather than that of the unknown people.

Nsoselo 247

Bangoshe tabalala culu cimo / lupako lumo

Taufwayapo kwakana nabambi. Napo niwe ngoshe nomba?

Insoka ishikali tashilala mu culu cimo nangu ulupako lumo pantu shonse shila yumfwa ukuwata amaka no bukali.

Naku bantu bene, ba fundi tabafwaya ukwendela pamo pantu kwalibako fimo fimo ifyo batangafwaya umunabo ukwishiba. Fyonse ifi ni bukaitemwe, tabafwaya ukupelako amano abo kunabo, kano beka ebaishibikwa.

Two black mambas will never share one anthill / one hole in a tree

You do not want to share with others. Are you a black mamba then?

Two big poisonous snakes will not share one anthill/one hole in a tree. They need their own territory in which they can show their strength.

This also applies to human beings. Hunters do not want to go out hunting in big numbers because they do not want others to know their methods of hunting. They do not want to share ideas.

Nsoselo 248

Nĩ lambwe mu nongo, mu mpanga mulume munobe

Ulo utushita twapusana, nafimbi mo filakwata ukwalulwa muku wamya.

Inama mpanga lintu tailafwa, kulaba ukuitina sana pantu ciswango lelo ilyo yaipaiwa nokwipikwa mu nongo, tapaba icaku itina pantu nomba munani.

Umuntu uwatemwa ukucusha abanankwe mu misango iyalekana lekana pantu alikwatisha amaka, inshita ikesa ilyo ayo maka akapwa icakuti nomwaice akakume.

A fierce animal in the wild, stew in the pot

When the circumstances change, many things can change for the better.

In the wild we have so many animals which we can eat but they are fierce. One needs to be bold/brave to hunt it. But once killed the fierce one becomes relish.

A person who likes to trouble others for no apparent reasons, a bully, at one time will change when he has no power, for instance because of being injured or growing old.

Nsoselo 249

Abenda ebaleta makasa a nkalamo

Abenda na makasa ebo bakapela mulandu kumulandu wakuba ne fitala uku tomfwapo. Ngatawenda nangu ukutandala, ilingi line teti twishibe ifikocitika muncende shimbi. Pantu mukwendauka emo twisa mukubela mu malyashi ashilingile we muntu ngatawaba bwino mu misango.

We muntu abantu ngabalikwishiba ku misango iibi, ifikacitika kumbi nimwe bakatunganya, tabakalole kumbi iyo. Kanshi twiluke ukuti twalinga ukuba abantu abenenene.

Travellers bring the footprints of the lion

Travellers will be blamed more easily, especially when they are rude or vague. If you don't go out visiting other people, you will not know what goes on around you. But if you travel very much, in the end this traveling might make you the suspect for any wrongdoing. If you are known to be a bad person, whatever happens somewhere else, it is you they will suspect, they will not suspect others. So, we should be really well-mannered people.



Nsoselo 250

Abo ndoka ndabebelapo limo

Fyonse fitupela ukwiluka pa fikoisa ku ntanshi.

Pa kubomfya mfi ifilangililo, tulekala abaiteyanya.

Mfi filandwa ne Mfula yangula naba Lesa kupitila muli bambi. Ngawapanga icilubo pa kupapa imfula, kutampa kubomfya ifilangililo fyakweba ati imfula ikoisa ngo kucinkulwako.

I rain upon those whom I have warned already

Everything gives us a glimpse of what's to come.

By using these signs, we're better prepared.

This proverbial line is said by the rain or by Lesa. Once you have made the mistake of being surprised by the rain, you start using the signs of rain coming as a warning.

Nsoselo 251

Icupo nimpwa, nangu shalula twalikulyako

Mu cintu conse tukofwaya ukucita, mwaliba amafya ayo twingasangamo.

Mu cupo mwaliba amafya abaupana basangamo, telyonse muba insansa iyoo. Kanshi tulingile ukushipa sana pakuya cimfya.

Marriage is like an eggplant, though bitter we shall continue eating

With anything we get involved in, we will encounter difficulties to overcome.

It is not always that married couples are happy, there are problems encountered there. We must stay strong to overcome them.

Nsoselo 252

Uluse lwalile nkwalé

Ukukwata uluse ku bantu abashitontontokanya bwino kulaletelela.

Kulaba limbi wakongweshwa umunobe ka ngwee pantu ali mubwafya ubukulu. Nomba inshita mwapangene ukuti abweshe yapita. Nomba we mwine ukuti uyeko mukwipusha, kusanga ifyo akoasuka tafilolelele, nokwebati: kwati pali kandalama kabo! Nkakupa nganakabona.

Mercy may bring hatred

Being merciful to people may turn against you in the end.

Imagine a friend borrows money from you because she is in difficult times. And when time comes to repay, she begins to make a fool of you, by saying: "Are you coming for that little money? I shall pay back when I have it." You may lose your friend ... and your money.

Nsoselo 253

Amano afuma mwifwesa aya muculu

Tekwebapo ati bakulu beka bakwata amano akufunda. Angafuma kuli bonse.

Nomwaice kuti abafunda pantu amano mambulwa pambi efyo umwaice aumfwile ifyo mwe mwebakulu muteshipo.

Umwaice ilyo ali ku sukulu, kulaba ifintu fimo ifyo abakulu bataishibapo ena aya fisambilila nowise fundako abakulu.

Knowledge comes from the small plain anthill and goes to the big anthill

It is not true that elders have all the knowledge. It can come from everybody.

A young child may also teach the elders from what he/she was taught by others. Maybe the child heard something the elders didn't know.

When at school, a child learns all kinds of knowledge which it can pass on to the elders.

Nsoselo 254

Insoka kusuma bwimba kupela

Kusumwa ku nsoka ninshi ubwimba bwapela. Ukucita icintu ngatapali fimbi ifyakucita.
Pamo nge nsoka lintu yabutukila ku bwimba, ifwaya ukupusuka! Nomba ngawakonkanyapo ukwimba naena amano alapwa ngo bwimba bwapela.
We muntu ngawa pelelwa amano, taukwete cimbi icakucita kulaba nomba kucita ico tawacilafwaya kucita mukupusuka.

A snake will only bite when it comes to the end of its lair

When people feel that there is no alternative, they need to act instantly without much further consideration.

When a snake flees into its ground hole, the whole idea is to be saved from the intruder. But when the intruder persists, it will turn round to defend itself by biting.

Whenever someone is in trouble and there's no other way out, they'll do what they feel will save them.



Nsoselo 255

Mwana pabo tabifya masha

Abantu bafwaya ukulolesha sana kuli mbo bataishiba (bwino).

Ukutali kwenu teti usubile ukutashiwa nangu ucite ciweme shani.

Mwe ngomba sha fila ngamwaile kukumanina kumbi, balya abapali incende bakatasha fye ingomba shabo epela.

Your own people do not spoil the dancing

People tend to more critical towards the ones they do not know (well).

Do not expect to be praised when you visit other places, even if you do the right things.

When dancers from different areas meet at a given place, those from that same area will be praised in comparison to the visiting dancers.

Nsoselo 256

Akanwa ka milandu keene kaitubulula

Ngoli no mulandu uulingile ukutekanya, ukuteka mutima pantu kuti wailetelela mufyo ukososa, nabantu baishiba ati niwe wacitile. Ukukana teka umutima kuti wailetelela.

Icintu icabipa nga nacitika pancende imo, we wacitile ngawatemwa utwakulabila labila, abantu bakeshiba'ti ewa citile, pantu tasungilepo akanwa kakwe.

The guilt of the mouth will be known from what comes out of it

Things may get worse when you are talkative on issues related to what you are accused of. Never become too loose in such issues.

When something bad has happened in a locality, never be in the forefront taking a leading role in discussing over it. People will suspect you to be involved because you have not kept your mouth.

Nsoselo 257

Ishuko lya munobe tabalilalila panse

Enco bebela ati cila muntu alapelwa ishuko, tekwebati bonse nomba mwalikuli nama shuko. Kwaliba inshita imo iyo tunukulamo ubowa. Ubowa buntu bwayafya ukunukula nga cakuti tamulipo neshuko bulya bushiku. Kuti mwaenda imilundu iingi ukwabula ukunukulapo. Boneni, abanenu ukwisa kupita umo mwasa mukwenda, bo baisa kunukula, pantu mwe mwasa mukupishapo bwaka amenso.

Your friend's luck is not yours as well

All people have some luck ... but not all at the same time. There is a time when we pluck mushroom. And you will see that it is difficult to do this when that day is not yours. See what happens! In the same area where you are going through, others have got these mushrooms. Now they are all gone!

Nsoselo 258

Icílonda cílonde nshíku

Mukupusana kwamilandile nomunobe ngakwali ukubi, kulasungwa mu mutima na munshiku shakuntanshi ishikoisa.

Umunobe nga akulufyanya caliba icishupile ukulabukilako, kanshi ciba ukwenda naco mpaka yangula akese kupapata.

A wound will haunt you for days

When you differ with a friend in words, the anger is kept also in the days to come.

When a friend wrongs you, it is difficult to forget about it until he/she comes to apologise.

Nsoselo 259

Umwana wa munobe, mukulu munobe

Tekuti wishibe ifyo umwana wamunobe akesa kuba nga akula kuntanshi.

Mubwikashi bwesu, twaliba nefibusa ifyaba nabana.

Aba bana besa mukukula, limbi filya fine basela apo pancende nokuya ikala kumbi. Ulo papita imya iyingi, balya bana pambi balyupa nokufyala abana. Pali mbalya bana paisa kufuma umo nokupila mu nanda yobe. Ninshi ulya mwana wa munobe asanguka umukulu munobe, mwebafyashi babili mwalenga abana babo ukupana.

Your friend's child may become very close to you

Even when you know a person or a case well, it is still hard to know what will happen in the future.

For instance, you are not able to know what your friend's children will become in future.

In the way we live, we have friends who have children. Some of these children when growing up may have shifted to other places. Many years later, those same children might have married and have children who could come marry in your family! That friend's child will become very close to you because of that marriage.

Nsoselo 260

Icikwanka bacibwena kumampalanya

Ku fintu ifyo umuntu acita mu bwikashi bwakwe emo bamumwena ifyo aba.

We muntu nga uli kape kape kuti abantu baishiba ati uyu muntu waluse, pantu taifinya iyoo.

The help you get is based on what they saw you do

People will judge a person based on what they have witnessed him do in his life.

If you are fond of giving gifts, people will know you as that type of person, even if this is a simplification of your personality.

Nsoselo 261

Icikupempula ecikulya

Ukucenjela nefibusa ifitupempula.

Abantu balipusana mumano. Bambi bafwaya ukonaula ifyupo nangu bucibusa pakati kenu.

Umunobe kuti akokutandalila libili libili ukwabula iwe ukuti wishibe amano akwe. Bambi batampa nokufwaya umukashi wamunabo, mukasanga ifyupo fyaonaika. Limbi mukutandala kwabo bali namano akwiba icipe cimo icabasekesha pananda yobe.

Who visits you regularly, may break your marriage

Be careful with people who visit you regularly.

People have different motives. There are those who want to disturb marriages or friendships. You may receive regular visitors without knowing their intentions. One of them may propose to your wife which may lead to a disbanded marriage. Others may plan to steal something good from your house during their visit.



Nsoselo 262

Mwenka muli buno buno nemfwi nefishamena

Fyonse fintu fyalikwata munshila fipita. Kwaba mu fitentekwa ifya kukonka.

Cilangililo cakuti ngokofwaya ifibusa fimbi fingilemo muku kwafwa kupwisha bwafya. Muku pwishisha bonse bwafya, kano twaumfwa na malangulushi abo.

As the days pass one by one, grey hair also grows

All things have a trajectory. There are certain steps you have to take.

For example, we may need to involve outside friends in problem solving. This is a step on our way to a lasting solution: we need their views.

Nsoselo 263

Ukucenjela kwa nkoko, pungwa tasakamana

Icintu nga ukocifwaisha, nangu bambi bafwaye ukufisa, iwe kano ukacikwate pantu inshita tailafika iya kucikwata.

Inkoko ilyo yakwata utwana utunono, kwaliba icuni pungwa icifwaya ukusenda utwana no kulya. Inkoko ileeshako ukufukatila bwino utwana. Nomba kulaba inshita ilyo yalabako, elintu pungwa apona nokwisa ikatapo kano nangu tubili ngana twikala apepi sana. Kanshi pungwa alindila fye inshita yonse.

No matter how clever the hen, the scavenger-eagle is never worried

Even if others or circumstances prevent you from getting something you want, when the time is right, you'll get it.

When mother hen has little ones, there is a bird that always want to get one of the chicks as food. The mother hen tries all means to keep the number intact, but there is a time when it forgets that the bird is there, and she loses one or two. The bird always waits to pounce.

Nsoselo 264

Ubwafwa ninsokolola twebho

Ukulabila pamuntu ukolelwe, alalabila ifingi ifyo atanga labila ngata nwenepo, ukushipa kubafye akashita akanono.

Shimbi inshita, ifyo mulabila kati mukolelwe fingamubika mu bwafya pantu limbi kuti fyacena abo abakumineko mu lyashi mukolabila.

Beer is the revealer of cases

Said of people who under the influence of beer, reveal more than they would normally dare to do, being brave for only a short time.

What you reveal when you're drunk, could lead to problems because you may provoke people who are worried about the case.

Nsoselo 265

Ako usulile, ekopa noko

Twilakwata ukusula pantu tatwishiba ifyakuntanshi.

Tacalingapo ukusula ilyo icintu tacilapwa, pantu ifyo tumona ku menso limbi filatubepa. Nelingi umo twaikala kuti wasanga ukuti ilyo banoko balifwilwa, teti wishibe abangabopa, namailo waisa mukubeta ukuti eba wiso, abo wasulile.

The one whom you underrate, may marry your mother

We shouldn't ignore or underrate others, since we don't know what comes ahead.

Judging merely based on your own criteria may lead you to be the loser. In our way of traditional living a father may die, and the mother then may marry again at a later time. So, your stepfather might be one of those men you always see.

Nsoselo 266

Tabasuula kalonde kakale

Ifya kale angula abakulu tababa ifinangwana no kusulwa.

Ukubomfya nangu ukusala ico waishibapo kale ukucila icabwangu.

Mukusala ifibombelo ifyo bakuletela, walinga ukusala ico wabomfyapo kale pantu walicishiba nefyo cibomba, pantu limbi ngawasenda icabwangu ngatacaishibila ilya ncito, tapali ico ukacita. Nangu naukwatapo umulimo uko kabilwa ukubombekwa pabantu abalofwaya ukubomba, walinga wasendapo umo nangu abo ababombapo kale pantu uyu mulimo baliwishiba kale.

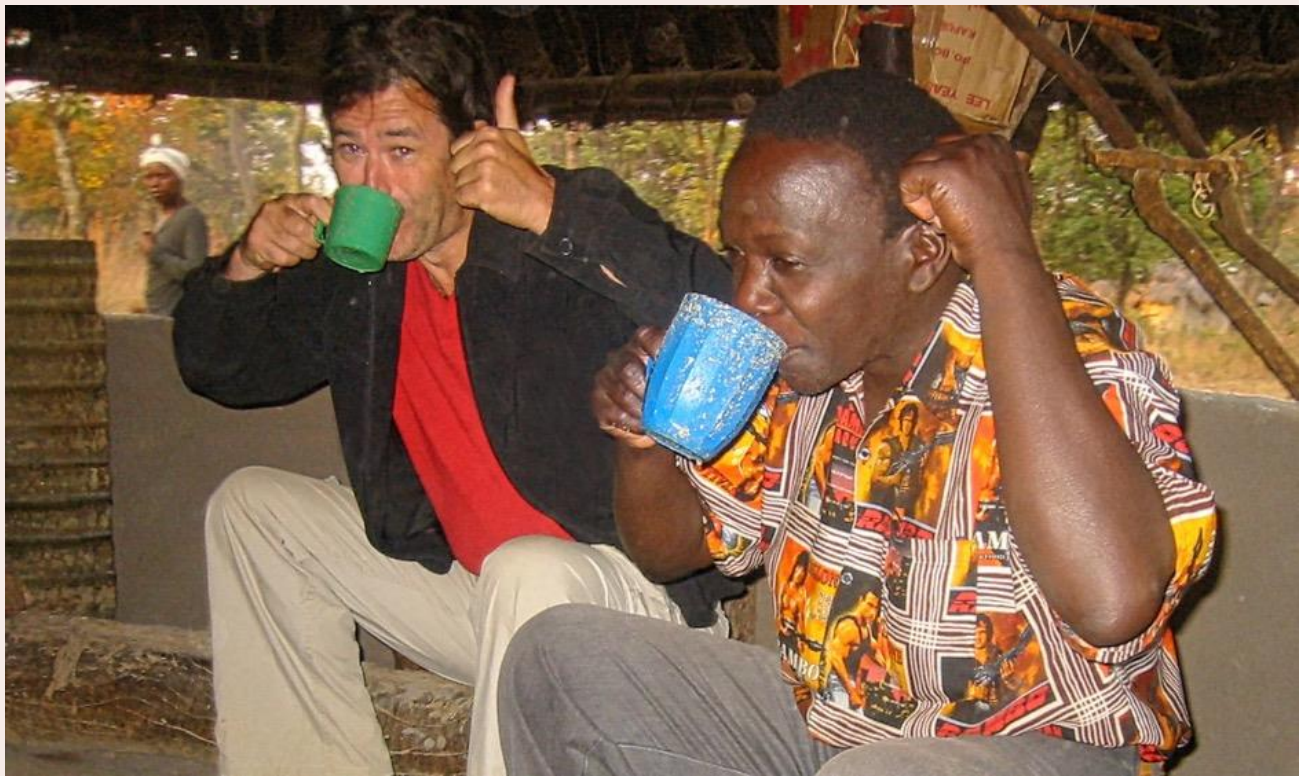
Do not shun to use an old hoe

Old things or older people are not worthless.

Pick from the two or more items the one you are used to/or the one you had used previously.

Among equipment in front of you it is better to pick those you once used because you already know how they operate. Because if you pick a new one not accustomed to that work, you will fail.

Or if you have some work to be done, it is better to pick among the job seekers those who have the know-how about that work.



Nsoselo 267

Akanwa kamo takomfwa bwalwa

Mu bwingi emuli amano. Umo teti asuminishe ukuti fili bwino.

Ifyakulya nefyakunwa fimo fimo fyalinga abengi basoonda pakuti mukwate icishinka ukuti nafiwama pamo ngo bwalwa. Ukuwama kwa bwalwa bwingalenga abantu ukusansamuka kano utunwa utwingi twasoonda.

One mouth doesn't taste the beer

Wisdom is the product of many. The opinion of more people is needed to declare how good or bad something is.

Certain foods and drinks need more than one person to have foretastes before concluding that the stuff is fit –enough alcoholic contents as for drinks and palatable for foods– or bad.

It's to make sure what visitors want is worth their money. Good beer will make them happy and enjoyable.

Nsoselo 268

Kalubula ukuswa nipa lulembo

Conse icintu caliba ne ntulo. Icishininkisho ci kankala sana.

Nangu uko cafuma kwati ngefyo amwabona kalubula ninshi mwishibe ati nipa kalonda nangu pa lulembo afuma.

Nelyashi licitika mu mishi, nganiwe bakolumbula ati ewa sendele ninshi balikubwene, tekuti bakulumbule bwaka iyoo.

Blood oozing is from an inoculation

Everything has a source where it comes from. Evidence is important.

Now when you would see blood flowing on a person's arm, it is coming from the inoculation that has just been set.

This also goes to news in villages. When people accuse you of having stolen things, it means you were seen stealing. They couldn't mention you for nothing.

If there is an indication for something, it is not unlikely that it is true but to be sure it is better to first see the evidence.

Nsoselo 269

Uteka atekela bonse

Ukwakana caliba bwino. Ukusunga ifyakwakanya ciweme.

Ngawasunga ifintu, twebwe ati icakulya, kwishibila limo ati nabambi bakafwaya ukubapako. Neci ngalenga ukuti besungapo icili conse nico tabaikwitepo.

Mubulimi bwa fyakulya, abali nefingi balakanyako nambo abakwete utunono. Tulokwibukile ati twalinga twayafwako nabambi. Ici cikumine naku masambililo, uulingile ukwafwa bambi abatakwete bwafwilisho bwakuya pa ntanshi mu masambililo.

Your keeping is the keeping for all

Sharing is normal. Keeping for sharing is good.

When you keep something, for instance food, just know that also others will want to take part. The simple reason for them to have not kept something is that they did not get satisfied, while you got satisfied.

In farming food, those with abundant food share with those who have too little. We keep in mind that we must support others. This also is connected to educational standards; you will try to help others who have no support for further education.

Nsoselo 270

Akasha kalala apali mutima

Ukucita icintu ico ukofwaya nomo ukofwaila.

Umuntu alikwata kampingu wakucita ico akofwaya, ngafilya tubona utuni ukwikala pa misambo apo tukofwaya utwine.

No muntu nao engila incito iili ku mano ukwabula ukumupatikisha iyoo.

The little duiker sleeps where its heart is

Do what you feel is good according to yourself.

A person has his/her own feelings about what to do, just like birds sitting on tree branches of their choice after a flight.

A person also decides on what profession to take without forcing him/her.

Nsoselo 271

Akalyo kamo takatoba citenge, icitobe citenge kanwa

Akalyo akanini kaba lukoso, ukulaka kulonawula.

Icitenge ni nsaka umo abantu bakumana pakulya inshima, nomba kati umo acelwa kufika nokusanga akashima akanini, tasakamanapo iyoo. Nomba ngacakuti palya paba ukulaka, ecingalenga ukutoba icitenge.

Little food does not break a company, what breaks the company is the mouth

The amount of food doesn't matter but what comes out of the mouth matters.

The communal eating place is meant for all to have their meals there. And when one comes in late and finds a little share of food, he will not mind: the company will remain intact. But where there is quarrelling or backbiting the company will break.

Nsoselo 272

Uwapupa nyina wapulila bonse abafwa

Ukwakana kwali cindama.

Ulo abantu bafwa baya babikwa pa ncende imo mukutusha. Kati waya muku pupila ku manda, amapepo enu onse alakwana kuli bonse abalele mpalya. Enshila yakwa kaninamo. Mu nshila imo ine ngo uwasunga icakulya ca mucungulo, asungila bonse mu kacelo pantu nabo bakafwaya ukulya nabo. Ekwebati: ngo uwasunga cakulya, asungila bonse.

Who spiritually prays for the dead mother also prays for the rest of the dead

Sharing is important.

When people die, they are all put to rest in one place, the graveyard. So, when you do your ritual at that place, the prayers will be delivered to all those lying there. It is a form of sharing. In the same way, a person who reserves food in the evening does so for everyone in the morning, as many will ask for a share: the one who reserves food, reserves it for all.

Nsoselo 273

Nibana kali mwitobo

Abatotela lwenka ndulya wabapa ubupe.

Ilingi line ngawapela umunobe icabupe, balatotela sana ukushimika nakuli bambi ati ulya muntu muweme, nangula icakulya inshita bakolya ukutotela sana. Nomba ngacapwa balalabukilako.

Those who thank you are still busy eating what you offered them

Those who thank you will soon forget about it.

In most cases, when you offer someone a gift, you will be praised, and he will tell others that you are a good person. And also, when they eat your food, they will praise you. After that, they forget about it.



Nsoselo 274

Iminwe taikata tufi

Mwilokulolesha ku milimo iya fiko.

Ilyashi lyonse liweme lyaimewe ku minwe. Iminwe efibombelo fyakuku twala pantanshi. Ukunina nokufika pa mulu wa lupili kutampila panshita. Tekwasha ukuituntumba muku kana kubomfya maboko pantu paku lekekesha mukaipakisha pa milimo mwabombele. Kufuma mukubomba milimo yafiko emu keshila imbale nefyakulya fiweme.

Hands do not touch faeces

Don't look down on dirty work.

Every success story builds on hands. Hands are tools for advancement. To reach the top of a hill one has to start from the bottom. Don't be too boastful not to use your hands because at the end of the road, you will be enjoying the fruits of your labour. From dirty work comes a silver plate full of food.

Nsoselo 275

Munshipaya alatola

Ishuko lishila munshila ishipusenepusene!

Telyonse ati abaya mukulunga ebepaya inama, iyo. Limbi kuti waima ati kanyendepo mpa pa mpanga mukunukula ubowa, ku ceshuko kusanga bwaka inama ili fwile iyo bambi abantu balashile. Nabendauka cabe mu mpanga kuti batola inama iyo inkalamo yashileko.

Non-hunters can come back with meat

With a little luck people can do things you would not expect from them.

It's not just hunters who come back with "the red thing". One may think of going into the wild to pick mushrooms but end up picking game meat because an animal died at the place where you seek the mushrooms. And those who go into the wild looking for masuku fruits can be lucky to find a left-over piece of meat left by a lion.

Nsoselo 276

Abang'o taba tulanapo

Takwabapo ukulabila pa fintu umunobe acita kati nawe eflyo ucita.

Incito itafwaikwa ku bantu abenji ilingi line icitwa ubushiku pamo ngo kwibila abantu nangu ukwipaya. Abacita ifi tabafwaya ukutula abanenu.

Thieves do not expose each other

There is no reason to say what others do wrong, when you yourself do the same type of things.

Activities that need not to be known by others usually are done during dark hours especially stealing and committing murder. And those who do these acts do not reveal others' bad activities.

Nsoselo 277

Umukulu mupundu, ulatwalila mwi luba

Abantu abengi balikwata ubupe na mano afisama mukubweneka abaicefya, mubupina yangula ubukote.

Amafya esa pali ifwe, caisa sangwa aba bantu ebesa mukwafwa pali nga mafya. Lelo nangu bwafya bungeshila mu nshila ishupile, umukulu angesapo nenshila yakubomfya ubungo nangu amano abakulu bambi pakupwisa mbulya bwafya.

Insoselo imo yeka kuti yabomfiwa mu nshila abaice batanga fwaya kwakana naba byabo Kano ukubafwa bo ngacali bawamine.

An elder is like the mupundu tree which bears fruits under its flowers

Many people have talents and knowledge hidden underneath their simple, poor or old appearances.

Problems come to us, and then these people turn out to be the ones to help solve them. However problematic a situation may be, an elderly person could come up with a solution using his brains or the knowledge of other elders.

The proverb can also be used in a situation in which young people do not want to share anything but do want to be helped if necessary.

Nsoselo 278

Mukutu ali enka, taikutula

Ngoli weka tapali ifyo wingafunguluka mu mano.

Ifingi ifyo tutwala pa nsaka abanensu balafiwamya. Nga walyupa elo munanda mueshupana naba kashi, ili lyashi ngawalitwala pansaka banobe kuti bamona umo bengakwafwilisha pakuti mwaikala bwino.

Self-reliance will not solve all problems

When you decide to do everything on your own, there is no way you will advance in wisdom.

Whatever affair we take to our family or friends, they help us solve it. If you are married and have marital problems, once this issue is taken to them, they will try to help solve so that you restore your love.



Nsoselo shaku Bulaya

European proverbs

Proverb 279

God helps those who help themselves

A proverb emphasising the importance of self-initiative. Work or don't eat.
Don't just wait for good things to happen to you. Work hard to achieve your goals.
God is there for the helpless, but you can not depend solely on divine help.

Mwewa: I thought you asked me to help you move this heavy load.

Nunda: Yes, I did.

Mwewa: But you only watch me as I do the work, so I stop: God helps those who help themselves.

Lesa afwa abayafwako abene

Insoselo ikonkomesha ubukulu bwakuilengula. Bomba nangu wilyapo.
Wilokulindila ifiweme ukuti fise apo uli. Bombesha pakuti usange ifyo ukokabila.
Lesabelapo kuli mbo abatangayafwa, nombatekushintililafye kubwafwilisho bwa mupashi.

Mwewa: Nalanguluka ati angula ukofwaya nebo nkwafweko ukusesha nji cipe cilemene?

Nunda: Ina nkofwaya.

Mwewa: Nomba ulindoleshefye ulo nkobomba, kanshi naleka: Lesa afwa abayafwa abene.

Proverb 280

Don't bite the hand that feeds you

Do not act against those on whom you depend. If anyone helps you or does something for you, you should not harm them, and you should treat them respectfully in return. If someone's paying you or helping you out, you must be careful not to make them angry or say bad things about them. If you feed an animal and it bites you on the hand, you will probably not feed it again. If you forget that a person has been doing something to help you and you harm the relationship, you are "biting the hand that feeds you".

Musonda: Maseya, we have been your best customers for years, and suddenly you treat us so impolitely? You should never bite the hand that feeds you.

Tabasuma ukuboko kukokulisha

Tekweshwa ukucita icipyu icibi kubo walimbamo. Kati umbi akwafwa angula akubombela, taulingile kubacena, walinga waba tentemba bwino no mucinshi mukubalabula. Kati umbi akokulipila nagu ukukwafwilisha, ube uwa cenjela ukutamukalifya angula ukusosa ifibi pali bo. Ngo kolisha inama nomba elo yakusuma ku kuboko pambi tekuti uilishe nakambi. Kati walabukila ati umbi umuntu alikukubombela muku kwafwa elo waonaula bucibusa, ninshi “ukosuma ukuboko kuko kulisha.”

Musonda: Mwamona, ba Maseya, ifwe twalikushita kuli we pamyaka elo penka mpa wakana ukutepa umucinshi? Tabasuma kuboko kukokulisha.

Proverb 281

Discretion is the better part of valour

Caution is better than rashness.

It is good to be brave but it is better to be careful. Sometimes it's important to know when to give up and run away, instead of always acting brave and maybe getting hurt.

Chola: Can I go hunting in Chisomo with my friends, father? Changwe: No.

Chola: But they will say I'm a coward if I don't go!

Changwe: Discretion is the better part of valour, I'd rather have them call you a coward than risk your life.

Ukusopeshiwa takuletapo ifyongo, kulawaminisha

Ukusopesha kwawamapo ukucila ukutasakamanapo.

Ciweme ukushipa nomba nokucenjelapo. Limbi cikankala kwishiba inshita yakuleka no kubutukako, ukucila ukushipa limbi wacenemwamo.

Chola: Napo nkaye kwa Chisomo mukulunga nabanandi, bata? Changwe: Iyo.

Chola: Nomba balikunjeba ati ndi wamwenso nganshileko!

Changwe: Ukusopeshiwa kwa wamapo, ningatemwa bakokwita fyekefyo ukucila ukulusa umweo obe.



Proverb 282

It never rains but it pours

Bad or good, things don't just happen one at a time, they happen in waves.

Mangala: This morning I had a flat tire, then after walking to the field my hoe handle broke and walking back I fell in the mud.

Kasubika: It never rains but it pours.

Chibolele: My sister informed me that she and her family are coming from town on Wednesday, then my aunt informed me that she and family are also coming on Wednesday and now it turns out my brothers are also coming on that same day. It never rains

Tailokapo, kwiitika itika bwaka

Ifintu ifiweme ne fibi taficitika ifinono pakashita kamo, fyonse fisa mukucitikila pamo akashita kamo kene.

Mangala: Lelo akacelo nacikwata iwilo ilipompolokele, nomba ulo nasa mukuya kwi bala umupini wa luse nawo wasa kutobeka, nakambi pakubwela nasa kuwila mumatipa.

Kasubika: Tailokapo, kwitika itika bwaka.

Chibolele: Bankashi yanji banjebele ati bo no lupwa lwabo bakafuma ku tauni pa citatu, nabo bamuka yama bakwisa nolupwa lwabo penka pa citatu, ukiumfwa nakambi ati bakwasu nabo bene bakesa pabushiku bumo bwine. Tailokapo ...

Proverb 283

If you can't beat them, join them

When you try to change someone's behaviour and it doesn't work, *you* might have to change instead.

If your adversaries are stronger than you, it is better to join them. The way to take over the opposition's strength is to adopt their positions and plan of action.

Munsele: Chibale, if you're trying to get your classmates to focus on studying but they want to play, maybe you should just play with them.

Kati wafilwa ukubacimfya, nawe banabo

Kati ulo ukofwaya ukwalula imibele yakwe nombamba taikobombapo, niwe walinga ukwalula.

Kati amaka akucimfyanza akucila, cawama wakonka ayo mano. Mu nshila ungasendela amaka abale kucimfya kukonka amaka abo mufyo bapekenye.

Munsele: Chibale, ngacakuti ukofwaya abanobe babike amano mukusambilila nombamba bo bakofwaya umusala, yangula icingalinga niwe ukusala nabo.

Proverb 284

People who live in glass houses should not throw stones

Do not criticise other people if you have similar weaknesses yourself.

If you are a person who is easily offended, do not go around offending people.

Ngosa: Chibale drank far too much at the beer party.

Mushili: I noticed you had quite some beers yourself; people who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Abantu abekala mu mananda ama kalashi tabalinga kuposa amabwe

Wilokususha abantu bambi kati nawe walikwata ubunake kubati nibo.

Ngolakalipa bwangu, wilokuya mukukalifya abantu bambi.

Ngosa: Chibale alinwine ubwala sana.

Mushili: Nawe nalibwene ati nawe walinweshe ubwalwa; abantu bekala mu mananda ama kalashi tabalingile kuposa amabwe.

Proverb 285

Hope for the best and prepare for the worst

Have a positive attitude but make sure you are ready for setbacks.

Chisenga: While my mother was in hospital after she'd gone unconscious, we hoped for the best but prepared for the worst and took what came.

Mambwe: Why not take the effort of trying to solve the problem that way. You can always hope for the best but should be prepared for the worst.

Subila ifiweme nokuipekanyako ku fibi

Kwata amano akupokelela nokushininkisha ukuba uwaipékanya na ku fibi.

Chisenga: Ulo bama bali mu cipatala ulo batakwete amano, twakwete isubilo lyakuti babe bwino nokuipekanya ukupokelela ifyo fyonse fingacitika.

Mambwe: Nindo mutangakwatila amaka akwesho kupwisha amafya muli ngu musango. Kulo kukwata lyonse isubilo lya kuwama nokuipekanya naku fibi fyonse.

Proverb 286

Keep your friends close and your enemies closer

If you have an enemy, pretend to be friends with them instead of openly fighting with them. That way you can watch them carefully and work out what they're planning.

Mupeta: When we were in the bar, why did you make friends with that horrid Mumba?

Kaluba: You must keep your enemies close to get to know them.

Mupeta: Ah but when you keep your enemies that close, how can you keep close to your friends?

Palamika ifibusa mupepi nabalwani ubapalamisheko mupepi

Kati uli no mulwani, mulange ati uli cibusa wakwe ukucila ukubalwisha mu cintubwingi. Muli nji nshila ukabamona nokwishiba ifyo bakopekanya.

Mupeta: Ulo twali mu nanda ya bwalwa, nindo wacibela bucibusa naulya mubi Mumba?

Kaluba: Ulingile ukuba nabalwani mupepi pakubeshiba bwino bwino.

Mupeta: Ah, nomba kati eflyo waliba nabo abalwani mupepi, nomba ukaba shani mupepi ne fibusa flyobe?

Proverb 287

The pen is mightier than the sword

Trying to convince people with ideas and words is more effective than trying to force people to do what you want. More influence and power can be had by writing than by fighting. You can only affect the persons directly in front of you with a sword, but you can affect the entire world with the pen depending on what you say with it.

Kabinda: They want to force us to abandon the area in which we dug a ditch. They are getting more and more unfriendly.

Mukosha: Write to the chief with this complaint instead of fighting it out. The pen is mightier than the sword.

Icilembelo cakwatisha amaka ukucilapo pa cibeshi

Ukwesha ukushinina abantu mumalangulushi alabombapo bwino ukucila ukubapatikisha ukucita icintu ico we ukofwaya. Ukubasengula namaka cingakosa mukulemba ukucila mukulwa.

Ungakwanisha abantu ngoli nabo ne cibeshi, nomba nalo ungakwanisha isonde lyonse ukubomfya icilembelo mufyo ukofwaya ukusosa.

Kabinda: Bakofwaya fwe ukusha njino ncende apo twimbile cilindi. Balitampile ukutomfwanapo.

Mukosha: Lembeleni kuli ba Mfumu, abakulu be boma naba muputule, pakwebati musale ishina linga linga mpano mukuilishanya ukucila ubulwi. Icilembelo cakwatishapo amaka ukucila icibeshi.

Proverb 288

Don't put all your eggs in one basket

Don't risk all your money or time on one plan.

Keep your options open. Have a backup plan.

Muyinga: I have put all my spare money on one lottery ticket. If I win, I will make big money.

Mulenga: Yes, you will: *if*, but you have put all your eggs in one basket. Why didn't you invest the money in a few activities instead of in only one?

Mwisungila maní onse mu cipe cimo

Mwiposa ndalama shenu nangu akashita mubuteyanyo bumo.

Kwateni ifyo muteyenye fishibikwe. Kwatilenipo namabuteyanyo nayambi.

Muyinga: Nabikisha shonse ndalama mukwasha ukuwina pamuku umo. Ngana wina nkakwata indalama ishingi.

Mulenga: Ina mwakukwata: nomba nindo mwabikila amani onse mu cipe cimo. Nindo mutabikile shimbi ndalama ku milimo imbi ukucila muli imo?



Proverb 289

The grass is always greener on the other side of the hill

A proverb of discontent, jealousy and envy. People tend to want whatever they don't have. People always think they would be happier in a different set of circumstances, often without much knowledge of those circumstances.

Mwenda: I envy you, Mwape, you are successful.

Mwape: To be honest I envy you. I always have people backbiting me out of jealousy and if the smallest thing goes wrong, people react as if I have lost everything.

Mwenda: Thank you, I have never looked at it that way. The grass is always greener on the other side.

Icani lyonse caba icakatapa katapa kubwishilya lya lupili

Insoselo iya kutatemwa, ulupato nobukali. Abantu batemwa ukufwaya ifyo batakwete.

Abantu lyonse batontonkanuya ukwebati bangaba ne nsansa mu mibele ipusene pusene mukuteshiba ifyaba mulinjo mibele.

Mwenda: Ndakutina Mwape, walikwanisha.

Mwape: Mu cinenene, nawe ndakutina. Lyonse nalikwata abantu abandabilila kunuma nolupato elo akacilubo nangu kacepe shani bonse balangwela kubati nifyonse nalufya.

Mwenda: Natotela, tamuli mumusango uyo umo nkabwena. Icani lyonse caba ica katapa katapa ku bwishilya bwa lupili.

Proverb 290

Absence makes the heart grow fonder

The lack of something increases the desire for it.

You will like someone or something better if that person or thing is far away.

The time you spend away from one you love makes you love that person even more. It is the opposite of "out of sight, out of mind".

Kabinda: Does it bother you that your husband goes away on long business trips?

Kalunga: No. The time we have spent apart has been good for us. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Ukutabonekapo kulenga umutima ukutemwisha

Ukubulilwa kwa cintu kulundapo ukutemwa ukucikwata.

Ukatemwa umbi nangu icintu cimbi kuwamisha ngulya muntu angula ncilya cintu ngacili ukutali.

Akashita wakwikala weka ukufuma kuli ngulya muntu watemwisha kulenga ukumutemwisha sana. Capusana nokweba ati "afuma mu menso, afuma na mumano"

Kabinda: Napo cila kusakamika ngacakuti umulume obe afumapo aya mukushitako ifipe panshita itali?

Kalunga: Iyo, akashita twaikala ukutabonana kali bwino. Ukutabonekapo kulenga umutima ukutemwisha.

Proverb 291

All good things must come to an end

You can not keep having good luck or fun forever; eventually it will stop. Nothing lasts forever, particularly if it's something good. Don't cling to the idea that whatever you have will last forever.

Mondwa: Come, we have to leave.

Chikoloma: But it is such a nice party!

Mondwa: Yes, it was good, but all good things come to an end.

Chibuye: If only I could be in love like this forever.

Kabamba: All good things must come to an end. Chibuye: Ah!

Kabamba: If a good thing never ended, it wouldn't be a good thing ... it would be quite boring.

Fyonse ifiweme filesako mukupwa

Tekutipo ukonkanye ukuba neshuko nangu ukwangala lyonse bwaka, limbi limbi fikaleka.

Takwaba icibelelela, makamaka ngaciweme. Wikonenena mu mano akuti fikabelelela lyonse.

Mondwa: Isa, katulokuya.

Chikoloma: Nomba uku kwangala kuweme.

Mondwa: Ina kuweme nomba fyonse ifiweme filesa mukupwa.

Chibuye: Ngacaliweme nganali muli nci citemwiko calyonse bwaka.

Kabamba: Fyonse ifintu fyalikwata impela. Chibuye: Oho ho!

Kabamba: Ngacakuti iciweme tacali nakupwa, naco ninshi taciweme ... cingakutendusha.

Proverb 292

Familiarity breeds contempt

The more you know something or someone, the more you start to find flaws, faults and fumbles. When you're around people for too long, you get tired of them or annoyed by them. Unfamiliarity and respect appear to be related. So, it takes an effort to respect the people you know well and depend upon! Something rare will generally be respected more.

Kasubika: That famous singer doesn't let anyone get to know him well, because he knows that familiarity breeds contempt.

Icishibishi cileta ukusulwa

Ngawaishibisha nokubelesha icintu nangu umuntu cileta nomba ukusulwa, nokusanga ifilubo muli bambi.

Ngawaikala nabantu panshita ntali, kulaba ukunaka nabo nokukana bafwaya.

Ukutabelela no mucinshi fyalikatana. Kanshi kuba ukubikako amaka pakuti uba cindike abo waishiba bwino nokushintililako! Icitaboneka libili libili co cilafwaya ukucicindikisha sana.

Kasubika: Njo ng'omba yalumbukwa uwaishibikwa sana taifwayapo ukuti uli onse imwishibishe pantu yalishiba ati icishibishi cileta ukusulwa.

Proverb 293

You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink

You can make it easy for someone to do something, but you cannot force them to do it if they do not want to. People, like horses, will only do what they have a mind to do.

If you try to help someone, but they don't take your advice or offers, give up. You cannot force someone to accept your help. Many people resist the influence that 'help' has on them.

Ngosa: Why didn't you accept the help your older brother offered you?

Bangwa: He can lead a horse to water but I wanted to make my own decisions.

Ungatangilila kabalwe ku menshi, nomba tawamupatikishepo ukunwa

Kuti wacangusha ku muntu pakuti acicite, nomba tekutu ubapatikishe ukucita ico batakofwayapo ukucita. Abantu, kwati nibakalwe, bakacita ico bali naco mu mano.

Ngawaesha ukwafwa umbi, nomnba tabakofwayapo uku kumfwa, fileke. Tekuti upatikishe umo utakofwaya bwafwilisho bobe. Abengi tabafwaya bwafwilisho buli palibo.

Ngosa: Nindo utasakusuminina bwafwilisho ndume yobe asa kukupela?

Bangwa: Tekuti utangilile kabalwe ku menshi nasa mukufwaya kucita ico nkofwaya.

Proverb 294

Necessity is the mother of invention

When you're really in need, you will find creative solutions to your problems.

Need is the ultimate motivation. Difficult situations encourage inventive solutions.

Pande: I need an excavator to dig a trench for my garden.

Munsele: Can't you find another solution? Pande: No.

Munsele: Then your need may not be big enough, necessity is the mother of invention.

When the fan belt on Mumba's's car broke in the middle of nowhere, she used her stockings as a replacement. Necessity is the mother of invention.

Ukukabilisha kulenga ukupangilisha

Ngo kofwaisha icintu, ukatontonkanyapo ifyo wingapwisha nga mafya.

Ukufwaya ekampingu wakulekelesha. Amafya akosa afwilisha ukusanga apatali ifyakucita.

Pande: Nkofwaya ci masembe cakwimba icilindi mwibala lyandi.

Munsele: Tapapo inshila imbi?

Pande: Iyo.

Munsele: Ubufwayo bobo tabukulile ukulingana, ukukabilisha kulenga ukupangilisha.

Ulo intambo ya mwela ku motoka yakwa Mumba yaputwike pa pakati kanshila, abomfeshe ama shitokeni aku molo. Ukukabilisha kulenga ukupangilisha.

Proverb 295

The proof of the pudding is in the eating

You don't know the quality of something until you have tried it or experienced it.

Kalale: They say that this is the best way to make the cattle grow fast.

Musonda: But it requires a lot of investment. How do you know it really works?

Kalale: It is written in the magazines.

Musonda: Then be careful, the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

Icishininkisho camu cakulya ni mukulyako

Tekwishibapo ukukosa kwa cintu kano ulo wacesha nokubona.

Kalale: Beba ati enshila imo iyawamishapo pa kwishiba ifyo ingombe shikula bwangu.

Musonda: Nomba kufwaikwa icuma icingi. Waishiba shani ati filabomba?

Kalale: Fyalilembwa mu mapepala.

Musonda: Kanshi cenjela, icishininkisho camu cakulya ni mukulyako.



Proverb 296

Da hedde en da kredde

This is a proverb from the cultural area of one of the authors: Brabant in the Netherlands. It says: These things happen and now they are happening to you. It is used when something really bad happens to a person, and it is meant to be partly consolatory, partly emphasising the inevitability of fate. A close Lala proverb is *Icili pa munobe, mailo nipali we*: What another person experiences today, tomorrow will be on you.

Mupeta: My mother has just become a grandmother and is only 42 years of age: why did she had to become so seriously ill? Mambwe: *'t Is sund, da hedde en da kredde* [Too bad, these things happen and now they are happening to you].

Ifyakucitikila fisa bwaka

Nji nsoselo yafumine mu ncende ya ntambi ba kalemba bamo, umwikala ba Jan IJzermans: itwa Brabant mu calo ca Netherlands. Ikososa ati ifintu ficitika bwaka nomba fyatampa ukucitikilwa kuli we. Baibomfya ulu icintu icibipile cacitika ku muntu elo baibomfya ukumuteka umutima ulu ai muli mbu bwafya. *Icili pa munobe, mailo nipali we*.

Mupeta: Bama pekapa baba ba mbuya ulu bali nemyaka amakumi ane na ibili, nindo balwalisha mfi?

Mambwe: *Icili pa munobe, mailo cili pali we*. Cabipa, filacitika nomba lelo fyaba pali we.

Proverb 297

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link

Imagine a chain with iron links except for one wooden link. This chain isn't any better than a chain made of wooden links only.

A message can get from village to village quite quickly if someone in each village takes it over and immediately passes it on to the next village. The message will not spread as quickly as it should when in one village they wait until the next day to pass it on.

Chinguwa: We have some great players in our team, but we rarely win.

Chibale: Maybe you should look at the weaker players instead of the best. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

Umunyololo wakosafye kubati bunake bwauko

Langulukeni umwando wa cela uwakwata umwakulundila umuli fyela pamo epali kulundwa ne citi. Tapali ico ngu mwando wa cela ungacita ico ngu weka wakwata imilundo ya fiti.

Ilyashi kuti lyafuma mu mushi kuya mu mushi umbi mukwangufyanya ngacakuti cila mushi mukofuma umo ewatwala mu mushi ukonkelepo. Ilyashi tekuti lyendepo bwangu nga mushi umo imbi mishi ikololela pakweba ati lyashi likafike mu bushiku bwakonkapo.

Chinguwa: Twalikwata abaishibishe kuteya mupila mwibumba lyesu, nomba telingi tucimfya.

Chibale: Yangula mukuloleshapo napali mbalya abataishibisha teku bona benka abaishibisha.

Umwando wa cela uba ukwakosa kubati nimpalya paba ubunake apa kulundila.

Proverb 298

Curiosity killed the cat

Don't be too inquisitive, it might lead you into risky situations.

Kaluba: Where did you get all that beer?

Mushili: Curiosity killed the cat.

Mukosha: Your former curiosity about drugs has led to your present state of destitution. Curiosity killed the cat.

Ukufwaisha ukwishibilapo nafimbi ekwaipeye ka pushi

Tacalinga ukwipushisha pantu kuti fyakutwala mu nshila ibipile.

Kaluba: Nikwisa uko wafunya bonse mbu bwalwa?

Mushili: Ukufwaisha ukwiishibilapo nafimbi ekwaipeye ka pushi.

Mukosha: Ukufwaisha ukwishibilapo palwa miti lwakukutwala mumubelo ubelelemo wakubulilwa fyonse, ukufwaisha ukwishibilapo nafimbi ekwaipeye ka pushi.

Proverb 299

One man's trash is another man's treasure

Different people have different ideas about what is valuable.

Chisenga: How can you eat snake meat, that is horrible!

Mulenga: I like to eat pythons; they are very nutritious. Your trash seems to be my treasure.

Icinangwa cingaba icuma kuli bambi

Mukupusana kwabantu emo bakwatila ukwishiba ifingalinga.

Chisenga: Nindo ungalila umunani wa nsoka, cintu icibipile!

Mulenga: Nalitemwa ukulya insato shiweme sana. Ishala lyobe nebo emuli icuma.

Proverb 300

You reap what you sow

Everything that happens to you is a result of your own actions.

Your today is the result of your yesterday and your tomorrow results of what you do today.

Watch the way you live your life because you are going to reap just what you sow.

Mambwe: Mumba is not well-loved because of her frequent backbiting, now they're backbiting her.

Kapenda: She reaps what she sowed.

Sombola ifyo wabyele

Fyonse ifikocitika kuli we fifuma mufyo ucita.

Bushiku bobe lelo bufuma kufya mailo na mailo ifuma mufya lelo.

Boneni ifyo mukoikala mubumi bwenu pantu mukoisa ku sombola ifyo mwabyele.

Mambwe: Mumba tabamutemwapo umulandu wakushobaula ababye, lelo ewo bakoshabula.

Kapenda: Asombola ifyo abyeye.

Kolofoni / Colophon

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Ukukonka nefyo basangile pamilimo yakufwailikisha ba Jan IJzermans naba Basil Chisonta mu mimbile mwali ukushana, namashiwi a nyimbo nefibombe mwa Chibale, Zambia ukufuma mu mwaka wa 1981 mpaka 2013. Boneni [amalimba.org](https://www.amalimba.org). Based on research by Jan IJzermans with Basil Chisonta into the music en related dance, text and ritual in Chibale, Zambia, from 1981 until 2013. See [amalimba.org](https://www.amalimba.org).

Abantu abengi mwa Chibale balyafwileko muli nji buku pakuti lifume, nokukwata icicetekelo cakuti abantu bakalibomfya mu masambililo namu bumi bwa mikalile yabo.

Many people in Chibale have contributed to this book, in the hope that people will use it in education and in daily life.

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Benadi Mika and Lafenda Mpyakula: 14, 19, 47, 64, 84, 113, 136, 183, 190, 231, 250, 262, 274 and 297.

Biodiversity & Development Institute: 238 (thebdi.org/2023/11/08/).

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Livescience: 4 (livescience.com/58337-warthog-facts.html).

Liuwa Plain National Park: 130 (<https://www.africanparks.org/the-parks/liuwa-plain/news>).

Ishibeni ndi buku ukuba nga / Refer to this book as

Chisonta, Basil and Jan IJzermans. 2025. *Amano mambulwa. 300 nsoselo sha mu cilala na mu cisungu.* –

Wisdom is acquired. 300 proverbs in Lala and English. Pdf retrieved from <https://www.amalimba.org/text-repertoires-in-zambia-proverbs/amano-mambulwa>.