

**PROVERBS, FABLES,
SIMILES AND SAYINGS
OF THE BAMONGO**

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Proverbs, fables, similes and sayings of the Bamongo by A. E. Ruskin

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A. E. RUSKIN

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SIMILES AND SAYINGS

OF THE

BAMONGO.

TRANSLATED AND EXPLAINED,

Giving the *nearest* equivalent in English.

A. E. RUSKIN.

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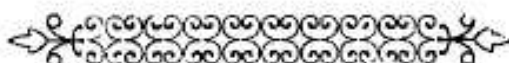
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“ Banoju nt’iak’ elo.”

Analysis — Banoju Children (boys).
nta not.
(l)iaka knoweth
elo sorrow, suffering, etc., etc.

Equivalent.—The inexperienced cannot truly sympathise with sufferers, etc.

“ Boloi yoko bo fo ten ’otai.”

Anal.—Boloi Company, crowd, etc.
? yoko either yoko or oko ??
bo it, or they.
fo not.
tena cut, divide.
botsi net(a)

Equiv.—Clannism, confederacy, cliquish, etc.

“ Ba ki ’amato bau coa baende.”

Anal.—Ba They.
ki were.
bamato females (women).
bau they.
coa go to (become).
baende males (men.)

Equiv.—They who were weak have become strong.

A contemptuous saying of scoffers, who are angry because women and children are considered and helped by the missionaries.

**“ Bonoju a tanga bofaiya ok’ise
nk’okwala.”**

Anal.—Bonoju boy-child.
a he.
bofaiya..... stranger, visitor.
oki..... of, etc.
ise..... father.
nko only.
bokwala a slave.

A boy's contempt for his father's visitor, whom he considers to be equal to a slave.

**“ Ifulu nta fondaka ndajiko au
fondaka ndasi.”**

Anal.—Ifulu Bird (a);
nta not.
fondaka decay, putrefying, etc.
ndajiko above.
au it.
fondaka decay, putrefying, etc.
ndasi below.

A Simile.—He will come back to his home—to where he fares best, etc.

**“ Ifulu nta kilaka ikeli a t’ene
elele.”**

Anal.—Ifulu Bird (a).
nta not.
kilaka abstain from.
ikeli a small stream, or rivulet.
a it.
tafo not.
(I)ena see.
elele a hole in a hollow tree, containing
water.

The bird will not leave the stream until it has found water in a more secluded spot.

A Simile.—A wise man who is in a hard and poor situation will not leave it unless he has found a better one.

“O kama nkele ngole ekucu lai?”

Anal.—O You.
 kama full, pressed, etc., etc.
 nkele..... anger, rage,
 ngole like
 ekucu calabash.

A Simile.—To be very angry, to be filled with anger or rage like a calabash filled with water.

“O n ambela wela.”

To betray, backbite, etc.

“Bofala w’emi o sing’otai.”

Anal.—Bofala Antelope (an)
 w’emi it stands.
 o you.
 singa..... make.
 botai..... net (a),

Equiv.—Offered opportunity neglected. Missed opportunity, etc.

“To lenana ngoki wat ’efikere.”

Anal.—To We.
 léna .. } part, separate.
 „ ana .. } [reciprocal form].
 ngoki [which was] like.
 watu..... canoe (a).
 efikere..... a stump of a tree.

The canoe never again meets the stump of the tree from which it was cut—they part for ever.

Equiv.—Separation, part, never to meet again.

“Bombölö bo fend 'auyi 'te.”

Anal.—Bombölö a small animal which lives in a tree.

bo it.
fenda cause to pass over.
bauyi noise, cry, whine, etc.
betc trees.

The small animal makes its cry or whine to pass over the trees, and can be heard a great way off during the dead of the night.

Equiv.—Great swelling words of brag are heard from the braggart or vain person. Small and unimportant, but plenty of noise.

Said to—a braggart.

“Bombito nt'enaka dilenga dikai.”

Anal.—Bombito Snake (a certain species).

nta not.
enaka seeth.
dilenga the white spot which is under its neck.
dikai his.

The “bombito” cannot see the white spot which is under its own neck, but others can.

Equiv.—We see not ourselves as others see us. We see not our own badness, but other people do.

Said to—a self-righteous person.