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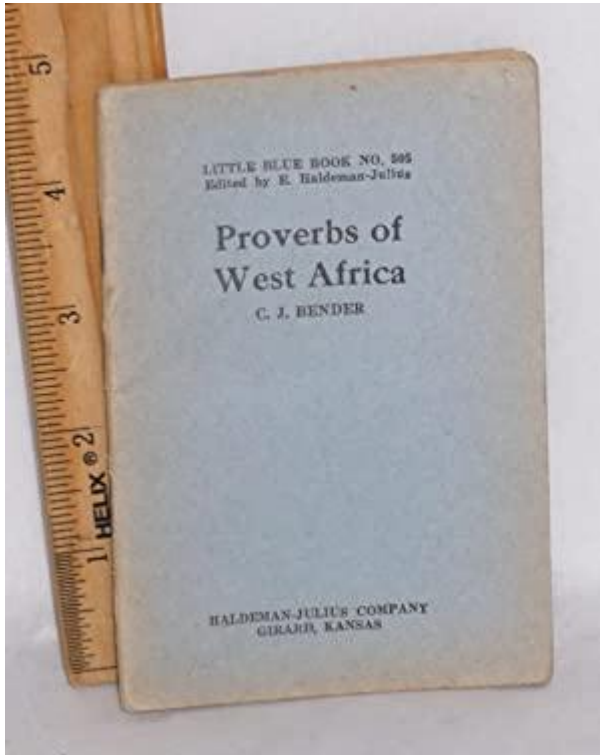
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Bantu proverbs from Cameroon. Transcribed below:



LITTLE BLUE BOOK NO. 505

Edited by E. Haldeman-Julius

Proverbs of West Africa

Compiled by C. J. Bender

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by Laura Gibbs]

PROVERBS OF WEST AFRICA

(Wit and Wisdom of the Bantu Tribes),

Collected and Translated Into English by C. J. BENDER.

For Twenty Years a Missionary in West Africa

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INTRODUCTION

He who would understand a people must study its literature. Where we have to deal with so-called "primitive" peoples a study of their folklore, more particularly their *proverbs*, will be a means in discovering the underlying motives that actuate them in their every day life. In

this sense the collection of African proverbs presented in this little volume will, I am sure, prove both interesting and helpful. In them the natives give themselves as they are, thus enabling us, in a measure at least, to become acquainted with their aims and ambitions, their desires, predilections and hopes. They also give us an idea of the African's way of doing and of looking at things. The psyche of the Africans is not easily fathomed. Even one who has lived among them for years will again and again meet with surprises as far as their character and ways are concerned. And yet, after all, the Africans have much, very much, in common with us,

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as the wit and wisdom expressed in their proverbs will show. It is time for us to get away from the notion that they are an inferior and barbaric race. In more than one sense we whites are less civilized and more barbaric than they. Then we must bear in mind that the Africans have a somewhat different type of civilization, suited to their racial peculiarities, and in harmony with social and climatic conditions. All this must be understood in order to be appreciated. In a special sense this is true of the Bantu, that great family of peoples which today inhabits nearly two-thirds of the African continent.

C. J. B.

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PROVERBS OF WEST AFRICA

The egg gives the hen instruction in brooding.

A wild pig will not readily devour a centipede.

A sheep that bites off its own tail shames the entire family (the misdeeds of one affect all).

Do not build your hope upon the word of any man (and you will not be disappointed).

A cock is not supposed to crow for the whole town (a stranger should not have it all to say).

Do not expect to come into a heritage by coughing (one must belong to the clan).

Page 8

Quality and quantity of any empty calabash!

Filthy water cannot be washed.

A man who is abused on the street returns to his home. But where shall a man go who is being abused in his own home?

Silence is might.

At meal-time "Yes!" When duty calls "No!"

Do not detain your brother-in-law from work— it may rain.

Many hands will accomplish something.

Help your neighbor, but do not kill yourself thereby.

Page 9

To push a canoe through the mud is not as hard as it seems.

The monkey learns to jump by trying again and again.

"I scratch the ground with both feet," said the hen. "If I do not find anything with one foot, I certainly shall with the other."

Quick feet and busy hands fill the mouth.

Don't attempt to carry water in a basket!

A goat will not feed long at the same place.

A turtle is not sold in a bag.

Ignorance and want are allies.

Page 10

The bottom of a canoe will never complain about the water.

The hawk will forget, but not the hen (who was robbed of her chicks).

To have a stomach (admit to be hungry) is no cause to be ashamed.

The heart is never satisfied.

Planting bulrushes in a swamp (Taking coals to Newcastle).

Pus will not flow from a boil you do not have (Beware of scandal! Allow no stranger to glimpse into your private life).

Reprove a rich man, but do not kill him (because the community needs him).

A big dog and a little dog will not quarrel over a bone.

Page 11

"The path does not end at the dunghill," said the cock (a courageous man cannot be discouraged by an unpleasant experience).

Even the best cooking-pot will not produce food.

Honest as the devil himself!

A hen that is being fed on corn (a man who earns a good living-wage) is satisfied.

If you have bought a new basket (married another wife) then do not speak despicably of the old one (which for a long time has served you well).

Poison should be tried out on a frog.

If you do not succeed (at fishing) when the water is low, you will surely make up (your loss in business) at the return of the tide.

Page 12

The looks of a dog betrays his pedigree.

Teach the child of the freeborn, and the child of the slave will profit thereby.

An only child (daughter) will not be sold.

A dog that refuses to eat garbage must go hungry.

The crane said to his children: "Out with you! Go and shift for yourself!"

An elephant does not carry heavy on his tusks (It is no burden for a mother to take care of her child).

It will never do to have two cocks in the same coop.

A man who does not leave his hut will bring nothing in.

Page 13

Throwing pebbles at an elephant will in no wise disturb him (the ill wishes of his poorer neighbors do not concern a rich man).

A dog does not resent being called a dog.

The head of a guinea-fowl (a noble woman) carries no burden.

The kid will follow the example of the goat and feed on the same grass.

Work is good, but life will draw the limits (Life is more than good or raiment).

A coward will never accomplish great things.

Why should the mouth go empty when the hand is filled (Why not bring your physical life into harmony with your surroundings? Make use of your means.)

Page 14

The back brings the stomach in trouble (because it acts as a check against further expansion or overeating).

No chick will die in the nest (under the fostering care of its mother).

Cheat a blind man and fry an egg! (It is a treat to fleece a simple-minded fellow).

The stomach tells no tale; neither does it betray any man (silent as the grave).

A dog's teeth have no influence on the moon (A man who knows what he wants will simply go ahead).

A he-goat will not attack a person lying on the ground (opposition will arouse opposition).

War is blind.

Page 15

Differences between contending parties are settled best in the morning.

The foolishness of a man will not become known as quickly as that of a woman.

A prison has no regard for the relatives of its inmates.

Another's possessions are of little use (when your own are gone).

Do not seek the company of a rich man (if you are poor) and you need not eat chicken-claws (be humiliated).

No cow will ever balk in a canoe.

A single tooth (a toothless mouth) will not blow a trumpet (In unity there is strength).

Page 16

A hen and a man (foolishness and sound common sense) pass through the same door.

Man, your knife is being used in the kitchen! (When the husband is gone, the wife does as she pleases).

The cutlass reduces the grindstone, and the grindstone reduces the cutlass (Relentless enmity will have its effect on both sides).

A letter has only half the value of a personal call.

Never despise the old hoe, before you have tried out the new one.

Why worry? To be divorced does not mean to die.

Even on a muddy beach a white bird may be found.

Page 17

Don't try to carry the world on your shoulders! No one expects it of you.

He who would blow the trumpet (to call men to battle) must not allow his own relatives to remain behind.

Two chickens will not come out of one and the same egg.

Night will turn a sprout into a whale.

He who would sweep the hut must not sit on the broom.

Even the best firewood is not without ants (even the best woman has her faults).

The inside of a man will not mock the rain (a sensible man appreciates a good thing).

Page 18

The woods are full of trees (women are plentiful; you need not tie yourself to the first one you meet).

Criticism and calumny cannot hurt a good man.

Peace is made by the edge of the sword.

A cook should never mind the sweat on his brow.

The ax that tries itself on a tree will fell it.

Why pucker up your lips when you have no intention to weep? (Why play the hypocrite?)

A multitude of fleas will not cause overmuch annoyance, but a few only will make themselves felt (getting used to a thing makes us indifferent).

Page 19

Mosquitoes and fleas (troubles) will come when they please.

One mistake will never kill a man (Einmal ist keinmal).

A dog will eat on the floor despite your protestations (Nature will have her own way).

Lawmakers — lawbreakers.

In the neighborhood of an oil palm you'll not be laid low. Get too close to a wine palm, and you'll be laid low (that is to say: get drunk. Opportunity begets temptation).

To speak the truth cannot be wrong.

A thieving dog will never be without stripes.

Page 20

Where the water rules, the land submits (the rich are always on top).

Food is cooked in the pot, but the plate is honored (the servant does the work, and the employer gets the credit).

A man will never bear a child. (Do not expect the impossible).

One bad tooth affects all the rest.

If beauty is edible, then satisfy yourself and keep quiet.

An elephant never takes notice of what is going on behind his back.

The poor man's back benefits the rich man's stomach (the rich live by the labor of the poor).

He who would climb a palm-tree must not rest at the foot of it.

Page 21

A man may leave his food untouched for a time, but it will force him to return and eat (man is a slave to his habits).

If the hawk has quit stealing chickens it is because he fails to see (not because his nature is changed. He still is a hawk).

Loss of teeth and marriage spoil a woman's beauty.

A foolish act done over again will not improve things.

A beggar must be prepared to wait.

A rich man fails to notice a poor man when he is having his meal.

Friendship of the bucket and the fountain.

Page 22

Where there is more than enough, more than enough is wasted.

A trumpet is blown on the hill-top, and smoke passes out through the roof (Only a man who rises above his fellows has a claim to leadership).

Buy all the presents you will — if a woman does not love you, she is bound to marry another.

A man who creates trouble seldom eats it himself.

The wealth of a weaver-bird (much noise and nothing to it).

Your friend has killed a sheep (for you as his guest) and your own sheep feels the pain (for it too shall be killed when you return your friend's favor).

Small crabs (a delicatessen) will not be allowed to get maggots.

Page 23

The bottom of a canoe is unmindful of the rapids (Unknown dangers do not concern us).

The back of a chicken never minds the mosquitoes (criticism and pin pricks fail to impress me).

Of time and thoughts the heart is full.

Water never loses its way.

No chicken will fall into the fire a second time.

A sound log does not produce mushrooms.

Be not boastful lest you be put to shame.

Tobacco has no cousin (applied to a person, who has little or no regard for others).

Page 24

Use snuff from your own snuff-box! (Do not impose on others).

There are forty kinds of lunacy, but only one kind of common sense.

A blacksmith has no need for an axe.

A person's back is under no obligation.

A head cannot be shaved if the owner will not have it.

A guest will not eat cabbage.

You see the hut and ask: "Where shall I go for shelter?"

Two he-goats in one and the same stall will never agree.

The raindrop fell into the water.

Page 25

You cannot tie a bundle or butcher an elephant singlehanded.

Every mistake has its own source.

A chicken that comes home to roost at the proper time and place will never cause trouble.

You may put your hand into a tar pot and clean it again, but the odor remains.

Laziness and want are always found together.

A talkative bird will not build a nest.

The sharp edge of a razor! (Applies to a judge who habitually condemns).

The dog stole, and the goat is being punished.

It is your own firewood! Have the full benefit of it! (Eat your own stew).

Page 26

I have not eaten peas. How, then, can I vomit them? (How can I testify in a case of which I know nothing?).

No bird will precipitate itself in brooding.

It rained on the mountain-top, but the valley below was flooded (frequently an innocent man is punished instead of the guilty).

To find a thing is nowhere forbidden (Finders — keepers!).

The woods are not heartless (There is comfort in solitude).

If the rain should surprise me I'll drink it (courageous in bearing misfortune).

Remind the chief of his sandals, and he'll send you to get them.

Page 27

"This is the place," says the swallow, when she returns to her nest.

On a pidgeon that is really dead the arrow has not been wasted.

Want and suffering never betray.

If you do not live near a wine-palm you'll not be tempted to drink palm-wine.

How shall the people gather for the dance, if the sound of the drum is not heard?

The calabash is broken: why cry? (No sense in crying over spilled milk).

A tree without roots will not stand.

The ant has beaten the cricket (Industry and thrift will triumph over indolence).

Page 28

As a tree falls, so will it lay.

A promise is a debt.

If you have set a cooking-pot in a certain place, then throw no stones in that direction (speak well of the place where you live as a stranger).

Many drops will fill the pot.

No man can paddle two canoes at the same time (A thing at a time!).

If you bring a firebrand (a wife) into your hut then do not complain of the smoke (the wife's relation).

No woman will ever say to the other: "Wash your face."

Even the brightest fire will be extinct in the morning.

Page 29

A bird in one's hand is worth two in the woods.

Repetition is the mother of knowledge.

Morning will not remove a difficulty.

Do not play with the tail of a dog, and you will not be bitten.

The fowl (whose feathers had been plucked) said: "I weep because it hurts; but after all life is more important (than the feathers).

Too much zeal will never profit.

"It fell off" (the swarm) said the bee-queen, "but I'll tie it up again."

Would you call a dog? Then do not carry a stick.

Page 30

A basket which has fallen into the river will never come back.

The chimpanzee sighs for a tail.

A sharp cutlass — but the laborer is sleeping back of the hedge.

Why tell animals living in the water to drink?

Big elephants frequently have small tusks.

Talk about the oil palm, and the wine-palm (one of the relatives or friends of the person talked about) is sure to be near.

Keep your hand out of the pot.

A man who has killed an elephant has no need to eat cabbage (a rich man will not eat the fare of the poor).

Page 31

They have the beans, but no fingernails wherewith to shell them (Rich men frequently lack common sense to make good use of their money).

The bone to the beggar!

If you refuse to die you do not love (your relatives and friends, who look to the departed spirits for protection and help).

The best morsels are never given to a beggar.

Who in the world would heed the advice of a crabfisher? (A poor man has no influence).

Always have two stories at hand (be prepared for any emergency), said the dove.

The hunter who killed the game invites the guests.

Page 32

A player who runs ahead does not play.

A bloodsucker will always live — one way or the other.

The oil-palm weeps for the leaves of the wine-palm; and the wine-palm weeps for the nuts of the oil-palm (No one is satisfied with his lot).

A man who is anxious to build will not hesitate (to begin at once).

Antelopes are not found in the swamp (everything in its place).

One sharp cutlass will clean a whole field.

Both the frog and the toad have received their share (no cause for dissatisfaction!).

Page 33

A rich man is killed by his word (he is bound to keep it).

The fishes envy the crab on account of his shears (Rich people do not like to have a poor man possess the means of defending himself).

Help of the rat and the bat! (Appointing the wolf as shepherd).

The slave has spilled the oil (has forfeited his freedom).

A single passenger will not cause the canoe to sink.

A stranger will not kill the fattest ox (in honor of his guest).

A thing that is out of my reach is useless to me.

A new loincloth need not fear the strongest loins.

Page 34

If you have a meal before your guest, then step aside (do not watch him eating).

A tree without roots will not weather the storm.

An orphan sighs for the cooking-pot and hut of his mother.

To have a wife means: Buy clothes!

The shoulder (the woman) is not above the head (the man).

A dog will mind his master (used with reference to a servile person).

An easy life is the death of valor.

Do not forget the hut that sheltered you.

Page 35

A young alligator will not mind falling into the water.

A wise man will abstain from shaving his own head.

Work is good, provided you do not forget to live.

A man with a mouth cannot go astray.

Whispering makes a stranger suspicious.

If you pass the same tree twice you can be sure that you are lost.

Mourning is out of place at a dance.

The mouse has caused the elephant to fall.

Page 36

A man with a paddle has no trouble in finding a canoe (that will take him along).

If you are in the company of frogs, then do not ask for a stool (Howl with the wolves).

The child of a leopard is a leopard.

No one sends an elephant into his field (A glutton is not wanted as a guest).

Death treats all men alike.

The most beautiful city is not half as beautiful as home.

No slave can free another.

A lie has seven variations; a truthful story none at all.

Page 37

The relatives of a dead man do not mind the bad odor (emanating from his body).

A lovesick person looks in vain for a doctor.

A poorly prepared meal is not eaten twice.

An impatient guest seldom eats the fattest fowl.

The carcass of a lizard! Your being wrought up about it will not change it.

Where there is much fussing and putting on of airs something is wrong.

If you eat of another's fowl it is a wild one which you have caught.

Page 38

A slave born in the house of a freeman works with a broken cutlass (much is overlooked in his case; he is treated like a member of the family).

You complain about your neighbor's children. How about your own?

Grass is not tobacco, nor a clinging vine a snake.

Leniency will never pay a debt.

A vulture eats only that which is ripe (carrion).

When the eye is filled with tears, the nose also gets moist (My sorrow also affects my brother).

Page 39

A bath will not kill a goat (but a knife).

The old banana-stalks die (after they have borne their fruit) and young ones come up in their place.

The giant cotton-tree is worthless as fuel (not quantity, but quality).

All stomachs are alike (growing children get as much as adults).

The foot of a bird will not miss the branch.

Every tree has a thick end, and every quarrel has a cause.

He who would arrange a game must not stutter.

The dead (departed spirits) are not seen in the company of the living.

Page 40

No monkey eats during the night (ask favors in the day-time!).

Ill news is fleet of foot.

The turtle hides his head in his shell (keep your thoughts to yourself).

Wickedness and want eat out of the same dish.

Boiling water alone (without anything in it) will not make a noise.

A fire will not be quenched by adding more fuel.

Take back your gift and fry yourself an egg (I will let no man's favor make a servant of me).

Page 41

A cripple will rarely bring shame upon himself.

Said the hen: "If you will not have the rain, you must also miss the worms."

Think before you act.

A butcher who does not bathe is not patronized.

A raindrop is the beginning of a flood.

A dugout! (open toilet). Keep away! (Shun the company of disreputable persons).

A good man will not die.

Page 42

"Enough of words!" said the turtle. "I refuse to enter your hut" (you cannot force a man to act contrary to his convictions).

The head does not stumble (Don't trouble your head about other peoples' affairs).

A pig that keeps in motion will not become proud (lazy and self satisfied).

Only the speech is criticised, not the man himself (Encouragement for a beginner to speak in council).

Very far — it is gone! (A debt which is past due cannot be collected).

A single finger will never catch a louse (co-operation brings success).

Page 43

Shake the branch and climb over the log (pay your debts and be free).

Hopes of a child! Empty hands and an empty stomach! (You cannot require anything where there is nothing).

First to make a mistake — first to be laughed at.

No monkey will make fun of another.

Exploit a stranger and suffer loss!

A rich man cannot keep a poor man's chickens from brooding.

Today is today!

A mouse will not eat salt.

Page 44

A wanderer who is determined to reach his destination does not fear the rain.

A beggar won't mind being insulted.

One stone will never grind the meal.

A banana-stalk with withered leaves! (much ado about nothing).

If you have escaped the jaws of the crocodile while bathing in the river, you'll surely meet a leopard on the way.

Two swords will not fit into one scabbard.

The tusks of the elephant, not his bulk, make him valuable (quality, not quantity).

Page 45

A chicken with beautiful plumage (a woman who is aware of her charms) does not hide in a corner.

Friendship between the leopard and the fox, but the bat (a tale-bearer) has caused its disruption.

Lies never miss their object (both are always at hand).

Stand on top of a hill and call the fugitive back (a spoken word cannot be recalled).

No one can cook a meal with borrowed water.

The stronger animal devours his weaker brother (might is right).

Page 46

The old fellow sat in council with the hen! (had a secret conference).

Stay away from an open toilet, and you'll not be annoyed by the stench (shun bad company).

The centipede said: "Any one who dares to cut off my ears (feelers) must pay" (Beware of meddling with dangerous things).

Correct announcements cannot be made by beating only one side of the drum (Let both parties be heard).

An evil-doer is loath to think of death (because he fears punishment).

Trade is something apart from relationship (Business is business).

Page 47

To straighten out other people's affairs is an ungrateful business.

Differences between husband and wife should not be aired in the marketplace.

A guest who breaks the dishes of his host is not soon forgotten (We live on and are remembered by our deeds).

If an expert swimmer drowns, what will happen to the novice?

Pearls are too costly to waste them on swine.

The door sees everything that is going on, both inside and out of the hut (refers to a tale-bearer and busybody).

Let the hands get busy, not the mouth.

Page 48

Only a tired dog has sweat on his nose (an indolent person who is afraid of work will not sweat).

Two stones suffice to break a palm nut.

Every nose is turned toward the earth (all men must die).

When the head is off dreaming will cease.

A bowl should not laugh when a calabash breaks.

Opportunities you have missed will never return.

Death fears no man.

Page 49

No true farmer was ever afraid of the hoe.

An eruption (eczema) in the face is no shame (for something that everybody does we need not feel ashamed or apologize).

Will you caress the baby before it is born? (Do not count your chickens before they're hatched).

A quarrel among the sheep should not concern the goats.

A jigger killed the bat (small cause — big effect).

A debt is not a corpse (It is quite alive and will trouble us until it is paid).

Page 50

My foolish heart betrayed me.

Carry a monkey in a cage and be laughed at (Associate with a fool and you'll be treated like a fool).

The centipede has no tail! (the thing looks suspicious, beware!).

Friendship between a dried fish and the mouse! (Some people feign friendship to exploit others).

An excellent meal, but the meat is hidden (so little of it that it cannot be seen).

If you find a chicken tied near a closet, then beware! (be circumspect, something is wrong).

Page 51

A dry branch and its abundance (of fruit)!

Sorcery and witchcraft receive their just due.

A widow is not free for all.

Rain is like an orphan (the rainy season offers little joy — it is chilly, with little to eat).

When peeling yam look out for your fingers!

A man who has hired a laborer will not waste his time.

The teeth of a goat cannot kill an ironwood tree (by peeling off the bark).

Page 52

A wild-growing palm tree does not bear nice nuts, but the kernels are good.

The first pot did not fall soft. (It fell upon a rock, and nothing but fragments were left — a first mishap is always bad).

An already broken cutlass will not break the second time.

Leopards and goats do not associate with each other in herds.

Those on top (the ripe bananas) said: Not ripe! Those below (the people) said: Ripe! (It all depends upon from what point of view one looks at a thing.)

Page 53

The sparrow says: "I did not eat; therefore, the parrot, too, should not eat."

The son of a freeman uses the wealth of his father. (It would be a disgrace if he worked like a slave.)

The head of an adder — laughter in front and tears behind (a person who is insincere — a hypocrite.)

"I have no hair on my body," said the chameleon; "therefore, I need not fear the razor." (A good conscience need not fear the judge.)

"I simply laugh," said the chimpanzee (applied to an innocent man who is accused of a crime).

Page 54

A loving heart cannot be hidden very long, and a loving eye will be seen.

Would you eat eggs? Then take care of the hen!

The toad knows nothing of his looks (A homely person should refrain from criticizing the looks of another.)

If you would be wise sit down and listen.

The crow is well acquainted in the field (where corn is planted).

The head of an antelope and the rump of a leopard (dishonesty in one's dealing with others).

At night all men look alike.

Page 55

A slave is not reliable.

The grave of a slave is knee-deep (Inferior things need less attention.)

Poverty goes unnoticed.

"Why worry?" said the sparrow. "The world owes me a living."

Lies are like the driftwood (that is washed ashore).

True friendship outlives relationship.

Do not do unto others what you would not have them do unto you.

Soiled clothes should not be burned (but washed).

Page 56

Men who make sport of a monkey in a cage will not spare the carrier. (Associate with fools and you'll be treated like a fool.)

The centipede (a poisonous insect) earns nothing but hate for his love.

Death is no respecter of persons.

A dead bird will not rot on the limb of a tree.

All noses point downward.

No leopard will bewail his (dead) cubs.

An adder has no right to the teeth of a python. (Only relatives may claim an heirloom.)

Page 57

Fish poison (in water)! Beware (do not drink it)! (Beware of busybodies; they may bring you into trouble.)

The last elephant is always in danger of coming to grief.

The hut of a bachelor is never free from foul odors.

Honor is double-faced. (Treat me well, and I'll treat you the same.)

Experience makes a man careful and wise.

"Out with you; let everyone shift for himself," said the crane. (Grown up children should be able to take care of themselves.)

Page 58

You have cut the wood — wait till it has been turned into ashes! (Eat your own stew!)

A foolish man, who would eat the same hash twice.

No sane man will parade with a stolen goat.

A disobedient child must eat the bread of sorrow.

Do not learn to swim where the river enters the sea. (Know your own limitations.)

A beautiful dish with a lid on! (Outward appearance deceives; one never knows what may be inside.)

Don't try to carry the world on your head.

Page 59

If you employ a laborer, then, first of all, come to an understanding concerning his hire.

No two things are exactly alike.

A fish and water belong together. (A chief cannot exist without his people.)

Put the meat away, and you'll get rid of the flies.

There is no need of telling animals living in the water to drink.

When the chief has gone away, the common man has his chance.

The singing of a chief is always beautiful.

Page 60

Many brooklets make a river.

A white hen has every reason to fear the hawk.

The ear will not grow above the head. (A servant is not over his master.)

A thing we love to do we do well.

Counting obstacles will not clear the land.

Let no man think that he can escape his fate.

A present should never be examined too closely.

A merchant who is willing to give credit will get the trade.

Love of money is the undoing of men.

Page 61

A single lie will kill a thousand truths.

Dogs will peaceably live together until a bone is in sight. (Throw a bone among them, and the fight is on.)

Marry a wife and buy clothes!

Why keep on talking when we know you so well?

He almost caught the fish!

A small axe fells a giant tree.

The tongue is boneless (adaptability.)

The world is like a defective rope. (It cannot be trusted.)

Page 62

A rope will always tear where it is weakest.

Sitting on the big chair (said of a braggard).

O man, a heap of things! (excuse of an indolent wife).

No foot can stand without a leg. (Woman cannot exist without the man.)

Truthful as Kal'a Ngando (who was a notorious liar of the Munchausen type).

You may be able to remove the tar from your hands, but the odor remains.

First of all, sweep in front of your own hut. (First tend to your own affairs, before you trouble yourself about the affairs of your neighbor.)

Page 63

Even a wise man does not know it all.

A woman's clothes are the price of her husband's peace.

Never try to bribe a woman with presents, for after all, she'll have her own way.

A guest should not be unmindful of what he owes to his host.

Dry banana leaves are not tobacco, and rattan not rope. (Give me the real thing.)

Debts make slaves.

"You got what you wanted and died," said the dove. (Rather die than give in.)

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The sun shines upon all men alike. (All men have a right to be happy.)

Not every big elephant can boast of big tusks.

Pepper and salt (a good joke and hearty laugh) — pass it on!

"Why fuss about it?" said the crane (after the fish had slipped away). "I never liked fish anyway."

A monkey may cut off his tail, but he still is a monkey.

A duck can never be a hen.

A good deed will make a good neighbor.

Overexertion caused the death of the dove. (Take your time.)