

[Signposts for research listed below the story text.]

The Beautiful Milk Pots told by Naturinda Margaret

Translated from Runyankore by Rwangyezi Hellen

There lived a man and his wife. They had four children, three girls and one boy. The girls were called, Rwoga, Nyinomuriro, and Ntonozobugondo. The son was called Rumanzi.

Later their parents died leaving the four of them behind. In the mornings, Rumanzi would go to hunt and leave his sisters at home doing chores.

One day when he was away hunting, his sisters were kidnapped by rebels. When Rumanzi returned home, he was shocked to see that they were not there. He looked for them in the village and could not find them.

Seeing as the girls were not in their village, He decided to go journey to the Bahima, to get small milk pots. These small milk pots were very beautiful. He got 3 of them, tied them on a stick and went to look for his sisters.

Along his journey, people kept admiring the small pots. They tried to buy them from him, and he refused. They tried to convince him to give them to them and Rumanzi refused. Curious, they asked him what the pots were for. He sang them a song

Rumanzi: *"These pots are not for sale,
They are looking for Rwoga and Nyinomuriro,
Who ever has seen Ntonozobugondo
The **beats** in this village are like people,
Their herdsmen are protecting them,
It cries, kucacacaca
It Cries, kuca*

Rumanzi continued on his journey moving from village to village looking for his sister. Everyone that met him tried to buy the beautiful small pots and he still refused. He told them:

Rumanzi: I am looking for my three sisters, anyone who finds them and brings them will be rewarded with these pots.

On his journey he met some farmers and they too asked to buy the pots. He sang for them the same song and they recognized the name. They directed him to a home that had 3 girls with the same names as his sisters. When Rumanzi reached the home, the owners of the home tried to buy the beautiful milk pots again.

He told them the story of his sisters and the rebels agreed to hand them over in exchange of the beautiful pots.

The four siblings were so happy to be reunited and Rumanzi took them back home and they lived happily, ever after.

Signposts for research embedded within the story:

Gender Studies: “Rumanzi would go to hunt and leave his sisters at home doing chores.”

- Ninsiima, A. B., Leye, E., Michielsen, K., Kemigisha, E., Nyakato, V. N., & Coene, G. (2018). “Girls have more challenges; they need to be locked up”: a qualitative study of gender norms and the sexuality of young adolescents in Uganda. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 15(2), 193.

Sociology: “One day when he was away hunting, his sisters were kidnapped by rebels.”

- Cook, K. (2007). *Stolen angels: The kidnapped girls of Uganda*. Penguin Canada.

Cultural Anthropology: “He decided to go journey to the Bahima, to get small milk pots.”

- Wurzinger, M., Okeyo, A. M., Semambo, D., & Souml, J. (2009). The sedentarisation process of the Bahima in Uganda: An emic view. *African Journal of Agricultural Research*, 4(10), 1154-1158.

Art & Design: “These small milk pots were very beautiful.”

- Kayamba, W. K., & Kwesiga, P. (2016). The role of pottery production in development: a case study of the Ankole region in Western Uganda.