

**UniqueID:** 202103271724

**Author:** Duff Macdonald

**Title:** Africana

**Published:** 1882

**Internet Archive: Always Available:** [volume 1](#) and [volume 2](#).

**Description:** [Werner cites a version from Junod](#), Ronga: La Route du Ciel.

There were three women with their children, and they went to the water. When they reached it, one of them was cheated by her companions who said, "Throw your child into the water, we have thrown our children into the water." But they had hidden their children under a tree. So their companion threw her child into the water, and a crocodile swallowed it. Then her companions began to laugh at her and said, "You have thrown your child into the water! We were only cheating you." Then she wept and said, "Why did you cheat me?" Her companions went to the village to tell her mother, and said, "Your daughter has thrown her child into the water." When her mother heard them she said, "Can it be true!" Her companions said, "Yes." So her mother wept in great sorrow.

But her daughter climbed a tree and said, "I want to go on high," and the tree grew much and reached upwards.

She met many leopards and they asked the girl and said, "Where are you going?"

The girl said, "I want my child; my companions cheated me and said, 'Throw your child into the water. We threw ours into the water.'"

The leopards said, "Indeed!" and they showed her the way, saying, "You will come to the Nsenzi who will show you the way again."

So the girl went on and met the Nsenzi and they asked, "Girl, where are you going?"

The girl replied, "I want my child, my companions cheated me saying, 'Throw your child in the water.'"

Then the Nsenzi showed her the way and said, "Go, there you will meet the Mazomba " (large fishes).

The Mazomba said, "What do you want, my girl?"

The girl said, "I want to know the way."

The Mazomba said, "Where to?"

The girl said, "The way to Mlungu (God)."

The Mazomba said, "Well, be strong in your heart."

The girl said, "Yes, Masters, I understand."

Then she came to the village of Mulungu and Mulungu asked the girl, "What do you want?"

The girl said, "Maste ! I want my child. My comrades cheated me saying, 'Throw your child into the water,' I threw it in, and a crocodile swallowed it."

Then Mulungu called the crocodile and the crocodile came.

Mulungu said, "Give up the child," and it delivered it up.

The girl received the child and went down to her mother. When her mother saw that her daughter brought the child she was much delighted and gave her much cloth and a good house.

When her companions saw that she had fetched her child they asked her, "How did you fetch your child?"

Their companion said, "I went to Mulungu."

When her companions heard that she fetched it from Mulungu, then they threw their children in the water, and also climbed the tree, which grew quickly, quickly.

Then they met the Leopards. The Leopards asked, "Where are you going?"

But the girls were obstinate and said, "We don't want you to question us. No."

The Leopards left them, and they went on and met with the Nsenzi who said, "Well, where are you going"?

But the girls began to abuse them. They went on and came to the Mazomba. The Mazomba said, "Well, where are you going?"

The girls said, "We don't want you to ask us."

Then they came to Mulungu. Mulungu said, "What do you want?"

The girls said, "We have thrown our children into the water "

But Mulungu said, "What was the reason of that?"

The girls hid the matter and said, "Nothing."

But Mulungu said, "It is false. You cheated your companion, saying, 'Throw your child into the water,' and now you tell me a lie."

Then Mulungu took a bottle of lightning, and said, "Your children are in here."

The girls took the bottle, and the bottle made a report like a gun. The girls both died.