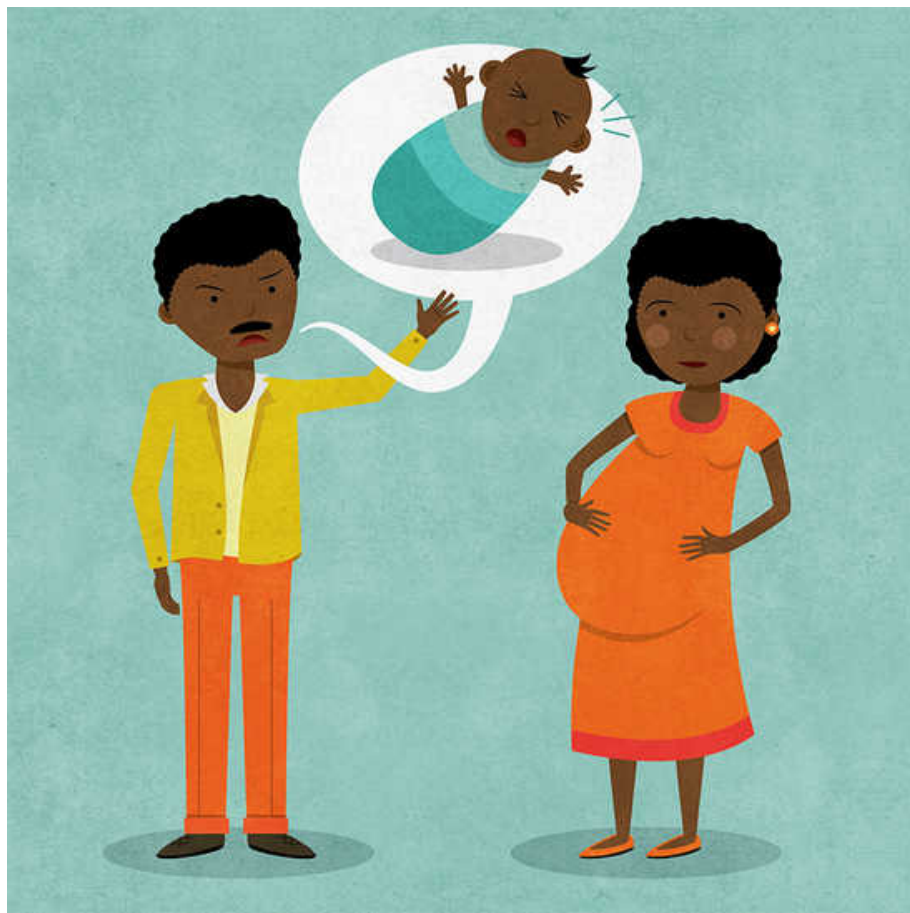


Namukhaywa

Matthews M Wanga
Kiswahili





Hapo zamani katika kijiji cha Elunyikho, paliishi mwanamme kwa jina Ndong'a na mkewe Namukhaywa. Walikuwa na watoto sita, wote wasichana.

Namukhaywa alipokuwa na mimba ya saba, Ndong'a alimwonya, "Ukimzaa msichana, nitakuua. Lakini ukinipa mtoto mvulana, nitakuandalia karamu kubwa!"





Wakati wa kujifungua ulipowadia, Namukhaywa alienda kwa mkunga wa kienyeji. Je, mtoto atakuwa msichana au mvulana?

Alikuwa mvulana NA msichana –
mapacha! Mvulana alimwita
Mukhwana, na msichana
akamwita Mulongo.
Alipomwangalia Mukhwana,
alifurahi sana. Lakini
alipomwangalia Mulongo,
alihuzunika mno. Ni jambo moja
tu angelifanya.





Namukhaywa alimwacha
Mulongo chini ya ulezi wa
mkunga na kumpeleka
Mukhwana nyumbani kwa
mumewe.

Kwa fahari, alimwonyesha
Ndong'a mtoto mvulana.
Alifurahi sana na kuwaita
wanakijiji kusherehekea
kuzaliwa kwa mtoto wake
mvulana.

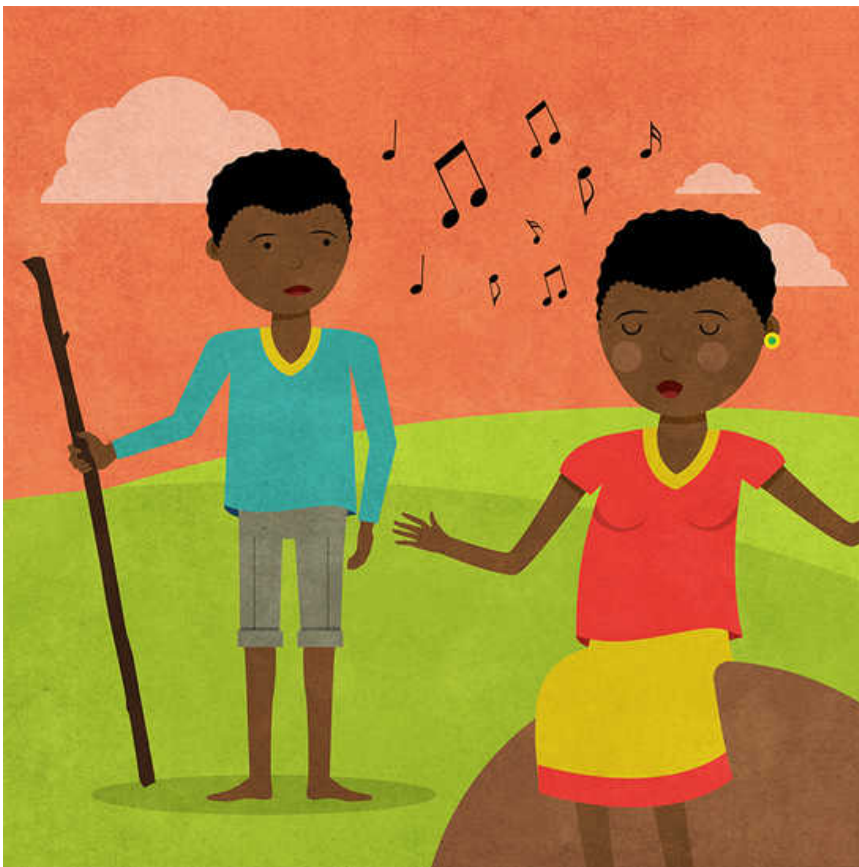




Mukhwana alikua na kuwa
kijana mwanamme wa
kupendeza. Na Mulongo naye,
akawa mwanamke mrembo
mno.

Siku moja wakati alikuwa
akichunga mifugo wa babake,
Mukhwana alimwona msichana
mrembo sana.
“Huyu ndiye msichana
ningependa kuoa,” alijiambia.





Lakini alipomuuliza kumuoa,
aliimba wimbo huu:

“Mukhwana wefwe, Mukhwana.
So yakhupa omunwa,
Mukhwana.
Nebebula omukhana,
Mukhwana.
Barulaka khulwanda,
Mukhwana.
Nebebula omusiani, Mukhwana.
Barera mungo muno,
Mukhwana.
Iyeyi yakwa, Mukhwana.
Iyindi yakwa, Mukhwana.”

Hii ilifanyika tena na tena.
Mukhwana hakujua la kufanya.
Kwa hivyo alimwendea
mamake, Namukhaywa.
“Nimempata msichana
mrembo,” alisema. “Nataka
kumuoa. Lakini kila
ninapomuuliza, anaimba wimbo
ule ule.”





La kushangaza, Namukhaywa alisema, “Anachoimba msichana yule ni kweli. Yeye ni dadako. Mlizaliwa mapacha. Babako alimtaka mtoto mvulana na wala si msichana. Kwa hivyo nilimwacha dadako kwa mkunga na kukuleta wewe nyumbani.”

Wakati Mukhwana alimwambia babake kisa hicho, babake aliona kwamba alikuwa amefanya kosa. Alimwita Namukhaywa, na pamoja walienda kwa mkunga kumleta Mulongo.





Mulongo alipofika nyumbani,
babake na wazee wa kijiji
walimchinja mbuzi na
kutekeleza kimila cha
kumuunganisha Mulongo na
ndugu zake saba.

Mwaka mmoja baadaye,
Mulongo aliolewa kwa mwana
wa tajiri kutoka kijijini. Alilitea
familia yake mali mengi na
furaha.



Namukhaywa

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