



· P O P O B A W A ·

The inhabitants of Zanzibar are threatened by this demonic creature. Its name, Swahili, means 'wing-bat' and refers to the shadow it casts when it strikes at night. However, the Popobawa is a shifter and can take almost any form. Incredibly stealthy, it is believed that it can fly and enter houses through windows. In rural areas, it usually attacks one or more members of a family, without differentiating between men, women and children. Although it can attack in different ways, its most feared aggression is sexual, sodomizing its victims. In addition, it forces them to tell their neighbours about the aggression, under the threat that, if they remain silent, it will continue to raid other houses in the village. It is believed that he is actually a 'jinn' genius liberated by an Arab sheikh in revenge for the 1964 revolution, which escaped his control. It is often depicted with pointed ears, bat wings and a single eye. In addition to the islands of Zanzibar, it has also occasionally appeared off the coast of Tanzania.





Popobawa is a creature
originating from **ZANZIBAR**
Current population: 1.303.569



The Zanzibar archipelago is the cradle of Swahili culture, the evolution of Bantu communities in intense relationship with Persian and Arab populations between the eighth and twelfth centuries. This culture spread along the East African coast, encompassing many countries and turning its language into a lingua franca of great diffusion. An intense trading zone, the influx of traders from other cultures and languages marked its stamp on the Swahili population, who converted to Islam and connected to the maritime routes between the Far East and the Islamic world. Arab and Persian traders, but also Indians,

Malays, Chinese and Indonesians used the ports of Zanzibar, well defended and safe, to exchange their products with each other and with the Swahili of the continent, who transported goods from the interior of Africa. Over time, some Arab traders came to occupy positions of power in the cities, where thousands of immigrants also flowed.

The emergence of Europe impacted Zanzibar in 1498, with the arrival of the Portuguese Vasco de Gama. For 200 years Portugal exercised power in the archipelago, although without changing the existing institutions. In the end, the local elites asked the Arabs of Oman for help to expel the Portuguese, remaining since 1698 under the influence of that sultanate. The Arabs thus gained power on the islands, becoming a ruling elite over the Swahili, and boosted commercial activity by promoting the slave trade. By the mid-19th century, Zanzibar was the world's largest human market, with 50,000 people sold each year.

The emerging British empire took control of Zanzibar in the late 19th century, through the shortest war in history (it lasted only 38 minutes). A year later the revolution took place, in which the Swahili majorities evicted the Arab elites from power and merged the country with the coastal Swahili areas, creating the new country of Tanzania.

