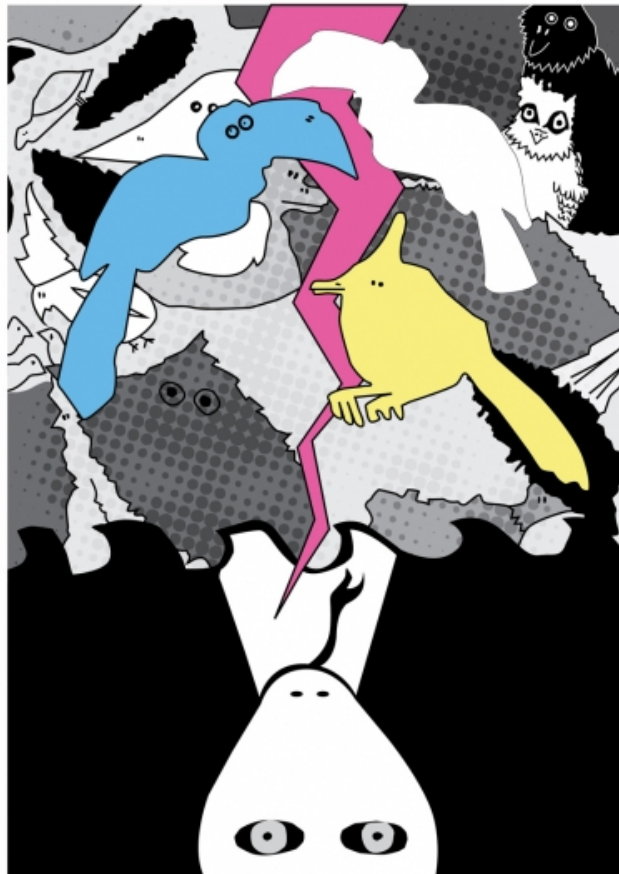
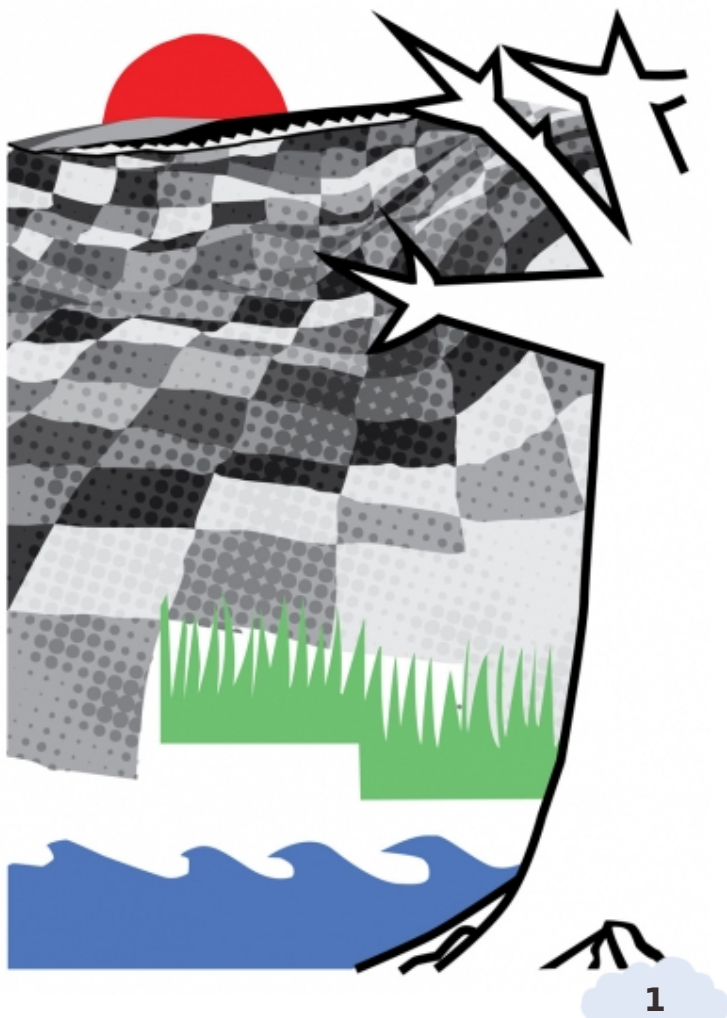


# Mwanamme na Mwanamke wa Kwanza

Southern African Folktale  
Kiswahili





Hapo zamani za kale  
dunia ilipokuwa mpya,  
milima mikubwa  
ilifunika ulimwengu  
kama blanketi.

Nayo miti mirefu  
ilichongoka mawinguni.

Duniani palikuwa na dimbwi kubwa  
la maji baridi shadidi na lililotulia  
tuli.

Kina chake kilikuwa kirefu na  
liligubikwa na giza totoro.

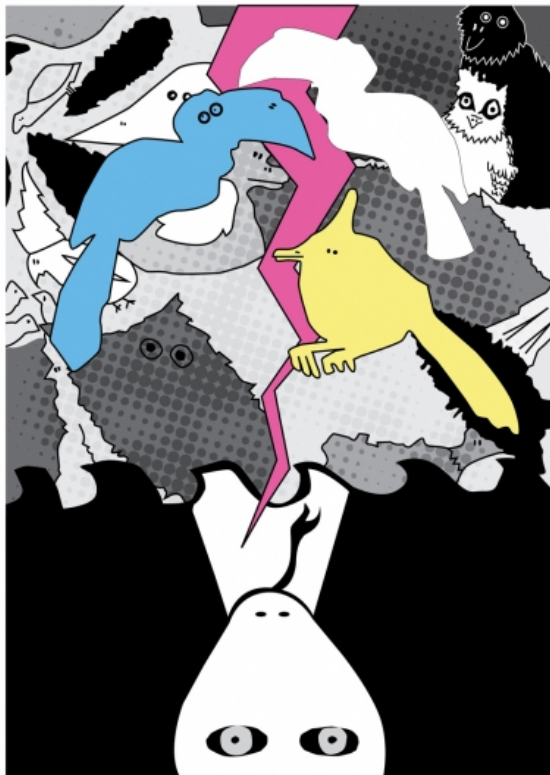


Kwenye sakafu ya  
dimbwi hilo paliishi  
nyoka wawili.

Mmoja alikuwa mnene  
na mwenye nguvu.

Na mwengine alikuwa  
na umbo dogo la  
kuvutia na dhaifu.





Basi siku moja pakatokea dhoruba kubwa.

Radi ilipiga na kupenya hadi chini ya dimbwi. Maji yakagawika kwa muda mfupi, wale nyoka wakaweza kuona ardhi kule juu.

Waliona vitu vya rangi nyingi na vyenye maumbo tofauti tofauti. Waliona viumbe wenye mbawa angani. Kila kitu walichoona ardhini kilivutia sana.

Wangu maji valiporudiana tena

“Hatuwezi kuendelea kuishi kwenye dimbwi hili lenye giza na baridi,” waliambiana. “Twende kule juu tukaione ardhi.”  
“Tutawezaje kuishi kwenye ardhi?” yule nyoka mdogo aliuliza. “Je, tutatambaa kwa matumbo?”





“Ndege wa angani hawatatucheka  
na kutuona duni,” mwenzake  
alimjibu.

“Hatutatambaa, tutatembea!”

Nyoka hao walijikunjua polepole.

Wakaanza kuogelea na kuogelea  
wakielekea juu kwenye mwangaza.

Walipokaribia juu ya maji, maajabu  
yalitendeka.

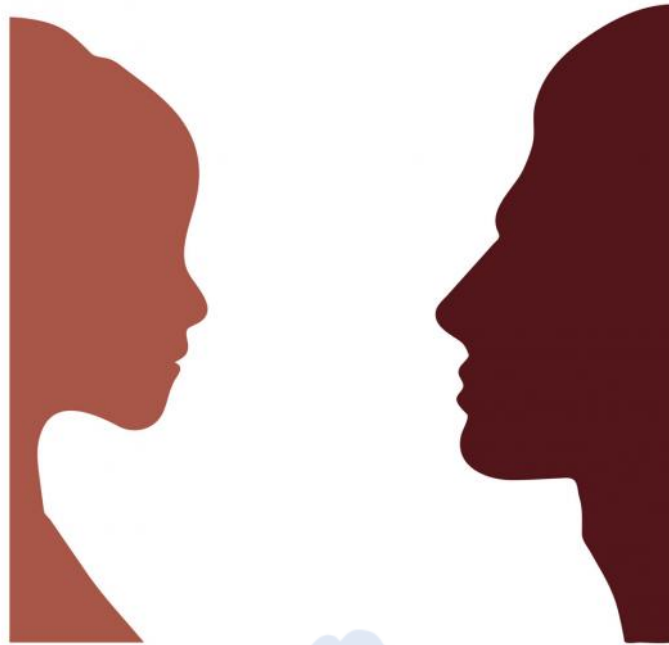
Mikia yao iligawika mara mbili  
wakawa na miguu yenye vidole.

Na mikono miwili yenye vidole  
ilitokea chini ya vichwa vyao.





Hawakuwa nyoka tena, kwani sasa waligeuka na kuwa mume na mke. Walitazamana na kupendana kama mume na mke.



“Tutajenga nyumba juu milimani,” Mke alisema. “Kila siku tutaliona jua likitoka na kufurahia joto lake.”

“Na tutalinda nyasi na miti,” Mume alisema. “Tutakuwa marafiki wa ndege na wanyama.”



“Hebu njoo,” Mume wa Kwanza alisema. “Naam,” akajibu Mke wa Kwanza. Kisha wakatembea pamoja kwenye ulimwengu wao mpya.



# Mwanamme na Mwanamke wa Kwanza

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story and use the illustrations as long as you attribute or credit the  
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The inspiration for this retelling  
came from Diana Pitcher's version  
of the folktale In The Calabash  
Child: African Folktales (Skilton &  
Shaw, 1980).

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