

Bayo ma odhiambo

... koro ni piny yuso...

Ruoth Chieng', lembe mapichni, otonglo marahuma mar
 odiechieng',
 Imula, to pien denda lokore tong wang,
 chogo ma dier ng'eya leche mek wang', to denda kirni
 ka ang'eng' gi ler mar dhahabu ma ikelo
 ewi nam mantiere ka koda pachoni, ka aye to ok anen.
 chon cha kae ne oriedo – to podi ang'eyo ni gichung' –
 ute kod yore, mege pacho moro,
 ok mantie ka eri ma iseloko chutho.

Wawuotho e dho wath. Otieno no
 yiedhi mek jolupo ikore mar wuok,
 chunygi ngur, teche mek mo e wiye gi,
 ka aye to pacho te wuok bayo,
 johera omako lwetegi, rowerni to wuotho gi sunga,
 mege gi wege, nyithindo chamo pe mamit,
 jodongo to ng'icho ka gibet e mesa man kuonde chiemo e bath yo.
 to gode mege tipo, sudo machiegni, mana kaka le ma osiepe
 dhano.

Ler mamit ma odhiambo, oyangore e gode kod wath,
 badi guelo mara, mana ka gima ok ochan,
 mana kaka mul mar nyako mawuotho e batha kaeri ni
 gi onding' madongo, konyono mos koda sunga
 yie wiye oyuoyo chien, ng'ute yom yom nono to goke
 lando ka diere oro, to wengene marabuor nyiero
 amodhi, ler mapichni, mana kaka kong'o, kaka thum,
 mana kaka kwerene osemadhi higni gana gi gana.

Pacho ma otuch, nyinge en *Eleftheria*,
 to kata kuondego ma ogwarore tindo to rochere e wang'e
 podi, e sechegi ma ler koda pilni mek ler
 tugo e wang'e mana kaka wach gi wer,
 mare en thuolo machon mar wuotho e dho nam kaye

mana kaka gino makonyo, kendo marito lerni
kachokoe e bur matut mar tong wang'e,
kendo mare be, thuolo maber, mar wuotho kuomi ka jamiel.

Jaherana ma odhiambo, ler ma higni gana gi gana,
jawer ma duonde ler, maber ka miyo ni,
ere kaka ok anyal gombo nyadhi ma ikelo
kuom pacho ni gi joge, to gi nyuaso
ma chueyo gimoro amora ma omulo, piny ngima?
asebedo jatichni, ka ok ja kanyo.
Koda riyo mar modhi chutho, anyalo pong'o
kan moro amora e denda kod rieny mari, ma en thuolone.

Richard Berengarten

Oloke kod / translated by Jeckonia Otieno

A NOTE ON DHOLUO

Dholuo, also known as Jaluo and Joluo, is spoken by the Luo people, who live mainly around Lake Victoria in western Kenya, northern and eastern Uganda and northern Tanzania. The language has around three million speakers. Dholuo is closely related to other Nilotic languages such as Lango, Acholi, Padhola and Alur in Uganda, and Anuak in Southern Sudan. In Kenya, The Luo are the third largest ethnic group and Dholuo is currently spoken by around 13% of the population, in the cities as well as in the countryside. In Kenya and Uganda, Dholuo is known affectionately as the 'O-language', because most Luo speakers have the letter 'O' at the beginning of their names: for instance, Odinga, Otieno, Olali, Onunga, Odhiambo, Orido, Ochuka – and Obama. Dholuo is the mother tongue of the father of the American President, Barrack Obama Senior, and also of the Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga

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