

Richard Berengarten

Ritauritwe ni / translated by Hezekiel Gikambi

Kuliunga Ugoro

...ni untu kugutuka

Iwe Munene riuu, makai yamaundu, na uri ta ciringi iria iri yonka narua iji, uguntongethia, ngoci yekwa ikagaruka na igatwika ngilobu ya metho, muululu ywakwa ywa muongo yugatwika mikiga ya metho, na mwiri ywakwa yugatetema na kurigarua ni weru bunene buria ututharagiria irieni na mucii juju, na buo bugatuma turemwa ni kuona buru.

O au, karaja nikwari micitari- na ningwitikia kinya narua iji yuri-o- ywa nyumba na barabara, cia mucii yungi, na ti yuu uumbite kujugarura buru.

Riu tugwiriritue gutembea rutere rwa iria,
Itaru bia atachia makuyu ba utuku nabio biri tayari,
Mota ciao ikirurumaga, tuntandikira natuo to kugwatwa,
Na mucii ywonthe gukagaruka na kuambiria miango ya guturatura kaolo,
Baria bendene bagwatene njara, nthaka nacio tiu cithiolete na lambu,
Ekuru na akuru, na twana natuo tukirijaga nteremente,
Akuru ntindiri nabo no metho matheri, bari tumethene twao twa baranda cia mikawa, na tulima tura tuiru natuo, turaluma kuiruira tukeyaiya akui, ta nyamu cia mucii.

Kiwelu kiri nkanya, kikamamira tugungone na nkinya mborokoni iu,
Njara yekwa igatongethia yeku, ni yeka tutikwendaa utongethania,
Ni yeka ntongethetue ni muka uyu, tuitanitie nawe ari rutere rwakwa,
Uri na biero bibiujuru, makinya yamakui na mwitire ywa kwengeya,
Nywiri acanurite nyuma kimamilio, kamumero gaceke na maturo yeritwe ya mauro, na metho yawe ya rangi iri nkanya yakithekaa.
Ningukunywa, iwe weru buria bumetametaa, ta gachobi, ta rwimbo,
Ta uria banguku betu batwire gukunywa miaka ngiri na ngiri.

Iwe mucii yuri makutho, ritwa riawe ni *Eleftheria*,
na kinya malema yawe no ta malaka yari thirwa methone yake,
no, igita riri, riria weru na mimuriko ya weru igucetha uthiune bwawe ta rwaria kana rwimbo, na njira itikueleweka, rwawe ni ruai rwa ntuire rwa gwitira rutere ruu rwa mwera, ta gitumikiri na mukaria wa weru bwaku,
akibuuthurania kiri ithima bia mboni cia metho yawe,
na bwawe, iwe wiciathi buri nkanya, ni gukwijiira ta mwini wa nguri.
Ugoro bukembu, weru bwa mangiri na mangiri ya miaka.

Mwini uri kayu kathongomu, uri nkanya ta muka uyu,
Kukarwe atia wu ndemwe ukujiira wega buria utharairia mucii yuu na aturu
ba ywo, we mutolo yuria yuumbaga u kiria uraringithia, nthigurune yonthe?
Kiriwe uni ndi ta nthumba, kana mwathwa wa nthi yeku.
Ndina nyonta ya gukunywa wenthe uria uri, ni kenda mbuyuria o-bwonka
kinywiro na kiwelu giaku, nakio nikiyo wiciathi bwawe.

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A NOTE ON KIMERU

Kimeru is the language of the Meru, a Bantu ethnic group living on Mount Kenya's agriculturally rich northeastern slopes in the Eastern Province of Kenya. Most are agrarian. The Meru form a fairly homogeneous linguistic group: while there are some regional variations, all the sub-groups understand each other well. As a whole, Kimeru exhibits older Bantu characteristics in grammar and phonetic forms than its neighbouring languages. Even so, it bears a close resemblance to the Bantu languages of the Kikuyu, Embu and Kamba. To the West, Kimeru borders Cushitic languages. The Meru of Tanzania speaks a Bantu language slightly different from the Kenyan Meru. About 2.5 million people currently speak Kimeru.

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