

GENEALOGY OF BAKONGO ETHNIC GROUP

The Bakongo people (aka. the Kongo) dwell along the Atlantic coast of Africa from Pointe-Noire, Congo (Brazzaville) to Luanda, Angola. In the east, their territory is limited by the Kwango River and in the northeast by Malebo (Stanley) Pool, in the Congo River. The Bakongo thus live in Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), and Angola.

The Kongo people migrated into their current location during the 13th century from the northeast under the leadership of Wene

1. Understanding Mfumu, Mwana and Ntekelo

- We are Mfumu¹ from the Luvila of our Mum.
- We are Mwana² from the Luvila³ of our Dad.

- Recursively, your Mum and Dad are respectively Mfumu from the Luvilas of their respective Mums and Mwana [Bana] from the Luvilas of their respective Dads.

- It should be noted here that you remain Mfumu from the Luvila of your Mum's Mum and you remain Mwana from the Luvila of your Dad's Mum.

- Who from the grandparents⁴? This is where the Ntekelo⁵ comes in.

You are the Ntekelo from the Luvilas of your parents' Dads. That is the Ntekelo from the Luvila of your Mum's Dad and the Ntekelo from the Luvila of your Dad's Dad.

2. Example (i.e. the Abilio's family)

- My Mum is Mfumu Kinlungu⁶ and Mwana Kinzawu Nteka.

This means that her Mum is also Mfumu Kinlungu and her Dad is Mfumu Kinzawu Nteka..

- My Dad is Mfumu Ki-Malemba Nzinga and Mwana Kinkenzi.

This means that his Mum is Mfumu Kilemba and his Dad is Mfumu Kinkenzi.

- Therefore I am:

* Mfumu Kinlungu [Cf. Luvila of Mum and Luvila of her Mum]

* Mwana Kilemba [Cf. Luvila of my Dad and Luvila of his Mum]

* Ntekelo Kinzawu Nteka [Cf. Luvila of which Mum is Mwana, that is the Luvila of Mum's Dad, or else the Luvila of Mum's Dad's Mum]

* Ntekelo Kinkenzi [Cf. Luvila of which Dad is Mwana, that is the Luvila of Dad's Dad, or else the Luvila of Dad's Dad's Mum]

3. Who are from the same Luvila [Mfumu] as me?

- All my brothers and all my sisters with the *same mother*.

- All the progeny of my *sisters*.

- All the children [male or female] of my *mum's sisters with the same mother*

- My *mum*

- All my Mum's brothers and sisters with the *same mother*.

- All the progeny of the *daughters* of my *mum's sisters with the same mother*.

4. From whom am I mwana?

- From my *dad*

- From all my dad's brothers and sisters with the *same mother*.

- From all the children [male or female] of my *dad's sisters with the same mother*.

- From all the progeny of the *daughters* of my *dad's sisters with the same mother*.

- Therefore, by deduction, the Luvila can be expressed as follows:

* I am Mfumu from the Luvila of my Mum [A woman]

=> 1st generation

* I am Mwana from the Luvila of Dad's Mum [A woman]

=> 2nd generation

* I am Ntekelo from the Luvila of Mum's Dad's Mum [A woman]

* I am Ntekelo from the Luvila of Dad's Dad's Mum [A woman]

=> 3rd generation

Therefore we belong to the mum [A woman].

“NDONA N'KENTO WA SINA”.

5. Conclusion

- Women have a *strong* influence over the *luvila* in the Kongo Kingdom (Bakongo Tradition).

- But Bakongo wisdom means that the Dad is not forgotten [Cf. Mwana and Ntekelo].

- However, the man *“always hides a woman”*. In fact, I am Mwana XX because of my Dad. Yes, but in fact, it is because of his *mum* [My Dad's Mum]

Likewise, I am Ntekelo YY because of Mum's Dad and Dad's Dad. In reality, I am Ntekelo from the Mums of these grandfathers!

¹ Lord ; i.e. honorary gentleman or Dame

² Son or daughter (“Bana” is plural)

³ Origin(genealogy – family line)

⁴ Trs. note: not clear – it could mean ‘who [are] the grandparents?’ or the idea of ‘who [are we] from [our] grandparents?’

⁵ Grandson/daughter

⁶ Kinlungu mfumbu lu luiva kiuma kitutulanga utoto matekelo mfumu vuoka tanu kuna ngoma mpanzu.