

When A Baby Is Born

Shona transcript:

I: Ko panozvarwa munhu panoitwa sei kuZimbabwe? Panopembererwa here? Anopa mwana zita ndiani?

M: Hongu. Panozvarwa mwana panopembererwa chizvo, kunyanya mwana wekutanga. Mwana wekutanga anonzi nevanji, uye akakosha zvikuru nekuti ndiye achazitora nhaka. Hazvinei kuti musikana kana kuti mukomana- nevanji akakosha. Kana kuri kumaruzevha kune vanhu vachiri kuteedzera tsika dzedu, vanpemberera zvikuru nembiko. Sekuru vemusha ndivo vanatora danho rekupa mwana uyu zita. Mazuvaano tavakupa hedu mazita echirungu aya *but* kare mwana apiwa zita ratateguru vake vakashaika kare. Kupa mwana zita raitove danho guru kwazo.

English translation:

I: What happens when a child is born in Zimbabwe? Are there any celebrations? Who names the child?

M: Yes. When a child is born there is a big celebration, especially if this is a first child. A first child is called a *nevanji* and this child is important because it will inherit the parents' fortune. It doesn't matter if it is a boy or a girl, it is still very important. In the rural areas there are people who are still following our Shona culture religiously. These people have a proper traditional ceremony when a first-born child is born. The eldest grandfather in the clan names this child. These days children are given English names but in the past, babies were named after their deceased ancestors. Naming a child is a very important aspect of our culture.

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