

CultureTalk Tanzania Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Masai Family Traditions

Swahili transcript:

Natasha: Je kama mtu akiwa mzembe yani mvivu hafanyi chochote bado jamii itakusaidia?

Andrea: Utasaidiwa mara ya kwanza, mara ya pili, mara ya tatu, mara ya nne mwisho, mwisho .

Natasha: Aah

Andrea: Eeh. Isipokuwa ilimradi kama sio kiziwi au mwendawazimu lakini kama ni akili yako iko ...

Natasha: Iko vizuri

Andrea: ...lakini

Natasha: Je ukiwa kilema yani kama miguu au mikono imearibika ?

Andrea: Mikono imeharibika basi huyu mtu ni wakutunzwa kwa sababu Mungu awazi kukupa kitu mbili, Mungu anakupa hii

Natasha : Haahaaa. Eeh

Andrea: Unaweza ukawa kilema mikono lakini akili hipo, unaweza kuwa mguu huna lakini akili hipo, unaweza ukatembea na baiskeli mikono inanguvu kiuno kina nguvu, miguu imepooza lakini akili ipo, yule mtu anachangiwa

Natasha: Aaah

Andrea: Kama kwao yani hali ni mbaya anachangiwa, mimi ng'ombe, wewe ng'ombe huyu mbuzi, huyu pesa, huyu kuku, bata anatafutiwa kiasi ambapo, anatafutiwa sehemu kama wewe unauwezo analetwa kwako

Natasha: Mmh

Andrea: Itakuwa familia kwa kila baba kwa kila tarehe moja mwisho wa mwezi watu wanakutana. Wanakutana ili kuuliza hali yake anatembea vipi, maisha yake, asilimali tuliyo mpa. Kwahiyo anatafutiwa kazi ya kufanya ndogo ndogo ili asikae tu kulemaa na kutafutiwa.

Natasha: Je mfano kama watoto kama kuna mke na mume wakazaa watoto watatu wanne halafu bahati mbaya mume na mke wakafa. Je watoto wanaenda kwa nani? Watakaa na ndugu yao au ?

Andrea: Wataenda kwa babu yao ..

Natasha: Mmh ..

Andrea: ...mzaa baba.

Natasha: Kama babu hayupo, kama babu mfano amekufa ?

Andrea: Kuna ndugu baadhi. Ndugu ya baba na kwa bahati mbaya mume anakufa mke yupo, mke awezi kuolewa

Natasha: Aah.

Andrea: Awezi kuolewa kama amezaa na mume wake na kwa ndoa kimila chetu basi awezi kuolewa atakuwa atabaki pale hata akizaa mtoto kwa bahati mbaya nje. Lakini kwenda kwa mkewe(nathani anasema mumewe) anaenda. Ile mali ya marehemu atatakuwa anamilikiwa mpaka pale watoto wamekuwa wanakabidhiwa mali yao baada ya mika kumi na sita kumi na kumi na tisa.

Natasha: Mtoto, watoto wote... ?

Andrea: Aah wakiume

Natasha: ... wakike wakiume wanapewa au wakiume tu ndo wanapewa?

Andrea: Wakike wakiume lakini haswa wakiume ndio wanopewa. Baadaye wakike ataolewa. Kwa sisi mtoto wa kike haturuhusu ikae zaidi ya miaka kumi na tisa mpaka ishirini au shirini na mbili hajjaoelewa haturuhusu kwa sababu itashika mimba itakuwa inabadikizwa tu.

Natasha: Je kama anasoma, kwa sababu kama mimi mbona kama ningekuwa katika jamii yenu ningekuwa nishafukuzwa.

Andrea: Hapana sio hivyo saa hivi wewe uko unasoma baadaye unatarajia maisha yataenda vipi.

Natasha: Aah okay.

Andrea: Sasa wale wa kwetu baadhi nyingi hawakusoma mtu anakaa mpaka mia kumi na tano, anashika mimba na hajasoma.

Natasha: Aah.

Andrea: Alafu anazaa ile mtoto baba yake inakuwa sasa hajulikani ...

Natasha: Mmmh Aah.

Andrea: Kwahiyo wazee wanakataa kitu kama hicho.

Natasha: Kwahiyo ndio wanaolewa mapema.

Andrea: Wanaolewa mapema.

Natasha: Sa je kule wana watu wana bado ile unakuwa na mke mmoja au unaweza ukawa na mke zaidu ya mmoja , au inategemea kama unadini gani kwa sababu ukiwa mkristo hauruhusiwi kuoa mke zaidi ya mmoja.

Andrea: Kwa sasa hivi watu wameingia mambo ya dini kwa hiyo inategemea, unaweza kuoa mke mbili au moja kwa makamo wetu sasa hivi hauruhusiwi kuoa mke ziadi ya wawili.

Natasha: Aah sawa asante.

English translation:

Natasha: So what if someone is not hard-working, that is, lazy, and does not do anything? Will the community still take care of him or her?

Andrea: They'll help you the first time, the second time, the third time, and the fourth time, which is the last time, the last time.

Natasha: Ah.

Andrea: Eeh, that is, if you are not deaf or crazy, but if you have a normal level of intelligence ...

Natasha: You are normal.

Andrea: But...

Natasha: What if you are disabled, such as if your legs or hands are deformed?

Andrea: If his or her arms are deformed, then that person will be taken care of because God will not give two bad things, He will give you this help.

Natasha: Haahaaa . Eeeh.

Andrea: You could have deformed arms, but you could be intelligent. You could have deformed legs or have no legs at all, but you could be intelligent. You could be in a wheelchair, but your hands could be strong, or your waist strong. Your legs are paralyzed, but if you are still smart, people will raise funds to help that kind of person.

Natasha: Aaah.

Andrea: It will be the family, every first day of the month. Or the end of the month, people will meet. They will meet and ask about the general condition of the person, how is he doing, his life, the property we gave him. And they look for some small jobs for him, so that his situation doesn't become worse, so people will not have to take care of everything for him.

Natasha: What if, in the case of children, a husband and wife had three or four children then unfortunately they died. So where would the children go? Will they go to their relatives or...?

Andrea: They will go to their grandfather

Natasha: Mmmh.

Andrea: Paternal grandfather

Natasha: If the grandfather is gone, for instance, if he is dead?

Andrea: There are relatives...the relatives from the father's side. Unfortunately, if the husband dies but the wife is still alive, the wife cannot remarry.

Natasha: Aaah.

Andrea: She cannot remarry if she had children with her husband and according to our marriage customs, she can't remarry. She will have to stay there even if she unfortunately gives birth to a child out of wedlock. But she can go to her wife's (I think he meant to her husband's). All the property of the deceased will be taken care of on her behalf until her children are old enough, say after they turn sixteen and nineteen, at which point they will be given the property.

Natasha: All the children...?

Andrea: Aaah, the sons.

Natasha: Daughters or sons are given property? Is it only sons who inherit property?

Andrea: Daughters and sons, but it is particularly the sons who inherit. Later on, the daughters get married. According to us, daughters are not supposed to stay at home for

more than nineteen, twenty or twenty-two years without getting married, because the girl will get pregnant and she will end up staying at home.

Natasha: What if she goes to school, because if I were in, like, if I was part of your culture, they would have already have sent me away.

Andrea: No, it's not like that if you are going to school later on. It will depend on how your life goes.

Natasha: Aaah, okay.

Andrea: But for some of our daughters, many of them haven't gone to school and they just stay at home until they are fifteen and get pregnant, and they haven't gone to school.

Natasha: Aaah.

Andrea: Instead, they have a child and the father of the child is unknown ...

Natasha: Mmmh. Aah.

Andrea: The elders disapprove of something like that.

Natasha: So, that is why they get married early.

Andrea: They get married early.

Natasha: So over there do they still have people... Is it still okay for people to have one wife or more than one wife, or does it depend on your religion? Because if you are a Christian you're not allowed to have more than one wife.

Andrea: Currently, people follow religion so it depends. You could have one or two wives in my generation. But we weren't allowed to have more than two wives.

Natasha: Aah, okay. Thank you.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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