

## **Stone Crafts in Great Zimbabwe**

### **English translation:**

I: So now we are going to talk about arts and crafts in Zimbabwe. Are there people who carve things—who make objects outside of factories?

M: Yes, Zimbabwe is well known worldwide for its talented craftsmen who make stone carvings. This is known as Zimbabwe Stone Crafts. Zimbabweans are known for making various objects from stones, including animals such as birds or even human forms. This is a skill that dates from way back in the history of the Shona people—back into the 12<sup>th</sup> century. This was when the Shona lived in an area they called Great Zimbabwe which was later known as MweneMutapa. These people were the first to initiate this skill in our culture. Even today, the country is known for its talent.

I: Okay so where exactly is Great Zimbabwe?

M: Great Zimbabwe is in a place called Masvingo. The original name was ‘Dzimbahwe’ meaning ‘House of Stone’. As you can see, Zimbabweans valued stone structures. These stone structures were their houses and palaces.

I: So if anyone wants to visit Zimbabwe, where would you encourage them to go?

M: If someone went to Zimbabwe today I’d encourage them to go to Great Zimbabwe. There they will see the structures that were built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. These structures are similar to those found in Egypt. They were built with no cement. They are just skillfully piled stones. There are other places that can be visited, for example Victoria Falls. The Shona call this place Motsiatunya. This is a place to go to if you want to see an amazing waterfall. God blessed our country with beautiful scenery.

I: Okay, thank you.

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