

Traditions for a Couple's First Pregnancy

Shona transcript:

A: Saka ungangiudzawo here kuti chii chinaitika kana mukadzi aita nhumbu tongoti mukadzi aroorwa mutsva obva aita pamuviri?

B: Ahh ndingati zvinoitika ndichitarisa zvangu kudivi remakaranga kune tsika yekusungirira. Kana muchinzwa kuti munhu akasungirwa, zvinoitika ndezvekuti mukadzi kana iri nhumbu yake iri yekutangazvinozivikanwa kuti izvo kazhinji nhumbu yekutanga panoitika maproblems akawanda nekuti ndeyekutanga, vanhu havazivi kuti chii chinaitika. Saka munhu anoenda, mukadzi anombonogara kumusha kwake. Saka musu waanoenda kuti ava kuenda kumusha, kunotengwa mbudzi mbiri. Ahh kwatengwa mbudzi mbiri idzodzo vanoenda nadzo kumba kwemukadzi. Saka zviya mukadzi akange asvika kumba kwake zviya muzuva rinenge rakatarwa kuti ndopavachasangana, mukadzi haangosviki nekupinda mumba. Vamwe vanoita zvekujamba jira hameno kana kuti chavanogona kuisa kuti mukadzi anojamba. Vamwewo havachazvitevedzeri. Mukadzi anongosvikawo nekupinda mumba but patsika panga pane vanoita zvekujamba hameno zvavanojamba. Then zvinoitika ndezvekuti pambudzi mbiri dzatengwa idzodzi pane one inourawa musu iwoyo. Koita imwe yacho inochengetwa inenge ichinzi ndeyamai. Saka inourayiwa iyi vamwe vanoti ndeyababa vamwe vanongoti inongourawa hazvinyatsozivikanwa. Saka vanobva vauraya mbudzi one yobva yadyiwa musu iwoyo. Then imwe one inobva yachengetwa inenge ichinzi ndeyamai. Saka zvinoitika ndezvekuti zvararo, mukadzi vakaitawo tsika dzavo dzavanenge vaitawo dzekuti vanatezvara nanani vanotaurirana vari mumba vachizoti tauya nemudzimai tauyawo kuzomusiya pano asati ava nemwana wake wekutanga. Saka mukadzi nhumbu yake yekutanga anoponera kumusha kwake. Ndozvinoitika izvozvo achidzidziswawo kuti mwana anochengetwasei uye zvinongoitirwawo kungoti vanhu, vakwasha varatidzewo kuti hongu takatora mwana wenyu asi chimwe chinhu chikaitika munenge muchionawo zvinenge kuti zvii zviri kuitika. Vanenge vachida kungoratidzawo kuti mhuri yekumukadzi muri involved. Saka zvararo paanongoponawo mwana wake anongoti garei mwedzi inenge yakatarwa.

A: Sekuti mwedzi mingani?

B: Ahh ndingangoti nyaya iyoyi inongobva. Ahh zvinongobva nekuti vaona kuti mwana ati kurei here. Zvinongobwawo nenzvimbo.

A: Zvekuti vanotopedza gore?

B: Ahh havazopedzi gore. Munhu haazopedzi zvake gore. Kuda kana kuti akaita kana mwedzi mitatu anobva azodzokera kumba kwake kwemurume wake.

A: Saka murume wacho anenge achikwanisa kuuya kuzomuona here kana kuti havatokwanisa kuonana

B: Ahh anenge achikwanisa kumuona.

A: Zvekutozorara kumba kwacho here?

B: Ahh kana kwete. Anenge achingouyawo zvekuti auya kuzoonawo. Asi ndisingazivi kuti kune vaya vanenge vachigara kunzvimbo dziri kure nakure anouya here zvekugara. Ini pane vandakaona ndakaona mhuri dzanga dziri ahh, kunenyaya iri kuZimbabwe inonzi kuroorana vematongo. Saka vanhu vandakaonawo zvangu vanga vari vemunzvimbo imwe chete saka murume aingouyawo ashanya obva odzokera kumba kwake.

A: Kana mukadzi abara mwana wake wechipiri kana kuti wechitatu

B: Ahh ndezvemwana wekutanga chete. Kana avawo wechipiri vanhu vanenge vava kutarisirawo kuti avakuziva. zvinenge zvakutarisirwa kuti. Asi kune mhuri dzandakaona dzinoti nyangwe ari mwana wechipiri anodzokera kumba kwavo ozodzoka futi ouya kutorwa. Saka ndingati kuda zvinenge zvinoti siyanei nezvamunotendera kumusha kwenyu kana kuti kudzinza rekwenyu.

English translation:

A: What happens when a woman gets pregnant—say, for example, a newly-wedded wife gets pregnant?

B: Ahh, well, I would say, looking at the *Karanga*¹ tribe, there is a tradition known as *kusungira*. If you hear a person saying they took part in that tradition, what happens is that, it is well-known that first pregnancies have complications, because it's the first time, and people are not sure of the consequences of this pregnancy. So, what happens is that the woman returns to her own people, to her hometown. So the day that she returns to her hometown, two goats are bought. When those two goats have been bought, the husband and his family accompany the wife to her hometown, with those two goats. So when the wife arrives in her hometown on the date that they have chosen, she is not supposed to get into the house just like that. Some have to jump over a certain cloth, or anything that the woman can jump over. Some families no longer follow that—the woman arrives and gets into the house without following any procedure—but according to our traditions, people used to jump over whatever they used to jump over. Then, what happens is that of the two goats, one is killed on that day. The other one is spared, and it belongs to the mother of the pregnant woman. Some say the killed goat belongs to the father, and some say they just kill any goat; I am not sure. So, they kill one goat and eat the meat that day. So what happens after that is that they carry on their traditions. The husband's family talks to the wife's family and tells them that they have brought their daughter back before

¹ The Karanga tribe is one of the tribes found in the Southern part of Zimbabwe and they speak Karanga, which is a sub-group of Shona (Zimbabwean language).

she gives birth to her first child. So a woman gives birth to her first child in her hometown. That's what happens, and she is taught how to take care of her baby and it is also done so that the husband may show the parents that even though he took their daughter to marry her, they are still her parents and the family is still involved if anything happens to her. When the baby is born, she only stays at her parents' house for a couple of months.

A: How many months, for example?

B: Aah, I think it depends. It depends on the growth of the baby. It also varies with your hometown.

A: Can she stay there for a year?

B: Aah, not the whole year. She does not spend the whole year. Sometimes she only spends three months and she returns to her husband.

A: So, is the husband allowed to visit her, or they cannot see each other?

B: Aah, he can visit her.

A: Can he stay at the house?

B: Aah no. He will just be visiting to see his wife. But I am not sure about cases where the husband lives very far away. As for the families that I have seen, in Zimbabwe there is a tradition whereby people marry within their hometowns. So for the people that I knew, they lived in the same area, so the husband would visit and return to his house the same day.

A: What if the pregnancy is for a third or fourth child?

B: This happens for the first child only. If it is the second child, the woman is expected to be more knowledgeable and experienced. But I have seen families that will send the woman to her family for second or even third births. So, I would say that sometimes this practice differs with families and traditions.

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