

Current Relations between Shona and Ndebele

English translation:

Interviewer: Do the people of the Ndebele tribe have totems?

Interviewee: Yes, they do, the Ndebeles do have totems. It is not that different from the Shona culture. Yes, the Ndebeles have them [totems].

Interviewer: Do the Shona people and the Ndebele people live together in harmony or... Do they like each other?

Interviewee: What happens is that, these days they are beginning to like each other. In the past they did not get along well; they did not get along at all. They hated each other but because ...

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: It is because, in the past, there was that tribalism that was experienced a while ago. The Shona fought against the Ndebele. After they fought, they separated. There was a distinction between Matebeleland and Mashonaland. So the Shona people were beaten if found in Matebeleland. The Ndebeles were also beaten if found in Mashonaland. These days, because I think people are being united by their children—a child is very important—people have been united by their children.

Interviewer: Are there inter-marriages?

Interviewee: Yes, you see.

Interviewer: Is it allowed?

Interviewee: Yes, it is allowed. These days there are intermarriages between the Ndebele and the Shona people. They are uniting in marriage.

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