

Shava Totem Explained

English translation:

Mwendamberi means, mm... Because we are said to have originated from the Nguni state, as a part of those people who came from the Nguni state that was in South Africa. The people had to travel, moving towards this side of the north. We crossed the Limpopo [River], the Zambezi River, went to Zambia and then came here [to Zimbabwe]. So when the people were moving, those who had our totem were leading the journey. So because of leading, and moving ahead of everyone else, they were given the name *Mwendamberi*—because they were walking in front and leading. Then we were named the *shavas* because the people were dark in complexion and black.

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