

Totems and Families

English translation:

With totems, when they say that you are a *Moyo*, they mean that when your family started, that is your father and mother, your father... For example, I am from the Munyoro family, and my totem is *Shoko*. *Shoko* is a totem which is an animal. In Shona they would say they have a *chidawo* that is used to refer to a person, that is his or her totem is this and this. A lot of people have totems that are named after animals. There is *moyo*, which is the heart. There is *dube* which is a zebra. It's like here; at this home we say it is the Earlwanger homestead. In Shona they do not do it that way. They say the *dube* homestead or the *moyo* homestead.

If you hear someone whose name is, say, Kelvin Moyo, usually the totem is *moyo*. I do not know how it happened to be like that.

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