

Totems and Expressions of Gratitude

English translation:

A totem should be something that is like a poem that shows how a person should be thanked. In English you can simply say thank you and that is the end. However, according to the Shona culture, they would say thank you, *Shoko, Makwiramiti*, and so forth reciting a poem step by step like that, whereas in English they would just say thank you and it ends just like that. You see now. So I would say that a totem is a way of thanking a person. You thank them keeping their totem in mind. Is it *dube, moyo* or so and so.

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