

## The Bird Motif in Kaguru Folklore: Ten Texts (Tanzania)

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Over the past thirteen years I have been engaged in the publication of Kaguru folklore (cf. Bibliography). This task is still far from completed; however, even at this point certain motifs are clearly prominent: old women, oppressed younger children, trickster hares, villainous hyenas, cruel step-mothers, unjust elders, all occupy morally negative or questionable positions within the general system of Kaguru ideology and tradition and therefore constitute important elements in the repertoire of any Kaguru storyteller. One such motif is that of a bird, and in this set of texts I briefly consider this in terms of various Kaguru tales and also within the wider context of certain other aspects of Kaguru thought. The broader aspects of Kaguru society may be discerned from other publications (1967*e*; 1968*c*, 1971*b*) and their contained bibliographies.

LEACH has rightly criticized those analysts who see symbolic motifs mainly at face value rather than in terms of their structural or modal significance (1966). He damns ELIADE and other members of the JUNGian school who construct a kind of intellectual patchwork-quilt out of scattered symbolic artifacts plucked out of the contexts of their respective cosmologies. Thus,