

and say: "My God, may all illnesses, that are here, come to an end." Take away sickness from children and from grown-ups. May the strangers that come from afar not get sick, nor the cattle, when they go to the water, may it not get sick.

Moon and God, I salute you. You Moon are the creator. Create two kinds, do not create three kinds. Create male and female for every creature. Create two, a girl and a boy, a steer and a cow, a billy goat and a she-goat, a ram and a sheep, a female and a male donkey. Also, with regard to the beasts of the bush like elephants, buffaloes, and giraffes, create them male and female. Of small chicks there are boundless numbers, but you will always find them to be of two kinds: male and female. All animals and all insects, may they bring forth two kinds only. Create the wild buffalo with fine horns, so that, when people blow these horns at the occasion of the male and the female initiation ceremonies, they may hear fine music. Create birds, fishes, elephants with precious white tusks. Do not forget the wild beasts of the bush: create fierce ones and harmless ones, create the lion of the bush and the zebra.

Cat keep to the house, watch out for the rats, that they do not eat from the household utensils. May a male ass be born with a broad back, so that the loads may not fall down on the journey, but arrive safely. May there also be a government car, to bring people in time to the end of their journeys. May the honey bee go to the tree that holds the beehives, and deposit there lightcoloured honey, so that, when our daughter is taken away by her husband, we can go to greet him with a calabash that contains a present. Give us goat milk and sheep milk, give us milk from the donkey. May there be many a fowl with long feathers. Create the beautifully shaped and coloured eland antelope; may it browse on the Mutumba tree, but leave some food for other animals also.

May everywhere a mNyaturu medicine man be born, so that the sick receive medicine and recover. May there be all sorts of other medicine men too, to devine all things and to bring rain. May a Taturu medicine man be born, a Rangi medicine man, one of the waGogo, and, finally, may a European doctor be born, so that all people have their medicine man to heal them, and they don't start to quarrel. May there be a doctor and may there be a nurse; let them dispense their medicine with gentleness and may God help them to be merciful to the sick. May God bless their hands, that they don't fail to treat them, but heal successfully. May there be healers both women and men, to look after us. May one child be born,

to become a medicine man with a long nose to sniff the evils of witchcraft which may have been hidden underground in our huts; may he put this witch to shame. May there be both a male and a female circumciser, so that the secrets of men and women do not get mixed up.

May there be a potter with dexterous fingers. Create a blacksmith with strong arms. People like these we need. May there be some who know how to make grinding stones. May a mNyaturu blacksmith be born to forge an axe with sturdy hands. And, as we are living nowadays with people of various kinds, we want a foreign blacksmith to be born, who has great strength, who repairs cars, plough-shares, and airplanes; may all these people be born. May a potter be born, who makes light pots that do not break when a woman goes on a journey to draw water, nor should the water spill, while she is on her way. May the smith forge an axe to clear the bush, and a bell to attach to the child's leg, and also a bell for the cattle, and a bell for the goat too. May he then make a branding iron and bracelets. May he then make rings for women's legs. May another bell be made for the night watchman. May this watchman stand on a termite hill and look to the East, the West, the South, the North, and, whenever danger arises, let him warn us.

May the old woman sit in the front room of the house sowing her clothes and minding the small children, that they don't get burnt in the fire. May she place there three hearth stones to prevent the small child from falling into the fire, when the little one lies on his sleeping mat. May he cry out, that people hear and rescue him. When his mother returns from the bush and finds the child crying, she will console it saying: "Hush, my child, spit [into my hand], I shall beat him."

You father, go to the grazing grounds in the valley, go and sit near the well of water. Staff in hand whistle slowly, that the cattle rejoice in the music, when it comes to drink. May the herdsman return his calabash intact. Let there be a goat among the herd, that was born on the pasture and is carried by the herdsman in his hands. Let there also be a heifer born on the pasture, carried by the herdsman, who comes and lets it down carefully in the cattle kraal. When people come to see it, may they say: "Thank you, our child has brought us guests." May the mother's brother, who is a brave herdsman, not be threatened by wild beasts like the lion, the snake, or the leopard. May he bring the cattle to a pond of water that does not dry up; may the cattle drink their water on the eastern shore of the pond.