# MARCH 2023

# WENDO

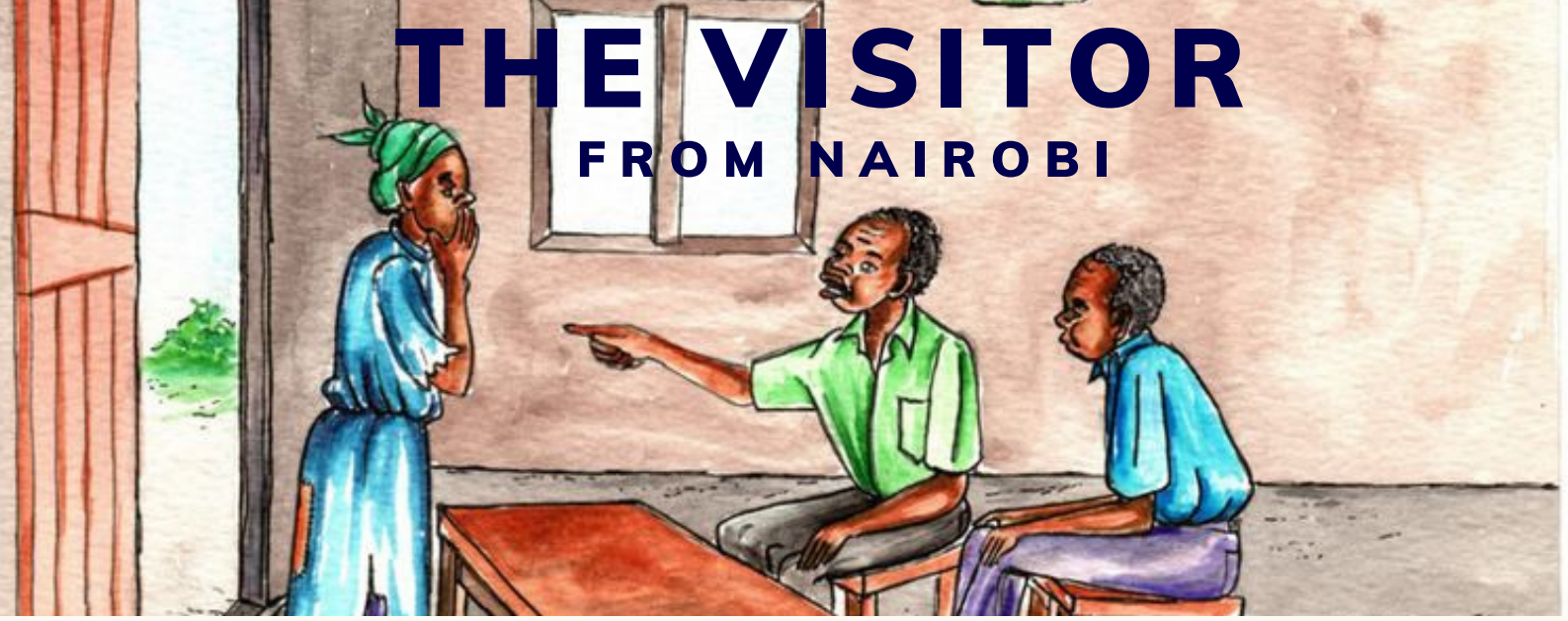
https://tigogitong.com/Luo Kalender 2023

## A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

**The "Visitor" is a story written by Shadrack Malo in his book titled "Sigend Luo Maduogo Chuny". It was translated into English in 2003 under the title Luo Merry Stories. It is a Luo epic story in elucidating profound life lessons. In this story, Malo captures Luo theory on affirmation and motivation.**

**Affirmation, respect and regard for a wife was deeply engrained in the culture of the Luo and failure to do so had dire consequences. A woman carried with her - to her matrimonial home - the name of the land of her people i.e Nyar Nyakach, Nyar Gem, Nyar Alego.**

**Throughout the course of history, stories exist about the misery to the society caused by women in the hands of men who lacked maturity to manage the marriage.**



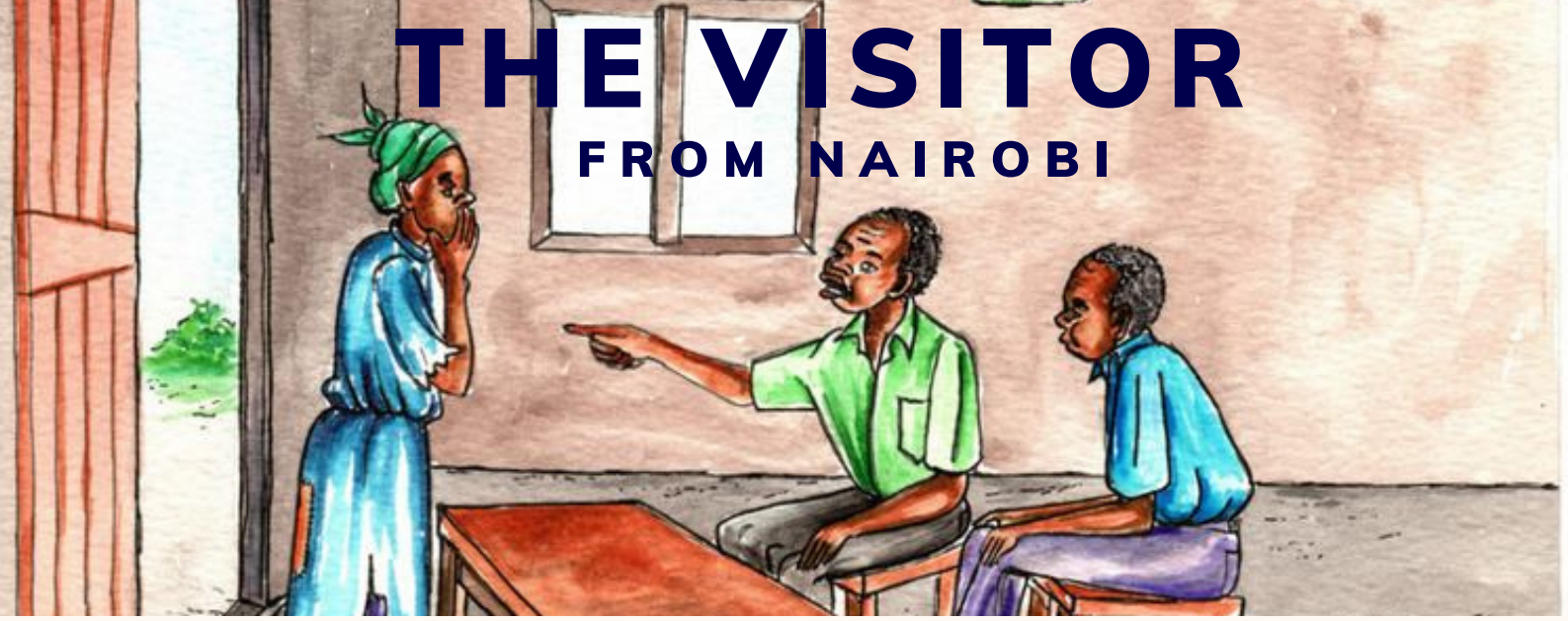
# THE VISITOR
## FROM NAIROBI

**One day a visitor came to visit Okech Ndira. This visitor was a dear friend that they were working with in Nairobi. When the visitor arrived, Okech Ndira received him with joy and happiness and after greeting him and finding out about his health, he called out to his wife to quickly come and greet the visitor. The wife came quickly but she was wearing a tattered dress and smoking a pipe with a long stem. When Okech saw this, he became upset and started quarreling with the wife in front of the visitor.**

**“you woman, yesterday you were told not to wear this dirty tattered dress. Why did you wear it again? Now, you are not to greet the visitor with a dirty dress”. He fumed. He further commanded her to go and make food immediately and do not dither here and there (rundore) as is your habit”. I am fed up of you. This woman left the place with a long face, thoroughly and completely embarrassed.**

**After a while, the husband called and shouted to her to make some tea first. She shouted back that there was no sugar. That the little sugar that was left was knocked over by the chicken”. She went and took an ugali pot and put it on the fire using "green firewood" (Not dry) and soon after the whole place was filled with smoke.**

# THE VISITOR
## FROM NAIROBI

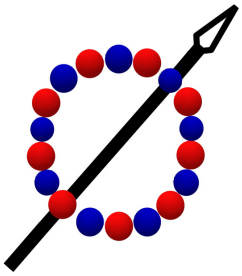


She put millet on the mortar, stood in the direction of the smoke, and started pounding the millet as she allowed the tears to roll out of her eyes and streamed on to her face.

The husband was in the meantime busy conversing with the visitor. After a while, he went outside to check out what was going on. He found a big pot on the fire with a lot of smoke. He asked her, " Asande why are you not using the sufuria". The response was swift, "the sufuria has a hole". As for the fire, she was overwhelmed by a cold! and she had a headache! and she could not keep the fire well lit. The visitor had arrived in the morning and food was served in the evening.

# The visitor from Nairobi

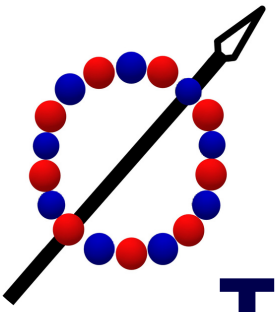
## LESSONS LEARNT



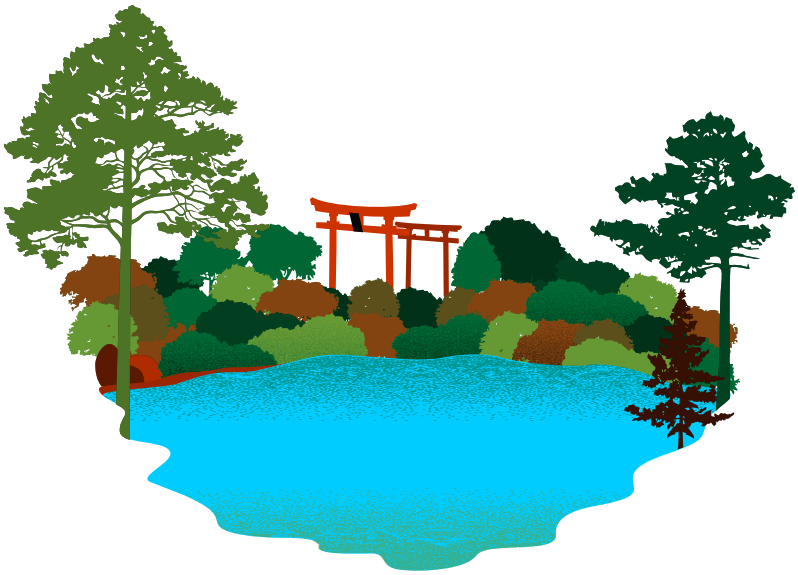
- He brings out the worst in his wife
- He quarrels the wife in front of the visitor.
- He refuses her to greet the visitor because of the way she looks.
- He embarrasses her by ordering her and telling her what to do in the kitchen which is her domain.

**The result is a disastrous smoke filled meal that is served too late ! The wife sabotages the whole cooking process. Everyone including the visitor is miserable?**

# THE VISITOR FROM MOMBASA



**The visitor from Mombasa presents a much more different husband from the man in the story of the visitor from Nairobi.**



Achieng

# THE VISITOR

## FROM MOMBASA

**In the year of Nyangweso, a visitor came to visit Ondung' son of Rapemo of Kamreri who lived in Achuodho. When the visitor arrived, Ondung' greeted and welcomed him into the house. He then called out to his wife who was weeding behind the house. He said;**

**"Ojiko daughter of K'Ochieng, come and see this visitor and greet him".**

**When Ojiko reached the house where the visitor was, the husband stood up for her and the visitor also stood up. Ondung' introduced the wife and explained to her that this was a very good friend whom he cherished. They had worked together for long in Mombasa as lorry drivers. Ondung' then introduced the wife to the visitor, praising her and asking him to overlook the dirty dress she was wearing as she had been weeding. The wife, Ojiko, warmly greeted the visitor.**

# THE VISITOR

## FROM MOMBASA

After the greetings, Ondung' Silwal went out with his wife. He told her that the children should chase the chicken even as she prepared the flour for Kuon. He continued to pour praise on her telling her "Nyargi Okech. Today I know you will amaze me. Make the food faster than you usually do".

Ojiko left the place, with the lightest of spirits, lighthearted, feet 'floating' on air she set on grounding the floor even as her feet kept the fire going. Before one could get a word out, tea was ready and served.

# THE VISITOR

## FROM MOMBASA

When the husband saw the food ready on the table within the shortest possible time - described as fast like the blinking of an eye (ka diemo wang'), he continued praising her.

He told the visitor,

"Awich Milenye, if it is a wife, I have and if it is a light one, she is as light as a shell".

All these he was saying, even as the wife was hovering over the place to ensure everything was perfect for the visitor and her husband and she was exceedingly happy. The visitor answered, "I am impressed, but you visit me and you will see one lighter than her", and they both burst out laughing.

# The visitor from Mombasa

## LESSONS LEARNT

- He happily introduces her to his friends
- He makes excuses for her
- He encourages her and gives her the free will in her domain to prove her best
- He praises her and says that there is none like her.
- He affirms his wife.

**The result is a quick response to the needs of the visitor and food is quickly served. A welcoming and warm environment is created and everyone is happy!!**

Achieng