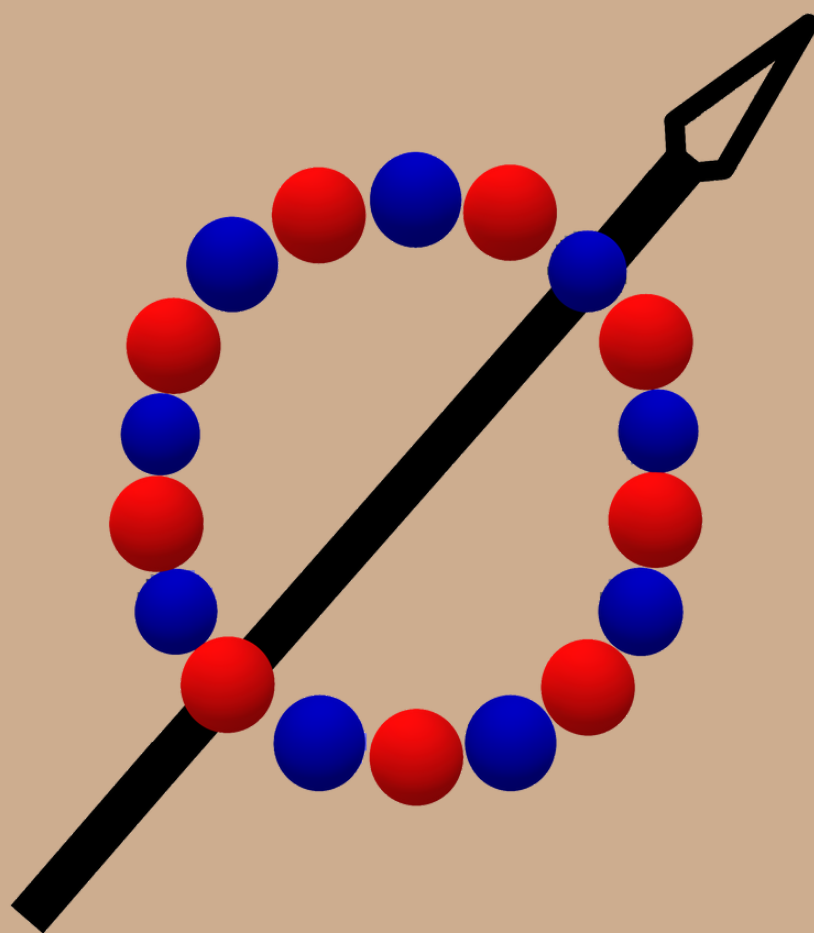


# LUO KALENDA

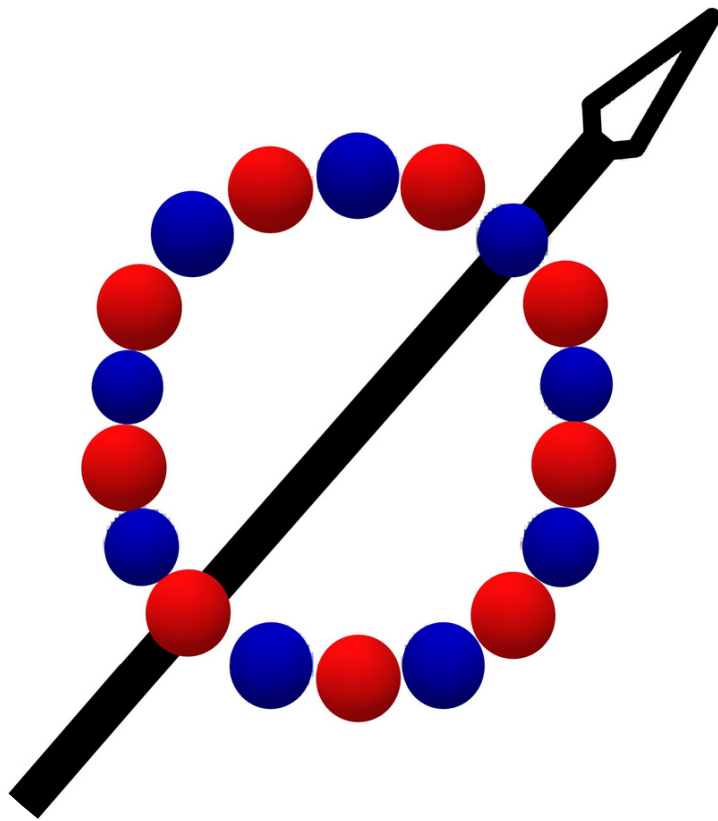
## 2023



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# TIGO GI TONG'

## LUO KALENDA 2023



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# CONTENTS

## Epic Luo Stories for 2023

- JANUARY : TIGO GI TONG**
- FEBRUARY: THE VISITOR**
- MARCH: LWANDA MAGERE**
- APRIL: NYAMGONDHO WUOD OMBARE**
- MAY: THE HARE AND TORTOISE**
- JUNE: THE HARE AND THE DOVE**
- JULY: THE HARE AND THE CROCODILE**
- AUGUST: THE HARE AND THE GUINEA FOWL**
- SEPTEMBER: THE HARE AND THE SPIDER**
- OCTOBER: THE TORTOISE AND THE DOVE**
- NOVEMBER: THE CRUEL BODA BODA RIDERS**
- DECEMBER: THEY KILLED AWUOR**

<https://tigogitong.com/>



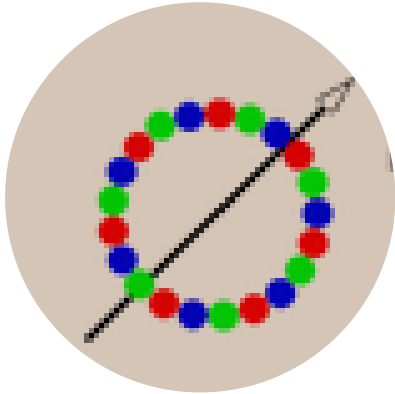
**JANUARY**

**2023**

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GI  
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# TIGO GI TONG'



## A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

The story of Tigo gi Tong' story is based on an account of a true event. It is a motif found replicated among the Luo people across the world. Many contemporary Luos have only heard about the spear while others know only about the bead. In Kenya, the story is recorded in the history of the Luos of Seme, those in Samia. Elsewhere, it is found among Luos in Sudan and Congo as well as in Uganda. In its entirety, It is a discourse that calls for deep reflections. It explains how an issue that can be resolved easily can escalate into unusual circumstances that can cause a permanent fissure and festering wound in families and the community.

*Achieng*

# TONG'

## THE FIGHT OVER A SPEAR

One day, during a dry season, the usual after harvest feast and sacrificial ceremony was held at Ocola's place. All members of the Lwo family took their sacrifices and spears there to be blessed. In compliance with the customary law all the spears were placed before the ancestral shrine to be blessed. The spears so gathered remained heaped before the shrine for one night in accordance with the custom while rite after rite was performed before the shrine. This was how the spears were sanctified. On the following day, very early in the morning, Ocola decided to go out and check his snares placed around a pool where wild animals usually drank. He got up before the sanctified spears were distributed to their owners and he just picked up the first spear he found from the collection before the shrine. Apparently, the spear he took was one owned by his younger brother, Lwo Junior. He hurried away to the pool.

When Ocola got near the pool he found that a lonely bull elephant had trampled down his snares meant for small game and not elephants and ruined them. The elephant in question was still drinking water in the pool. Ocola was greatly enraged and decided to attack the unwary beast that was wallowing in the mud, He checked the wind and found that it was blowing westwards. As he was on the north of the pool, Ocola shifted his position westwards and approached the elephant carefully against the wind. Due to this Ocola was a bit late in arriving within spear-throwing distance. As he emerged from the bush into the path made by the animals, the elephant was just getting out of the water, going to the other side of the valley.

# TONG'

## THE FIGHT OVER A SPEAR

Ocola made a small foot-hold on the ground, ranged himself well and then threw the spear at the elephant with great force. The spear caught the elephant at the back of its hind-leg. The surprised beast jumped up in terror and the shaft of the spear fell off, leaving the blade sticking firmly in the flesh. The elephant ran away into the jungle. Ocola crossed to the other side of the pool and picked up the spear shaft. He hurried home and reported the incident to his brothers and the assembled elders. Immediately the crowd gathered under the family tree rushed to the shrine to pick up their spears in order to track down the elephant. They were led to the spot by Ocola, followed the elephant until very late in the day and returned home without recovering the lost spear-blade. When Ocola mentioned that the spear he had used did not belong to him, those who had brought their spears to the shrine for blessing checked. Ocola showed them the shaft and his brother, Lwo, quickly recognized it to be his shaft.

He was very much annoyed and began to quarrel with his older brother for having taken his spear. Ocola offered his own good spear to replace the one that had been carried away by the elephant, but Lwo would not accept it. The elders attempted to mediate between them but without success. Lwo was irreconcilable and would not listen to any explanation. The bickering got worse and continued until the evening. The disgusted elders dispersed with great anger, each of them sullenly walking away after failing to persuade Lwo to accept the spear offered by Ocola.