

Murorunkwere and Nyiramihigo

By NIKUZE Pétrorille

A long time ago, there was a wife, a husband, and their children. The first was a boy called Murorunkwere and the second, a girl called

Nyiramihigo. Later, the wife died. The husband was obliged to bring in another woman. But the second wife told her husband, “For me to be



with you in harmony, you must first throw your children into the forest!” The husband accepted to



throw the children of his first wife into the forest.

The children tried to build a small house in the forest. The boy went to hunt, and the girl stayed at home to cook the meal.

Later on, another person traveling with his cows arrived and asked them, “Who brought you into the forest?”

They replied, “It is our father who has thrown us into this deep forest!” Then the traveler gave them a cow.

The boy took the cow to graze, and the girl stayed at home. But the father sent his servants to kill the children in the forest. When the servants arrived at the home in the forest, they found the girl and asked, “Where is your brother?”



“He took the cow to graze,” she replied.

“Who has given you the cow?” the servants asked.

“It’s almighty God who has given it to us!” said the girl.

The servants shouted, “Go and bring your brother!”

When she found her brother, she cried, “Come and they will kill you, Murorunkwere!”

“Who will kill me, Nyiramihigo?”

“The servants of our father!”

The boy said, “Give them food, so that they can eat. Give them milk, so that they can drink. I

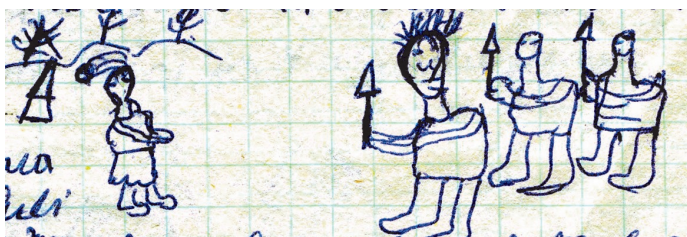


am still in the forest looking for firewood! I am coming! The cows and calves are crying!”

The girl gave food and milk to the servants, who went back home to their father's house. When the father asked them why they had not killed the two children, the servants said, "We arrived and found them beautiful and handsome. We couldn't kill them!"

The father sent other messengers three times, but the result was the same. The children were not killed. Then, he decided to go kill them himself.

He arrived at their home in the forest with his servants. When he found his daughter, he kicked



her and she fell down. When she stood up, the father asked, "Where is your brother?"

The girl said, "He took the cows to graze."

"Who gave you the cows?" asked the father.

"The almighty God!" replied the girl.

"Go and bring him to me!" the father ordered.

The girl went to her brother crying, "Come to be killed, my brother Murorunkwere!"

“Who will kill me, Nyiramihigo?” the boy asked.

“Your father who has given you life!” the girl replied.

The boy said, “Give him food and milk to drink. I am coming. I am still looking for firewood, and the cows and calves are still crying.”

She gave food and milk to her father and to his servants. When the father and his men became satisfied and happy, he asked impatiently to see his son. They went deeper into the forest to look for the boy. When they found him, the father decided to go back home with his children and obliged his servants to keep them well. When the king heard the story, he decided to call in the second wife of their father. He charged her with attempted murder, and she was banished from the community.

Then the children and their father stayed in peace.

