

POYOO
ALO TURKWAN

JALING'A EDIA ANG'ITURKANA

AFRICAN INK PUBLISHERS

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FOREWORD

The Turkwana people are both national and international in terms of habitat. Other than the Turkana County itself, nationally they are spread in counties such as Samburu, Laikipia, Isiolo, Marsabit, West Pokot, Trans-Nzoia, Baringo and Nakuru. Internationally, they occupy parts of Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia. Their origin is said to be Egypt. They followed the Nile River Valley to enter countries of East Africa.

The Turkwana related tribes are the Teso, Karamojong' and Jie of Uganda. Others are Toposa in South Sudan. The Nyangatom are their relatives in Ethiopia.

The collection of Turkwana "POYOO" is a culmination of painstaking work by Jalinga the musician. The Turkwana people from the time of yore have kept a rich culture which is wholesome in many ways. The pastoralist nature of the Turkwana makes their life blend with that of the harsh environmental conditions.

For example, everything the Turkwana do is related to the environment be it food, marriage, prayers for anything, peace, dance, songs and many others.

The food consumed by the Turkwana is mainly derived from Livestock and as coping strategy wild foods are sought from their expansive arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL). Among the stories in this book there are those which talk about the rich food culture.

Marriage is a central pillar in the Turkwana culture. Most of the livestock wealth is used in marriages and matters related to relationship. A man's wealth is largely measured on the

number of wives acquired. In this book several stories touch on marriage.

As one comes across a Turkwana, one of the inquiries is if rain has come. Anything good is equated with rain. It shows the centrality of the scarce water resource in the lives of the Turkwana. A good number of the stories in this book have something related with rain.

Amongst the stories published are those related to dance which is another central feature of the rich Turkwana Culture. This segment of culture has not been show-cased enough except for a few occasions such as “Tobong’u Lore” featured by the Turkwana County Government in the last ten years. I see this is being picked up by the Diaspora community in Laikipia, Isiolo and Samburu in Rumuruti, Kenya, 2022.

Many other authors have attempted to highlight about the culture in various facets, but this collection of original cultural stories “poyoo” goes beyond the norm to come close to what other cultures have documented in their repositories lest their cultures be lost during these modern times.

I will recommend anyone from the Turkwana Community and anybody else who is interested in culture studies to grab this book and drink from the rich fountain of knowledge from this budding and serious musician.

PROF. THOMAS EKAMAIS AKUJA PHD, D.SC.
SCHOLAR,
LOIMA SUB-COUNTY, TURKANA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My initial acknowledgement goes to Jesus Christ who is my redeemer and my personal saviour, who has given me favour he could ever give so that I could live victoriously.

Special appreciation goes to my immediate family for your love and support, more so my beloved brother Hon. Lopayo Lomuria Lawrence who has been always supportive financially and morally. My brother is a man I always admire on his very positive outlook on life.

I also appreciate Turkana elders for sacrificing their time narrating to me all these stories. I extend my appreciation to the nakawoton team for laying a good foundation on 20 short stories a book goes by the name “kolong aloturkwan”.

Thank you, Professor Thomas Ekamais Akujah for reading the manuscript of this book and helping me make good positive changes. You also give me moral support to keep writing this book.

ABOUT AUTHOR

Musician Jalinga Ekai Alfred allies Edia Angiturkwana was born and raised in a poor family background, he was born in loya village, and raised in Lokiriama village loima sub-county, Turkana county-kenya. In 2008 he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal saviour, he had faith in Christ after knowing that faith is a living force collected from the living word of the living God to produce living proof. Later by the favour and the grace of God he started composing spiritual songs and other artistic work like translating Kenya national anthem from Kiswahili to ng'aturkwana language and through that he has been a blessing to nations through singing and evangelism work.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

The collection of Turkwana “POYOO” is a culmination of painstaking work by JALINGA. The Turkwana people from the time of yore have kept a rich culture which is wholesome in many ways. The pastoralism nature of the Turkwana makes their life blend with that of the harsh environmental conditions.

This is a collection of old Turkwana folktales stories, they are long stories written to remind and to educate our people. During the time of our forefathers they use to narrate to us these great stories and they were interesting stories, I as a writer I decide to do a research and collect them and put them in this book so that our current and incoming generation can enjoy reading it. I had an especially hard time getting all these stories from our old Turkwana elders in various areas in Turkana County but by the grace of God I ended getting all stories in the right way.

1. POYOO AKWANG'A KA KULUME

Kolong' ang'orot ayei itwaan ice nia anyaritae Loyapan, abu Loyapan ka akeeberu toureta ng'ide ng'iarei, napese ka losapat, anyaritae losapat Lokulumei ng'esi kolong' apolot ani anakaato keng', anyaritae ikoku napese Akwang'a, arai kolong' ikoku be Akwang'a na arai nadio kebusen lokijon ibore be ibus itwaan, abu Loyapan kitan robo ng'idee keng' tanang' apak na epolounioto ng'idee, tanang' Lokulumei apak na esakea akiutar, Akwang'a dae kwanapei kibur tanang' ni ajoikina iutarere.

Dio apei kwar kibang ibore edia losapat lo anyaritae Lokulumei, dio kisiek jik akimalotokin nakaato keng' naanyaritae Akwang'a, abu Lokulumei totiaku apei kwar akisian itio keng' ka apa keng', dio tolimok apa keng' ka itio keng' atamar, "asaki ayong' akiutar nakaato kang' Akwang'a, abala etiliwo ng'esi akaaberu" tolim Lokulumei, apot ngikaureak lu tobul na eirareta ng'akiro a Lokulumei dio kec kipasakis ng'akiro a Lokulumei, kiboi edia losapat ebong'uuni lokaureak ng'irwa daang'.

Dio apei kwar totiekut ng'ikaureak Akwang'a, akipotor Akwang'a nia lokulumei kitiliwo akeeberu.kwa kolong' ikoku nabe Akwang'a na peayeni atamar etukosi ng'ikaureak keng' ekipotokin Lokulumei ng'esi, dikino Akwang'a eyenuni kori eanyuni ng'akiro nu, abu Akwang'a apei kwar toloma nanok ang'akinei niti elepi Akwang'a ng'akinei, abu tama Akwang'a itio keng' "itoo, tang'akinae kare ikale a akine ana mug kana", dio tama itio keng' etacuni "woe!! Nyibaa Bo iyong', ataa

tang'akinae nateran kon ikale a?" Dio Akwang'a kipasak ng'akiro aitia keng' dio anyarare nabo apa keng' ebala:

"Apa, tang'akinae kare ikale akine ana mug kana", dio tama apa keng' etacuni: "woe!! Nyibaa iyong', apaa kang', tangakinae ikale a?" Dio akwang'a ekisidi tanyara lokaato keng' Lokulumei,"lokaato kang', tang'akinae kare ikale akine anamug kana", tama Lokulumei "jakokoe!! Nyibaa Bo iyong', ekakile tang'akinae akon beru ikale aa?"

sodi Akwang'a tong'oo nakationon king'it ng'itung'a ngulu, "nyo ng'akiro nairokut es nu, nyo irworosi esi?" tatacut apa keng' ka itio keng' tamasi, "kiinak kori kipotoo sua iyong' nia Lokulumei, toliwor iyong' aberu keng'".dio toper Akwang'a niti eng'oit ng'akiro na akapilanea lokaato keng', esakea akiutar nakato keng'.

Nataparach abu Akwang'a totieku asakar tanapae keng' na edunyatar, tolot alimokin apae na keng' na eking'aren atamar kidong' niajokon, acakar ng'es nikalonon, kotere ng'akiro na asubakineta ng'esi ng'ikaurean keng'.kwa ani edoki Akwang'a ayakar napaalon keng',apot ng'ikaurek keng' ka Lokulumei tosuba akiroit nati ketubulon,apot tobokasi akipany nati kooyan,dio kinokakis akim tama akimat eokini.

**Iyong' Kulume, kidong' robo,
toliwor Akwang'a akon beru.**

**Iyong' Kulume, kidong' robo,
toliwor Akwang'a akon beru.**

Abu itio keng' Akwang'a tacakakin nakim, tonomia akim toton, abu Loyapan apa keng' Akwang'a toeok kwanapei,

Iyong' Kulume, kidong' robo,

**toliwor Akwang'a akon beru.
Iyong' Kulume, kidong' robo,
toliwor Akwang'a akon beru.**

Abu apa keng' Akwang'a kimasakin nakipany toton, ekisidi abu Lokulumei kwanapei dio tomotun kimasakin nakipany iruko, akimasakinet alokulumei nakim dio toton ng'es dae,

Kolong' keyakar sek Akwanga ngapaalon keng' nasek keapiete anadakar kangina, abu totieku acakar nakwap nakalonon, dio ayakar nia napayakeng', dio atamar ng'ina:

Akwanga: "akone"

Napaya keng: "akone".

Akwanga: "em mono iyong' esabut akoroomwae kana sodi kitamuunia ayong' kainyo abala ayong' atocakar ng'ace lup kalonak"

Napaya keng: "woe!! Akone inyo nabo kibel iyong', isakea acakar pas"

Akwanga: "woe!! Anu kuro mono nu,abe kabulo ng'akiro alokaato kang' alobe Lokulumei,be akapilaner edia be ebala be esaki akiut ayong',be anierumor kecamut nabo ngikauriak kang akipotor ayong'"

Napae keng: "woe! Abe kitubulete ngakiro nu, nyo kibang' Lokulumei, emam nyepedor akone iyong' akimiekin ayong', kapana kiruki ayong' ka yong' nica iteni iyong'".

Abu Akwang'a ka apae keng' na ekingaren toloto tani nikata napae keng' nace,abu Akwang'a kisisak akone keng' na,ng'akiro na tete kelimokini apae na eking'aren,dio nadang'ina tong'er esabut akoroomwae,"kilosi ka iyong' atocakaros,aponi tolotoi tani nia apae ana ng'auni dio nadang'ina tama kapana atocakaros ka iyong' napae kang' Akwanga.Abu akwang'a ka ng'apaalon keng' kisiekis alotor nati kooyan,be eloose acakar lomoe,kotere akapilanut a Kulume na asakea akiutar nakaato keng'.Dio ng'apesur tolot niti eperete ng'irwa lukaalak lorot,kidepete ca ageor anamoni tolose jik,ani alorot niti elose kec abu Akwang'a kirap ekulam amosing' dio abutokin sodi nyiirakarere ng'esi.

Abu ng'es na anapea ekulam lo toliwor akwaan keng' nati borok kwa akwaan e etom. Toloto elose topero moding' ng'irwa ng'omwon tanang' nia aanyuneta ng'akejen ang'itung'a, tama Akwang'a "ekoe!! Abe ng'akejen ang'itunga nu, nyelomito mono ng'itung'a nakwap na?" Tolose jik kiimarito tooma tanang' ni ariemuneta ng'akejen ang'atuk, tama apae nace "woe!! Be edakaanasi ng'ibaren ne dir", tolose jik ng'aren, apot togipasi ng'apurasio, tamasi apei kec, "woe!! Ani meere ng'irerea ang'itung'a ni epurio apuru amaa?"

Toloto jik tani nialomito ng'auei apot toremoros nang'olol arai nataparac, taanyut ece peduru losek ileonoto ng'ikasukou ng'ikiles, tama Akwang'a elimokini tana paekeng', "esia aa? Potu atodokasi lokitoe lo, dikino kiario ng'oni kane, kotere nyikiyeni ng'oni ng'imoe lu elomito nakwap na, pot atodokasi kidiami ekitoe lo, eteutu ng'itung'a lupalem ileenete

ng'ikilees lu,atoyena atamar ng'itung'a be tang'ae kec elomito ne.”

Apot Akwang'a kata napae keng' todokasi lokitoe ng'olo,dio kiboikinos kidatakis alokidiana ekitoe lo.kwa itwaan be Akwang'a en kimaana ng'akumul noi,naca ichirisaarea tanang'a ng'akumul nikalonon.Apot ng'ikiliok pot epaarani lokitoe lopalem kec loa ang'ikilees.apot topiata ekitoe kec ka areanakin ng'amor ang'ikilees,dio kec kisiekis jik akilere,ani ileete kec.Sek alokiliok alukolong' elete keyei ikile epei loadoony akong'u,abu Akwang'a tama elimokini tana paekeng,“kimaasi mono es ng'akumul kwap,sodi tokienyuneta ng'ikiliok lu kidiana atoyeneta atamar ng'itung'a alu.”

Dio tana paekeng' kiciriasi, emam nyenang'a ng'akumul kec lokiliok ng'ulu lu eleete, ani icirisiari Akwang'a apot ng'akumul keng todoyosi nakong'u ekile alodoony akong'u, dio ekile lodoony ng'olo king'urng'urakin,“woe!! Ng'ikiliok nyo eyei lokitoe lo abe kemaanakini bo ibore?” Apot ng'ikiliok luce kitepeniasi ekile lodoony lo ebasi, “kae!! Nyo lodoony lo, tarai akong'u nakon nadoony na itii ng'akiyo, be ibala iyong' be eyei ibore lokitoe”.Apot torotokis ng'aren niti ileete ng'ikilees kec, abu nabo Akwang'a kicirisia kwap dio kiyookinos ngakumul keng' epei ang'ikiliok alusek peadoony.

Dio ekile ng'olo niti iburakini “woe!! Ng'ikiliok abe kemaak bo ibore alokitoe kalo, abe akaateni ng'akiro natete ekile alodoony kalo”, kisikwaana ng'ikiliok lu ng'akiro ang'akumul kanu ka ng'akiro napalem ebalasi ng'itung'a be imaanakini emun ng'itung'a alokidiana ekitoe, tamasi ng'ikiliok lu niti eng'oito “iyong' ibore iyei kidiana ekitoe lo,

ani kirai itwaan todoku kwap, ani kirai ikeny, toporo tolot.” Abu epei ang’ikiliok kalu togipa ng’apesur nu alokidiana ekitoe tama elimuni “woe!! Ng’ikiliok be esibit bo ng’apesur ibore eya lokitoe, woe totiaunos” apot ng’apesur nu todokut.

Aponi king’itanarae ni aponeata, ekisidi apot ng’ikiliok lu tomoriakinos ng’apesur nu, aponi nakinae ekile lodoony Akwang’a kotere, kepena sek Akwang’a kotere, kenapit Akwang’a ekulam amosing, toborok. Apot ng’ikiliok lo torikosi ng’apesur nace, dio lodoony lo tama, kimiekinae aya nakapenan na esiyok nia arai ng’ibaren, tarau akedalan awi kang’.Ani enang’i nawi keng’ abu ekile doony lo tanyara ng’aber keng ka ng’ide tama elimokini kec “toting’a kare atarnyaang’or na kiwapanak nia arai ng’itak ka edia lopalem keyokon”.

Ebeyo robo tarau Akwang’a akeyokon ang’itak tanapite ekulam a amosing’ lope nyelacuuni, anawi kana eboliare Akwang’a itomorio ka ng’ing’okwo.Naca iwalarea kipeakinae ng’akile natubwa nangorot tamat ingok mono ani epiyenuni ingok kitamatae Akwang’a,tanaik jik Akwang’a itomorio ka ng’ing’okwo,toliwor Akwang’a ilaanakini ng’apaalon keng’ nakolong’ edunyatar ng’auyei tama elimokini kec “woe!! Akone, anawi robo nakolong’ keutarere ayong’, abe kaboliare ayong’ ketomorio ng’akile ka ng’ing’okwo lukironya”. Apot ng’apalon Akwang’a kuumokis ngakiro ng’una.

Dio tolemut ng’akile kec naajokak nakis Akwang’a tamat.Dio ng’apaalon Akwang’a ang’a peipei totiekut akilaanakin Akwang’a anawi anakolong’ kelomit, toliwor napae keng’ Akwang’a naca ebuni akilakin Akwang’a anawi ekile

alodoony, toriem Akwang'a niti itomorio ng'akile ka ng'ing'okwo dio kisiiek jik akiruko ebala:

**Emorete Akwang'a ka nyiing'oko,
Nakwakel Akwang'a ka nyiing'oko,
Nacirima Akwang'a ka nyiing'oko,
Nakwakel Akwang'a ka nyiing'oko,
Napae kang' Akwang'a ka nyiing'oko.**

Nakolong' kiirareta ng'itung'a awi kana ng'apaalon Akwang'a niti irukosi, tamasi "ekoe nyotokona emaeta nakoonu nadio borok na, ecamitae itwaan nikapenan niikwaan ka Akwang'a niti itomorio na nyiing'ok. Aponi kiritarae ng'apaalon Akwang'a tobong'o nauyei kec.

Abu Akwang'a ka edia lokeyokon ang'itak, taraut nace elooso ng'itak locer akimat, sodi tolimok Akwang'a idia atamar "iyong' a? Taram ng'itak todokarea edong'i ayong' elatar abu", tosub robo idia loger loalimokinere taram ng'itak lotem loabaar Akwang'a, tani moi dae idong'okinit Akwang'a locer akilata.

Tabala ca edia lo alotau keng', "itwaan be Akwang'a mono en aa? Nyesegaanenera tani kilatar a? Woe abe eborok itwaan ng'irwa daang,"dio apei kwar toripia jik eger loilatananar Akwang'a, abu edia kuumok na eng'olikinea atamar kwa ibus kolong' itwaan be Akwang'a nakationon,be esibit bo eyei ibore niebutonokin ng'es ekisidi akilatar.Dio edia lo ebong' kisisak apa keng' ka ng'itung'a awi kana tama:

"Apa woe!! Kwa kolong' ibus aberu nakon nabe Akwang'a nakationon a? Ng'arwa daang' naca kiremorea ka ng'esi ng'itak akitamat locer kidong' ng'es locer niti ilata pe esaki ayong' eng'olik ng'esi,

ani takae abu ayong' atoduk alokipetot alopalem ecor, dio engolik Akwanga niti ilata, ekoe ibus itwaan aberu kebusen ibore.”

Abu apa keng' edia kalo ka ng'itung'a daang' awi, apot kitopeniasi idia en ebalasi “woe!! Ekoe keting ejokopi idia? Kori nyo, ikokini ibore niborok en ibuser ai?” Kiling robo edia tani akwar nace tolimok nabo apa keng'. Abu apa keng' apei kwaar totuko ka edia lo tama ng'es edia “apa todapae sua anikalonon, ani kiremori ng'itak akitamat, dio toduk alokipetot loalodie ecor.”

Abu apa keng' edia tadap kec tani locer, tamata robo ng'itak taram edia ng'itak kwaakalem keng', kidong' robo Akwang'a kilotar, dio tobuto robo ang'asep a amosing' dio nges kilotar. Ani na arumorea akilar dio tama atobutokin ekulam lo nabo, abu lokile keng' losek kedukit alokipetot kirema ani kalonon emotuno “woe!! Nyiibutokin nabo ibore kapenan en, woe akwa kolong' ibus iyong' Akwang'a niti ketomorio ka ng'ing'okwo.”

Abu ekile lo kigalounio Akwang'a totunakin nakwaan Akwang'a, ani ekisidi tobut eoru lokeng' losek kelidit ng'es abu kimukokinea Akwang'a, dio adakar nawi emam nyicaka Akwang'a nalup, anang'et nawi abu ekile lo tanyara ng'aber keng' tama “yautu mono es ejomuu loakwaan topetakisi.”

Aponi topeunere ejom, dio ng'es asipokin Akwang'a lojom, dio anyarare ng'itung'a daang' awi tama elimokini ng'itung'a “Itwaan ni eng'olikini ayong' nabo eboliar Akwang'a kori itamasi ng'esi ng'akile ka ng'ing'okwo, eapuni adaun kang'

ka itwaan ng'ini."Aponi robo tominakinae daang' itwaan be Akwang'a en, toliwor nyisiyokiyo nabo ng'itak kwa nakolong'.

Toliwor Akwang'a aka awi jik.Abuu ekile lo topuik Akwang'a emesek lokatuman, dio Akwang'a kipo, tayaka ekile lokitoe lopalem kec ang'ikilees, akoniet akiring' abu Akwang'a kuwok akiring' napalem ang'ikiliok lokitoe losek keya ng'ikiliok.Ani ering'a ebunit alorot apot ng'ikiliok luce lukong' keng'ere Akwang'a ebalasi robo ani nyepena itwaan a?

Apot tokienyikis Akwang'a kiteut jik niti ebalasi alo tai kec "ekoe!! Akwa kolong' ebucakin ekile lodoony lo aberu nati kebusen kona a?" Yau Akwang'a akiring' tosipon tobong'o, tani ana bong'oret keng' eroko ng'iliok lu iteorito Akwang'a nakatinon.

Tolot Akwang'a ani enang'i kiding' awi abu kiridak, kotere ng'akonyen ang'ikiliok alutete eteorito ng'esi nakationon, toton kirakasi ng'ikiliok lutete ang'ikilees kotere akibusen keng', kuumokis robo ng'itung'a adakar ka daang' dio tanyaras, pot ng'apaalon Akwang'a nakolong' edunyatar kiirasi atamar ketona napae kec, ani apae naca enang'uni nikolong' atonikini akwanga dio kirukok ebala:

"Kulume yaah, Kulume yaah.

Kidong'o robo iyong' toliwor acok akon beru,

Napae kang' nakwakele,

Ebala ekiana kekeyaa,

Jokoboro, jokonape, jokolote, jokopere".

Dio ekisidi toton ng'es dae kaneni, bu naca ebuni kwanapei.Apot ng'apaalon daang' totonikis kidiama aliel

Akwang'a, dio kuumokis ng'itung'a daang' adakar kang'ina
ng'akiro ang'apaalon kang'una.

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