

TRADITIONAL WISE SAYINGS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

UNITY

| AKAN | ENGLISH |
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| 1. Dua koro nsi dan. | 1. You cannot construct a room from one stake. |
| 2. Dua koro nye kwae | 2. One tree cannot form a forest. |
| 3. Prae wo ho yi wo yi baako a ebu nanso ebom a emmu. | 3. One stick in a broom is easily broken; but when the sticks are bundled, you cannot break them. |
| 4. Baanu so a emmia. | 4. When 2 people carry a load it does not overweigh them. |
| 6. Benkum guare nifa na nifa nso guare benkum. | 6. The right hand washes the left hand and the left hand washes the right hand. |
| 7. Adianam ne adianam ne agoru. | 7. Dining and moving together bring about good relationship. |
| 8. Nsuwa nsuwa na ebom ye asu kese. | 8. Little drops of water make a mighty ocean. |
| 9. Dua koro gye mframa a ebu. | 9. One tree cannot withstand a storm. |
| 10. Obaakofo nsa ntumi nkata Onyankopon ani | 10. One person's palm cannot cover the eye of God |
| 11. Obaakofo ntumi ngua osono nyi ne homa. | 11. One person cannot skin an elephant |

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

| AKAN | ENGLISH |
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| 1. Atu a asi mu na amma Osanteman ammo “se wokum apem a apem beba” | 1. Reinforcement made the Ashanti kingdom to know no defeat. “when thousands are killed thousands will come” |

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

| AKAN | ENGLISH |
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| 1. Akyekyere pintin ne te na enam | 1. Tightening a rope to the limit of its elasticity will let it tear. |
| 2. Anini abien nna bon koro mu. | 2. Two male animals cannot be in the same den |
| 3. Se wosuro atekye mpaboa a wohye n’ataade | 3. If you fear to soil your feet with mud, you end up falling into it to soil your entire body |
| 4. Ese ne tekrema ko nanso won ara na edidi bo mu | 4. The teeth fights the tongue but they eat together. |
| 5. Dua bata boo wo ho yin e twa ye twa na | 5. It is difficult to fell a tree growing beside a rock |
| 6. Yete mpoano yi de na yete anhwea mu ara | 6. So far as we live at the shore, we live in the sand |
| 7. Nnompe akese abien nsen ayowa baako mu | 7. Two big bones cannot be in one bowl. |
| 8. Ahemfo baana ntumi nhye ahenkyew koro | 8. Two princes cannot wear the same crown |
| 9. Obaakofo ntumi nso anantwi abien dua mu. | 9. One person cannot hold the tails of two cows |
| 10. Womfa nkoko bere abien nhye kenten koro mu. | 10. Two hens cannot be in the same basket |
| 11. Twe ma mentwe na ema kora wae | 11. You pull and I pull will break the calabash. |
| 12. Nhoru wo ntama fi abonten. | 12. Do not wash your dirty linen in public |

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| <p>13. Ese ne tekrema ko nanso wo da suhye baako ase</p> <p>14. Sumina so se den mpo a empo wura.</p> <p>15. Ntobase a okraman nni nti na ohu akoko a dompe tua n'ano a otaa no.</p> <p>16. Se wobeguan ama woaserew wo no ye sen se wobegyina ho na woasu wo.</p> <p>17. Se wo bu onifraeni anikiyw a emfa ne ho.</p> <p>18. Se nso mu dwo a okraman di mu agoru.</p> <p>19. Asehwe mpa akraman agoru di mu.</p> <p>20. Se asono abien ko a asase a wotiatia so no na ebere.</p> <p>21. Agyinamoa se womfa kon nni agoru.</p> <p>22. Se nkyia tra batwow a na aye atam.</p> <p>23. Nea otwa to gye oyaw so no na ode ntokwaw ba.</p> <p>24. Agyinamoa se; agoru bone tetew aso.</p> <p>25. Ohawfo na osi ne dan ben ahemfie.</p> <p>26. Wontumi mfa wani abien nhwe toa mu.</p> <p>27. Ente se akoko bere sua akomfem kotow wo wura mu.</p> <p>28. Se akokoa gyaa n'anan gu ne na sre so a, ohohoro na ontwa nkyene.</p> <p>29. Se dompe hye okraman anum a ommobom</p> <p>30. Se asuhina bo wo woatifi ma emu nsu fow wo a na woaguare ara ne sa.</p> | <p>13. The teeth and the tongue quarrel but they sleep under the same roof</p> <p>14. The biggest refuse dump will still receive refuse</p> <p>15. The absence of patience makes the dog to run after the fowl carrying a bone</p> <p>16. Run and they will laugh is better than stand and they will cry</p> <p>17. The blind does not mind if they eye him</p> <p>18. When the ash is cold, the dog will play in it . 19. Dog fall and dog fall is dog play.</p> <p>20. When two elephants fight, it is the ground that suffers.</p> <p>21. The cat says “there is no playing around the neck.</p> <p>22. When hand shakes passes the elbow, then it is a wrestle,</p> <p>23 The last fellow to respond to the insult is the causer of the fight.</p> <p>24. The cat says “bad play tears the ear lobes”</p> <p>25. The trouble maker builds his house near the chief palace.</p> <p>26. Two eyes cannot look into a bottle</p> <p>27. The fowl should not imitate the guinea fowl by laying in the bush</p> <p>28. When a child eases itself on the mothers laps, she washes but not cut them away</p> <p>29. A dog with a bone in the mouth does not bark</p> <p>30. When a pot of water breaks on your head,</p> |
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| | you have just taken your bath. |
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KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION

| AKAN | ENGLISH |
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| 1. Kyere me po ko na nyi apataa mmehye me nsam. | 1. Teach me how to fish but don't fish for me. |
| 2. Nimdee wo ho yi ye fa no obi ano | 2. Knowledge is acquired from someone's speech |

SOCIAL COMMITMENT

| AKAN | ENGLISH |
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| 1. Nsu na ema apataa ye ahantan. | 1. The fish feels proud because of water (its habitat) |
| 2. Anomaa ntakra na ekyere n'ahoofe. | 2. The feathers of a bird give its beauty. |
| 3. Ofe ho nsu na wode noa n'aba. | 3. The sap of ofea (a plant) is used to cook its nuts. "The sap serves as a catalyst" |
| 4. Okasa dodow mfa afuwde nhye kenten ma wo afum. | 4. Talking a lot does not fill the basket in the farm. |
| 5. Obaakofo na oyen akoko nini de nanso obon ma amansan nyinaa. | 5. A cock may belong to a person, but when it crows, it crows for the whole neighbourhood. |
| 6. Akyekyedee se; se wode to ho a na wofa | 6. The tortoise says when you invest; you will gain. |
| 7. Se opanyin to fon a ewo obaabun de mu | 7. When the buttocks of the elderly emaciate, their plumpness are seen in the youth's. |
| 8. Se enye ofonom (kankabi) biribi ne aketekre a anka ne kaa nna ne kon. | 8. If the millipede does not relate the cricket, the millipede will not have its 'ring' (a segment of the exo skeleton) on the neck of the cricket. |
| 9. Nyensin beabea afuw so nanso mmobaa na ema ogya dew. | 9. Logs are on the farm but it is the branches of the trees that make the fire to blaze. |
| 10. Obaakofo na okum osono ma amansan di. | 10. It is one person who kills an elephant for a lot of people to enjoy. |

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| 11. Ansa na okyerema Nyano beyan donno ama mpafe asi no no, na efi Yaa Oforiwa asaw nti a. | 11. It is the dancing skills of Yaa Oforiwa that will cause the drummer Nyano to beat the “donno” (armpit drum) for him to attract pneumonia. |
| 12. Yete mpoano yi de na yete anhwea mu ara | 12. So far as we live at the shore, we live in the sand |
| 13. Se woakum aboa no de a, twa ne ti preko. | 13. If you have killed the animal, cut off its head |
| 14. Se odehye anko a akoa guan. | 14. If a royal refuses to fight in a battle, the slave also flees. |
| 15. Yenke tew aduru mmera a eno ara ne ahaban yi ara | 15. If you are sent to pluck some herbal medicine you go for leaves |
| 16. Se obaakofo were aduru a egu | 16. If one person scrapes the bark of a tree, it scatters on the ground |
| 17. Adwaa na ekyere ne ntoaso | 17. It is how often a hunter gets game from his trap that motivates him to set more traps |

CONSULTATION

| AKAN | ENGLISH |
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| 1. Ti koro nko agyina. | 1. One head cannot form a counsel. |
| 2. Anomaa de akoneaba di na enwene ne buw. | 2. The bird flies to and fro for materials to build its nest. |
| 3. Odwenini ko nakyi ansa na woapem | 3. The ram moves backwards before butting. |
| 4. Mmoa no ko apam ansa na woagu yaa. | 4. The animals (soldier ants) group before they spread in movement. |
| 5. Menko me trim prow ade | 5. Acting without consultations normally leads to failures. |

PARTICIPATION

| AKAN | ENGLISH |
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| 1. Obi nni nnam nnya ogya. | 1. Nobody shuns a source of fire to enjoy well cooked meat. |
| 2. Kakum yegye no okwaku anom | 2. “Kakum” (the coughing sound of a chimpanzee) is heard from the chimpanzee itself. |
| 3. Obi nse turoroo mma toa | 3. Nobody says “turoroo” (the sound a gource makes when pouring water into it) for the gource. |
| 4. Awo nie o! yegye no okomfo anom | 4. Here is “Awo” (appellation given to elderly women or female spirits) is heard from the fetish priest / priestess |
| 5. Aboa no ho anka adwaa no a enhwan. | 5. If the animal does not fall in the trap, it will not be trapped. |
| 6. Se Ntifo nni ho a nsiananfo wo ho | 6. If Ntifo is absent, his representatives are present. |
| 7. Se Awotwe anko Oguaa a ne nhoma ko | 7. If Awotwe does not go to Oguaa (Cape Coast) his letter goes. |
| 8. Osansa ko abuw a ode n’kyi gyaw Akroma. | 8. If the skite goes brooding, the hawk acts in its absence. |

CHEATING ON OTHERS

| AKAN | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| 1. Woamma wo nyonko antwa anko a wo nso wo ntwaa nnu | 18. If you deny your neighbour to cross a bridge, you are also denied to cross it |
| 2. Se agoru di mu ba kwaseabu a okwabrane poma twere hye ne ntoma mu. | 2. If there is cheating in any relationship, the cheated party prepares to retaliate. |
| 3. Obayifo kum wadi a wamma me na enye wama me na esua. | 3. The witch kills the greedy person not the benevolent; irrespective of how small the donation is. |
| 4. Hwim hwim ade ko sorrow sorrow. | 4. Anything easily gain easily vanishes. |

PATIENCE

| AKAN | ENGLISH |
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| 1. Nnuaba nyinaa mpatuw mmere penkoro wo dua so. | 1. All fruits on a tree do not ripe on the same time. |
| 2. Womfa won anan abien nyinaa nsusuw asu mu do. | 2. One does not measure the depth of a river with both legs. |
| 3. Baabiara a oponko tumi ko no, afurum nso bedu ho. | 3. Where the horse goes the donkey will reach |

COUNSELLING

| AKAN | ENGLISH |
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| 1. Afotu pa te se obea ataade sin; eye tia de nanso ekata n'adagyaw so | 1. Good advice is like a mini skirt – short; but covers the important parts of a lady. |
| 2. Opanyin ntena fie mma oguanbere nnwo wo hama mu. | 2. An elderly person does not sit at home for the ewe to deliver while it is tethered. |
| 3. Akokobere nim adekyee nanso otie onini ano | 3. The hen knows when it is dawn but it listens to the cock's crow. |
| 4. Nnensenkye a wontumi nnow no na wofre no nsamanpow | 4. The thicket that cannot be tilled is called the sacred groove. |
| 5. Se okraman nim se neba bewu a anka oton no gyee dompe. | 5. If the bitch knew that its puppy will die, it would have sold it for a bone. |
| 6. Burow hono tootooku, wammeye hwee koraa no obefuraa banku ntama ma wofree no dokono | 6. If the maize husk has nothing to offer, it is able to cloth "banku" (a dish prepared from maize dough) for it to be called "dokono" (also prepared from maize dough and wrapped with maize husk) |
| 7. Nsamanpow mu a esum aduro; se woni wu a na w'abusua asa. | 7. Oh! The thick darkness of the cemetery, when your mother dies, you have no family. |
| 8. Mmodenbo bu mmusu abasa so. | 8. Perseverance conquers all difficulties |
| 9. Hiada mu yonko ne oyonko pa | 9. A friend in need is a friend indeed. |
| 10. Anadwo sum mu na yehu nsoroma hyeren | 10. It is only in the darkest night that the stars twinkle the brightest |

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