

Bravo – Über die Macht der Sangomas

Hello, my name is Bravo. I stay in Manzini. And I want to talk about witchcraft and traditional healing and sangomas. Well, I have got a few things to say. First I would like to say that there was once a man who was a witchdoctor. And then he was cheating other people in his community and then it happened that he killed one person - purposely. He wanted to go to prison. The cops went for him. They took him. And he was found guilty for murder. And after that the judge said to



him: You are going to stay for 25 years. And then the man said, also I am giving you 25 years on that chair. So stay on that chair for 25 years. So they didn't take it for granted. They thought he was joking, crazy or something. They then took him inside [a prison]. The cops got him inside. He was going to be locked in a cell. And then the judge wanted to go home. And everyone was finished. He couldn't stand. And then he remembered. That there was a guy whom he sentenced for 25 years in jail, who talked about him sitting on a chair for 25 years as well. He ordered the guards to call him back. And then he said to him: you are free. The guy as well said to him: Well, I free you from the chair as well.

Yeah, it goes like that. But then there is this other story. It is unbelievable. You see, there was this guy he kept telling his neighbors that there is a guy who is a witchdoctor in the community. And he is busy using muti¹ on the other neighbors. And then the one who was suspected to be the witchdoctor went to the police station. Reported the story. And then the guy who prophesies the other one is the witchdoctor was called to the police station. And then he was asked: "By whose authority are you doing this?" And then he said: "He is getting it inside of him, he consummates spirits that he listens to." And what he is saying is all true. Ah, but then the policemen they were like confused. They didn't know what to do with that man. But then when they followed up the story the head of it was true. So for them to prove that this was true, they had to come together. They took out their caps, you know their hats.

¹ Traditionelles Zaubermittel aus Kräutern, Wurzeln und anderen Zutaten, über die nur gemutmaßt werden kann.



They took them out, placed them on the table. And then they said to the man: We gonna mix up these hats together and you gonna take each cap to each cop, each policemen. Once you go wrong that will mean that you and I and then you will be charged. Eh, it happened. They took that guy to a separate room. They took out their caps and mixed them up. And then six cops waited. Waited for the guy to give them their caps back. He came back. And then he took the first cap to the right one and the second one to the right one. Up until the sixth. And then they said he has got given powers. But then you have no right to tell other people that so and so he is a witchdoctor. He was not charged for anything. He went in town for free. That`s all I know about witchcraft, doctors and traditional healing.

But then before I stop I have got this two liters of muti here. It`s got special medicine in it. I got it from a Sangoma. She said that this should bring me luck and brighten my future. It is because I believe I will drink it and I hope for the best. So then. She said half a glass of course. So to the brighter future and good luck all the week. (*Er trinkt das Glas enthusiastisch in einem Zug aus*). Hmhm, Yeah - it is done.

Fragen zum Text

- Könnte an Bravos Erzählung was dran sein?
- Gibt es bei uns auch so etwas wie Aberglauben?