

Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman.

Who am I?

- I m Nisa, I m 50
 years old, but I don t
 know it exactly.
- I am a woman of the tribe -Žun/ twasi, Bushmen lived in desert Kalhari in the south Afrika.
- We are traditionally hunter-gatherers.



Earliest memories

- About children
- The first three years of his life in close contact with his mother -breastfeeding, wearing the leather bag.
- The relationship of parents to their children is full of love and is in no way authoritative.
- first words give me and take.



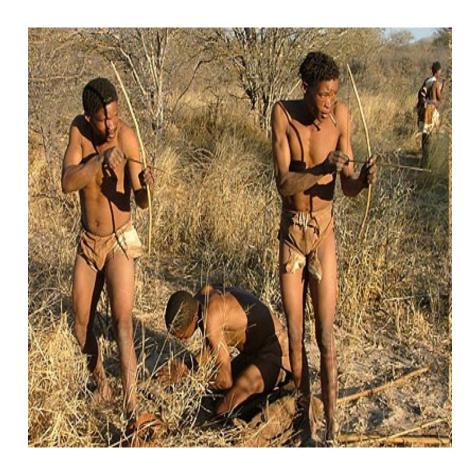
Family life

- between children is the age difference about 4 years
- Natural contraceptionbreastfeeding and herbal extracts
- Young childrencritical relationship to parents, but especially positiv to grand parents.



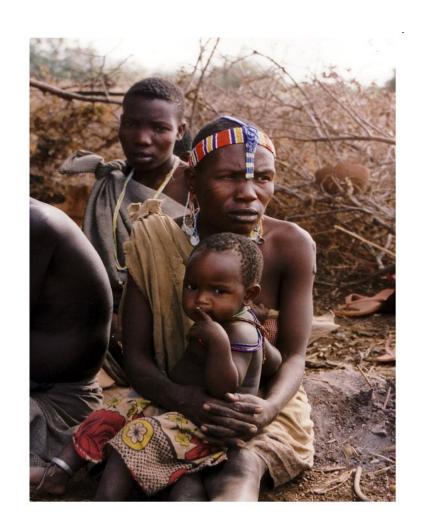
Live in the bush

- life on the edge of Kalahari very negative to living
- extremely drought alternating with periods of rain
- They know everithing about their environment
- Hunting-only men, special rules
- Live of men- 15- first hunt animal, 30- get maried, 60- teach crafts children



Exploring sex

- No privacy
- children can watch their parents
- Children do not have any obligation to 15 years – only playing games and imitation of adult.
- Kungs children are no separated by sex
- no competition in this society



Marriage on the test

- First marriage- the choice of parents
- Incest tabu
- women-15 years old, men- 25 to 30 years
- very simple wedding ceremony
- Can be quickly divorced

Marriage

- most important milestones in life: girls- first menstruation, boysiniciation ceremony
- " kua"
- Very important giving presents

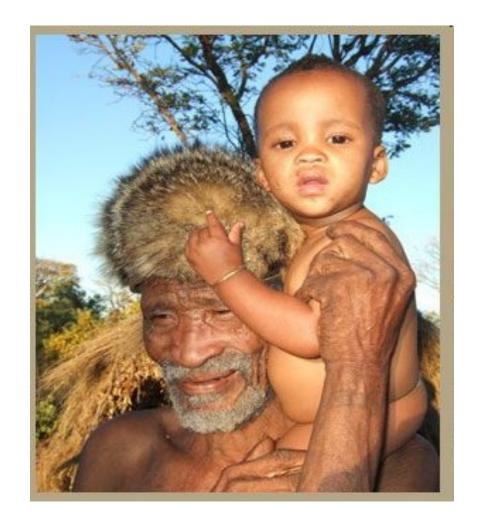


Wifes and the second wifes

- First part of mariage- wife too young and unhappy.
- Then understanding and harmony between the partners.
- equal status between partners sometimes dominancy of wife.
- Second wife- many times sister, cousin or friend
- Polygamie- only 5 %

First Maternity

- menstrual cycle according to the moon
- a strong desire to have children and love them
- pregnancy-natural thing woman have no exceptions in work and everyday life
- Childbirth- woman alone in bush
- Every woman-4 to 5 childbirth in life only 54% live adult



Motherhood and loss

- Bushmen are very healthy and slim thanks to a healthy diet and plenty of movement.
- They have a lot of problems with bacterial infections and viruses.
- hard to cope with death- men and women cry for two and more days.
- They believe in great God- good, small God- evil

Change

- Influenced by Herers and Tswans- shepherd of the sheep.
- loss of traditions
- extinction of gantherhanters company
- Kungs become a beggar on the periphery of pastoral settlements.



Men and women

- equal status in society
- Women- big respect
- parents avoid corporal punishment
- They are not agresive at all.
- Status of women increases with age and a number of children.
- intricately system of giving presents.
- predominance of men only in rytual dances and huntering.
- Men- medical dances, womendrum dances



The end

- To the end of my presentation i want to tell the wish of author of this book.
- She wish, that Bushmen shielded their culture, because of its stability and unique.
- It is so much sophisticated as our culture and social system.

