

CHAPTER EIGHT

QUESTION

401. Amaanyam uman ebote akedepayang, amaawot nsung adubose?
When you sell a nanny goat to buy a broom, after killing a fly what will be your gain?
Meaning: This is a case of a misplaced priority.
402. Adan aka mo abokoidai?
Where can palm oil be and it is not eaten?
Meaning: Certain things in life are mandatory and they trail us wherever we find ourselves. For instance a young girl who shuns suitors today will eventually crave for them tomorrow.
403. Ama adidibe atem ikot aduk wensuk ikang ke ako?
When you secretly clear a farmland will you cover the smoke with a pot?
Meaning: Whatever is made public is no more a secret.
404. Akpeadunwongounouyaiesitiko, akpunwongoanoakob?
If you would not drink for the beauty of the container, would you not drink for the sake of the calabash?
Meaning: A person must have a preference for a particular thing, either by its quality or its quantity.
405. Anyieekikutkeedaiyakinyink'inyanganyeeasukakobokeedem?
Who notices that he would be dumped in the sea and he still clings to someone's back?
Meaning: it is our responsibility to stay away from danger at all cost.
406. Awoadunoho item, afounoho idem afo?
If another person does not give you advice, can't you advise yourself?
Meaning: Use your initiative to live above board. Do not be over dependent on other people to caution you.
407. Amaadiandidiaakannwanufupafo, adutongoafidnteenin?
When you out-smart your co-wife in a meal, will you defecate like an Elephant?
Meaning: People sometimes compete for the good things of life only for themselves without considering others.
408. Amaafehemkpa, nsiiduwot?
When you are scared of death, what will kill you?
Meaning: People always shy away from taking responsibilities.
409. Adiaadongkenticpeekput?
Are you saving with a porous bag?
Meaning: The proverb refers to an individual who has nothing to show for his labours - a spendthrift.
410. Amaadiamfin, mkpongo?
When you eat today what will happen tomorrow?
Meaning: Living from hand to mouth with no hope for the future

411. Akiko unemamainyiehe se anauman,nkoaseadakemfonukotunek?
If a cock has nothing tangible to offer the hen, does it not resort to fine dance steps?
Meaning: Good human relationship is not all about money. Right attitude to other people matters too.
412. Aboikpaamaadiongoadungusioayen,adiongousioumaukpaukpong?
A girl who knows the concoction to about a child, does she know the one that will kill her after the abortion?
Meaning: A youth who claims to have an answer to every situation will not know when death will strike. Mysterious things are hidden from human beings.
413. Adimbetufokikpoaseketuaayedakananyieakpo?
A visitor who weeps louder than the owner of the corpse?
Meaning: A person who shows unnecessary interest or curiosity in what does not concern him
414. Asongawonkoasongifiok?
The wisdom of the elder, does it not supersede that of the youth?
Meaning: An elderly person is wise in many ways, unlike a young person who does not have enough exposure to the world.
415. Akponefutkeibaawo?
Do you develop robust buttocks in someone's pants?
Meaning: We should not take credit for what is not our right.
416. Aboideakangamaadietimmeito?
Will famine cause us to stay away from the convenience?
Meaning: What must be must be.
417. Afonideakpantikpeabe, awoakepekembenntan?
Is it good for a pit digger to begin by scrapping the top soil?
Meaning: Diverting attention from a noble cause to pursue something that has no value.
418. Aseadeawoitotokeatututiyak eke totoufod?
If we do not remove the fish at the rear, can we remove the one in the middle of the stick?
Meaning: Order is required in human relations. Seniority should be considered in matters of great importance.
419. Aboukpongafangukuwakansai?
Do you want to divert from a bush track to tread on thorns?
Meaning: People who deviate from their set goals to pursue irrelevant things.
420. Akponganemakedokiwa?
Do you avoid sweet yam to harvest cassava?
Meaning: We can only harvest what we sow.The proverb is still a warning on diverting from set goals.
421. Ade ubokusimekeitongunyana?
Your hand cannot reach but you stretch out your neck?

Meaning: It is a caution about an insatiable appetite for wealth.

422. Aseadeawoinammaedia?
Should a lazy person eat?

Meaning: Our resources are the products of our labours.

423. Akpedeaboikpaamaatie, ekpaeyemakananwan?
If a girl was available, would we look for an old woman?

Meaning: There is always a substitute in every human situation. We do not have to be too dogmatic in our dealings with others.

424. Amaadeayenanyieettenneekaakponnyenitutafoakeneakpon, afoedukpeke?
If a child with parents grows a large clitoris and you follow suit, who will incise it for you?

Meaning: A well connected individual will always be exonerated by his godfathers in times of trouble.

425. Awangufiennteanem?
Do you roll anti-clockwise like sweet yam?

Meaning: It portrays a person who is counter-productive.

426. Ayennsekataukotebot, adaakanakpoibiom?
A child who consumes a goat's leg, will he be able to carry the corpse?

Meaning: A youth who assumes the responsibility of an adult may soon confront a task which would defy his ability.

427. Amaadeukaanwanudokonanga, ekpoidakisongudoko, abuuka eke?
If your mother in-law invites you to a farm work, the wandering spirits also invite you, which one will you attend?

Meaning: This is a person who has no focus in life. He easily falls prey to insignificant ventures.

428. Aseadeayenekekaetung, akekumanyen?
Does a child run into hiding and loses an eye?

Meaning: What we consider as safety or luxury also portrays danger. The things we cherish in life may also be the cause of our misfortune.

429. Amaadeakokotndidiaafoanamanyingete, akpokpoamefoadu ka mass ke Rome?
If you make the sign of the cross in a shared meal, in your own food will you celebrate mass in Rome?

Meaning: If a person observes a lot of fanfare in a little event, you can imagine the extent he will go when he has an opportunity to celebrate a big event.

430. AfoadeanonoiKotafoadonguno?
Is it on a leased land that you plant umbrella tree?

Meaning: People blow trumpet over other people's achievements.

431. Awoibaeseekutekpo?
Can two people see a ghost or a phantom at the same time?

Meaning: Individuals have different methods of perception.

432. Ayo mbubiaseasatitiatike?
Does the evening sun dry up the tobacco grinding stone?
Meaning: Anything that is done at cross-purposes does not produce the expected result.
433. Ade abusiamatongoafidanimkenteanim, awonwenadukadiboakops'itebeade?
Are you a cat which will defecate anywhere and another person comes in to ask if it had perceived the odour?
Meaning: It means an individual commits a crime but the impact is felt by another person. The accused should be answerable to his action.
434. Abiaaseakok idem?
Does a physician heal himself?
Meaning: Certain things in life require a professional touch.
435. Akpaaboboekpoaminsangaikot?
Will you be the masquerade bearer and I pass through the bush?
Meaning: A familiar masquerade will not scare a friend into the bush. People favour their relations before others.
436. Ade inyangusattambie?
Are you an ocean which rejects no debris?
Meaning: A very unscrupulous individual who flows with everyone.
437. AkotawoAdede ado nwan, Adedeidoho?
One who calls another Adede marries a wife but Adede remains unmarried?
Meaning: The person who reaps from the proceeds of another person makes more progress in life.
438. Ade ekpo use anyinakookafia?
Are you a person who is watched by ghosts and you still lay a trap?
Meaning: This is a man who is worried about his personal protection.
439. Aduokaferiesong, nkoanyeasinanwanebua?
One who pours soup on the ground, is he not the cause of the dogs' fight?
Meaning: A leader's irresponsible act promotes factions among his followers.
440. Abiongakedakawotanyie?
Whom did hunger ever kill?
Meaning: Our survival does not depend on sumptuous meals.
441. Akpeadumahaanemkentakanyin, ukpumahakentakininge?
If you wouldn't like sweet yam because of its name, wouldn't you like it because of its sweetness?
Meaning: We must learn to appreciate positive traits in other people.
442. Aseadeikotadokkoiso, inuenadokkoisio?
Does the bush have a different tone from that of the bird?
Meaning: This is a case of a lack of agreement among members of a group. They sing discordant tunes.
443. AdiamfonAbasikembadubok?

Do you enjoy the favour of God with dirty hands?

Meaning: This is an ingrate, one who does not appreciate God's numerous blessings upon his life.

444. Aseadeetokadiakaimumonkuku, anyeate keayenanyie?

If EtokAdiaka does not catch the grasshopper, can she claim ownership for her child?

Meaning: We should not long for the things that we cannot achieve. We should be contented with what we have.

445. Akpanaseadokpoanoedemkeed?

Is a shopping basket heavy on one side?

Meaning: What serves as a smooth landing is preferable by everyone.

446. Amaakamaibuodabomnsatisipayop, adukutakeabioekpo?

When you use the head to break a dry coconut, will you eat the remains in the land of the dead?

Meaning: Human beings sometimes belittle themselves by their actions.

447. Awoaseadeanyie se inoayipanyeakeyipmkpoinno?

Does a person who has what can be stolen go and steal from a thief?

Meaning: We should be contented with what we have.

448. Ekomadeima?

Is greeting a sign of love?

Meaning: Sometimes we relate with others as a social responsibility and not out of our concern for them.

449. Ade ekpaekpangatemikotndungikpong?

Are you ekpaekpang that clears the bush and lives alone?

Meaning: Ekpaekpang is a spiky plant that afflicts humans who go near it. This portrays an individual who prefers a secluded life style.

450. Ade eyiedumummo, itudafidukwukpo?

You have not caught the hare and you have not closed your anus?

Meaning: This is a failed attempt that makes the news.

451. Ayemitaitigheakpa-akpantipanyan?

Do you want to consume a reduced comb of corn in place of a long one?

Meaning: This is a situation where in person ignores his priorities to pursue vain things.

452. Adiokdienneediak'udung?

How hopeless is the situation that warrants people to eat from the mortar?

Meaning: No matter how critical a condition is, people must find a way to circumvent the economy.

453. Ade utaiusudiahampko?

Are you an alligator that you don't eat food?

Meaning: The individual strength we possess does not necessarily depend on the quantity of food that we consume.

454. Ade ebeamianya-anyamafongaminkunenwaha?
Does my husband sell clothes but I wear rags?
Meaning: We sometimes pay little attention to the things that most affect us.
455. Atoawoitankoabengeanwan?
One who heats another person is he not suing for a fight?
Meaning: The problem we experience in life may sometimes be of our own making.
456. Atuaayetaseafideanyenkeakoike?
Does a mourner lose sight of his snuff box?
Meaning: The things that are paramount in our lives require priority attention.
457. Abu ubakawoanyenumenikong?
Will you fear another person and swallow phlegm?
Meaning: Truth must always be told no matter whose horse is gorged.
458. Eseesikadangaeset?
Do people trespass traditional boundaries?
Meaning: The things that constitute our traditional lives deserve some respect.
459. Emaebaabak aka itutedikung?
If we dread a large vagina, who will consummate it?
Meaning: People should live up to their expectations instead of shying away from taking responsibilities.
460. Ebanunoafoakpikisong?
A knife is sharpened for you but you strike the ground?
Meaning: A person who misses his target and focuses on something else.
461. Emaeboidiainimayenubuenneebo "daawo, usoatoedia?"
When a person wants to deny an orphan of a meal, he will first ask, "Boy; does your father cultivate yam?"
Meaning: When we plan to rob an individual of his right, we first assess his status in life. A man of affluence is not easily intimidated.
462. Eseebo "ikutnsiikiwotuso?"
Anye ate udib.
"Nsiikiwotuka?"
Udib.
"Nsiibouwotfienem?"
Udib.
The tortoise was asked "what killed your father?", he said mushroom. "What killed your mother?" Mushroom. "What is about to kill you now?" Mushroom.
Meaning: The things that fascinate us are also what will cause our sorrow. Caution is required in the way we relate with others, else it becomes a generational problem.
463. Emaekutnsukikangnkoekutikang?
When we perceive the smoke do we not see the fire?
Meaning: Every human problem emanate from a given source.

464. Etoamautoitakutong, nkouno item?
When a tree hits on your ear drum, is it not a warning to you?
Meaning: We should learn from our little mistakes.
465. Inuaamaafutntuen, aseatangidiokiko?
The mouth that tastes pepper, does it utter bad words?
Meaning: A person who enjoys the goodwill of another person should not discredit him.
466. Ibaamaanemntom, ita?
If two is so wholesome; what about three?
Meaning: Majority carries the vote.
467. Ideheabokafereseadaixpang?
Is it not the cook who licks the soup spoon?
Meaning: Anyone who forments trouble should bear the consequences.
468. Ideheaseawoinuaaseakopsetang?
Is it not the one who stares at another person's mouth that hears what is said?
Meaning: When we are attentive to others, we understand the details of any discussion.
469. Isidehenkoawoakpaakpaanyeabokkoatikpeanyen?
Is it not after death that a person can overcome losing an eye?
Meaning: Misfortune can trail a person up to the grave.
470. Isoawomkpaaseayaayaiya?
Is a dead man's face supposed to be pleasant?
Meaning: Some circumstances in life can alter our appearance beyond recognition.
471. Ikot aseadungunam?
Does the bush live in the animal?
Meaning: Nature provides the livelihood needed by man for his survival. It is never the other way round.
472. Ideheawoabokafereseadinadusaade?
Is that not someone who makes soup and adds adusa to it?
Meaning: This is a commendable action by an individual. Adusais a spice that enhances the taste of a meal.
473. Idehentakakeawotedop?
Was it not flattery that killed the antelope?
Meaning: The insincerity in our minds is not often portrayed in our attitude towards others.
474. Isommongadam, aboikimfonedemuke?
This water surface, which side will be good to me?
Meaning: This applies to all individuals who have a difficulty in making a choice or taking a decision.
475. Iyakkaadeanyieekpukanyieudongo?
Why not allow every family to be known by their ailments?
Meaning: Stay within the confines of your own achievements.

476. Ideheubiakidibanamebibawoebonseekedia?
Is it not a troublesome stomach that prompted the question of knowing what a person ate?
Meaning: There is a need to render help to people who are in difficulties
477. Mkpounamakangifang, nteadatifiok?
How many times will you fumble before you learn a lesson?
Meaning: One should avoid a repeat experience of an ignoble act. (Once beaten, twice shy).
478. Mkpikotato mo andomukod?
From where did solider ants bite my leg?
Meaning: This is a sudden affliction on a household or an individual.
479. Mminyongesaakpo, nkoekpoaseadia?
The plantain in the yard of a ghost, is it not eaten by a ghost?
Meaning: In a deserted family compound, the wealth is plundered by unidentified persons.
480. Mkponnamaseasuhoawo?
Does misfortune evade anyone?
Meaning: No matter who we are, human beings must experience one form of misfortune or another in life.
481. Nkoekweamaamaadeetok – etok, amaaakpene?
When a friend's parcel is handy, does it not strengthen the friendship?
Meaning: Occasional acts of appreciation to our loved ones make us enduring in their minds.
482. Nkoaseadeebuaakpoi, anyinasukatara?
Is it not as the dog barks that its eyes open up?
Meaning: As a person grows older he becomes wiser and more knowledgeable.
483. Nkonteafureabongkeaseasoro?
Is it not where there is comfort that the mosquito squats?
Meaning: People know how to provide basic amenities for themselves.
484. Nkonnukebotaseaseedemiseheiso?
Do the horns of a goat normally point backward and not forward?
Meaning: Certain things in nature require no adjustment or amendment.
485. Nkoaseadenkwekifiofiohoabaitutafidanye amen nkwaudara?
Is it not when nkwek is sure of its anus that it swallows the seed of a star apple?
Meaning: A Person should not bite more than he can chew or engage in an ambitious project.
486. Nkoatuukusineaseafiok se akamaayieubok?
Is it not the person who fondles with a bush rat that knows what to use and wash his hands?
Meaning: An individual who rubs shoulders with an ignoble person should know how to extricate himself in due course.

487. Nkoeseebenk'ubokebiomk'ibuod?
Do we not lift with the hands to place on the head?
Meaning: A good investment also produces a good yield.
488. Nkurikuadeasenkeakai?
Is the owl a stranger in the forest?
Meaning: What we are familiar to should not pose a problem to us.
489. Nnuonkeedaseasionnangk'ibuod?
Does one finger remove a leash from the head?
Meaning: This calls for co-operation or a team spirit in order to succeed in a task.
490. Nsasakamaebennkwaebakangidokanyong, mmendayoakwengekende?
If the Bishop's sunbird flies away with the seed of a plant, does that mean that the dry season is over?
Meaning: A person who cheats another person in a business deal does not signify the end of the world. More opportunities will still crop up for negotiations.
491. Nsisanaawoedet?
What cleanses a person's teeth?
Meaning: Sometimes the favour we enjoy in life is not out of our own making.
492. Nseawoadianneubokadunginua?
What can a person eat that would cause the hand to remain permanently in the mouth?
Meaning: Everything has an expiry date.
493. S'itipaseabiere?
Does a spoilt food item cook well?
Meaning: What is crooked can not become straight.
494. Unamamaadembohomboho, edida die ibak?
If an animal appears roundish, how will it be butchered?
Meaning: A complex situation calls for a thoughtful approach.
495. Ufangake to mo adukedia?
From where did bacteria enter a yam?
Meaning: The things that thwart our progress in life may appear unnoticed.
496. UsatakpediikpahakeesaAkonanwan, akpedat se abokafereubengeasenawo?
If the king fisher did not die at he backyard of Akonanwan, what would she have used to make soup for her visitor?
Meaning: The misfortune of one person is a fortune to another person.
497. Udukiteukotamaafon, nkontokekpoedak'isongekpongoubok?
When the gain of a drinking parlour is much, will unseen beings not stay around to beat their palms.
Meaning: The leisure that human beings crave for also attracts the spirits.
498. Ufokk'ufokaseadeadusat?
Do family members discriminate against one another?

Meaning: There is a natural bond among blood relations.

499. UyoUkauduaadeukemnneunyongo?

Is the tone of a person going to the market the same as when he is returning from it?

Meaning: Different circumstances may change our perception towards life.

500. Ubomadensong idem?

Is weight gain a sign of good health?

Meaning: what constitutes our well being does not depend on greatness.

501. Abinne ebom abo ke ebom ade idek

One who chases a turtle dove thinks it is a coward.

Meaning: It is only the person who is saddled with enormous responsibilities who can recount his burden. Others are likely to underrate his task.

502. Adada ke nsok adukinan adua enyongo ema

You will continue to shine the gun till the squirrels all escape.

Meaning: This is paying attention to too much details during emergency.

503. Adat awo nketo awo, akakpa edem akedia mkpo

A person who knocks heads together but turns to enjoy their goodwill.

Meaning: An individual who causes problem between two people often end up being their secret friend.

504. Amayak ayen ano Abasi, nnam isidaha k'usung ita iwot

When a child is dedicated to God, rabbies cannot come from afar to afflict the child to death.

Meaning: What we entrust into God's care cannot experience corruption.

505. Ama ubineke Udoudo idiong ke akposong ubok, ada ata isip idiong ama, ekam ikutte se akama abide idiong

If you do not reprimand Udoudo Idiong strongly, he will consume all the socerer's palm kernels and Ekam will not have any for socery.

Meaning: Spare the rod and spoil the child.

506. Ayet awo idem isitureke iwuo nne nsana-ubok

One who births another always emerges with clean hands.

Meaning: A good deed produces a good reward.

507. Ayukpo edong awo any ease akpang utong mkpo

A person who hits another man's sheep often strains his ears to perceive huge noise.

Meaning: When we commit a crime, our conscience pricks us on and on.

508. Awo ikang adukko ufok isinoho ekpu imum

An individual whose house is on fire cannot catch rats

Meaning: We should not be distracted by small matters during an emergency.

509. Awo ataha mkpon ekpa unam amakut efik, etap ase asaka k'inua

When a person who consumes large animal intestines sees a protruded appendix, saliva forms on his mouth.

Meaning: A greedy individual will crave for any edible thing big or small.

510. Etok ibuo awo imaha anwan nyenudung, akama nkwa unen imaha abubume udua
A tiny-headed person hates a fight involving a pestle and a trader with eggs hates a turbulent market.
Meaning: People should learn to avoid situations or events that may have adverse effects on them.
511. Idehe nko usio k'ito afo adiongo ke atebe
It is not until you are removed from the latrine that you should know that you stink
Meaning: We should endeavour to conceal certain attitudes that make us unwholesome in public.
512. Ikpong afon ito ubok anyie ikpong nduk etung eboto
It is better for the owner of cocoyam to store it by herself in a goat shed.
Meaning: Sometimes we deliberately ruin our good fortune.
513. Isang ikpong inyiehe ntim
A walk by a lonely person has no footfalls.
Meaning: Human beings who have no benefactors should not blow unnecessary trumpet about their achievements.
514. Ubukko idip amato esit ufok, ikokpo nsim nyiet
When a stomach ache is from home, it does not subside with a herb called "nsim eyiet".
Meaning: When our problems stem from our kindred, they persist.
515. Nkedong ayen ikot afang, nkidongo ikot ubong
I sent a child to harvest afang, and not to harvest pumpkin
Meaning: This is a young man who has derailed from the noble cause of the parents.
516. Itie nt'unen eda eduk meeting idehe se nnuene eka
Where hens gather for a meeting is not conducive to the ants.
Meaning: Anything that portends danger to our lives should not attract our attention.
517. Tongo ike ikut asine ke esit ito ikpaha ufik afit awo idisio anye ate ke ida ikpa
Since the time the tortoise was enmeshed in excreta, it didn't die of the odour, but when it was removed it craved for death.
Meaning: Quite often, people abuse the assistance or support given them by outsiders in times of need.
518. Ayen isikakka eka
A child is never too heavy for the mother to straddle
Meaning: We must be able to handle our individual responsibilities without complaining.
519. Ako ase atoro ke ubiom
Pots do rub themselves together in a rafter
Meaning: No one is indispensable. One way or another we must impact on others.
520. Akpok atamake ato ayong akwa eto adiduo ke isong ikpaha, akpena abuk idem amo ke awo mfen adibukko

A lizard which jumps down from a high iroko tree without dying should be able to praise itself if no one else does so.

Meaning: Individuals should commend themselves for their personal achievements when others fail to commend them.

521. Ndidia mbiere asinne udi

The food prepared for farmers has generated misunderstanding

Meaning: What appeared as a common wealth has brought a conflict among members.

522. Unen akama nto ase ano itok ifehe?

Is a hen with chicks capable of running fast?

Meaning: A person's progress in life may be delayed due to his numerous responsibilities.

MORE ON ANNANG PROVERBS

501. Abinne ebom abo ke ebom ade idek

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Meaning: Anything that portends danger to our lives should not attract our attention.
517. Tongo ike ikut asine ke esit ito ikpaha ufik afit awo idisio anye ate ke ida ikpa
Since the time the tortoise was enmeshed in excreta, it didn't die of the odour, but when it was removed it craved for death.
Meaning: Quite often, people abuse the assistance or support given them by outsiders in times of need.
518. Ayen isikakka eka
A child is never too heavy for the mother to straddle
Meaning: We must be able to handle our individual responsibilities without complaining.

519. Ako ase atoro ke ubiom
Pots do rub themselves together in a rafter
Meaning: No one is indispensable. One way or another we must impact on others.
520. Akpok atamake ato ayong akwa eto adiduo ke isong ikpaha, akpena abuk idem amo ke awo mfen adibukko
A lizard which jumps down from a high iroko tree without dying should be able to praise itself if no one else does so.
Meaning: Individuals should commend themselves for their personal achievements when others fail to commend them.
521. Ndidia mbiere asinne udi
The food prepared for farmers has generated misunderstanding
Meaning: What appeared as a common wealth has brought a conflict among members.
522. Unen akama nto ase ano itok ifehe?
Is a hen with chicks capable of running fast?
Meaning: A person's progress in life may be delayed due to his numerous responsibilities.