

# Juju

(A white head cover from the Mua area)



## Themes

1) Frigidity 2) Love 3) Sexual obsession

## Etymology

**Juju** comes from '*kujuja*', 'to be useless'. The term is applied here to a wife who shows signs of frigidity at the advances of her husband.

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Kungoni Centre of Culture and Art, Mua Parish, P. O. Box 41, Mtakatika, Malawi

## Description

The character of **Juju** does not wear a mask but a white head cover made of cloth, which does not display any detail for the face. His head is topped with a hat of woven palm leaves. His costume consists in a plain overall and a white kiln made of fertiliser bag laces at his waist. The character appeared in Mua in the 1980s, possibly from the Ngodzi area. He is produced on any occasion at which Gule is present, including funerals.

**Juju**'s appearance on the *bwalo* is highly entertaining. His dancing shows no definite style. He jumps sideways and wiggles his body all over in the midst of the crowd of women, who delight in his presence and clap hands for him. He sings his own song (like Kapoli): 1) *"In the past, you used to refuse to be touched by men. Now, you (are even forcing me) in the middle of the night. (I can't sleep). How delightful (is sex)!"* The women continue with the following: 2) *"You there, how delightful (is sex), how delightful!"*

The song conveys the complaint of a husband whose wife is frigid and refuses to be touched by him at the beginning of their marriage. Maybe it is out of shame or as a result of her own family's education. But once she has tasted the pleasure of sex, she does not want to stop. She even requests sex with him in the middle of the night. She is always eager to have sex, to the point of obsession. He wakes up tired and drained. The husband feels that his wife's requests are going overboard, and that he cannot find peace and sufficient rest. The character of **Juju** protests against marriage partners who have no consideration for each other and lack mutual love. The ancestors invite them to talk things over.

## Songs

- 1) *"Paja munkakana wamuna kuti akugwire. Pano m'pakati pa usiku. Bwanji kukoma!"*
- 2) *"Iwe iwe bwa, bwanji kukoma!"*

## Source

Interviews in 2008 and 2012

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