

Written by James Cooper

Sunday, 16 September 2018 17:06 - Last Updated Sunday, 13 March 2022 15:41



As he wrote about his experiences within Uganda Winston Churchill declared 'the kingdom of Uganda is a fairy tale, the scenery is different, the climate is different and most of all the people are different from anything in the whole range of Africa' he goes on to say 'for magnificence, for variety of form and colour, for profusion of brilliant life, bird, insect, reptile, beast, for vast scale, Uganda is truly the pearl of Africa'.

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Churchill was not the first to describe Uganda as the 'pearl of Africa' as in the 19th century Henry Morton Stanley (stanley i presume) also described Uganda as the 'pearl of Africa' and to describe something as a pearl means one is attributing great value as seen in the Bible where it advises one 'not to cast ones pearls before swine' and the kingdom of heaven is described as 'a pearl of great price'.

Pearls are very much a part of the culture of the Massai who embroider them into their dress, each colour having specific meaning as white expresses divine love, blue reflects god and heaven and green represents peace and nature and the women wear an accumulation of pearls including rank, age, and clan while for the men such pearls represent ones merits, social status and courage.



Within the lands of Tanzania it seems this pearl standard may have been the name for Africas highest mountain 'Kilimanjaro' a name which possesses the prefix 'kili' and 'kiri' which we see within other mountains such as 'Kilimambogo' 'Kirinyaga' 'Kilimangombe' and whose meaning is 'mountain' and 'hill'.

Sanskrit has the word 'giri' whose meaning is 'mountain' and 'hill' and 'giri' and 'kiri' and 'kili' are very much the same and the second part of the word 'manjaro' may well be 'manjara' a word from Sanskrit whose meaning is 'pearl' as in the pearl (manjara) mountain (kili) an appropriate name for this beautiful snow topped mountain.

Kilimanjaro lies opposite 'Manyara' a lake which Ernest Hemingway described as the most beautiful lake within Africa and when we consider how the 'Y' and the 'J' are interchangeable its reasonable to suggest a relationship with 'manjara' a word from Sanskrit meaning 'pearl' and nearby we find the regions of 'Karatu' and 'Madukani' names which can also be found within Sanskrit.

Hare Krishna Centre - Leicester, UK - Tanzania And The Pearls Of Africa

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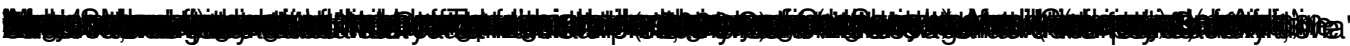
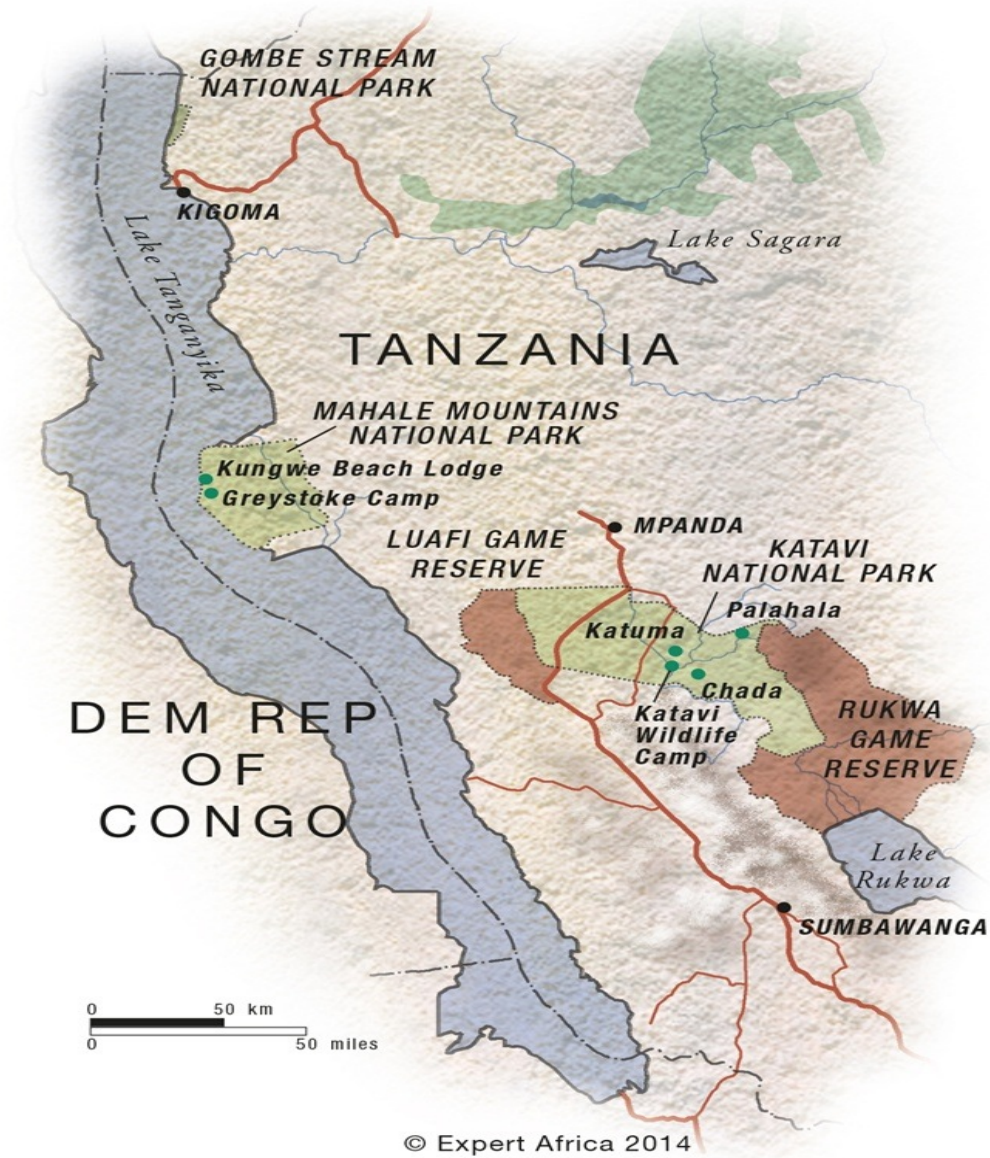
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