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## The Legend of Nkondakamwale

1 message

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One of the outstanding features in Treetops camp in Kafue National Park is this massive, pink, 1,500-year-old Baobab tree named **Nkondakamwale**.



Kafue National park has thousands of these enormous trees. Some people refer to baobabs as the "Tree of Life" mentioned in the Bible -- because of its ability to hold water, because its fruits nourish elephants, birds and humans (Including me! Yum!), and it's bark is used to make baskets.

This particular tree has a legend supporting its glory . . .

What does "Nkondakamwale" mean?

Nkonda -- "Loves"

Kamwale -- "Young Maidens."



The story is that the tree loved the young maidens who lived in a village nearby. But as the girls grew and began to plan of getting husbands the tree grew jealous. One day the girls were sent out to fetch firewood, but a terrible lightning storm flared up and they hid in that hollow you see in this tree. "Aha!" the tree thought. "Now they are mine!" so he surrounded them and swallowed them. People could hear them calling for help and crying, but could not figure out a way to rescue them.



They say that even today, *if you listen carefully*, you can still hear the maidens inside crying for help!

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