

Chatuluka (Salima)

(A red day mask from the Salima area)

Themes

- 1) Spirit of service to community
- 2) Pride/arrogance
- 3) Rivalry for authority

Etymology

Chatuluka means, 'He has gone out (of office),' referring to retirement.



Description

This medium sized red mask (35 cm.) with a bald head and white hair and beard portrays a wise chief who has retired from his function, just prior to his death. Red here equates to chieftainship, as it was the symbolic colour of authority. **Chatuluka** wears the usual suit of *gule*, but over it he has a heavy winter coat, which was the characteristic attire of chiefs from the 1950s to 1970s. He carries a stick or a flywhisk symbolising his position. He performs like an aged, feeble chief on the occasion of enthronement ceremonies. The men sing, "*The name follows its owner.*" **Chatuluka** is the old chief who hands his position over to a younger incumbent. His presence for the occasion certifies the legitimacy of the incumbent and removes all doubt concerning the latter's right to rule. **Chatuluka** confirms the power of his successor and blesses the new leadership. He shares his advice and wisdom for the continuity of the name of the chieftainship, invested in him before he retired.

The character **Chatuluka** is interpreted and depicted in the Mua area rather differently (refer to that entry).

Song

"Ede ede tate dzina litsata mwini (2x). Dzina litsata mwini."

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Source

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