



Time Travel connected to Human Right's Day Receiving of Krotoa, a woman of two worlds, at the Castle in 1668

Goal

- To reflect on human right's issues, specifically the rights of women and children in celebrating Human Right's Day
- Emphasize the story of Krotoa as a person of two worlds, a situation that is familiar in today's society

Facts

Groups of hunter-gatherers (San) have lived along the South African coast since the earliest appearance of modern humans 200 000 years ago. They used the landscape in a sustainable way, moving from one place to another where resources were available. About two thousand years ago pastoralists (Khoe) moved into the area with their cattle and sheep. They were also nomads but became more and more sedentary. Hunter-gatherers formed bands and pastoralists organized themselves in various lineages and clans.

European explorers came to the southern African coast in the late 15th century. In 1652 the Dutch-East India Company, VOC, decided to make a way-station in the Cape for the VOC trading route and started to build a fort. Jan van Riebeeck was the commander of this settlement. One of the first clans to be acquainted with the Dutch was the Goringhaikona clan, a sedentary pastoralist group at the Cape, led by their Chief Autshumao.

Europeans needed locals to help them in their new environment, to understand the customs and to trade and in order to get food, meat, plants, water etc. One of those locals was Krotoa, a young khoe girl who came into van Riebeecks household as their childminder at the age of 12 in 1655.

Krotoa was a member of the Goringhaikona tribe, niece to the khoe leader Autshumao. Employed by the Van Riebeecks household and given the name Eva, she soon learns the ways and language of the Dutch and Portuguese. She finds herself mediating between the European settlers and the khoe, as they engage in trade with each other and as negotiator in times of conflict. In 1662 Krotoa was baptized in the church at the Castle by a visiting priest. In 1664 she married a Danish settler Peter Havgard, later known as Pieter van Meerhoff and became Eva van Meerhoff. She was the first Khoi person at the Cape marrying according to Christian customs. In 1665 the couple left for Robben Island where Pieter van Meerhof was appointed superintendent. There were not many people on the island, so probably not much to do for Krotoa. Pieter and Eva had three children. Now and then they went to the mainland, not least to baptize their children. In July 1667 Krotoa's husband was sent to Mauritius and Madagascar as leader of a trading and reconnoitring expedition and to capture slaves for the Cape colony. On 27th February 1668 he was killed on that expedition in Madagascar.

Krotoa continued to stay on the island after her husband's death but 30th September she decided to return to the mainland. Zacharias Wagenaer had replaced van Riebeeck as the new commander in 1662. Wagenaer started to construct a strong fort and intensive works on the fort went on for more than a decade. He had quite negative views on the khoi people, resulting in several disputes. He left the Cape in 1666. In September 1668 Jakob Borghorst was the 4th commander of the fort, a person who found the conditions in the Cape quite unfavourable and he did not have a need for Krotoa.

Krotoa instead went to her family in the kraals but had difficulties. She suffered from alcoholism and in February 1669 she was imprisoned for immoral behaviour and banished to Robben Island. She had to leave her children at the Castle to one of van Riebeeck's nieces. Krotoa returned to the mainland but was again banished to Robben Island. She had more children and at least one of them was baptized. Krotoa died on 29th July 1674 in the Cape.

Krotoa has become the symbol of a woman who belonged both to the Khoi and European communities, was unjustly treated and lost her rights. She is also referred to as the Mother of the Nation, a person, whose life is worthy to commemorate on Human Rights Day.

Scenario, Krotoa is coming back to the Castle 1668. How do we receive a woman of two worlds?

Krotoa/ Eva van Meerhoff is coming back from Robben Island. Her husband Pieter died seven months ago. It must have come as a shock to her. She has stayed on the island for several months after her husband's death, mourning, but also probably she does not really know what to do. Will she still be accepted, with her three children, by the Europeans? Will she be accepted by her own clan and family?

Today she is finally coming back to the Castle with her children. Her family and many other people from her kraal and the Goringhaicona clan have arrived at the castle to meet her. They are curious, what kind of person is she? She has been with the Europeans so long, so maybe she has forgotten her roots? Some will welcome her with joy and singing. They see her as a strong woman with many skills and abilities. Others are more hesitant. Because she left and joined the Europeans, she does not belong to us anymore, they will say. She speaks their language, wears their clothes and adopted their religion and manners. Is it possible to belong to two groups at the same time?

Also the white people at the Castle are curious to meet Krotoa again, or Eva, as they call her. Several of them have a good relationship with her and have met her children. But the commander, Jakob Borghorst, is not fond of the conditions in the Cape and the Khoi people. They are often treated as second class people. Will he reject Krotoa? And what will happen to her children?

Soldiers will look after the crowd at the Castle. Those who do not act accordingly, might be arrested and put in the dungeon. There are also some slaves from far away countries at the castle doing hard labour on the constructions of the new fort.

It's a day that many have been waiting for, to meet Krotoa and her children again. How will her clan treat her, the Europeans, the Commander? And what does she think herself? How will she go on with her life? Can she even be a bridge between the Europeans and the Khoi? Is it possible to belong to two groups at the same time – both whites and the blacks? And do all people at the Cape have the same rights – pastoralists, hunter-gatherers, slaves, Europeans, women, men and children?

Roles

Learners are Khoi people waiting to meet Krotoa

Slaves, Europeans (*Lehlokwane*)

Krotoa (*Zanele*), Commander Jakob Borghorst, Soldiers, Foremen (*Jabulani, Ebbe*)

Guards, Preacher

Ceremonial master of the khoi (*Bradley*)

Key Questions

How will we receive Krotoa from the Goringhaicona clan? And why?

- Welcome her in the kraal and in the clan?
- Reject her and tell her to stay with the Europeans?
- Accept that she belong to two groups, have several identities? Maybe even as a bridge between different groups of people, Europeans and Khoi?

How will we receive Krotoa from the Europeans? Her children?

What are the human rights for the Khoi, the slaves, the Europeans, women, children, men?

What are the rights of Krotoa and her children? Are there any conditions for unity in action?

Activities

- Prepare Khoi songs and dances – *Bradley*
 - Storytelling - *Andy*
 - Herbs and medicine – *Bertie, Karin,*
 - Make necklaces and bracelets of ostrich shells - *Natasja*
 - Face painting - *Brenda*
 - Paint Khoi symbols -*Jabulani, John*
 - Cut fruit and vegetables – *Aunt Hettie, Faiza*
 - Stone work - *Mobs*
 - Measurements – *Annina*
 - Writing - *Johanna*
 - Mend European clothes - *Lehlokwane*
- Prepare a European song
Prepare welcoming ceremonies

Each group prepares communication/ welcoming/ test of Krotoa

Time plan

08.00 Set up the site

09.00 Welcoming speeches from Castle of Good Hope, Bridging Ages South Africa, Embassy of Sweden, Department of Arts and Culture and Western Cape Department.

09.45 Introduction to the Time Travel, Andy Peterson

10.00 Initiation, key ceremony by Castle Guard, Khoi ceremony
Instructions from the foremen

10.20 Activities and discussions. Interrupting moments

11.20 Krotoa arrives, presentations, singing, Governor

12.00 Time Travel ends, canon is fired, ceremony
Reflection

12.20 Lunch

13.00 Workshop on the Time Travel method

15.00 Workshop ends

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Andy Peterson, Bridging Ages Western Cape

Ebbe Westergren, Bridging Ages International

with support from several others