Since the very moment of their appearance two recent works of Euphrase Kezilahabi- Nagana (1990) and Mzingile (1991)- hold a very special place in the whole development of Kiswahili literature, giving a lot of puzzles for the reader and a lot of material for the scholars of literature. I’m going to dwell upon only one aspect of the book - its generic origin; for I think that this question will sooner or later arise. To this effect, I would dare first narrate - very briefly - the contents of the book I would refer to it as ‘the book’, although it actually consists of two parts - but these parts are so closely related to each other, that it seems possible to speak of Nagana and Mzingile as one piece of work. To what literary genre shall we ascribe the latest work of Tanzania’s leading writer? I would dare to come forward with such a question, because within the structure of the book there seem to be at least four more or less easily tangible stylistic plans. The first one I would call a folkloristic plan, for Kezilahabi uses widely and vividly the elements of African folklore - from mythological concepts to folklore plots, inserted into the narration. The second stylistic plan of the book can be called that of a parable - a parable in the sense of a self-contained story conveying didactic message to a reader or a listener. The book is full of such stories. The next stylistic plan one can call that of science-fiction - or, I would rather say, of antiutopia, for the author draws apocalyptic pictures of the world after the nuclear war, implying the technique inherent to science-fiction novels. Finally, another stylistic plan of the book can be called realistic - for the author gives, for example, the descriptions of modern city, where the Msichana-Mwokozi dwells, or of an African village, when he tells about the childhood of the main character, using the traditions of east African realistic novel, portraying shortly but vividly urban and rural life. I would say that this realistic plan takes smaller place than the other three - but it is by no means less noticeable.
Parable means a short story that teaches a moral or spiritual lesson especially and one of the stories told by Jesus Christ and recorded in the Bible. We treat the term PARABLE is general and have collected these parables only to meet the expectations of our readers. Here are more than 100 parables which represent all forms of morality. 10 steps to conquer your public speaking fear. A Box Full of Kisses. A Boy With Strong Belief. A Hole in The Fence. A Lesson from A Frog Tale. The main subject of Kezilahabi’s first four novels is Tanzanian society. Each character is fully integrated in this world where there is little place for fools or marginalized people. This is not to say that everybody is in the right place. Kezilahabi writes fiction precisely because society is an arena of tensions. Conflicts are intrinsic to society. They arise from within, not from the external world. It is evident that they break away from the realistic mode. Nagona (also the eponymous heroine) and Mzingile are two texts that are explicitly ritualistic. Nagona is about the spiritual quest of a mysterious half-woman half-deer. Recommend this book. Email your librarian or administrator to recommend adding this book to your organisation’s collection. The Swahili Novel.

Xavier Garnier.