

## Learning by Ear – Hygiene: How to avoid diarrhoea

### Episode 05 “River and Snakes”

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<b>Scene</b>	<b>Characters</b>	
<b>1</b>	1. EDITH 2. MARIA	<b>SAM – 17, m.</b> <b>EDITH – 40, f.</b>
<b>2</b>	1. SAM 2. EDITH 3. MARIA 4. CHEMU 5. EDDI 6. NARRATOR	<b>MARIA – 43, f.</b> <b>EDDI– 36, m.</b> <b>DR SALLY – 34, f.</b> <b>CHEMU – 15, f.</b>

## **INTRO**

### **MUSIC: THEME MUSIC**

**1. NARRATOR** HELLO AND WELCOME TO EPISODE **FIVE** OF THE “LEARNING BY EAR” **SERIES** ON HYGIENE AND HOW TO AVOID DIARRHOEA. IN THE LAST EPISODE, SAM MADE IT TO HOSPITAL IN TIME TO BE TREATED FOR DIARRHOEA. IT WAS A CLOSE SHAVE. DR SALLY ALSO TOOK TIME TO EXPLAIN TO CHEMU AND SAM ABOUT WHAT EXACTLY DIARRHOEA IS AND WHAT CAUSES IT. AFRICA DOES NOT HAVE TO LOSE ANY MORE CHILDREN TO DIARRHOEA. SIMPLE HABITS CAN PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE. IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION CAN ALSO SAVE THOSE UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE AFFECTED.

BUT THIS COMMUNITY STILL NEEDS TO LEARN A LOT MORE.

LISTEN ON AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAUSES, CURES AND PREVENTION OF DIARRHOEA AS WE FOLLOW THE STORY OF SAM AND HIS HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

## **SCENE 1: PATH TO LOCAL RIVER**

### **2. SFX: SOUNDS OF RIVER. COWS MOOING. CHILDREN PLAYING. NATURAL SOUNDS - BIRDS, WIND ETC.**

3. **MARIA** Edith, it is really good to be able to do this again. It has been along time since we came to fetch water from the river together.
4. **EDITH** I know, Maria, I guess I have had too many problems lately that have kept me in the house. What with what happened to Baby Fatu and Sam's sickness. And then....  
(sniffles like she is about to cry)
5. **MARIA** I know, I know my friend, Fatu's death was tough, and that is why I had to drag you out of that house today. Fresh air will do you some good.
6. **EDITH** You are a good friend, Maria. You are at times crazy, but you are a true friend when I need you.
7. **MARIA** And where are those children? They were supposed to be here before us. I hope that boy of yours, Sam, knows better than to mess with my girl, Chemu.

8. **EDITH** You are too harsh on them, my friend. They are just children. Sam should really be resting more. He was only released from hospital two days ago.
9. **MARIA** Well, he needs the fresh air, too! Now, let's go down-stream and fill up our containers with water.
10. **SFX: SOUND OF COWS AND COWBELLS COMING CLOSE**
11. **EDITH** What is this? We have to share our water with the cattle as well?
12. **SFX: SOUNDS OF CHILDREN PLAYING AND SPLASHING WATER GETTING LOUDER AS WELL**
13. **MARIA** It's not the cows I am afraid off. It is those children over there.
14. **EDITH** Who? Sam and Chemu. I don't see them.

- 15. MARIA** No, no, the ones over there, Edith. They are bathing, some are washing clothes and well, you can see what the others are doing... they are relieving themselves by the banks of the river.
- 16. EDITH** Oh.. What is wrong with them? They come all this way to the river bank to use it as a toilet. Why would they do that?
- 17. MARIA** The same reason your Sam used to give me free manure on my garden?
- 18. EDITH** Come on, Maria, that is not fair.
- 19. MARIA** Ok. ok. Either we stop them, or we simply wait for the river to wash the ... the stuff away. And then we can fetch our water.
- 20. EDITH** How long do you think we will have to wait for that. Look... they are lots of them and more keep joining them.
- 21. MARIA** Ok... ok... they do need to be told off. (**loud voice**).
- 22. SFX: SOUNDS OF TWIGS BEING RIPPED OFF A BRANCH**

**23. MARIA** You, you.. get out of there! Don't you see we are fetching our drinking water. I am coming over there and if I catch you... I will cane your naked behinds with this stick..  
until.....until....you...

**24. EDITH** **(laughing hysterically)** Ha ha ha... Maria, Maria you crack me up!

**25. MARIA** What's so funny? There is nothing amusing about children crapping in the same water we drink and use to cook.

#### **PAUSE**

**26. MARIA** It is really very good to see you smile. It has been a long time. Diarrhoea had taken your smile away as well.

**27. NARRATOR** THERE MUST BE A REASON WHY NATURE MADE EXCRETA HAVE A SUCH A FOUL SMELL. A SMELL AND A SIGHT THAT APPALS HUMAN BEINGS. WE ARE MEANT TO SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM THAT WHICH WE EXCRETE FROM OUR BODIES. A MARKED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND ANIMALS.

#### **BRIDGE MUSIC**

## **SCENE 2 AT THE RIVER BANKS**

**28. SFX: WATER RUNNING. WATER BEING FETCHED WITH A SMALL CONTAINER AND REPEATEDLY EMPTIED INTO A SHALLOW MOUTH CONTAINER. NATURE SOUNDS.**

**29. SFX: SOMEONE RUNS FAST. COMING CLOSER AND CLOSER**

**30. CHEMU** (screaming hysterically from far) Help!...  
Mother... Edith... help... heeelp!

**31. MARIA** Oh no, it is my Chemu....Chemu... Chemu.. I  
am coming.. what is wrong?

**32. SFX: TWO SETS OF FEET RUNNING**

**33. EDITH** Chemu... Where is Sam? Where did you  
leave Sam?

**34. CHEMU** (Out of breath) Snake... many snakes.. Help!

**35. MARIA** Snake? There are no snakes in this area...  
Where is it? Where is the snake?

**36. EDITH** Where is Sam?

**37. CHEMU** (Crying) With Sam

38. **EDITH** Sam is with Sam? Chemu, you are not talking sense.
39. **MARIA** Chemu, Where is Sam? And **(firmly)** where did you see a snake?
40. **CHEMU** Sam is with snake!
41. **MARIA/EDITH** What?
42. **CHEMU** Snake is with Sam!
43. **MARIA** Good heavens, Chemu, can you please speak sense? Ok.. ok... calm down, take a deep breath, and another... Ok, now slowly.. slowly... Where is Sam? Where did you see a snake?
44. **CHEMU** I took a walk with Sam, he said his stomach was aching.. He went to ... to.. to the bushes... to ... to .. you know... what ....then he screamed.
45. **EDITH** Why, what happened? Is my Sam ok?
46. **CHEMU** Snakes came out of ... of.. you know.. inside him.....it was oh nooo (**Chemu screams**).
47. **EDITH** Where is Sam? Chemu, where is Sam now? Where did you leave him?
48. **CHEMU** With the snake, in the bush.



- 49. MARIA** Ooh dear me.. we are not getting anywhere.  
Edith, let's go look for him.
- 50. SFX: FOOTSTEPS COMING CLOSER**
- 51. SAM** You don't need to look for me. I am right here.
- 52. EDITH** Sam, what is this I hear about snakes?
- 53. SAM** I have things that look like snakes in my stomach.
- 54. MARIA** Young man, you are bewitched. Chemu, I forbid you again to....
- 55. SFX: SOUND OF CAR DRIVING ON DIRT ROAD. IT STOPS**
- 56. EDITH** Look, it's Eddi, my brother-in-law
- 57. CHEMU** Uncle Eddi!!! How good you are here!
- 58. EDDI** How is everyone? So this is why there is no one at home?
- 59. MARIA** I had to get Edith out of that house for some fresh air. Anyway, we needed some clean water... well.. if you can call it clean.
- 60. EDDI** Sam, I see you are much better now.

- 61. MARIA** He is ok.... alright... but he is not well. He is shooting snakes from behind. What kind of medicine did you give him at the hospital? I thought you knew what you were doing, being a health person.
- 62. EDDI** Shooting snakes? Sam, what is wrong? You are rather quiet. What is going on?
- 63. SAM** Some.... some.. kind of snakes.. small ones came out of ... of... you know where.
- 64. EDDI** (**laughing**) Not to worry. They are just intestinal roundworms. They are coming out after the de-worming.. That's the medicine he was given in hospital.
- 65. MARIA** (**shocked**) You mean, now you farm worms in people's intestines?
- 66. EDITH** (**crying**) Is my son sick again? I can't bear another sickness in the family again. I just can't.

- 67. EDDI** No.. no.. no need to worry, Edith. Sam had two infections. The acute diarrhoea and pain was caused by parasites like amoebiasis. Recurrences of this are responsible for high rates of dehydration and death. Sam is safe from that now.
- 68. MARIA** **(cynical)** Then why is he shooting worms from behind. Can't you see how scared these children are?
- 69. EDDI** Again, you don't need to worry now. Sam had a second and very common infection. Somehow, roundworm eggs had entered his system and grew into worms. Now, after the medication, they no longer have a safe place to grow in the stomach or intestine. And so they are finding their way out through excreta.
- 70. EDITH** How did Sam swallow these worms? They must have found their way into his stomach through his mouth. I don't serve up worms in my house.
- 71. MARIA** Eddi, you confuse us with all your learning. You'd better explain.

- 72. EDDI** And I will. They get into the stomach as eggs from water or even vegetables. The intestine environment is a good place for them to grow.
- 73. MARIA** So, Mr Learned Man, how do the eggs get onto the vegetables, water etc. Who lays them there?
- 74. EDDI** Sam, where and how did you get to see the worms? I mean the one that came from inside you?
- 75. SAM** I was... I was... I was.. you know..
- 76. CHEMU** He was relieving himself in the bush.
- 77. EDDI** There is your answer!
- 78. MARIA** You see.. you see Edith, what did I tell you about your son and his habit of.. of... of.. spreading manure on other people's gardens.
- 79. EDITH** Maria, stop picking on my son...
- 80. MARIA** I am not.. I just want....

- 81. EDDI** Stop it.. stop it, you two. Edith, you asked how the eggs got inside Sam. Well, in there, in the bush where he went to relieve himself, he has deposited enough eggs to make the whole village suffer from intestinal worms and diarrhoea.
- 82. SAM** Oh no.. oooh, I am so sorry, I didn't mean to... I didn't know. ...please forgive me.. please..
- 83. CHEMU** **(Kidding)** Sam, you are like a chicken, only with bad eggs.
- 84. EDITH** Stop it, you two. **(To Eddi)** What should we do now?
- 85. MARIA** I know **(authoritatively)**, Sam, take a spade and scoop out your..... your..... droppings and deposit them somewhere far away....
- 86. EDDI** Hey.. hey.. stop it.. It is not Sam's fault that he got infected by the intestinal eggs and all those other parasites and bacteria. He didn't know he was contaminating other people.
- 87. MARIA** Whose fault is it then? The people at the hospital are also to blame. They were supposed to have cured him.

- 88. EDDI** I'm certain about one thing, Sam is getting better. The worms are coming out because the environment they were growing in has now been treated and they can't grow anymore. They are dying. But we need to educate the whole community about these things.
- 89. MARIA** Especially those children who were relieving themselves in the river. And the cows and the clothes washers and... I am surprised we are not all suffering from diarrhoea.
- 90. EDDI** Now you get it. We are all in danger. At times we are our own enemies. That is why we must learn more about prevention.

**OUTRO:**

**91. NARRATOR**      THERE IS SO MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT HOW DIARRHOEA IS SPREAD. IT SEEMS MOST OF THE INFECTIONS CAN BE AVOIDED IF THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY TOOK MORE CARE OF EACH OTHER.

EDDI HAS REALISED THAT THE COMMUNITY NEEDS HELP TO LEARN SOME CRITICAL GENERAL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PREVENTION. LET'S ALSO LEARN A LOT MORE ABOUT PREVENTION BY TUNING IN TO THE NEXT EPISODE OF 'LEARNING BY EAR'.

YOU CAN ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.DW-WORLD.DE/LBE](http://WWW.DW-WORLD.DE/LBE) . REMEMBER TO SEND US YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS SERIES OR ANY OTHER LEARNING BY EAR STORIES.

SO LONG, AND TAKE CARE!