

LEARNING BY EAR 2011

“CONFLICTS AND RESOLUTIONS RADIONOVELA”

TITLE: “THE WAYS OF OUR FATHERS”

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EPISODE ONE: “My land, my life”

List of characters by scenes:

Narrator (m/f 30-40)

SCENE ONE : MORNING AT KIJANI VALLEY

- Masambo (m, 50)
- Nina (f, 40)
- Lawi (m, 20)
- Gulu (m, 17)

SCENE TWO : MORNING AT THE MITUMBA'S HOUSE

- Mitumba (m, 50)
- Lela (f, 20)
- Shani (f,17)

SCENE THREE: OUT IN THE GRAZING FIELDS

- Lawi (m, 20)
- Gulu (m, 17)

SCENE FOUR: LELA, SHANI AND MITUMBA ON THEIR FARM

- Mitumba (m, 50)
- Lela (f, 20)
- Shani (f, 17)

Narrator

INTRO:

Greetings, and welcome to a brand new series of Learning by Ear. This time round, we focus our attention on one of the oldest, and most challenging issues that Africa continues to struggle with. **Conflicts and resolutions**. Stick around for the next ten episodes as we get to meet Masambo and Mitumba, two family heads, from different ethnic backgrounds, but living together in Kijani, a fertile valley. The two are caught up in a number of conflicts, can they find lasting resolutions and live in peace? All this and more in our new radio drama, “**The ways of our fathers**”. Masambo and his family come from a nomadic tradition, whereas Mitumba and his family have adopted farming. This is the first episode, entitled, “**My land, My life**”. It is morning in Kijani Valley, and both families are about to start their day.

SCENE ONE: MORNING AT KIJANI VALLEY

1. **SFX: VILLAGE MORNING AMBIENCE (as it is a pastoralist village: cicada chirping, birds)**

2. **MASAMBO:** **(calls out)** Lawi! Gulu! Wake up! It is dawn. Time to take the cows grazing, before the sun comes out and dries up the fresh pasture.

3. **GULU:** **(sleepy voice)** Father, it is still dark outside, how can we lead the cows if we can't see a thing.

4. **LAWI:** Yes, and besides that, there is no grass around here anymore.

5. **MASAMBO:** Stop complaining, you two, and get up! Darkness or no darkness, grass or no grass, those cows need to feed. You all know, that without those cows..

6. **GULU/LAWI:** **(finish sentence)** We have nothing! We are nothing!

7. **NINA:** Masambo, my husband. Why don't we sell the cows, buy land, build a proper house and..

8. **MASAMBO:** **(Furious and bitter)**Live like our neighbour Mitumba? No! We follow the ways of our fathers, they practised pastoralism. Why should I be the one

to abandon this tradition? Do you want the curse of our ancestors to fall on us?

9. LAWI: Alright father, we shall go. **(to Gulu)** Come on Gulu, let's go.

10. NINA: But my husband Masambo, let the boys eat something before they leave.

11. MASAMBO: No! No one eats anything in this house until the cows have eaten.

12. SFX: COWS MOOING

13. GULU: **(leading cows)** Pssssh! Pssssh!..out! This way, this way. Pssssh

14. NARRATOR: For many African nomadic communities, cattle are their source of life, a cow is the symbol of wealth, it can be compared to a modern day bank account. A cow can be the dowry for a wife, it can be exchanged for other commodities. Milk, beef, hide, even the cow dung is used by these people for food, or they make things from it, or use it for building. Masambo comes from such a background. Nearby, Mitumba and his family of two beautiful daughters, Shani and Lela were already up and eating breakfast.

SCENE TWO: MORNING AT THE MITUMBA'S HOUSE

15. SFX: COCK CROWING IN THE MORNING

16. SHANI: Lela, you should get married. You will soon be too old!

17. LELA: **(agitated)** Shani!, when will you stop pestering me about getting married?

18. SHANI: Our mother got married when she was eighteen.

19. LELA: So what? You are 17 years now, are you getting married next year? Times have changed!

20. SFX: OPENING OF DOOR

21. MITUMBA: Ladies, what's all this noise I am hearing in the morning? The cock has just crowed, the sun is rising, it's a new day. What are these arguments?

22. LELA: **(Still angry)** It is Shani, she keeps pressuring me to get married. It's as if she wants me out of this house tomorrow!

23. SHANI: It was only a suggestion.

24. MITUMBA: I have a better suggestion, finish up with your breakfast, and go to the farm. The maize is growing well, but so are the weeds. If we want to harvest anything we need to remove all the weeds.

25. SHANI: Yes father.

26. LELA: Alright father.

27. MITUMBA: One more thing, concerning this marriage topic. You can marry anyone you wish, my daughters, anyone, except someone from Masambo's family. Because they are from the Torube tribe. As you are aware, we, the Koromas, have a bitter history with them. O.K. girls, I will be waiting outside.

28. SFX: DOOR CLOSED

29. SHANI: That means you can not marry Lawi and I can not marry Gulu.

30. LELA: Shani, you must be out of your mind to even think, that would be possible.

31. NARRATOR: Torube and Koroma are two ethnic communities that have shared land for ages. Yet not without hostilities and conflicts. Was a new conflict brewing between Masambo and Mitumba? Let's keep listening. Meanwhile, at the grazing fields, the two brothers Lawi and Gulu were out in the fields, grazing cows – but hungry themselves.

SCENE THREE: OUT IN THE GRAZING FIELDS

32. SFX: COWS MOOING, GOATS, SHEEP BLEATING E.T.C

33. GULU: Lawi, I am hungry. Let's milk one of the cows, or slaughter one, and eat it. Mh? What do you say?

34. LAWI: Gulu, If we milk one of these cows, even a droplet, father will know of it, let alone if we slaughter one. Sometimes, I think he knows his cows better than he knows us.

35. GULU: **(jeering)** Aah you are a coward, that's all!

36. LAWI: Gulu, what did you call me?

37. GULU: Coward!

38. LAWI: **(furious)** Take back those words, Gulu, right now! Or else..

39. GULU: What? You are a hungry coward, that's all.

40. LAWI: **(Stressful)** I am a Torube warrior! I am not a coward!

41. GULU: Soon, I too will become a Torube warrior. But you know what, Lawi? I already feel and act like one.

42. LAWI: **(charging)** No one talks to me like that! You little mannerless brat!

43. SFX: FIST HITTING FACE

44. GULU: **(cries out)** Awww! You will pay for that, Lawi!

(Gulu and Lawi act out as if engaged in a real tight fight)

45. LAWI: He! I'll have the last laugh over you! Hmm, how about that now! I will strangle you until your eyes pop out.

46. GULU: **(Breathing in difficulty)** Arrrgh arrgh!

47. SFX: GRASS BEING UPROOTED

48. GULU: **(screaming in difficulty)** I have some grass! Stop the fight! I have some grass!

- 49. LAWI:** I would have strangled you, if you would not have pulled up the grass. But since you did, this fight is over, it is forgotten. We are now reconciled.
- 50. GULU:** **(now breathing normally)** Just like that? Why?
- 51. LAWI:** Why what?
- 52. GULU:** Why the grass?, and not the sand, stones or..hair? Why do we Torubes immediately stop fighting when one fighter plucks out grass?
- 53. LAWI:** To the Torubes, grass is divine. It is a life-sustaining element, it feeds the cows, the cows in turn feed us. This relationship reminds us that we are one. We all came from one womb, suck milk from the same breast. You will be taught all this when you turn eighteen.
- 54. GULU:** You mean when I become a warrior.
- 55. LAWI:** That is only part of it. Let's go and look for fresh pasture somewhere else.
- 56. SFX: COWS MOOING**
- 57. GULU:** Do you think it's going to rain soon, Lawi? Or do we have to move again?

- 58. LAWI:** This is the rainy season. We are not going anywhere. This is our land, this is our life.
- 59. GULU:** But how does it come then, that the crops from the Mitumba family are all green and look so fresh without the rains?
- 60. LAWI:** It's because they are diverting water from the river to their farm. That's why we do not get along well with them. Because our cows now have less and less water to drink.
- 61. GULU:** If that's the case, why don't we divert the water for our cows too?
- 62. LAWI:** Why should we? You only steal what doesn't belong to you. All that you see around here, the trees, the hills, the rivers, everything is ours. Given to us by God, handed to us by our ancestors. You will learn that when..
- 63. GULU:** **(Cuts him short)** I turn eighteen. I know, I know.
(To the cows) Pssh pssh..
- 64. SFX: COWS MOOING AGAIN AND AGAIN**

65. NARRATOR: One of the major sources of conflict in African society is the scramble for resources. Masambo's and Mitumba's family are both fighting - albeit not yet physically - for the waters that flow from a nearby river. Will this fight escalate? Let's keep listening. Meanwhile, Let's join Lela, Shani and their father on their farm.

SCENE FOUR: LELA, SHANI AND MITUMBA IN THEIR FARM

66. SFX: GROUND BEING PLOUGHED BY HOES, RAKES ETC

67. MITUMBA: (Breathing hard) Phew! I need to take a break, my daughters. Today, now that I'm 50 years old, I do not have the same energy I had when I was young.

68. LELA: I am also tired.

69. SHANI: Me too..

70. MITUMBA: Alright. Then let's all sit and drink some water.

71. SFX: WATER BEING POURED INTO GLASSES / CUPS.

72. MITUMBA: Thank you.

73. SFX: GULPING OF WATER (studio)

74. MITUMBA: Ahh... that was good. I was so thirsty.

75. SHANI: Father, how has our tribe survived in Kijani valley for all those years, living with the Torubes and others?

76. LELA: Shani, this is not the time for questions. We are taking a break for goodness sake!

77. MITUMBA: No, that's a very good question, Lela, and it demands a good answer.

78. LELA: Excuse me for a minute, I'll be right back.

79. MITUMBA: Lela, we shall wait. Because you also need to hear this.

79b. LELA I will be right back

80. SFX: LELA WALKING THROUGH A MAIZE FIELD

81. LELA: **(screams from far away)** Father! Father! Father!

82. MITUMBA: What!? Lela what has happened to you?

83. SFX: SOMEONE RUNNING THROUGH A MAIZE FIELD

84. LELA: Look! They have done it again!

85. SFX: WATER RUNNING IN A RIVER

86. SHANI: This is the third time in a week that they have done this to us. Dad, we can not let that continue to happen.

87. MITUMBA: **(totally enraged)**They are playing with fire, and whoever plays with fire, must be prepared to get burnt!

OUTRO:

With Mitumba clenching his fist and his jaw in anger, we end the first episode of this "conflicts and resolutions" radio drama. What is it that has so enraged Mitumba and his daughters? What action will they take? And as Lawi and Gulu have no luck as they search for pasture, what option do they have?

For this and more, join us in our next episode of “**The ways of our fathers**”

To listen to this episode again, visit www.dw-world.de/lbe

Until we meet again, goodbye.