

Learning by Ear 2011 – Conflicts and resolutions – “The ways of our fathers” Episode 4

LEARNING BY EAR 2011

“CONFLICTS AND RESOLUTIONS RADIONOVELA”

TITLE: “THE WAYS OF OUR FATHERS”

AUTHOR: Chrispin Mwakideu

EDITOR: Stefanie Duckstein

EPISODE FOUR: “Unlikely heroes”

List of characters by scenes:

NARRATOR (m/f 30-40)

SCENE ONE : SHANI AND LELA AT THEIR FARM

- **Lela (f, 20)**
- **Shani (f, 17)**
- **Kavesi (m, 45)**

SCENE TWO : NINA, WOMEN AND CHILDREN AT WALIANI'S HUT

- **Nina (f, 40)**
- **Waliani (m, 75)**
- **Pato (f, 35)**
- **Tubu (f, 35)**

SCENE THREE: TENSION AT THE RIVERSIDE

- **Kavesi (m, 45)**
- **Masambo (m, 50)**
- **Mitumba (m, 50)**
- **Waliani (m, 75)**
- **several men for chanting (at least 6)**
- **several women (at least 4)**

Narrator

INTRO:

Hallo, and welcome to Learning by Ear. This is our fourth episode of this continuing radio drama about conflicts and resolutions, entitled “**The ways of our fathers**”. In the last episode, a conflict flared between Mitumba and Masambo, two men from different tribes struggling for resources to feed their families. Masambo led his cattle into Mitumba's farm, after Mitumba blocked Masambo's cattle from accessing the river. Both men accuse each other of aggression and have joined hands with their respective tribes to defend themselves. Can this conflict be avoided? If yes, How? Keep listening to today's episode “**Unlikely heroes**”. We start off where we left with Shani and Lela, devastated by the sight of their farm.

SCENE ONE: SHANI AND LELA AT THEIR FARM

1. SFX: HEAVY RAIN STARTS TO FALL / STORM.

2. SHANI: **(Weeping and wailing)** How could they! How could anyone be so cruel!

3. LELA: Shani, it's raining. Let's go home.

4. SHANI: No! Let it rain on me. Lela, all our work is gone! Every seed that we planted, the time we spent, the energy. It is all gone! **(weeping)**

5. LELA: **(Breaking down in tears too)** Shani, you will get sick. Let's go! I feel bad too, but there is nothing we can do. Everything has been lost.

6. SHANI: I am not leaving! I will stay here until my father comes.

7. KAVESI: **(Calls out)** Lela, Shani what..Good Lord! What happened to your farm?

8. LELA: We don't know yet, but it looks as if someone came to graze their animals on our crops! Kavesi, how can people do such awful things to fellow humans?

9. KAVESI: **(with rage)** It is those Torubes! But today is today!
Actually I am running late.

10. SHANI: Late for what?

11. KAVESI: Didn't your father tell you?

12. LELA: Tell us what? Kavesi, where is our father? We have been waiting for him for hours.

13. KAVESI: Your father and all our tribesmen have had enough incitements and provocations from the Torube people, I am sure it is Masambo who did this to your farm. We stopped his cows from drinking from the river, and this is his way of taking revenge. But today he will pay with his life!

14. SFX: BRANDISHING A MACHETE OR CRUDE WEAPON

15. SHANI: Is that why you are carrying all those machetes? To go and fight the Torubes?

16. KAVESI: Yes! Someone must pay for all this. Today is the day of reckoning! Girls, don't stay in the rain, go home and pray for us and your father. That we may return victorious!

17. SHANI: Lela, what if father never returns?

18. LELA: Don’t think about that. Come now Shani. You are already shivering.

(Shani shivers from the cold rain)

19. SHANI: **(Speaks as she shivers)** We must do something..Lela, we must.

20. NARRATOR: As the two cold and rain-soaked sisters start on their way back home, all the men from the two tribes have gathered in the middle of the valley and now stand on separate sides divided by the river, chanting war songs and ridiculing each other. Meanwhile, Nina is desperately gathering all the women from their tribe, together with their children, and they all went to seek advice from the oldest living member of their tribe, Waliani.

SCENE TWO: NINA, WOMEN AND CHILDREN AT WALIANI'S HUT

21. SFX: SEVERAL BABIES CRYING

22. WALIANI: Torube women, what is it that has brought you to my hut today? I seem to have been forgotten by all.

- 23. NINA:** We came to seek your help, Waliani. You are the oldest member of our community. You are still respected, honoured, and your years have given you more wisdom than any one of us.
- 24. WALIANI:** What is the problem? Your husbands must have something to do with it. Since I see none of them here.
- 25. PATO:** They have all gone.
- 26. WALIANI:** (**surprised**) They have left you? All of them, and gone where?
- 27. TUBU:** They are all gathered at the river to wage war against the Koroma people.
- 28. NINA:** We have come to ask you to help us find a solution, before the blood of our husbands and sons starts to flow into the river.
- 29. WALIANI:** (**Thoughtful**) Hmm. I thought that there were police, courts and systems of justice put in place by our government. Why don't you go there for help?

- 30. NINA:** They do not understand this conflict as well as you do, Waliani. Besides, it is very likely that the government would take sides. We would like this conflict to end with a lasting truce. One that leaves both sides satisfied, dignified and without a winner or loser.
- 31. TUBU:** More importantly without loss of lives.
- 32. PATO:** Or spending money we don't have on court proceedings.
- 33. WALIANI:** There is one way that we can solve this conflict. It was used long time ago by our people. But everyone needs to take part in it. Done properly, it is a sure way of bringing healing and reconciliation.
- 34. NINA:** We are ready! We shall do as you tell us.
- 35. WALIANI:** Then someone must quickly alert all the people, elders and women from the Koroma tribe to also come down to the river with all their children.
- 36. TUBU:** Even the nursing children?
- 37. WALIANI:** All means all. Someone please hand me my walking stick.

38. SFX: SOMEONE USING WALKING STICK TO WALK

39. NARRATOR: A messenger was quickly sent to notify all who lived in Kijani valley to gather at the river for a peace and reconciliation ceremony. But will the effort bear fruit? Let's find out. Meanwhile at the river, the tensions were running high and the taunts, provocations and chants of war had escalated.

SCENE THREE: TENSION AT THE RIVERSIDE

40. SFX: RIVER RUNNING SMOOTHLY

41. (Group of men chanting and rumbling in preparation for war)

42. KAVESI: (**close, shouting**) Men of Koroma! As I was coming , I saw the most heartbreaking sight. Lela and Shani, Mitumba's daughters, were soaked in the rain, weeping on the ground. Their father's land. Those enemies of ours who stand on the other side of the river had driven their animals into Mitumba's farm and their animals had eaten every plant that was growing. As I speak with you, the land lies bare.

43. MITUMBA: (**close, in agony**) No! It can't be! Masambo, you have taken my livelihood today! It is only fair, I take yours!

44. (MEN ANSWER IN CHANTS OF “YES! YES! YES!”)

45. MASAMBO: **(distant, shouting)** You Koroma people! You are the ones who started this whole thing. First, you came into our land.

46. (MEN ANSWER SOME IN CHANTS OF “YES!” (DISTANT) SOME IN CHANTS OF “NO!”)

47. MASAMBO: **(distant, shouting)** And still that was not enough for you, you stole the waters that flow from this river, diverted them to your farms. Where do you expect us to get water for our animals? For our women and children? Your greed must be stopped! Once and for all! **(Calls out)** Torube hei!!!!!!

48. (Men answer in response, “hei!!!!!!”)

49. MASAMBO: **(distant, shouting)** Let's finish them!

50. MITUMBA: **(close, shouting)** Prepare to defend our land!

51. SFX: Humming Song of peace led by Nina, Lela, and other women (approaching)

52. MASAMBO: **(approaching, shocked)** Nina! What are you doing here? And why are you in the company of Koroma people?

- 53. MITUMBA:** (**approaching, shocked too**) Lela! Shani! Why have you joined with our enemies?
- 54. WALIANI:** (**close**) These women simply know better. They drink from this same river and look at each other not as enemies but as fellow women who want the best for their families. They..
- 55. MASAMBO:** (**Disapproving**) They should not be here! This is not the time and place for women and children!
- 56. WALIANI:** (**Commanding**) Masambo keep quiet! How dare you interrupt me when I speak? You people have abandoned the ways of our fathers. During my time, nobody could speak back to an elder! That was taboo!
- 57. MASAMBO:** I am sorry, elder Waliani. Please forgive my foolishness and let not your curse or anger fall on me or my family.
- 58. WALIANI:** Let it be so. Now I know that each one of you here carrying a weapon is ready to attack. But before you do that, I beseech you in the name of our forefathers, give peace and reason a chance. For I come in the name of peace.

59. SFX: BABIES START TO CRY

- 60. WALIANI:** Look upon your babies, your wives, and think..this could actually be the last time you ever see them. We can either try to reconcile our differences right here, right now, or we can choose to take the other way. A way which you men have already chosen, that will leave behind only wailing, weeping, widows and orphans.
- 61. MITUMBA:** But Waliani, the Masambo family completely destroyed my farm. How can I forgive them?
- 62. MASAMBO:** That was after you blocked my cows from drinking at the river. Our river!
- 63. WALIANI:** I understand the pain you feel Mitumba. I have been told Masambo also lost cows to Kimbebe rustlers. As I said, everyone here seems to have a grudge against another. But we need to end this animosity, this hate, this evil. It will require a lot from each one of us. Especially Mitumba and Masambo. To begin the process. I have with me a cockerel.

64. SFX: COCK MAKES SOUNDS

65. WALIANI: I need the two of you, Masambo and Mitumba, to come to me, and say everything that is in your hearts. Afterwards you shall slaughter this cock, then I shall pray to our ancestors that they take away this hatred. But before we even do that, I ask each man carrying a weapon to lay it down.

66. SFX: MEN MUMBLE. IRON SHAPED WEAPONS BEING PLACED DOWN

OUTRO:

The men from both tribes slowly placed down their, axes, machetes, spears, bows and poisoned arrows. But will Waliani's mediation work? With that we conclude the fourth episode of “**The ways of our fathers**”. Join us next time to discover what will happen next. If you wish to listen to this episode again, or to the previous ones that have already been aired, simply visit www.dw-world.de/lbe. Until we meet again, bye bye.