

## **Learning by Ear – Religious Dialogue: “A Bridge over Gori”**

### **Episode 04: “Under Gori Bridge”**

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#### **List of characters for episode 4:**

- Narrator /Philip, male (17)
- Harry, male (17)
- Layla, female (16)
- Roshi, female (16)
- School Director, Mrs Ayo Milulu, female (48)
- Hassan (Layla’s brother) (12)
- + Students in the background

**1. SIG TUNE UP**

**2. INTRO:**

Welcome to Learning by Ear and Episode 4 of our 10 part radio drama series “A Bridge over Gori”, which tells the dramatic story of how religion and politics drive a wedge between two communities and two families, the Dembele’s and the Omer’s...

In this episode called “Under Gori Bridge”, Harry Dembele and Layla Omer, our Head Boy and Head Girl, realize that the new Debating Club at Ubuntu School could create significant changes in other students’ lives.

Philip is one of Harry’s best friends. He tells you the whole story. Listen in!

## **Scene 1. In Ubuntu college**

**Director**

**3. Atmo: School, morning Assembly - INSERT UBUNTU ANTHEM (ending)**

**4. DIRECTOR:** Thank you for your lovely singing! Dear students. I wish to encourage excellence in all you do. A reward for hard work is of course welcome. But we shouldn't try to lead a good life for some reward – a place in heaven, a high office, a sports cup. No. Everything we try and achieve should be done to the best of our ability. The reward is the satisfaction of knowing we have done our best. And our feeling of satisfaction is even greater if, what we do, benefits not just ourselves, but also other people. That is the key to Ubuntu. Now, please go to your classes and have a fruitful day.

**5. SFX: STUDENTS WALK OUT/TALKING/MURMURING / FADE OUT**

**6. PHILIP/NARRATOR:** It was another day at school, after a weekend of achieving very little. Harry had gone to his home village visiting his father and he came back from his trip looking very deflated. We were trying to cheer him up when Layla turned up. But did she even look at me? No such luck. She wanted to speak to Harry ...alone.

## **Scene 2. School gardens**

**Harry, Layla**

**7. SFX: School gardens: students playing, talking in the background, birds**

**8. LAYLA:** Are you alright, Harry?

**9. HARRY:** **(snappy)** Me? I'm fine, Layla.

**10. LAYLA:** Wow, you are in a bad mood. I just wanted to tell you, the director wants us to meet at 12 in the library. She wants to talk about the Debating Club opening this Thursday.

**11. HARRY:** Fine-um...look ...I'm sorry if I seem a bit off, Layla. It's just, my uncle... – um can you and I talk...not here...somewhere outside...later?

**12. LAYLA:** You're so serious – it's nothing bad, is it?

**13. HARRY:** I'd rather not talk about it now. Can we meet under Gori Bridge after school?

**14. LAYLA:** My brother Hassan usually comes at 3 and walks home with me.

15. **HARRY:** Well, I can take you home, if he doesn't mind, OK?

16. **LAYLA:** **(uncertain)** OK. No! It's more than OK! **(happier)** It's absolutely fine!

17. **HARRY:** That's great. OK. So see you in the library at 12?

18. **LAYLA:** Yes, see you then!

19. **BRIDGING MUSIC**

**Scene 3. On the sports field**

**Roshi, Layla, students in the background**

20. **SFX: birds, people shouting and laughing, voices in the background, people running in the background, playing basketball**

21. **ROSHI:** Why the sparkly eyes Layla?

22. **LAYLA:** Roshi please! **(Laughing)** My goodness, you don't miss a thing!

23. **ROSHI:** Haha! So there **is** something. Ah...let me guess...Philip Layton-Browne has asked you out?

24. **LAYLA:** What? Ai! Stop your nonsense!

25. **ROSHI:** OK...so then...let me guess... You like Harry Dembele!

26. **LAYLA:** Roshi! Stop! I work with him. How can I do my job as Head Girl properly if you read stuff into everything we do?
27. **ROSHI:** Everything you do? Hey! This is getting interesting!
28. **LAYLA:** Stop right there! You're twisting my words. Now, please, no more nonsense. Just tie a knot in my hijab at the back so my hair doesn't fall over my face when we run.
29. **ROSHI:** **(singing softly)** Layla is in lo-ve! Layla is in lo-ve!
30. **LAYLA:** Ouch! That's my hair!
31. **ROSHI:** Whoops – sorry.
32. **LAYLA:** Now, let's do our warm ups and then run.
33. **ROSHI:** **(panting while warming up)** OK. But I'm not wrong about Philip: he follows you around like a lamb!
34. **LAYLA AND ROSHI:** **(Counting 1 and 2 and 3.. as they exercise)**
35. **BRIDGING MUSIC UP AND FADE**

**Scene 4. In the library**

**Director, Harry, Layla, students in the background**

**36. SFX: students murmuring softly in the background, rustling of paper in the background**

**37. DIRECTOR:** So you two, you are already here! Tell me, how has your first week been?

**38. HARRY+ LAYLA:** Fine, Mrs Milulu.

**39. SFX: rustling of book pages, closing books with a snap, standing up from chairs, footsteps**

**40. LAYLA:** We asked as many students as we could, what topics they would like to discuss at the debating club.

**41. HARRY:** We talked to first and second years - boys and girls.

**42. DIRECTOR:** And?

**43. HARRY:** Well, the number one topic is definitely polygamy.

**44. DIRECTOR:** Hmm, doesn't surprise me... It has been in the news a lot since our health minister's wedding to his fifth wife!

- 45. LAYLA:** Yes, and that's the point: Is he setting a good example given that we are living in an era of HIV and AIDS?
- 46. DIRECTOR:** Yes, I see. That gives it a good context.
- 47. LAYLA:** And the second most popular question was: Is Ubuntu College doing enough to promote girls to take up sport?
- 48. DIRECTOR:** Oh! That came from the girls I presume!
- 49. LAYLA:** Yes. Muslim girls have to be fully covered in accordance with our culture. But the sports teacher already announced that they won't allow hijab and long sleeves anymore because that does not conform to what is considered acceptable sports wear.
- 50. HARRY:** That's because of the decision by the School Sports Committee in the region.
- 51. LAYLA:** Strictly speaking, Muslim boys should also not show bare legs and arms, but it's the girls who mainly suffer because they must cover their head too. And that excludes them.
- 52. DIRECTOR:** Hmm... Well then we need to look at that policy and ask for a discussion with the Sports Committee.

- 53. LAYLA:** Mrs Milulu, maybe we can ask: Should the rules of clothing be relaxed to encourage all Muslims to take part in sports?
- 54. DIRECTOR:** Well, I will bring that up with the board. For now, you have strong debate material! There's a regional Debating Competition – "Speak well, speak free!" being hosted in Gori later this year. We need to work towards that. And now, I'll leave you to plan the opening of Ubuntu College's first debating club! Good luck!
- 55. HARRY/LAYLA:** Thanks. Goodbye.
- 56. SFX: Footsteps leaving on cement or stone floor. Door opens/closes**
- 57. HARRY:** I must go too. 3 pm at the main gates! See you later.  
**(off mic)** I'm looking forward to meeting Hassan!
- 58. LAYLA:** **(Softly to herself)** Hmm... that should be interesting!
- 59. BRIDGING MUSIC**

**Scene 5. At the main gates**

**Layla, Harry, Hassan, students in the background**

**60. SFX: birds, students' voices, students passing by, traffic in the distance**

**61. LAYLA:** Hassan, this is Harry, our Head Boy.

**62. HARRY:** Nice to meet you, Hassan.

**(Silence)**

**63. HASSAN:** Come, Layla. Let's go.

**64. LAYLA:** Hassan, don't be so rude. Harry and I need to meet for half an hour.

**65. HASSAN:** What? Alone?

**66. HARRY:** Um...Look, Hassan! It won't take long. Would you mind if I bring your sister home in about an hour?

**67. HASSAN:** I'll go with you.

**68. LAYLA:** Hassan, no! Please go home. I'll come when I'm finished.

**69. HASSAN:** **(leaves protesting)** Our religion doesn't allow this!

**70. Hassan clicks his tongue. Layla sighs. Footsteps fade**

**71. HARRY:** Sorry, I hope he isn't too mad at me.

**72. LAYLA:** He is but he is mad at everyone these days. Harry, I mustn't be long. My father's not at home and I shouldn't leave Hassan alone for too long. I don't think he's really got over our mama's death.

**73. SOFT LOW DRAMATIC BRIDGING MUSIC. FADE AND HOLD UNDER**

**Scene 6. At the Omer's**

**Hassan**

**74. HASSAN:** **(crying softly to himself)** Mama. Why did you leave me? I want to be with you. **(sobs then sounding more determined)** The older boys tell me I can join you in Paradise if I combat against the infidels. The Christians – they fight against us building our mosque. Mama. I want to be with you. **(Sobs)**

**MUSIC FADE**

**Scene7. Under the bridge**

**Harry, Layla**

**75. SFX: Walking /normal traffic sounds, stepping down stony stairs, river flowing, birds singing**

76. **HARRY:** Here, down these steps. Hah! **(sighs)** It's nice and cool under the bridge. Here, you can sit on my jacket.
77. **LAYLA:** Thanks, Harry.
78. **HARRY:** **(trying to find the right words)** Layla – um..you realise.. our families are..um.. not exactly friends!
79. **LAYLA:** What do you mean?
80. **HARRY:** Um...it's my uncle. He is against me seeing you outside school hours and...
81. **LAYLA:** Why is your uncle against me?
82. **HARRY:** He's not against **you** personally. Listen! The Omer's and Dembele's are big rivals. My father said it's about the land. You want to build a mosque on it.
83. **LAYLA:** **(angry)** No! **You** want to build a church there.
84. **HARRY:** But that's it, don't you see? We have to find a way.
85. **LAYLA:** Yes, we'll let the Development Council decide.
86. **HARRY:** **(relieved)** Exactly! That's what we should be saying! I just wanted... **(sighs)** I'm getting everything wrong – I just wanted to say...

87. **LAYLA:** (softer) Yes?
88. **HARRY:** (big sigh) Please don't let this stand in our way. I like you, Layla. We've known each other for a year now, but ...I um...
89. **LAYLA:** (helping) I think I know what you are trying to say. I want to get to know you better too, Harry!
90. **HARRY:** (happier) You do? ...Oh Layla! (desperate again) But how, if our families are against us?

91. **SIG TUNE UP**

92. **OUTRO:**

And that's all from *Learning by Ear* for today! Layla and Harry have decided to somehow overcome their families' conflict. But it will not be a simple task. Please join us in Episode 5 of our series "A Bridge over Gori", for the opening of the much awaited Debating Club. And hear some shocking news which is going to create confusion in our new romance. And remember, if you want to hear the programme again or tell friends about it, please visit our website at [www dot d w – world dot d e slash lbe](http://www.worldde.lbe). Goodbye for now!

**END OF EPISODE 4**