

LEARNING BY EAR 2011

“CONFLICTS AND RESOLUTIONS RADIONOVELA”

TITLE: “THE WAYS OF OUR FATHERS”

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EPISODE FIVE: “The cost of winning”

List of characters by scenes:

SCENE ONE : MEETING BETWEEN MATONGE, SOMBA AND KERO

- Matonge (m, 65)
- Somba (m, 55)
- Kero (f, 55)

SCENE TWO : BESIDE THE RIVER IN KIJANI VALLEY

- Mitumba (m, 50)
- Waliani (m, 75)
- Masambo (m, 50)
- Mixed group (at least 4 ppl)

SCENE THREE: SOMBA AND KERO INSIDE THE ELEVATOR

- **Somba (m, 55)**
- **Kero (f, 55)**

SCENE FOUR: BESIDE THE RIVER AT KIJANI VALLEY

- **Mitumba (m, 50)**
- **Waliani (m, 75)**
- **Masambo (m, 50)**
- **Nina (f, 40)**
- **Mixed group (at least 4 ppl)**

Narrator

INTRO:

Greetings ladies and gentlemen. I welcome you all to Learning by Ear, this is the fifth episode of our story entitled, “**The ways of our fathers**”. In the last episode, the inhabitants of Kijani valley had gathered at the river. There, fighters from Torube and Koroma, led by Masambo and Mitumba respectively, were almost going to war. But will the elder Waliani's idea of how to bring reconciliation stop the looming bloodshed? Let's find out in our episode today entitled, “**The cost of winning**”. But first, let me take you to a closed door meeting that was taking place hundreds of kilometres away. Involving the current president Matonge, and his two trusted advisers, Somba the military general and Kero, the intelligence chief.

SCENE ONE: MEETING BETWEEN MATONGE, SOMBA AND KERO

1. SFX: PAPERS AND PAGES BEING SHUFFLED

2. SOMBA: **(Insisting)** President Matonge, you can only win this year's election if you do as we have advised.

3. KERO: The polls already show you are trailing Roselyn Tano by more than ten percent!

4. SOMBA: And to imagine she is a woman! That is a huge embarrassment.

5. KERO: Woman aside, she comes from the Torube tribe. Those people don't know how to lead anyone except a herd of cattle.

(Both Somba and Kero laugh sarcastically)

6. MATONGE: **(Serious tone)** Stop it Somba and Kero! Torubes are also part of this country. Most of them voted for me in last years elections. The question we should ask is, why have they chosen to abandon me?

- 7. SOMBA:** **(maliciously)** They voted for you because you bribed each family with a cow! This time they want Roselyn since she is one of them. She is a Torube!
- 8. MATONGE:** And the best advice you two could come up with, is to cause a conflict between the Torube and Kimbebe rebels, these rustlers hiding in the neighboring country. Is that right?
- 9. KERO:** That's right Mr. President. Besides, these tribes always steal cows from each other, they love fighting. But now, since the Kimbebe rebels have guns, grenades, rockets and other weapons, the Torubes can't fight them. If we arm the Torubes, there will be a fierce fight, one that will probably go on for a long time.
- 10. SOMBA:** It will make voting in Kijani valley dangerous and impossible.
- 11. KERO:** Ensuring you a certain victory in this year's elections for a twentieth year in office.
- 12. MATONGE:** **(puzzled)** I still don't get it, Somba and Kero. Are you telling me to unleash a bloodbath on my own countrymen?

- 13. SOMBA:** **(stressing)** We are telling you to do all that it takes to remain in power. You only need to give the green light, leave everything else to us.
- 14. KERO:** As we speak, there is word that Koroma people and Torube are on the brink of renewed clashes. We need to move fast and take advantage of this situation.
- 15. MATONGE:** And you are convinced that this plan will work?
- 16. SOMBA:** Without a shadow of doubt. In case it doesn't, there is always a plan B.
- 17. MATONGE:** **(curious)** Plan B? Which is?
- 18. KERO:** That's why it's called a plan B. First let us try plan A. Do you agree, Mr. President?
- 19. MATONGE:** I don't know. What do you think Somba, you are the military head?
- 20. SOMBA:** We need to act swiftly so as not to cause any suspicions. It must appear as a normal conflict between two warring nomadic tribes.
- 21. MATONGE:** **(Takes a deep breath)** Give me two days to think about this.

22. SOMBA: (urgency) We don't have two days, Sir. The elections are almost here.

23. MATONGE: Okay. Give me one day then!

24. KERO: (protesting) But your excellency..

25. MATONGE: This meeting is over!

26. SFX: CHAIRS BEING PULLED AWAY INSTANTLY

27. NARRATOR: What General Somba and Intelligence head Kero were proposing was disturbing, and President Matonge needed time to weigh his options. Although deep down, he knew he had none left. He had used all the tricks in the book to stay in power for 2 decades, now it seemed he had reached the end. As the two schemers left the president's office to take the elevator, they had doubts. But first, let me take you to Kijani valley, beside the river, where Waliani was mediating a peace and reconciliation gathering between Koromas and Torubes.

SCENE TWO: BESIDE THE RIVER IN KIJANI VALLEY

28. SFX: RIVER RUNNING SMOOTHLY

29. WALIANI: People of Kijani valley. Masambo and Mitumba have confessed to each other. And both have admitted their mistakes. Am I right?

30. MASAMBO: Yes, I shall compensate Mitumba the equivalent of the damage I caused to his crops.

31. MITUMBA: And I was wrong to block your cows from drinking water at this river. I will also pay whatever damage I might have caused by my actions.

32. (Gathering cheers wildly, ululating and whistling in joy)

33. WALIANI: Now that you two have reconciled, it is time to make a pact in the presence of all these people, and in the sight of our ancestors and God himself. That you shall not attack each other, nor lead your tribes to war again. The slaughtering of this cock is a symbol of killing the hatred. And you must pour the blood in the river.

34. MITUMBA: I shall hold the cock down. You do the rest.

35. MASAMBO: Okay, please hand me a sharp knife.

36. NARRATOR: As the reconciliation efforts gathered momentum, general Somba was already in the elevator, when his friend Kero, the intelligence chief came running towards him.

SCENE THREE: SOMBA AND KERO INSIDE THE ELEVATOR

37. KERO: (Shouts) Hold the lift Somba! I am coming..

38. SFX: Person runs in elevator, LIFT DOORS OPEN

39. SOMBA: I didn't know you can still run!

40. KERO: (Panting) I am the spy chief. What did you expect?
Press the ground floor for me please.

41. SFX: LIFT DOOR CLOSES

(ELEVATOR MUSIC PLAYING IN BACKGROUND)

42. SOMBA: What do you think? Will President Matonge accept the plan?

43. KERO: He has no choice, otherwise Roselyn will win.

44. SOMBA: What if he decides not to arm the Torubes? Are we still going to take the country by force, in case he loses in the election?

45. KERO: Are you scared? Somba, you are the military chief. We must use whatever it takes to keep power and maintain peace.

46. SOMBA: Peace? What peace are you talking about, if we are planning on giving guns and ammunition to civilians?

47. KERO: **(Laughs)** Peace our way.

48. SFX: LIFT “PING” SOUND WHEN IT REACHES A STOP

49. SOMBA: I am getting out here. Let me know of anything new, spy chief.

50. SFX: LIFT DOOR OPENS

51. KERO: No problem general.**(continues to laugh lightly)**

52. SFX: LIFT DOOR CLOSES

53. NARRATOR: Conflicts are not new to Africa. Since pre-colonial times to the wars of independence. After independence came the power struggles and resource conflicts, religious divisions, ethnic clashes which sometimes spilled over to neighboring countries. Most of these conflicts came as a result of the colonial set-ups. The colonial powers destroyed the African way of life and shattered the beliefs and practices of reconciliation. Back to the story though: Waliani had reached a crucial stage in reconciling the two tribes of Torube and Koroma. After slaughtering the cock.

SCENE FOUR: BESIDE THE RIVER AT KIJANI VALLEY

54. SFX: PEOPLE CROSS THROUGH A SHALLOW RIVER / WATER

55. WALIANI: **(Prays)** God of our forefathers, you who planted us in this valley. You who give us the rains in time, so that we may eat and not die of hunger. Today, these two tribes have made a pact. They have become one big family. May they honour this pact, and may anyone who breaks it, break his neck. They came for war. They leave in peace.

(Huge eruption of celebration and ululations from the mothers and men)

56. WALIANI: If there is anyone who has anything to say, let him say it now, or forever hold his peace. My work for today is done.

57. MITUMBA: Elder Waliani, I left home with an intent to kill and maim, bearing bows and arrows. But now despite the fact that I have lost all my crops, I feel so at peace. All the hatred is gone. So I don't need these weapons anymore. I shall throw them into the fire!

(Again wild cheers, and applause from crowd gathered)

58. MASAMBO: Elder Waliani, my brothers and sisters. Today, our forefathers are smiling down at us. I too wish to throw my weapons in the fire. I thank our women for putting some sense into our brains full of porridge!

59. SFX: HUGE LAUGHTER

60. MASAMBO: I just have one request before we leave this place of reconciliation. Mitumba, on behalf of my sons, Lawi and Gulu. I formally ask for your daughters' hands in marriage.

OUTRO:

That last request caught everyone off guard, including Mitumba. What will his response be? Now that a peace pact has been enforced, is that the end of the conflict? Will the plan being hatched, to arm the Torubes and cause clashes in the valley with the Kimbebe rebels who are cattle rustlers, succeed? To find out, don't miss the coming episode, of this conflict and resolutions radionovela. If you wish to listen to the episode again, or send in your comments, then log onto www.dw-world.de/lbe. Until then, take care.