

**LEARNING BY EAR 2011**

**“CONFLICTS AND RESOLUTIONS RADIONOVELA”**

**TITLE: “THE WAYS OF OUR FATHERS”**

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**EPISODE NINE: “Tears of joy, tears of pain”**

**List of characters by scenes:**

**Narrator (m/f 30-50)**

**SCENE ONE: LAWI PAYS ELDER WALIANI A VISIT**

- Lawi (m, 20)
- Waliani ( m, 75)

**SCENE TWO: LELA AND SHANI AT THEIR FATHER’S FARM**

- Lela ( f, 20)
- Shani (f, 17)

**SCENE THREE: LAWI PAYS ELDER WALIANI A VISIT**

- Lawi (m, 21)
- Waliani ( m, 75)

## **SCENE FOUR: SOMBA, KERO AND MATONGE MEET**

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

### **Narrator**

#### **INTRO:**

Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear. This is the ninth episode of the conflicts and resolutions series entitled, “**The ways of our fathers**”. In the previous episode, Torubes raided the Kimbebe cattle rustlers in their territory, killing many innocent civilians including international aid workers. The incident sparked an outrage worldwide. Elsewhere, president Matonge seemed headed for another election victory after arming the Torubes. But will he really win? What can the international community do to stop such massacres? Will Lawi be able to live with what he is more or less responsible for? Stay tuned to find out in today's episode called, “**Tears of joy, tears of pain**”. We begin with Lawi paying a visit to elder Waliani.

## **SCENE ONE: LAWI PAYS ELDER WALIANI A VISIT**

### **1. SFX: DOOR KNOCKING**

**2. WALIANI:**                   Come in! The door is open.

**3. SFX: DOOR PUSHED WIDE OPEN**

**4. LAWI:** Greetings to you, elder Waliani.

**5. WALIANI:** Greetings to you, my son. What brings you to my place?

**6. LAWI:** **(takes a deep breath)** Burden of guilt. I need to share it, but my father is too happy with the cows we brought back from the raid.

**7. WALIANI:** Come with me outside, let us sit under the tree.

**8. SFX: VILLAGE AMBIENCE**

**9. WALIANI:** There is nothing that can not be solved under the sun. Help me with my walking stick.

**10. SFX: WALKING WITH AID OF A STICK**

**11. LAWI:** I don't know where to begin, I can't sleep, I can't eat, can't go to work, it is just on my mind. It's like I am going crazy.

**12. WALIANI:** Who is this lucky lady who has so captivated your heart?

**13. LAWI:**                    **(Surprised)** Oh no no, it's not a woman. It's about the raid. I was the front man, and I ordered my people not to burn down their houses, but they did! Not to shoot at the women and children, but they went crazy, firing at every living thing!

**14. WALIANI:**                **(sadly)** Tragic! Absolutely tragic! And what is it that you want from me now? This is why our land continues to suffer. We have shed too much innocent blood.

**15. LAWI:**                    Is there a way, elder Waliani, a way to make the guilt go away! I can't take it anymore.**(breaks down in tears)**

**16. WALIANI:**                When a man cries, he has seen the worst of life. As so often, I was not consulted about this raid. In the first place, you shouldn't have taken those guns. That man who gave you guns, came to me and threatened me not to interfere with government business.

**17. LAWI:**                    He threatened you? Nobody threatens an elder!

- 18. WALIANI:** Times have changed, my son. People consider elders to be irrelevant, with no place in this modern world. That is why we are seeing so many conflicts. We have abandoned the ways of our fathers! They knew how to reconcile. They knew, life is sacred.
- 19. LAWI:** Is there a way to reconcile with the Kimbebe people? After what happened? I am sure they are plotting revenge by now.
- 20. WALIANI:** Maybe. But you need to seek peace and reconciliation with them. Just like we did with the Koromas. It is the only way of dealing with your guilt.
- 21. LAWI:** How? How can we find peace, after my people killed so many of them?
- 22. NARRATOR:** The Rwandan genocide, Sierra Leone conflict, South African apartheid system and many other conflicts have been solved through truth and reconciliation processes. But let's return to Lela and Shani in their farm, as someone joins them whom they never expected to see again.

## **SCENE TWO: LELA AND SHANI AT THEIR FATHER’S FARM**

**(Lela and Shani singing as they work)**

**23. LELA:** The clouds are gathering Shani, it is soon going to rain.

**24. SHANI** **(relieved)** Everything will soon grow, and we shall soon harvest. I am so happy that we have found peace with the Torubes.

**25. LELA:** **(shocked and in disbelief)** Shani! Look over there! Is that real? Or am I dreaming?

**26. SHANI:** **(bewildered)** Mama!!!!

**27. NARRATOR:** The joy, the tears, and the emotions of this family reunion was beyond words. Meanwhile at Waliani’s hut, Lawi was getting his answers.

### **SCENE THREE: LAWI PAYS ELDER WALIANI A VISIT**

#### **28. SFX: VILLAGE AMBIENCE**

**29. WALIANI:** Tell the truth! The truth will always set you free. It is never easy to say it, never easy to hear it. But it always brings healing and forgiveness.

**30. LAWI:** **(shocked)** Are you asking me to go into Kimbebe territory and gather all the rebels, then tell them: “Look, I am sorry. But we are responsible for the deaths of dozens of your family members?” They will skin me and then bury me alive!

**31. WALIANI:** That is not what I had in mind. Normally what happens in such cases is, first some trusted, honest and wise people are chosen to lead the truth and reconciliation meetings.

**32. LAWI:** Who? Who in this land can be trusted? Who is fair, honest and wise? We can only trust in elders like you, but there are not many left.

**33. WALIANI:** It doesn't have to be old people, it could be religious leaders, politicians or even lawyers.

- 34. LAWI:** We shall choose you! Then what happens next?
- 35. WALIANI:** Then the perpetrators and the victims sit down and speak the truth about the incident. It is a very emotionally draining process, but one that leaves both the victim and the accused at peace with each other.
- 36. LAWI:** What about punishment? Punishment for those who committed the acts?
- 37. WALIANI:** During my days we had different ways of punishing the culprits. For such a serious case like this one we would have used the “bitter herb”.
- 38. LAWI:** The bitter herb? I have never heard of it.
- 39. WALIANI:** This process includes the culprits accepting responsibility for their crime, repenting, asking for forgiveness and offering compensation. Later, when they are reconciled, the guilty party and the victim share a drink made from the bitter herb. Symbolizing the bitterness of the experience they had gone through because of the conflict.
- 40. LAWI:** And this bitter herb could resolve this conflict?

- 41. WALIANI:** Not only the herb. The people will resolve the conflict. In my days, we emphasized the spirit of humanity. All over Africa we saw ourselves as originating from one family. Words like, “ujamaa” in Swahili. “Kparakpor” in Yoruba, “ubuntu” in Zulu, “umma” in Arabic, plus many other languages and cultures mean one thing: a feeling of togetherness in one big family.
- 42. LAWI:** All I wanted was to get my father's cows back. I never intended anyone to be killed. Especially not the children and their mothers.
- 43. WALIANI:** You must make things right, and it will be well. Send a messenger to the rebels that you desire to make a truth and forgiveness ritual, I will lead the meeting.
- 44. LAWI:** Thank you elder Waliani. You have been of great help.
- 45. NARRATOR:** Lawi left Waliani's homestead, went straight home and shared with his father Masambo the whole story. Masambo then joined with his son, and soon the whole community had been mobilized. A messenger was sent to the rebels with an offer to meet deep in the forest, for a truth and reconciliation ceremony. Meanwhile, things were heating up for Kero, Somba and president Matonge, whom now were facing prosecution from the International criminal court in The Hague, for funding, supporting and instigating crimes against humanity.

### **SCENE FOUR: SOMBA, KERO AND MATONGE MEET**

**46. KERO:** Yes, your excellency. You called us for an urgent meeting.

**47. SFX: LETTER BEING OPENED (studio)**

**48. MATONGE:** **(furious)** Kero, Somba, did you read this? What is this nonsense I am hearing? I thought you told me not to worry! Now, the three of us have been summoned to appear before the ICC in the Hague!

**49. SOMBA:** ICC? Who are they. Why have they summoned us? And where is this Hague? I got the letter too.

**50. KERO:** The Hague is a town in the Netherlands where the ICC, or International Criminal Court is based. It was set up in 1998 and has a legal mandate to bring justice to those suspected of committing war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. They want us to answer questions in regard to the Kimbebe attack, Just ignore them, Mr. President.

**51. MATONGE:** What world are you two living in? Don't you know that they have already frozen all my assets abroad? My bank accounts? They've even imposed a travel ban! We are literally prisoners in our own country!

- 52. KERO:** Your excellency..
- 53. MATONGE:** **(angry)** Don't pamper me Kero! I want to know the truth, what happened in the attack? I may be called a dictator by the international media but I am not a child murderer!
- 54. SOMBA:** You ordered the guns to be handed out to the civilians. What did you expect? **(sarcastic)** That they would use them as walking sticks?
- 55. KERO:** We did this to help you stay in power!
- 56. MATONGE:** You are both fired! From now on, you are no longer working for my government!
- 57. KERO:** **(threatening)** It is a bit too late to fire us, maybe you don't know what the ICC is all about. This court is not like the ones we have here, where you can bribe the judges and walk away free.
- 58. SOMBA:** Kero is right, We have only one option left now.
- 59. MATONGE:** What? What option do we have left?
- 60. KERO:** Go into exile, hide and hope that they never find you.

- 61. MATONGE:** I am not going anywhere. This is my country, I was born here! I shall die here! Period!
- 62. KERO:** Be my guest, Matonge, but things do not look so good. People are really fed up with your government, and this news about the Kimbebe massacre has fueled a lot of anger among voters.
- 63. MATONGE:** What are you saying? It's was just the other day, the polls showed I am the one they would choose.
- 64. SOMBA:** That's before they had seen the news.
- 65. KERO:** I have already organized everything. But we need to get out of the country immediately. People are already gathering at Freedom Square to protest. We'd better leave before it's too late.

**OUTRO:**

The three most powerful men have now turned into fugitives, running away from the law. But how far would they go? Deep in the forest on the border between Kijani valley and Kimbebe territory, a truth and reconciliation meeting had started. Will it bring the desired result? All the answers and more await you in our next and last episode of this radio drama about conflicts and resolutions “**The ways of our fathers**”.

If you wish to listen to this episode or the previous ones, simply visit our web page at [www.dw-world.de/lbe](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe). Until next time. Goodbye from us.