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One day I visited a certain Bottle Store at D___, a location in C___, and while there, I met four men who were drinking there, I joined their company. And one man who works in C___ there as a technician named Mr. Walemu Lamson who resides in K___ Village in C___, I knew his name when his friend came there and greeted him mentioning his name.

One of the men whom I did not know his name said that women are not to be trusted 100% because you can't know how they behave in your absence, especially here in town where you don't have relatives to observe her movements. And Mr. Lamson then said that "a woman is difficult to know all what she does in your absence. Just imagine that even Adam sinned because of a woman in the Garden of Eden. The sin against God started because of woman, let's just be living with them as our wives but not to be following their steps as you can't know about everything that they can be doing in our absence. Just imagine that I am here at the bottle store. Can I know what my wife is doing at home? Not at all."

So if it is like that, that you can't know all what your wife can be doing in your absence, how risky is it then in these days of AIDS? Mr. Lamson: "AIDS was created by the government in order to reduce the population of the people in the African countries. This was created by the wealthy countries. If the population in African countries is high, then it means that the African countries will be seeking donations from the wealthy countries to be supporting their high populated people as they can't manage to support them on their own. So the wealthy countries created that disease so that the African population should be reduced and if that population is reduced it means that seeking for donations will also be reduced too. One thing that you can know as a proof that this disease was created by the well-to-do countries is that they (wealthy countries) have got the cure for AIDS since they are the ones who created it. And you can see that the price for the cure is very expensive so that the poor shouldn't manage to buy the cure and they will be dying. The begging of African countries for donations from the wealthy countries is so frequent because the people who do go and propose the donations like the presidents, they do also steal some money from the donations, thereby keeping people to be still poor. The presidents can steal almost half of the donation and put it to their accounts. And that makes the donation not to be reaching all the needy. Which thereafter, makes them to go and seek donations from other wealthy countries to support the rest. And when the whites who are the well-to-do countries got tired of the begging of the African countries, they then created AIDS so that the people in those African countries should be dying as a result reducing the begging rate of donations as there will be few people there (African countries). That's why you see that the price for the AIDS drugs is so very expensive so that we shouldn't be managing to buy them and be dying to reduce our population." The other man in the group said "The population in poor countries is so high because the poor people are good in giving births as compared to the well-to-do because the poor just stick to their spouses day and night as they having nothing to do to keep them busy, as a result they just bear children, while the well-to-do people they do have few children because they are busy most of the time by doing their duties to earn money, so that they are usually away from home carrying out their duties. And they don't have time to be sticking to their spouses. So few children as a result." There came a message that Mr. Lamson was wanted for an emergency duty, and I left the same time that he left. Mr. Lamson is a Ngoni by tribe, he is from O___ District in the Central Region. He resided in C___ in 1963. He is married and is living in C___ together with his wife and children.

28/03/01

One day when I was going to Angela's [a Penn graduate student] home, I met a certain man on the road named Mr. Shaibu, he works at Q___ Limited in C___. I greeted him and he responded. I asked him where he was going and he said that he was going to the bottle store. He further told me that when he was leaving his home that day, his sexual partner told him not to come late at home. He said that it is a new relationship, but the partner is jealous.

I: Do you have a wife apart from that partner?

R: I have got a wife with two live children and the third one died.

I: Sorry.

R: But we are separated because she has got three sexual partners. One is a policeman, one is a teacher, the other one is a builder. All these are living here in C___ at N___ where I was living with my wife at her home at *Chikamwini* [matrilineal system, man lives at wife's home]. We separated because one night I was on night duty and unfortunately I fell sick and returned home. I slept in the house with my wife and at 9:00 pm her partner came at home without knowing that I was there as he was thinking that I had gone for night duties. I opened the door and saw that he was the very same teacher that I had been hearing that he is in an affair with my wife, and on hearing the man's voice he ran away. I knew that he was looking for my wife as his partner. I then asked her about this teacher and she failed to give me any good answers and we separated because I was just hearing about this from neighbours but now that I saw it myself, I thought of separation because with that behaviour she might get me AIDS as you know that these days it is so risky to be just moving around without minding of AIDS. And if you see that a woman is having another partner outside marriage it is better to divorce her in order to be safe.

I: What tribe is your wife?

R: She is a Yao.

I: Did you consult the *Nkhoswe* about the happening?

R: I did not have time to consult the *Nkhoswe*. I just decided to leave her.

I: So it means that you have not yet divorced?

R: We have not yet divorced because the marriage was at our Roman Catholic Church and we are waiting for our church elders to discuss the matter and after that we will go to the court of law for a final divorce.

I: What will you do if your church elders say that you can't divorce?

R: I can't accept that because I want to be safe.

I: How do you know that you are safe since she started going these partners sometime back and you have seen it yourself later?

R: I was tested for HIV by the MACRO (Malawi AIDS Counseling ??? Organisation) when they visited our work premises for voluntary test and I was found HIV negative last month.

I: How do you know that your current partner is safe from AIDS?

R: I have not conducted any sex with her since I proposed her, I will have sexual contact with her after taking her for an HIV test at R___ Central Hospital. And if she is found positive I will leave her too.

I: How long will this take you?

R: I think that I am going to do this within a month after getting my pay. My wife is being influenced by her grandmother to be having more than one partner so that they should be getting money from these partners for their living, since they are just residing here in the city without any income generating activity. The grandmother depends on her granddaughter for her living, that's why she is influencing her to be having more partners to be earning money from all the sides.

We left each other at a certain road junction as he was going to the bottle store and I was going to board a bus. He told me to visit him one day at his work premises and I agreed that I will visit him any day since I know where his company is situated.

1/04/01 (Reports from Malawi Broadcasting Corporation on 1st April, 2001 at 7:30 pm.)

- A certain man named Mdoka Adam aged 51 is responsible for his own daughter's pregnancy. And the pregnancy is now 7 months old. He lives in D___ in the Northern Region of Malawi. He has accepted the responsibility and has therefore divorced his wife who is the mother of that daughter and has married his daughter who is pregnant. The man has been taken to the court by the chief since he has broken their tradition for it is not acceptable there for anyone to marry his daughter. And the court has ruled that he should go to the prison and live there for four years with hard labour.

- A certain businesswoman in M___ Township in the city of C___ has cried louder after her sexual partner has told her that she is going to die of AIDS because his wife went for an HIV test and she has been found positive. The woman has cried louder for the fatal story that she has heard from her married sexual partner who has revealed to her that she is HIV positive because his wife has been tested HIV positive at the hospital which means she also on to the line up to the graveyard.