

Filename: SIMON010618

Diarist: Simon

18<sup>th</sup>/06/2001

I knocked off from M\_\_\_ Motel for lunch at N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_. And I went to where there is a certain man called Mr Kekala who sells firewood with his spouse Abiti Mdala.

They sell firewood as their business at N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_ along the roadside to the left-hand side as we are heading either in M\_\_\_ or C\_\_\_ just few meters to reach the U\_\_\_ Junctions.

I knew Mr Kekala quite well – a man from C\_\_\_ at N\_\_\_ township. I knew him for he had married Abiti Mdala, a woman from the C\_\_\_ village whose other family members share a boundary with our houses, being in M'd\_\_\_village.

Since I knew these people quite well sometimes when I want to see them I go there and chat [Simon always writes “chat”] for a few minutes, then off doing my own business.

So today I decided to chat with them.

As I arrived there Abiti Mdala said “How is your mother?”

And I said my mother is OK.

And Mr Kekala asked the same question and I said Mother is OK as well.

We were chatting various topics and then it came to a point that Abiti Mdala said “Is it true that Asipolo has died?”

I didn't know of this, I replied.

Don't you know of this, you living there at M\_\_\_ and I stay here at U\_\_\_, and why is it that I come to know, who stay here.

Then I remembered one day, I heard a cry not more than 4 days when this one Abiti Mdala is reminding me this.

And then I said, “But one day, you are right, I heard a cry in C\_\_\_ village and it was at midnight I believe”.

And then Abiti Mdala said “When?”.

And I said “But it could be not more than 4 days now”.

And Abiti Mdala said “Where, at C\_\_\_ village?”.

And I said “Yes, in C\_\_\_ village at midnight”.

And Abiti Mdala said “It is the funeral I am saying – Asipolo has died”.

And I said “Was he suffering?”.

This time I found Abiti Mdala, Mr Kekala (well known by Akekala, I don't know of other names except Akekala) and also another woman who sells firewood as well chatting but they were as well splitting ground nuts and eating.

I was now given the ground nuts and started chatting still about the same topic of Asipolo's death.

Abiti Mdala replied by saying that “He was suffering ever since he came back from L\_\_\_ where he went to work as a tobacco tenant. And he has only stayed for 2 years and came back home while sick.

And then I implored Abiti Mdala saying “What actually killed Asipolo?”

And Abiti Mdala said he has been admitted to L\_\_\_ Hospital almost one year and half ago, and was examined and found that he had TB disease.

Then Mr Kekala said TB is another difficult disease, seconded by AIDS [second only to AIDS], which is taking a lot of people to the graveyard.

Abiti Mdala said by no other disease did Asipolo suffer for he had taken *kwaya uwotche* (Chichewa language).

And I asked what she was meaning and another woman who also sat there chatting was laughing and said, you mean *pindila ndevu*, it's a dangerous disease even wise doctors are all surrendered to cure it.

I kept on insisting Abiti Mdala and her friend about the meaning of these terms mentioned in Chichewa. (Literally translated, *kwaya uwotche* means “Have this and roast”. And *pindila ndevu* means “Fold all your beards”.)

And her friend said “Sugar Dad” disease.

And Abiti Mdala said all these names stand for nothing apart from AIDS. AIDS will actually kill you young men who have active organs as compared to us old people. (Indeed, Abiti Mdala is an old woman, I believe having 60 something years of age, her husband is younger, should be in his 50s.)

And I said, AIDS does not look for ages. Even you old people, you can die of that.

And before I could continue, Kekala resporocated [ie reciprocated, ie retorted] by saying, Indeed you are saying the truth; then no sooner than Mr Kekala continued than the friend of Abiti Mdala added “No, it’s better we old people are not as active as this generation, because they are full of blood and power so, when their organs are troubling [them], they fail to withstand and as the result they go for *mahule* (prostitutes) and take *kwaya uwotche* (AIDS) and die fast leaving us old people still our lives kicking [ie still alive and kicking].

And I said, “You say lie, there are more old people nowadays I believe dying of AIDS”.

The friend of Abiti Mdala said, But it is more common to those who don’t hold their hearts [restrain themselves], because an old person is not supposed to be doing the childish thing of having sexual partners whether married or not married. What for? And it’s very painful to take *kwaya uwotche* (AIDS) while one’s old of age, and be troubled with it. Leave that (sex) to the youth and you will see the end result is as you can switch to radios at Mauthenga Achison Programme, where they announce the death messages to the dead fellow friends and relatives to be aware of their relative, that there are more deaths nowadays than in the past before the coming of AIDS and when money was so few in the world and things, say goods, were very cheap to buy.

And I asked her, Do you mean people are dying because things are expensive nowadays?

The woman said Yes. “You will see that the AIDS carriers actually are the Bargirls, who have joined this profession some because of having the mind of loving sexual intercourse, but the majority are because of lacking support in their homes; as the result, since any woman or girl needs to be looking nice so knowing that they have an important business, they flock into Beer Centres so that they may be selling their Business and be obtaining money and helping their parents and they don’t choose who will sleep with her but any one who has money can sleep with her; and the end result you find that they get the disease AIDS and be transferring to other people sleeping with her. And if she has slept with 10 men and these 10 men get AIDS it means if the 10 men have partners, say one having 6 partners as what is happening nowadays to school boys like you (she referred me as a school boy) then you find that the people who will get it within a month are so many, because even young girls nowadays they don’t depend on one man as well but on several men, sexual partners, so as to be obtaining a lot of money and be buying soap, costimetics [hereinafter cosmetics], which have just come nowadays. So running to get these cosmetics is so expensive and an unemployed woman can’t afford to buy unless she has a sexual friend to pay for her and then she can afford in so doing getting AIDS; and I believe (continued the woman) that AIDS cannot end because no matter how preached [against] it is, people are being encouraged to practice sexual intercourse where they can get AIDS.

And then Abiti Mdala said, It is better to marry to refrain from catching it (AIDS).

But the friend of Abiti Mdala said, “No, as the world is nowadays, there is no better [ie that is no solution], because you may be trusting one another but one may be unfaithful and be going to other sexual partners and the end result is that he/she gets AIDS and transfers it to his wife for instance, and then the whole family is affected.

But it’s better that if you are not married try to refrain from casual sex, and to those married try to be faithful to each other.

Indeed, indeed – then said Bye to them and ran to the Restaurant to have my lunch.

Off I went and [they] asked me to go again after lunch or before knocking off from M \_\_\_\_\_. We agreed that we’ll meet again.

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As I knocked [ie left] from where I was delayed [from] having my lunch by the good advices that were said, I went to one of the restaurants written T\_\_\_\_\_ Restaurant -- I usually come into this Restaurant having my lunch. I ordered rice at a price of K30.

I was taking, first in 1999 when we used to visit this Restaurant there was a certain friendly friend of mine who was running the Restaurant that time and he was Bambo Achingota (father of Chingota). I was taking lunch, lunching was good and as I lifted up my eyes I saw a new calendar which I did not see there [before] even though I had been visiting there for several days.

The calendar was written M’Bwezera Chitetezo Net, manufactured by P.S.I. which stands for Population Services International. (It is an organization which deals with disinterminating [disseminating] the words of AIDS by screening videos, sometimes to various centres in Malawi actually in school centres. The message actually stresses about the dangers of AIDS and how you can combat the disease.)

So the months were marked and relatively occupied a small space on the calendar.

Above the month, say it was turned to a page where there was a month of June, there were well written expression drawings which disinterminated the way of combating/preventing the disease.

The pictures were like “There is a bottle store where there were several Gentlemen sitting with very high beautiful and expensive women both carrying Carlsberg beer; and all looked drunk and negligent with the way they dressed. And at the corner of this picture there was a wrapped folded pack of condoms written *Chisango* in our vernacular language, which means “Protection”. And drawing is like one is visualizing [a small drawing of condoms falling out of the end of a pack].

And there was one where people sat, two of them, one woman and one gentleman wore a DB [double-breasted?] suit and the woman wore a dress with a slit behind from legs up to near the buttacus [buttocks] and they sat down outside this bottle store and all seemed drunk and were kissing each other so tightly.

The woman is greatly holding the man than a man can hold. And their legs come into unison.

And still at the corner of it was written and there was the same drawing of the Chisango packet.

And another place there was a picture where a man and a woman stand at the dark corner and were proposing one another and agreed of having sex and a packet was also drawn at the corner of this picture as well [small drawing] and reminding the people who are proposing each other there to be aware of AIDS and use Chisango Protection, in this case condoms.

And there was also another picture where there was a certain Big Boss who looked like a cashier carrying his briefcase bag, dressed smart and with a hat and [hand] in hands with a very attracting wantonly dressed woman. [They were] Walking hand in hand towards the big and decorated resthouse to have, I believe, their own sexual intercourse. And they were walking nicely descending the terraced landscape on the very beautiful road towards the entrance of the rest house building and looked willing. And everywhere, even at this picture also there was a Chisango wrapped and folded packet at the corner of the picture and even at the rest house itself there is a placard/poster drawn Chisango.

To awake them and think of not doing plain but rather use the Condoms.

And I believe One decided everyone one his own.

Then there was a picture as well, there was a big boss driving a roofed [sic] Benz, red in colour, and next to him closely sat a very beautiful young Lady not equal age of the man driving. The man driving is an old man and the woman very young and I believe from primary school level but plump in physic. She smeared with an Iball [eyeball] pencil, red in colour around her protruding lips which only added to the beauty of her white complexion and they were enjoying nicely two of them safely I believe to or from honeymoon. And still in around circle at the end top corner, as [in] all [the] pictures, is drawn a wrapped folded packet of condoms and in this month of June as well, there is people in the Bar mainly in the Bottle Store and are dancing shamefully [shamelessly]. They are dancing as if they are totally naked and again a Chisango packet drawn at the corner of the picture.

And probably the last picture in the month of June which the P.S.I. drew was probably if not dawn then it should be at the beginning of darkness after the sun set. This seems to be in an isolated land with more indigenous trees around.

There is a truck lorry, a very big one with a long and high cab and big tyres. There was a truck driver peeping through the window of this lorry.

Outside, on the road leading to a far side, I believe to some houses, stood a short beautiful girl, with dreadlocks, proudly standing talking with the driver.

And the driver seemed to be coming out of the car by head while though the front door where he could open and come out is still closed and his big hat seemed to fall down and eyes protruding as if he heard a very acceptance sweet words from the young girl down, standing on the road eagerly and proudly looking up at the driver.

And after I was washing my hands then the owner of the Restaurant came and sat opposite me. Then later on when I asked about his name, he told me that he is Mr Mataka.

He just began saying “Are you working with Susan?”.

Then I said, How do you know?

He answered, You don’t know me?

Then I said, “Yes, I don’t”. (Indeed I had forgotten him.)

And he reminded me saying “I had [was] once a Manager at M\_\_\_ Motel. I know you. I was there from 1998 to 2000. By saying this I faintly recognized the Man.

And he started, “Susan is a Good Boss, we all liked her, but she is no nonsense woman. She could sometimes report at my Boss about maybe saying Lateness to do or bring Something to her immediately as she wanted and saying ‘fire at your Manager, he doesn’t know his duty as a manager’”. But he said from then onward Mr Mataka began working [more] actively than before and thanked Susan for her awareness.

And then the Man, Mr Mataka, said every year Susan comes with this project, what is this project about?

Then I said it’s a project of Research.

And he asked, What Research?

Then I said from Chancellor College.

And he said, Yes, I know, she comes (meaning professor Susan) with cars from the University #plate 25.

Then I said, Yes, that's it.

What do you actually Research about *Kulera* (family planning) or what?

And I said, We do go into the villages chatting with people about AIDS and Family Planning as well.

So do you teach them?

Then I said, No, but by chatting with them, the students at the University of Malawi and the University of Pennsylvania where Professor Susan comes from may learn about AIDS as well as about Family Planning. That is how people took on these issues and not either teaching them, but them teaching us.

And he said, But do you think AIDS will end? And I said, I don't know. Then the Man said, "Ee! AIDS can't end because those who teach also about AIDS are the same people who spread the disease. For example, when I was the Manager of M\_\_\_ Motel, I was seeing with my eyes that there were coming people doing their seminar about AIDS and Family Planning as you do, and men and women were sleeping at the rooms there.

But I could see them, 2, 2, in their rooms a man and a woman who even are there doing seminar learning on how they will go to their Centres and disinterminate the Messages about AIDS and how they can prevent from catching it.

And I could see them in the Rooms doing sexual intercourse, and moreover [it was] daylight, without drawing or pulling down the curtains on the windows increasing the transmission of the Disease. And my question always was, If these people who claim to be teachers teaching people about AIDS are the same people doing sex publicly like this, what about if they will go to their centres and find beautiful women, can they be able to hold their heart? No, they will try to increase the spread of this Disease AIDS. And the Man said "We Malawians, we are very different with the Europeans because Europeans, a man and a woman can bathe together and nothing can happen—like a Man desiring to have sex because a woman was taking a bath while having underpant alone. But we black people we can't manage and if, say, a man and a woman not related are having a bath at one place the end result is that both of them might feel shocked and great desire for having sex and so doing, if one has AIDS then transfers [it] to the other, because we black people we believe by touching and not by seeing with eyes alone. That is [how] we are different with the Europeans for they trust condoms a lot [more?] than we blacks for we neglect the use of the condom and believe by going plain to find sweetness of the woman, and get AIDS and be troubled with it until we die.

And I said, "Do you want to say those whom you saw doing sexual intercourse there at M\_\_\_ Motel, are you sure that they were doing that plain?"

Then the Man replied, "Yes, they were doing plain because after knocking out [ie leaving] from the room and I could go for example to see if there is a need to mend the beddings and tell those responsible to do that. But to my surprise I never saw any litter of condoms down on the floor meaning they were doing plain, and basing on my experience I have noticed that only very few people use condoms, the majority are ~~not~~ get used to plain.

And I think the Government will only be wasting their own money doing seminars teaching people about AIDS instead they spend a lot of money and encourage the spread of AIDS as well. The more the money they spend the more the so-called teacher spread the Disease.

And the Man gave an Example of a certain Man he said is called Mr Lemani. He is the Supervisor whenever the P.S.I. has the seminar and he is the one who teaches the representatives about family planning and AIDS, and he is the one who has many children from other sexual partners, for example at D\_\_\_ area and O\_\_\_ area, he has many children. And he has made many young girls around here at the U\_\_\_ drop schooling because of being given pregnancies by him, and the badness is, he doesn't marry them and denies the responsibility and neither [is] assisting the children. So what about the other areas, I don't know how many children he has spread there. For he is the man who is always busy doing seminars in various centres around Malawi, with the P.S.I. car and I believe there are other children of him from other centres. If one has children does it mean he uses a condom?

And I said, No. He doesn't use the condom.

Then the Man said, "Can't be cheated, AIDS, it's a crisis from God, Look, the Americans are well known to know diseases and their Medicines to cure the disease but they are failing great scientists to combat or stop the disease, because it's naturally created by God.

And I was just listening.

And the Man concluded by saying, One can't avoid AIDS by not having sexual partners alone, but even one can get it when he/she wants to marry. Because you never know that the one you are marrying has AIDS and then Have that.

Some people say we get [AIDS], actually the youth get [it] when they go for a haircut at the Barber Shop and if the machine cuts you, the virus enters which causes AIDS.

Then I said, "Indeed? Are you sure indeed?"

Then the Man emphatically said, "Indeed it's true, even through a razor, knife, if these things cut you and have [ie make] a wound. You are educated and you know this. There are more ways of catching AIDS and not sex alone. One can be faithful and if he is ignorantly using say a razor blade, a needle which has pierced into someone's skin and blood oozing out then another person using it can get AIDS if the first person who used it has AIDS.

We chatted long enough that I was afraid to be late to return for work and I was saying "Byee!", and the Man went on now changing the subject, but before he did he said to my opinion the only way to prevent AIDS is by Reading the Bible always and by following God's Commandments, say Exodus 20 Verse 1 and the whole chapter [the Ten Commandments? Bible not to hand...].

OK, How? I asked.

He said, Even a bible prohibit Adultery, Lusting and the like. And if one follows this can she/he be able to do Adultery? No she/he can't and therefore [will be] protected and be faithful to one another if she/he married and to those unmarried protect themselves as well.

Then lastly I said, "Man, we will meet again". And I said, "I like if I can have a calendar like this". And he said he is to ask his friend who distributes these calendars free of charge and if he will have [one] that he will give me. (I will cut or the whole calendar, and show you Susan if I happen to be given one.)

Then Man lastly said "Susan is a good Boss. In 1999 she gave me MK 1500.00 and my workmates each one MK 500.00 when she was leaving for States.

She is a good woman and I thank her a lot and God bless her always.

Then I stepped out of the Restaurant to M\_\_\_ for transcription work.

19/06/2001

It is today on 19<sup>th</sup>/06/2001. I was sent to do a call back in M\_\_\_ village and chat with Marko Adam.

He was the man I interviewed in 1999.

And this Year 2001 Sophie Boilo has chatted with him and Assistant professor Amy has sent me to do a callback.

I knocked Morning for the Call back with my bicycle alone cycling towards M\_\_\_ Village. After I walked a bit distant I met a certain young man, I believe he is of my age, I am 26, and if anything, maybe a difference of one to two years.

He was walking down the road.

He was bare, he wore at least a clean T-shirt and a long trouser purple in colour.

I asked him where he was going and he said he was going to another village where there is O\_\_\_ School. And I said I believe you cross M\_\_\_ Village and he said sure he does.

And I asked him if he can go with me (or be going together) but this time he should be the one cycling and I be resting on the carrier.

He accepted the offer and thanked me.

We were together and after we walked a distance I asked him where at O\_\_\_ does he actually stay.

The acquaintance replied that he is a new member there, where he actually stays is in N\_\_\_.

Then I said, In N\_\_\_? He replied saying Yes, at M'c\_\_\_ after you have just crossed the Bridge of N\_\_\_ you find the Markets and you can walk a long distance and get my village and it's where I stay, I came there last week (I missed the name of his village).

And I said, Why did he come and stay where he was going yet his home is at N\_\_\_ (specifically at M'c\_\_\_).

The acquaintance answered, "I have come here following to see my in-laws' parents. I came along with my wife and we are about a week and then we will be back. I am running short of getting/finding money here I don't know the ways by which people here do be getting money. I am not yet used, for I am new and people here are used". And I asked him where he stays, What did he do to obtain money?

He replied saying he is a fisherman, he is employed as other men in N\_\_\_ are, and is working as a fisherman. "I work as a fisherman and am paid, can get K400, K500 a week. And moreover when coming from the lake you bring good fish home daily. But here everything is buying."

I asked how much does the bus cost nowadays (busfare) from M'c\_\_\_ to M\_\_\_.

He replied saying he doesn't know, for he came along with his wife carrying his one son on her back, and a man cycled his bicycle from M'c\_\_\_ to where he is staying now.

And I said, I am glad that we have come to know each other. And he said he too, and asked me where I stay. And I said, I am from here at Kalembo area but specifically in M'd\_\_\_ Village.

And we were chatting. He asked first my name and I told him. And I asked his name, he told me that his name is Lucy. And went on saying I am well known there because I like chatting and even if you can ask at M'c\_\_\_ Market almost this name you can't get lost. And I said, Sure.

And I went on, But can I be able to find good Ladies there at M'c\_\_\_?

The Respondent said, there are plenty of them, and said in N\_\_\_ there are more beautiful girls than here. Ever since I came here I didn't see any good Lady. Or may be because I am new.

Then I said, You are right. You are new.

And he said it's true, even if you can come where my home is (meaning at M'c\_\_\_) and you can't notice that there are many girls. But we ourselves we do notice. And I asked, But these Ladies, are they able to fall in sexual relationships with some?

The acquaintance (met only today) replied saying, Many of them, plenty of them, while laughing.

I was laughing too, and then I said, Many? He said Yes, Ladies in N\_\_\_ look for money and its their business and not only those who stay in Beer centres are the *mahule* (prostitutes) no, but even those staying in the village are also *mahule*. You can't sleep with a woman in N\_\_\_ if you don't have money. And if there are such people then I should say there are very few of them. Actually (he continued)...school girls...school girls when it comes to 5 o'clock in the evening, you find them a lot of them moving around, some walking 2,2 (meaning a man and a woman) escorting [courting?], and school men are "eating a lot", he laughed. (By giving *akudya kwambll* in Chichewa he was meaning to say that school men have high sexual frequency.)

And I laughed too. "But you don't eat a lot yourself?", laughing as well when I asked him. He said, "I do" (laughing). Then I said, "You are married and do you go for other partners as well?"

He replied, "Ooooh! Yes—why not, yes I have 2 of them. They both learn at N\_\_\_ primary school, they are both writing primary exams in Standard 8 this year. It can't be avoided, it's Nature and moreover one can't only one shirt to be wearing every day, he needs to change dressing; all the same. We men can't only have one woman alone, you get fed of her and desire another one to taste" laughing.... I laughed as well.

Then I asked him, So which strategies can one follow in order to have a girl at N\_\_\_, for example?

He said, School girls are simple in N\_\_\_, because they compete each other with money and dressing. You meet with a girl at any school or at N\_\_\_ as you said, and propose, she can accept even though maybe knowing that she had other sexual partners as well...

And I asked, Why accepting some one yet she knows that she has someone already?

The Man replied saying, "She does this deliberately because she wants to compare two of them, who will be giving a lot of money, and the one who will be giving her a lot of money will then be the winner and she divorces the other".

And I said, "You have school sexual partners, but don't you come to be afraid that you can give them pregnancies and lead them to be fired from school?"

He replied, "No I don't, and if they had accepted me, it means they themselves don't come to be afraid on their own".

"Or may be you sometimes consider about them and trust them?", [I asked].

He replied, Indeed [not], and for Ladies are unfaithful and never been trusted. But what I aim on them is sex and [to] be satisfied. And when I asked him where he meets the woman whenever he wants sex, he said they agree days and time and goes say in Damboes [?] and sometimes girls arrange themselves to meet with them at her friend's house. Or sometimes I took a friendship [ie girlfriend] (*chibwenzei*) to my friend's house and have sex.

And when I asked him whether these partners know each other, he replied that they don't know each other. (We were cycling now—and chatting was really good, he was a charming and friendly man.)

And I asked whether he uses condoms whenever he wants to sleep with these partners.

He said, No, then I can't feel sweet when one is proposing a girl to have sex with her. What he aims is of feeling her sweetness and she feels sweetness as well, she wants to feel sweetness as well.

Then when I asked him about the dangers of AIDS in N\_\_\_ the respondent said the disease is there but it is not so common because not all the people in N\_\_\_ have AIDS, mainly if you refrain sex with those who stay at the beer centres and run for school girls and village girls. And because everyone where he goes is able to find his friend, then the friend is the ones who will be telling his friend about the particular girl he is supposed to sleep with him, the one who is not from a bar, who is free from AIDS.

And I said, then it's better to have friends to avoid AIDS, not so?

The man said, Indeed, because the friends tell you the way the girl is moving and if the girl knows that your friends, even when you are away, then your partner don't involve into other sexual partners. She becomes afraid that maybe the friends can talk about her moving behaviour and friendship ends.

Then when I asked him further what other things he does in N\_\_\_ apart from going or earning a living as a fisherman. The man said he also buys *risipa* (type of fish) and be going out on market days, say in S\_\_\_, in A\_\_\_ as well, T\_\_\_, E\_\_\_ and even at C\_\_\_. And he continued saying, with this type of business he enjoys much because he gets a lot of profits sometimes and on market days he has slept with many girls. Mainly at C\_\_\_.

And I asked him why he chooses sleeping with girls in these market centres yet he goes for business purposes only?

Then the acquaintance answered that business people are very clever, some of them they marry even, when ever, some business which involves travelling [to] far centres, marries a woman there, with an aim of reducing expenditures in terms of buying food at the restaurant and avoiding spending money in terms of lending or paying to the resthouse so they marry temporarily and are the people who have daily cash. So Ladies don't refuse for they look for money, what they need is money.

And when I said, you slept with many in C\_\_\_ comparing from the other centres you mentioned, Why? He said in C\_\_\_, that trip he went with his friend and they were selling at C\_\_\_ market, and business was not running smoothly that him with his friend had partners (sexual partners) and most of them were coming from Day Night scholars, those who were making their self boarding and because they were lacking money to buy fish, so sometimes they were coming and asking crediting our *usipa*. So if we happened to crediting *usipa* they were in the end turn to be our sexual partners, I had 7 of them that year, I enjoyed friends, those sweet school girls. There was someone I remember in my whole future called Shirley—she was beautiful among all, and moreover we were of the same blood because whenever I asked her to come to where I rented the house with my friend she was coming, no matter what, as compared to the others.

And I asked, how many did his friend have?

He said his friend had had only 2.

Then I said why your friend had only 2 and him 7. He said his friend had a problem of getting shy in proposing them him. And the man went on saying that every place he goes he makes sure that he has someone to *kushauwa* — in foreign language not belonging to either Chichewa or English — which means quenching thirst, that is, having sexual intercourses.

In T\_\_\_ he had one, in N\_\_\_ 3, in E\_\_\_ 2 and U\_\_\_ 2.

And I asked if he uses condoms with those women?

He said he don't use the condom, and ~~he ever since~~ he had never used a condom because he is a Moslem, a real Moslem don't use condoms because it's a sin towards God. Using a condom is like masturbating, they are killing children who will have become helpers to them in future. WE WERE CHATTING INDEED, AND NOT ANY OTHER STORY EXCEPT THIS. THE WAY WAS SO LONG.

Condoms are bad; and can burst say when you are sleeping, when pressing hard.

And in Koran prohibits the use of condoms and anyone using is killing.

And I asked if really in Koran it was written by writing exactly "the condom use".

He said no, not that condoms were mentioned by it is referred as masturbating, for masturbating and using the condoms are the same.

And I asked him why did he think are the reasons for those who use condoms?

He replied by saying that those who use, they say they avoid *yensi* (meaning AIDS).

And continued saying, "One can't run away from the final crisis which God has made, AIDS" (he is saying *yensi*) and said, "AIDS came for people and not animals so, even people get afraid of it. But as it is now everybody has it. So everyone will die and if you take AIDS you die as well. So no need to be afraid of dying."

And he said, "I don't use condoms. And I don't think of using that and my betterness is that I don't go for bargirls but school girls and village girls who don't have AIDS.

And when I asked about his friend whether he used a condom when he was sleeping with the 2 partners he had in C\_\_\_ he said, No, he didn't use, he did plain.

And I said, How did he know that the friend of his did plain?

He said, We don't hide matters since we are friends, we tell each other.

And he continued; If my friend I heard him praising saying the girl was sweet and the second one was sweeter even, does it mean he used a condom? He asked me.

And I said, Maybe!

And he said, No, one cannot feel using a condom because you don't come to contact fully but there is a plastic which contacts the woman's vagina (he was laughing, he really mentioned about the vagina in our vernacular, I didn't think of that).

And I was laughing too.

And then we reached M\_\_\_ Village and he said “This is M\_\_\_ village”, and I dropped to ask for my respondent I was looking for, then I was told to proceed a little bit and then after crossing the road near the mosque centre at M\_\_\_ then my respondent Marko Adam [was] found.

Then I boarded the bicycle again with him, now the issue changed, then he began asking me why I am wanting the man then. I said I would like to see him (I cheated him in fact) but I was sent by his relatives who stay in my village and who dwell in M\_\_\_ and I had taken a special message for him. Then I dropped after now crossed the road and I was shown the house. The man continued footing towards his home area N\_\_\_ school, then once again I asked his name for the second time, and he said my name is Lucy and I said thank you for [ed?] me, we’ll meet again, we are men, we do sometimes move as you say—then we will happen to meet and we will chat again.

He asked my name for the second time and village as well and I told him, then we separated.

20<sup>th</sup>/06/2001

It was today, I was—we were—just [re]leased by Professor Amy to take a lunch break.

I was loading my pack with cassette recorder and my friend Diston was doing the same.

Then Sophie B. said, Let me rush for lunch and hear the rumour which has just happened: Alice was following her. I am with Michael now together with Diston going to lunch.

It happened that we were together now me Simon, Diston, Michael, Alice and Sophie B.. Before we reached the road Alice said, “Brother, have you heard what has happened?”. She referred to me now for this time some seemed to be [walking] fast while others not fast. And I said, No. Sophie B. drew attention reduced speed as well as Michael and Diston did, we both said we don’t know, can you say what’s that sister? Then Sophie B. went straight into the topic: Someone, I heard, he has died around the trading [centre] here because of *ntayo*. (*Ntayo* is the disease which one gets after sleeping with a woman who has just aborted or given birth.) All we men become amazed and said we don’t know any of this.

Then Alice went on saying, “The man has died at N\_\_\_ Trading centre, he was selling second-hand clothes. And he met a very beautiful woman who has killed him”.

Then I began laughing.

All started laughing too. Alice said, Businessmen are unfaithfulness, and I said, Not all, others are but others not, it depends upon the bad behaviour of that particular individual. And Michael agreed and Sophie B. too and Diston. So I said, Did he meet a bar girl?

Michael said, He has died with *ntayo* and maybe he slept with a village girl at such (we were laughing, we were both too excited, I don’t know what [ie why]).

And Boilo said, But the man was lucky, he had found that the *ntayo* he had found was weak (she said *ntayo wozizila* in Chichewa) he could have died right there at the bosson [on her bosom?], it’s dangerous indeed.

And I said, Not dangerous as AIDS?, then Sophie B. just said, Both [are] dangerous.

And Diston said, But indeed dying without even using the condoms all over?

Michael said, People want [to] feel sweet actual sweet, and be laughing.

And Alice said, Men pay money so they don’t want to lose their money, they make sure they have utilized it accordingly.

Sophie B. said, Now look, instead of utilizing the money thoroughly they had bought death.

And I said, But we men are cursed sometimes because you can do say things which you didn’t suppose to do in normal cases.

Michael jumped in, No, Not cursed, but doing that deliberately, because I think there is no way one can’t use a condom to a sexual partner besides your spouse.

Sure, sure, we were both agreed.

And, I jumped, Indeed, condoms are even used inside marriage life and why not to a foreigner sexual partner at such.

We were laughing. And Alice said, we heard in the morning and as we were coming here (we *\*\*ing* in the morning—I’m to write).

And I said, That’s why Sophie B. was rushing for lunch today? I wondered, That is it because she stayed long without nursing her baby—we were laughing.

And Diston asked where the funeral is.

Then Alice said, The man did that sex at [the] Rest house. The baby who has just aborted, the man didn’t know anything, and the woman did not reveal, even. And I said, “Women are Satanic Men!”

We laughed; and Alice said she wants money also, she needs money as well.

Then Diston said this is the way why we men are simply going even with AIDS the same process.

And I said, Listen guys, Diston asked ~~for~~ where the funeral is.

Then Aunt Alice went on saying: After the man did that, right after the woman saw that she had killed the man she ran away; it seems she is a bar girl, they don't have [a] special address.

And we [were] more just laughing — we were happy — and Alice went on that then after, sees that she ran out leaving the man there.

And I don't know, Alice continued: "I don't know where the man shouted in his room that made the Receptionist to come and rescue him, for it is said the funeral was at the Hospital still there at N\_\_\_. And then [the] same night the patient died there. And the funeral has come here at L\_\_\_ Trading Centre.

I said, L\_\_\_ or here at U\_\_\_?

Then Alice said, at U\_\_\_. And at another time during transcription a cry was heard somewhere around here (pointing to the far end to her left hand side).

And then we were walking fast, everyone to serve for himself. We went both to the market, and Diston, me, and Michael we went to one restaurant and Alice, Sophie B. and her Nanny went to another as well.

20<sup>th</sup>/06/2001

It is today as well, that I was told with my wife as I was taking supper coming from work.

My wife said: Erica my young sister has been chased [away] by my grandmother and she has started cooking alone. She was given maize full in one hand winnow ( *lichelo* — made of bamboo).

And I asked why this is so.

My wife said, Because she is refusing to get marry. She has started sleeping with Cassim again. (Cassim — a certain young man who owns as well a certain shop in M\_\_\_ Trading. He is married and has several sexual partners, I know 3 of them, and including Erica making 4 and plus his wife making 5 and he had divorced 3 wives in his lifetime. We are just friends, we chat sometimes. I believe we are of the same age, I am 26 [years] of age.)

Cassim started again going with her again. He divorced her first and because Erica is no[t] afraid girl, she just hears the Radio Messages about AIDS and off she goes without taking [them] into consideration.

[My] wife continued: And if it is AIDS, Erica has it because I heard Myrtle my young sister that one day when they were happy, night in their own room, Erica started to count those men who has slept with her and every man the type of style during their sex intercourses.

And I said, Then what did Myrtle say?

Myrtle said Erica has slept with 16 boys in total with different styles and including Substoni who married her, who gave her the pregnancy that she aborted—making 17 partners in total.

And [my] wife continued, saying, Last of last week, a certain man from O\_\_\_ came home to ask about marrying her and they were escorting each other and she returned very late [at] night. And I asked, What time did she knocked escorting that Man?

Wife replied saying, She started escorting him from 5 o'clock pm and Myrtle said she returned back home late and found that they had already taken supper and [were] wanting to sleep.

And I asked, Did she go to her partner's house perhaps?

Wife said, No, she didn't, M'd\_\_\_ is very far, they were just having sex right there at the mountain. (Note: Our geographical position, we are situated on the mountainous area.)

Wife added, And you know Erica, she doesn't know [how] to say, "I don't want" (refuse) whenever proposed. She certainly does sex for she accepts anyhow, fancy to Aman like that who has just come and visited her and [is] asking about marriage, and the arrangements like the Ankhoswe Meeting is not yet finalized. You find she [has] already slept with the Man, starting their marriage before parents tell them. Wife said, "I don't doubt she has AIDS for all the 16 men she has slept with can't be perfectly healthy and free from AIDS. My sister Erica has a problem, I believe, when she stays without sleeping with men, she hates that.

And I have just also heard that Men who are Traders at M\_\_\_ Trading Centre buying maize for business are proposing her and whenever she goes to the market every day she is escorted by these men. One day you may find her with another man whom I don't know escorting passing here, wife concluded.

Then I said, "Such is Life".

Wife said, Of course, but she is beyonding the Life [ie going too far]. And whenever I tell her that it's better that she should just get married or minimize the number of partners she has ~~but~~ she doesn't listen.

And I asked, You don't warn her about the Dangers of AIDS as your young sister?

I do tell her but she always ~~she~~ replies that not all who die are dying because of AIDS; she will die whether with AIDS or not, but death is death. And she continues saying, AIDS came for people and had it been it came for Animals then there could be no more animals in the world. She always says, LEAVE ME IN PEACE AND NOT IN PIECES; I KNOW MYSELF, I am not [so] young that I don't know what I am doing.

Then we just see nowadays.

Then I said, Maybe she doesn't accept sleeping with them without telling the men to use *Zishango* (condoms).

But wife said, I heard Myrtle that among the 16 men only one man when she was living with Grandmother at O\_\_\_ down used a condom for the first insert he did and then later on pulled out the condoms for she said the Man then said "Erica, you are a very beautiful and sweet girl, I can't use this rubber, ~~and~~ I want to eat you raw" (*ndikufuna ndi khwasule chonco* in Chichewa).

OK! I was laughing.

And wife said, She accepted and she said to Myrtle that she can't accept the man using the condom and it's better that they should not have sex for she didn't feel anything, it seemed as though she was being inserted by a finger.

And that's why I say, AIDS can't end without Erica catching it if she continues this behaviour, or otherwise she has it already.

And wife said, I heard Myrtle saying that she is every night doing practice, putting Myrtle on top of her bosom while she has slept [ie is lying down] and dancing up and down training as if a Man has lied on top of her doing sex; and both her and Myrtle and Ronny (another young sister of my wife) are doing this rubbish. I told Myrtle to stop immediately and she said she has stopped nowadays. But Erica and Ronny are the ones that even nowadays they come along with herbs and charms from the bush into the room, and they squeeze the leaves by rolling, pressing them in their hands so as their juices come and then they smear the juices around their vaginas and start pulling their critolises which is a traditional system, and rubbish.

And I asked her why they are doing this?

Wife said, They say that they want to have a large vulva so that when they are sleeping with men, men should not underlet [ie undervalue] her, she should be regarded as a big woman.

And wife added that but she is a very young girl only that she is growing fast, she was born in 1984.

And I agree, continued wife, with my grandmother has done. It's better she should get married rather than taking AIDS and we should be suffering of that.

And I asked, Suffering you because of what?

Then the wife said, You know someone suffering from AIDS suffers a long period of time and during this time it requires say looking after her since, you know she is my relative, so without be going and seeing her, you know my grandmother will be speaking nonsense things.

OK! I said.

Wife continued, yes, going alone watching/looking/paying a visit to her, it's a great task instead of that I should be doing my household chores and be troubled with this, yet she was doing alone and forgot that we were advising her. It could have been good if she married rather than going with Cassim, and AIDS men, and maize buyers. She always maybe thinks that when ever advised about Men, she thinks we are jealous of her and for example in my style [ie for my own part] I have given up/stopped—she is [as] old as she sees herself.

Then the issue ended here after I said, Yes, better should you leave her than being jealous of her, for she considers [it is] none of your concern. Wife agrees.

21<sup>st</sup>/06/2001

I was at M\_\_\_ Motel transcribing, and I sat together alongsides the big and long table with Michael and this time our friend Diston was in the field. Me and Michael reported at M\_\_\_ and this time it was around past 3 o'clock pm. Michael started to say, Mc, do you know what these fake Muslims are doing nowadays?

And I said, I don't know anything.

Michael said, ~~Yesterday~~, you know my young brother Tawa?

And I said, I know him.

Michael said, Tawa yesterday (meaning on 20<sup>th</sup>/06/2001) went to the funeral, there was a funeral near us in our village and Tawa went to the graveyard and when they were busy there was a certain sheikh [who] was preaching there while people were busy digging the graveyard. (I said to Michael, this is

New to me, I had never seen someone preaching while digging the grave — but after all the people who has gone for funeral are gathered so that they may hear the word of God — Michael found it new as well.)

And he said that's why I said, Do you know what these fake Sheikhs do nowadays in [an] attempt to look pious? (We were laughing.)

Michael said [the Sheikh said], "You all people gathered here, Don't be cheated that AIDS has no medicine! AIDS has medicine which can cure. God is not such a nowise man to create a disease without medicine. But people nowadays don't know that AIDS has medicine."

And he was keeping on repeating the same thing, until people were tired of him and said: "Now tell us about that special particular type of medicine you are talking about". And the Sheikh then said, Everyone from here onwards believe it or not, AIDS has medicine, and the only medicine of AIDS is avoid doing Adulterly [hereinafter adultery]. The major route of AIDS is via having sexual intercourses and if one is refraining from having casual sex then he/she can't get AIDS. Adultery is what is taking people to the graveyard nowadays, for it's where one can get AIDS and die of that. Therefore if you want to stay long in this world and if you want to grow old and see white hair you need to abstain [from] sexual intercourses. You married men avoid sleeping [with] other men's women, and by only doing this then you will see that you have defeated AIDS, and if you continue [to] be doing sex then just know that you are increasing the chances of dying with AIDS.

And I said, Why Tawa was telling you this?

The sheikh was well known to me, I hope he just wanted to share a message to me so that I might know what had happened behind [ie before].

Then I heard Tawa said (Michael went on), I believe the Sheikh doesn't know how to make sex, he has dead organs, that's why he was preaching that, and it was everyone's conclusion when coming out from the graveyard — people were saying the Man (Sheikh) doesn't go stiff his member, he has dead organs, that's why he wants to discourage people from having sex.

And I asked Michael, Do you believe ~~se~~ that the Man do know how to make sex?

Michael was only laughing.

Tawa said, People were saying [that] at the graveyard. Then we soaked into transcription work.

It ended silently — only I could depart with a light laugh — then Transcription.

22<sup>nd</sup>/06/2001

Again today we were together now, Me, Michael and Diston in the same long table. Alice and Sophie B. sat far from us, near a certain corner, under a tree of cacious [cassia? acacia?], sat opposite each other transcribing.

We sat adjacent [to] each other at least spaced and with minimum volume controls in our recorders.

Then Michael began to say to me, Mc, do you know what happened yesterday inside the minibus we boarded, me and Alice?

Then I said, I don't know friend, what happened?

[?Diston's handwriting]

Then Michael said, Diston, yesterday we left Simon at U\_\_\_ for the minibus we board was totally occupied and only wanted those going far in N\_\_\_. And *we* were lucky (Michael and Alice) because we had already boarded it and Mc remained but I tell you it was terrible which we saw on the Bus. The Driver started to drive fast and clapped hands. He said people don't be cheated with ladies, they are the same. I have slept with many girls.

[?back to Simon's handwriting]

Michael said, "And it was to my surprise why the driver started himself talking like that".

And we were just listening (me and Diston — Alice and Sophie B. cannot hear ~~of that~~ us).

And Michael went on saying that the driver was happy driving — and he said, I have slept with many girls, and can be 18 of them, while I have reached a stage of man [ie maturity?] and still I am healthy.

I wonder why people get thin. Michael said the driver was not old but medium sized and not young, responding to my question about the approximate age of the driver.

And the driver said, All the women I had slept with are not sure in terms of blood and probably have AIDS, but I never know about this.

But I depend on these,... (the driver introduced the condoms before the eyes of people actually those who sat in front like Alice and Michael).

Michael said the driver presented the condoms on the eyes of the people and people were just watching. And I heard Michael saying, "And even I told Sister Alice, Look it's a diary. One can write a diary of this event." The driver could not stop talking and ~~be~~ saying, People of today can't manage sleeping

with 18 women and always be using these (referring to condoms) — and the end result they do plain and take AIDS. They felt sweet in a short period of time and troubled for a long time and eventually die. AIDS can only be prevented by these condoms. And I don't use the condoms which we the Black People use but durable ones which the Europeans use. Look, he showed us again. Michael said so. And then I asked, Are there the Black Condoms as well as the Black people's condoms? Then we laughed and said the driver was a mad man, maybe he smokes cocaine. Why [was he] introducing the condoms which are his private issue/matter? We were laughing, both, then you Professor Susan, you walked up and walked carrying a clean white transparent plastic bag and blue bathing towel I believe upon your shoulder one hand taking the plastic bag walking behind us and then wanting to go the Path Leading to the kitchen. Then seeing you we all stopped talking and immersed [ourselves] in transcription work.

23<sup>rd</sup>/06/2001

I was at home, I slept with my son Kili at night at bed, and wife and my second child Folopensi slept on the floor lying on the mat. Glass lamp was shining. All were awake. We were chatting and I was reading a certain novel while I lie down as well. Then my wife started, "Polopensi has sent a picture to his wife Becky (Becky is her sister, she is married to Polopensi, and in short we say Polo. Husband went to C\_\_\_ to look for work and then sent a picture which has prompted the talk this night).

And I said, How do you know? (Becky came home meaning my wife's home, for we stay at my home; so today wife visits her home.)

Wife replied, Becky came home and she was the one said, her husband has sent a picture to her with a letter. And the letter said, he has not yet found the job, he is still looking for it. And he begged his wife to be strong-minded by refraining from doing casual sex with other men for he is trusting much Becky and always dreams about her there. And he will be offended if she will do so. And he has sent the picture to her as a remembrance.

The letter stressed that he doesn't want to let Sophie B. die of AIDS.

NOTA BENE: My wife, Indeed professor, tells me many things most of the times, she always stays home Most of the times but she learns Much from her friends, Relatives and any other place she goes alone to the Clinic, Borehole as well as to Markets. She shares information, that most of them even don't in Chela [?] therefore I only write in her absence — so as to copy and complete in time.

And started laughing and I asked her and she said Becky said had he known, he could not have written such a letter, she is only trusting him, he has another photo home of him (husband's picture) but that's not enough. She still longing on him and majority of shop owners at their trading centre called Chilangi, men have failed to propose Becky.

And she has, said my wife, she has taken a hanger (sp??) (but something which people use [to] dry say clothes, or care) and hanged a trouser which he used to wear and a shirt inside her room as if she is looking at him still, even [though] he is away in C\_\_\_ working. We were laughing and wife said even though Becky was saying this, she was not even laughing and said she as well knows that there is AIDS. She knows she has children who will/might be left orphan if she goes for partners and die[s] with AIDS.

Wife concluded saying, But we teasing her that all what she says are lies. But she was just laughing and saying, though you are laughing, but she meant that.