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[Interview in the morning around 8, written up at noon.]

Situation: At the graveyard where we gathered making, digging rather, a grave for a young man who died suddenly after having sex with a certain girl who aborted. People were taking [talking?] so many of their concerns for this sudden death. Right now I could remember few [some] of the conversation.

Someone said, "The man was fortunate indeed, for he could have died right away, there at the girl's bosoms [bosom] , showing his belly as a bossom (*Yao: palu tumbo*). But death..." (Failed to continue. The man was approximately age 30-35).

(We all stayed quiet and show we can hear as we all bent seeing a young man shoveling sand out from the grave.)

...."I really saw him yesterday, sewing his machine." [previous speaker, it appears]

Someone responded: "I talked with him yesterday, around past 5 o'clock in the evening, packing there at Musa Store (grocery, Sitolo)." (The man said the word 'store' in English). (Packing here means gathering, collecting together their belongings, ready to set off for home.

Someone else: "Yes, the man was lucky, perhaps the young girl aborted at least a long time, perhaps three months to now, because had it been it was her first months, perhaps 1 to 2, then he could indeed have died right there."

Someone's son [?]: "Tailors and girls are friends."

(We all laughed)

Old man: "Men are stupid, for they are easily tempted. Fancy this man has his wife living here and going together with Jane, a prostitute, leaving three sons without a known father."

(Laughing, extended, forgetting that we were at the grave yard.

"And these 4th one is perhaps from a teacher (the fourth meaning the one that died after being aborted.)"

(When he mentioned the teacher we even laughed more, for he is taken as someone teaching about sex (ironic)). *Wele atchalawa*—(he said this in Yao, meaning this teacher).

Young man: "And it is a better death than dying with AIDS".

(Some people murmured, agreeing).

Someone said: "It is not a better death, for it's so sudden without [time for] actually preparing one's ways and wickedness."

Someone also said: "For if one happens to die with AIDS he can take 5 to 8 years while suffering and eventually dies. By this time a man can have so many plans to, if he wants to develop his family status" (and many more words which I can't even remember now).

A certain man added: "Yes, you are saying the truth, for if the person suffering had money in his/her account he/she goes and withdraws as much as he/she can and eat or dress according to his/her liking, for he/she knows that it's her/his last days. And if he/she has herds (cattle for instance), she/he can sell all of them or half of them to sustain his/her life." (Everyone was laughing here and some were quiet/quiet).

Young man: "Brother, you have never visited the hospital and seen where those places where AIDS people are kept. You can't say all these, for you could find people pining or fading out."

Some young man: "Which is better, to experience a long pain and eventually die or experience a short pain and then die?"

Someone answered: "Nothing is better here." (I saw people nodding their heads, agreeing with this man's answer.). Nothing is better since all involve death. Death is a crucial penalty created by God himself and of course can't be avoided. But nowadays I see more death occurring than in old days because people today rush for money, for instance in Mangochi and Zomba districts young girls go for Sugar Dee's [Sugar Daddies] (who provide them with a lot of money) and forget that they should concentrate on their

education. And when impregnated they rush secretly to traditional doctors who give them charms to abort, and when one has aborted she looks very attractive, that if young men don't take heart, they could definitely die."

Another person: "You are saying the truth. It is the same as one having H.I.V./AIDS but not yet started showing signs and symptoms. By this time a woman becomes attractively plump so that multitudes of men go after her. So it is very dangerous [difficult/risky] to know whether she is negative or not. So when signs are noticed it's when so many people have slept with her."

My friend Muhajiri: "Then we are to die all, for it is natural and hard to abstain."

Someone said: "It's natural of course, but we have to see critically, and not just dying anyhow, for example dying because of someone, a prostitute at that, leaving a wife and children suffering behind." ([we say] Of course, of course, of course). If we are to live long, we need to abstain from sex, and if married just be faithful to a wife alone, for women are the same—and if you are attracted by a certain lady, try to dress your wife exactly as that lady who attracted you. For girls look pretty with dressing."

Mr. Kili (I know the man because he lives in the same village as me): "In my old days, we could experience perhaps 1 to 2 deaths the whole year round, and not like today, whereby we experience more deaths within a week. O.k.!" (We inquired). "Not nowadays, because of plentiful money hence plenty of deaths because of AIDS, crimes and not like my old days whereby people found or caught doing adultery both were stoned to death and it was a law followed, observed and having sex with anyone apart from your wife was strictly avoided."

(INTERRUPTION: Women came with plates of food (*nsima*) on their heads and launched on the graveyard—we all turned and concentrated on them. We were ordered to go and start eating *nsima* before the burial of the carcass). (There were so many talks but this is what I can remember so far)

8/28/99

[Written on the same date around 7 p.m.]

Situation: At the bus depot. I was escorting my wife to visit her other relative living at Mabisi. At the bus depot I meet my friend Lailo, just moving around since it's also a trading centre (Mwima Trading Centre). My wife boards a bus.

Lailo: "Your wife has gone for how long?"

Simon: "Just a day and probably tomorrow or a day after tomorrow she will certainly come."

Lailo: "Do you allow your wife to move alone and spend a night somewhere else alone?"

Simon: Yes, remember she is going to visit her relatives so I can't say she doesn't need to, and moreover this is not the first time. Sometimes we do go together if I happen to have enough money for transport. Can't you?" (Lailo is also a married man).

Lailo: "I can't allow that since the world is full of AIDS."

Simon: "So what is wrong with AIDS?"

Lailo: (laughing): "AIDS kills."

Simon: Of course, I really know that, I hope and believe that y wife can't get AIDS through sexual intercourse for I trust her as she trusts me."

Lailo: "You really trust a woman?"

Simon: "Yes, I really, for we do have, sometimes, ample time talking about AIDS. And we have a radio which we hear more ways of preventing AIDS."

Lailo: "You know what, my friend? My first wife, the one I divorced, when we were living in Lilongwe, the wife cheated me, saying she wanted to visit her relative, her cousin at Namanja (near Ntaja) and I learned that she had her old boyfriend there. And when I said I should escort her, I saw her reluctance, I knew in my mind there was something, she had a boyfriend indeed. So with AIDS I did not allow her to go alone instead we went together. AIDS is so dangerous and there is no need to mess around trying to prove AIDS. Friend! I went to Malosa Hospital, I saw so many women and men, their necks go long and shoulders go high." (We laughed) "They look so dull, an unpleasant look. You can't imagine that they were [ever] looking nice."

Simon: "I had visited Machinga Hospital. But I saw mainly girls who are mainly affected or became infected to [on] the female ward."

Lailo: "No, even boys are dying, for it is also heard that if no exercises are done; that's why I like playing football, in case I have the positive, it should take a long time to start showing signs." (Laughing).

Simon: "Friend, you mean you don't know whether you are positive or not?"

Lailo: "No, I did not go for a blood test for indeed I can't."

Simon: "Why? I am planning to."

Lailo: "You can, I can't for I become afraid, if I am caught to be positive I know I can die fast."

Simon: "O.k., you mean why dying fast?"

Lailo: "You know what, if once you're told that you're positive, you live in a stress mind, when you fall ill, malaria for instance, you think it's the end of your life. And you turn thin, hence AIDS signs will come faster than expected."

Simon: "But it's good to know, for you receive good advice from experienced doctors for you to live long, for example you're told to do exercise regularly, no smoking, etc."

Lailo: "That I know quite well, but according to my suggestions it's better to live confidently, trust your wife, avoid sharing a razor blade, knife, and of course don't fall in love with prostitutes, and for example town girls for they look beautiful and many young men go after them, then it's risky and easy to get AIDS from them."

(We departed—my friend was called by another friend who stands at the mill, Mr. Mpoya's mill. Then I was going home late afternoon.)

9/11/99

Situation: I was moving along the road footing from Ulongwe Trading to Mwima. Before reaching my destination and Mwima I saw women at Ulongwe Catholic Mission Hospital gathered somewhere just near the road. I caught one of the nurses saying: "How many of you, you have taken a method of family planning perhaps a method of injection or pills but yet you found that you were pregnant? Rise up your hand."

(I saw almost 15 women rised their hands, for I was moving and if I could stop listening to these issues most definitely they could sense easily and suspect me of something for it was not a conveniency. I proceeded).

Situation: I sat at the velandar [verandah] of Mr. James' grocery reading a newspaper with my friends, friends like Alick, Tumo and William. Someone, a girl not older than 20 passed by. She was thin indeed.

Alick: "Look at that girl, friends, I saw her long time living at Makaeta in Blantyre, but now she is looking like that?"

Tumo: "What else, she is suffering from AIDS!"

Simon: "Friend, you're lying, what do you now that she is suffering from AIDS, are you a doctor?"

Tumo: "No, but even if you can ask anyone about the disease that particular girl is suffering from, you will hear nothing apart from AIDS. Look! She is falling down (lying). (We laughed). Look at her thin legs! Look at her pale face and hairs! AIDS, friend, is not a good disease. I can't have sex even if she falls down naked and assumons [summons?] me to sleep with her." (We laughed a lot).

William: "But there are some people although seeing all those AIDS signs but they do go after her." (We laughed).

Tumo: "That's killing oneself, unless he uses a Chishango (condom)."

William: "But remember not all men use Chishango for they claim that to experience real sweetness, they say they can't eat a sweet while it is still in its coat (plastic coat) and one can't enjoy the game."

Alick: "But I always use it no matter how bad." [not legible]

Tumo: "To be frank, I use sometimes, not to those who look nice and healthy."

William: "The same with me."

07/10/99

Situation: I sat with Mr. Batson Maliro at his house. He is an unmarried man about 45 years of age. He is indeed my vicinity [neighbor?]. He married and separated. Someone was passing by the road, she dressed nicely.

Batson: "Look at that young girl." (I sensed his mocking from his hoarse words. I turned to look at her).

Simon: "But she is so beautiful!"

Batson: "Indeed, but she has HIV positive."

Simon: "O.k., you mean that, how do you know that she is HIV positive?"

B: "She is in love with Mr. Kenneth, the shopkeeper at Mwima Trading Centre, the one who is just getting thinner and thinner..."

Simon: O.k.!

B: "Yes, one day I saw them both around 5 o'clock evening there (pointing somewhere a bit far from where we sat) at Mikesha's tree, a lady still possessing her notebooks in her hands. I was with Vito, even if you ask him. (She was coming from school).

Simon: O.k.!

B: "Yes, she is looking nice like that because she's positive You know what? There are some ladies, or girls who become very admirable when they have HIV positive. Some, in the early stages of positive, become plump and fat enough, like this one for a bit 2 years [ago]". (Paused and started rolling his tobacco, ready to smoke.)

Simon: "But who is this one anyway?"

B: "You don't know this one?"

Simon: "I think I have forgotten her!" (I was sure)

F: "She is Patuma, the daughter of late Mr. Michael Usi."

Simon: Ok, I know late Mr. Michael Usi and not this one [the daughter], and where do you think she is going?

B: "I can't know, probably still at their usual place at Mikesha's tree. I don't think she is going to continue with her education, she is too fast with men. She is to die fast for it was heard that Mr. Donald had his first wife but [she] had died with AIDs. And worse still he continues sleeping with more women as well."

Simon: "Do you mean this girl doesn't know of this late wife? The one you are talking about?"

B: "I don't know, but I hope perhaps [illegible] but because of the reason that nowadays girls, mainly school girls like this one, love money and to a man like this one who can even give them a lot of money and has a shop (grocery) it's so easy for him to catch more ladies as much as they [he] can."

Simon: "O.k.!"

B: "Yes, for nowadays it's not real love women show but they are after money, so with an epidemic AIDS won't stop existing and be careful! It is mainly to these young girls aged between 12-20 mainly. They look very attractive and if we are not careful we are to die. Many of us (he laughs) for they go against their beauty!"

Simon: "But Mr. Donald has another wife perhaps?"

B: "yes, sons and daughters as well, he had married at Chitaba village. But he doesn't bother whether married, what they are after, to these merchants (rich people) is enjoyment, ladies, money that's all (smiling)."

Simon: "And I hope with these enjoyments then AIDS will persist for long, not so?"

B: "Yes indeed, for it is spread at a faster rate nowadays since adultery is at maximum rate. Fancy I was told by Vito (friend as well) that she is also in love with Kambeni Pensulo—the one schooling at Balaka Secondary school, and if that one has another girlfriend then the transfer of positive germ will be faster at random on and on."

Simon: "So, is it easy to refrain from HIV?"

B: "No chance since it's circulating fast and even marriage nowadays becomes a dangerous step to undergo for you can marry someone already having HIV positive, hence a married life won't help, whatsoever."

Simon: "OK"

B: "Yes, but the only way I see is just to be faithful to your partner alone in case you are married (he referred to me now) indeed and trust her totally, girls are the same and to the married people like us then they shall be a need for endurance and perseverance. And of course I heard on the radio that the couples' planning to marry each other for a better family, nowadays they should at first go to the hospital, to have, both of them, a blood test. This is a good idea, for it is painful to die with AIDS from someone else who had been moving around with other men enjoying in the world, while you (men) have been trying to protect yourself for a long time, and then eventually die with AIDS just for the sake of marrying anyhow. And worse enough to this disease is that it doesn't look for the age, any age can be attacked and move over to these young girls, mainly school girls...(we laughed), yes, for they boast to one another in terms of cosmetics and dressing, so for the daughters from poor families like I am (he said 'as I am' regarding himself) their parents can't afford everything to them so you find young girls going for *zioya makanda* (sugar dee's)" (I know this term as someone doing immoral with a girl younger than him. The respondent said the word capitalized in vernacular. He was interesting to me for he could speak with gestures using hands). "And because they cling, their hearts dedicated to money, you find they forget everything, even the

consequences as well. The Sugar Dees are more in number having HIV positive [Sugar Daddies who have AIDS have increased] because of money, and now instead of going to older women they divert to young girls hence dangerous and that's why I had separated with that wife, I don't think I will marry anyhow, I will select."

Simon: "Do you mean you don't have a partner?"

B: "That! I can't live without doing [sex], I had one, the only one, she lives in Milamla village. The wife Motchi (nickname, his real name I am not really familiar with I just know the man as Motchi), the wife Motchi divorced, she brews *kachaso* (alcohol). She is indeed self-independent. She is fat enough that even Motchi has begun to accuse himself that he had done wrong to divorce her."

Simon: "Where did you meet with this one?"

B: "We know each other even from the beginning, we had schooled together in [the] 1960s. And I went there one day, I was with my friend Mr. Gowa and we went for alcohol there and its when she began complaining about Motchi. She attracted me" (Note: contradiction—first he said there's no need to take part with girls and not thinking about them ever since separated with his first wife and now he is talking about [being] attracted). "And because of how I knew her even from the beginning about her behavior, even when at school or the time she was with Motchi, she is indeed a good wife to be. She has good manners. And even other people recommend her. Mr. Gowa recommended right there when we were painting. And before I went into her [visited her] I first of all stayed for almost 3 months trying to find more about her. And I was really satisfied, and now my friend, even her parents, know, she is saying I have to marry her but I have not decided yet."

Simon: "When will you decide?"

B: "Perhaps after harvesting (meaning if possible the year millenium 2000) I will do. She respects me, for even I just go there and she doesn't hesitate giving me free food plus paint (alcohol) showing self dedication."

Simon: (laughing lightly) "Do you think she doesn't have AIDS just because she is perhaps fat?"

F: "No! (Smiling) *Koma Zina Zimaziwika* (meaning "other things can be noticed")

Simon: Mmm

F: "I know she didn't go for more boys, Motchi was her first husband in life. I believe she doesn't have HIV positive, for I can remember one day she rebuffed a certain guy who proposed her when I was there. (Indeed we had chatted for a long time and in the end I was summoned by my young brother Austin to take lunch home).

25/12/99

Situation: It is a day, Christians, we Christians believe the day Christ Jesus was born. Beginning on 24th every year we go to the church evening praising and exorting hard till morning. In the morning it's now different people, a Christian or non christian come to the temple (church) to hear God's words. I went to Mwima CCAP church where I belong.

Priest stood and preached: "We have to thank God for all his love and mercy he is giving us everyday. He was with us all evening and till this morning! Thank you Lord!" And he began: "It is a pleasure that our Lord Jesus was born today. We have to be happy with his birth. Some people misinterpret his birth ceremony as a ceremony of doing their usual iniquities, like beer drinking, vandalism and adultery. We need to celebrate as God wants us to. For if we read the Bible we hear Lord saying 'Praise not other Gods apart from me, for I, your Lord am the Lord of Jealousy. So if we are to combine this celebration since God himself is speaking all these words. He will leave us alone in the celebration even as we go outside the temple and Satan the master of beer drinkers, vandalness and those practicing adultery, will take their challenge, hence trouble waits. You can be knocked down by the car (road accidents), caught and be put into life imprisonment, and those doing adultery will perhaps catch the dangerous disease which has come nowadays, AIDS, which has no medicine at all. As we are entering, soon, a millenium, let's enter with a new life, a life of Loving Lord, a healthy life of having no AIDS. Be spiritually and physically healthy in Jesus. He was born today to eradicate our notorious disease AIDS which taking multitudes and multitudes of our fellow Christians." (He preached a bit more but this is what I can remember).

13/02/2000

Situation: There I am, Usufu, Alick, William. We were all chatting at this our usual Trading Centre known as Mwima. We assembled at Zilimbile Min Shop. We were talking of various talks. Some of them were [that] we young men should try to take Agricultural Activities to at least try to earn a living, Usufu's exploration in South Africa as one having a passport and used that but deported and all the experience, and much about the goodness of living in South Africa and his move encouragements that some where AIDS topics risen.

14/2/00

Usufu said that he has no doubts he has HIV/AIDS. He said himself that after coming from Johannesburg he had a TV and after selling [it] he had almost 17 thousand and girls were after him, the beautiful ones (am not sure whether he went for a blood test). Usufu revealed all this after we had seen two girls, Jill and Erica, both from same family, Jill being old and Erica younger. We saw them boarding a truck heading to Mangochi District. And it's when Usufu started narrating about the girls [being] professionals [prostitutes]. He started by saying:

Usufu: These bar girls! Look where they are going? Yesterday they were heading for Blantyre, both of them, a younger and the older (we started laughing). That one, Jill, is very beautiful, remember she married Sir Andson (a school teacher in Njaja) and she was caught doing sex with a certain school teacher at the same school and divorced (he began laughing himself).

William: "you're saying and yet you're laughing yourself?" (A smile)

Alick: "Indeed he had started well!"

Usufu responded by saying that he had once went into all these girls (the younger and the older one), (meaning having sex with them)

Simon: "And, I mean how did you do that?"

Usufu responded by saying that first he had fallen in love with Jill [when she was] still married with Andson, when Andson was teaching at Nkhonde f.p school before being transferred to where he is teaching now. He added that "I could even launch their bedroom whenever Sir (her husband) has gone for seminars and I had stopped her because I realized that she was not after my real love but after what I had, she loves money." And "then again I proposed the younger and she accepted."

(Note: Jill is approximately 30 years with three children and Erica about 19 years, but Erica is so plump and fat, attractive and has no child).

Usufu: "And I dropped her down to [let her] continue with other men she is after nowadays" (I sensed his slight anger). But I was helping her (meaning the younger one) when I happened to have almost everything, money, soap, the big bars of scented soap I bought from South Africa (Johannesburg) (boasted Usufu), but still having other partners as well. This is also what Masile was doing (Alick and I know the name Masile, but William not). I dropped her. I caught the mischief of her boyfriend's snapshot, a crippled man walking with one stick (he frankly exaggerated, we both laughed). I was looking for money in her skirt pockets to buy a cigarette, money (coin) slipped down to the small wardrobe and went for a search and it's when I saw a small envelope having this snap written at the back 'for my beloved'. (*kuchokera kwa okonedwa waneta*)

Simon: Where was it actually?

Usufu: "This happened at her mother's house, at her bedroom when her mother went away, for she stays with her mother and two young brothers, her father died. She was outside. I brought the snap before her and departed without saying anything till now."

Simon: "You have indeed enjoyed in the world?"

Usufu: "Really, and not even here in Malawi alone, but also in South Africa, you can even ask my young brother Moffet when he comes back (Moffet lives in Johannesburg). There are more beautiful girls in South Africa than here in Malawi known as Asutu [S.African girls?]. And girls here, whenever they see me perhaps falling in love with them they feel they are important and pretend to be boastful. (He said more and more unnecessary words, we were laughing). And now I don't believe that whenever my young brother calls me again to Johannesburg and come alive with money, I will continue with this life.

William: "Why not, Usufu?"

Usufu said that because he is now noticing other people who are showing some signs of AIDS as they

walk around unhealthy, he as an energetic man needs to walk healthy “that’s why you find me, headd (boastfully), “eating all groups of food in my diet”.

William: “Really? (He was not sure). You must be cheating.” (We both laugh)

Usufu: “Yes, you can pay a visit at my table during lunch, you will notice (he said boastfully still). Sarah knows (Sarah is the name of his real wife, now with two children) (we laughed). “yes, because I heard on the radio that those who want to live strong still should be eating a well-balanced diet.”

Simon: Do you want to live long?

Usufu: “Yes, if I have HIV it should take time to appear.”

William: “No time to live with AIDS, there are cheap condoms, cost MK3.00.”

Usufu: I can’t use a condom with a girl, for I pay money to her.” (We laughed greatly), he added “Better leave her if you feel she has AIDS” (*ngati wamuphenda ndikymukaikira kulibwino osagona naye* (Chichewa). “And don’t be cheated, condoms and more of them get burst and you can’t even know from your own experience hence microscoped” [it has to be studied with a microscope] (we sat mute awhile looking at each other proving/[evaluating] in minds whether true or false).

Alick: “That’s totally impossible, that can’t happen. It was tested before by the educated people.”

Usufu: “you don’t know anything, you can’t know anything in a typical village like this one. Sometimes you guys, you should be having temporary moves and see what’s happening in the world” (he mocked tentatively [lightly?]).

(We laughed greatly, I and William and Usufu as well) (he regarded us as village people)

Alick: “You are the one who doesn’t know anything (Alick becomes against now). What you really know is about girls, young man (we were laughing continuously). I went to school, I know Phyzo (physical science). It is believed that the condom is nonporous for it was once pumped (inflated) and weighed and hung in the laboratory for a year and the biologist came again and weighed the inflated condom and found that the weight was still the same as the previous year.”

William: (he never went to school) *Azungu santukhale opusa*,)meaning ‘white men won’t be foolish to publicize and advocate the use of the condom countrywide with a negative response behind.) I believe with you, Alick, it is indeed nonporous (*yosaborka*) (*ndipo singabokie kapena ringambika*). And it’s a stupid idea nowadays with AIDS around to be going plain (without using a condom), that’s risking our life and we won’t live long.”

Interruption: Two young women serving as waiters in the restaurant were battling in the midst of Mwima market, we all rushed to see the battle, by the time we arrived they had stopped fighting but one of the woman’s dress was torn apart from top to bottom. The reporters say they were fighting for love of a certain man, the owner of Zangaphee Corner Shop. We laughed with others and separated.

Date Forgotten

Situation: Soon after supper, around something past 7 p.m., there I am, Mak and wife Dorothy. [these people must have left before the conversation below started] My wife started!

Wife: “What have you heard today?” I responded “nothing” and she began narrating what she heard. Your friend Mr. Sadiki, his second wife, who dwells at Chitalo village...

(Simon: Mmm),

Wife: “... she has borne her 6th son. And it was heard that she was crying, she started soon after it was born, after she learned that the baby was a son.” (She has all sons without a daughter.)

Simon: Mmm

Wife: “She goes ever year at least without failing having a son. She couldn’t cry if the baby was a daughter.”

Simon: “Why did she cry?”

Wife: “She cried after she saw that she had born a baby son. She wanted a daughter baby.”

Simon: “How did you know?”

Wife: “From Mother” (Now here meaning my real mother, for we stay at my home village). “Mother went to see the baby (customary) and she even said that when the baby was taking the exercise of giving birth Mr. Sadiki her husband was assumed [assigned] to watch the scene.”

Simon: (laughing) (Traditionally, according to the Yao custom it is not accepted for a man to watch his wife giving birth right away home in normal or unnormal circumstances. It’s unheard of.)

Wife: "You're laughing!! The husband was asked by his wife politely to start a method of family planning at the nearest clinic but the husband refused to let his wife go. And with regular laboring of a wife, Mother said, she has lost a lot of blood."

Simon: "You mean the wife was still watching all these?"

Wife: "Yes, and the wife ordered no one to enter the house apart from only her and her husband. She was serious. She said she wanted her husband to really see and understand the paining sensation and the amount of blood women lose during giving birth, perhaps he will change his obstinance/his stubbornness."

Simon: "So do you think a man can change because of these?" (Laughing)

Wife: "You think it wasn't serious! It was serious! Think, a wife challenging [daring] to direct herself to take all the exercise [birth] alone without the aid of the doctors and moreover still at home and not at a clinic. We women encounter great difficulties during this phenomenon! Had it been the pregnancies sometimes be exchanged or been handed over, you men, you could have at least sometimes understand women's petition."

Simon: "You're referring to me now?" (Laughing)

Wife: "No! But you understand (laughing)! The husband changed his mind after seeing the wife's trouble."

Simon: "After seeing the sensation?" (Laughing great now).

Wife: "But don't tell anybody about this issue, it's confidential, even Mother said I shouldn't tell anybody. Very few people know about this."

Simon: "No, I won't tell anybody. What for?"

Wife: "Yes, but it was heard that the husband confessed amidst the Congregation after birth some day, the parents of a [the] wife and parents of husband and said he is now giving her a right to go to any clinic to start taking any method of family planning."

Simon: "Really?"

Wife: "Really." And other conversation, now we prayed and slept.

Date forgotten

Situation: I was at Mr. James' shop in the morning chatting with the owner of this grocery, then someone came, a young girl of about 13 if not 14 years of age. I knew her very much, being the daughter of Mr. Frank, the owner of the certain shop as well. He said she wanted to buy Vim (a chemical for washing utensils).

Simon: "Why does she want to buy here, why not at her father's grocery?"

Mr. James: "You don't know, that one can't be in a position to have everything, she can fall short of a certain thing."

Simon: "Yes, you are saying the truth."

Mr. J: "Do you really know what had happened to her these last days which have just elapsed?"

Simon: "No".

Mr. J: "Her father had burnt all of her clothes just because she was sleeping with the old man, Mr. Uladi" (the young brother of Mr. Kumda).

Simon: "O.k.!"

Mr. J: "Yes, and definitely I don't doubt she has HIV, she is not looking well, look at her body healthwise, it's not as before, sores like that on a toad." (I laughed)

Simon: "Yes, you are saying the truth." (I knew her even from beginning having a good body health, then I really saw the change in her) (I admitted).

Mr. J: "Yes, it was heard of that Mr. Uladi, because of his [car??] does sleep with young girls not of his age, by cheating that he is going to marry them or giving them a lot of money."

Simon: "Mr. Uladi's not married?"

Mr. J: "He is married but he is not respecting himself, he took this young girl to Balaka and there booked a rest house with this one for two weeks. He relatives searched for the daughter and she wasn't found, she came later after two weeks and her father was very furious so he beat her up and went to shout for the man. And when her father came home he ordered her to collect all her clothes together and sprayed paraffin over the clothes and ordered her to light her own clothes and she did that."

Simon: "O.k., and now what is she doing?"

Mr.J: “She’s just staying and she even dropped school and even if she can continue with Education she won’t ever finish for she will die fast of HIV, for it was heard...”([he said ‘I am only telling you and it’s so confidential’])

Simon: “O.k., yes, I won’t tell anybody.”

Mr. J: It is heard that Mr. Uladi has HIV positive, he was caught at the hospital before his late wife died. And because he is rich then he is living even now because he takes drugs which prevent the multiplication of HIV virus.”

Simon: “Where did he get those drugs?”

Mr. J: “I don’t know where he takes them, but I hope he goes to buy somewhere else, but there so expensive indeed.”

Simon: “Of course, peasants like us can’t afford.”

Mr. J: “Yes, so it’s my warning to you young men that please try to be self control, otherwise you may found in troubles of getting AIDS, fancy the way that young girl is looking, and to the one who doesn’t know the story about Mr. Uladi and this girl, can’t they fall in love with this one accidentally?”

Simon: “Oh yes, they can!”

Mr. J: “Then self-control, or else use condoms always. We sell them here (now referring to his grocery selling condoms, really I saw them). At the price of K3, and it’s better to lose K3 than lose life.”

Simon: “Indeed you are saying the truth Mr. James”

Mr. J: “Yes, first is yourself” (*fum bi nduwe muyni* (chichewa: one is responsible for his/her own)

Simon: Of course, yes, then I departed to buy relish then departed for home.