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Money for them to share them to their poorest Christians. Now Mr. Sitolo is a very difficult man, he was in the same congregation since the long time ago but he was not staying well with his fellow Christians.

He was always showing like he is the church elder of that congregation. He was mostly quarrelling with his fellow Christians.

When he saw that people were hating him because of his behaviour he decided to change the religion so that he went to the Zambezi congregation at Vingula. But still he was not behaving well there, he was doing the same as he was doing at the Evangelical church so that people told him that he can stop that congregation and join other religions.

Then he was stranded. He decided to go back to his congregation back again but he only changed the prayer house. He was going to Mulenga Evangelical Baptist prayer house where he prayed for almost three years but still he was mostly quarrelling with people there.

They then started to hate him because of his behaviour. He then left that prayer house and joined the satanic religion. He was telling the satanic religion and he was told that he should build the satanic church at Vingula.

The owners of that church will be helping him very much so that he should become rich with no doubt. He came home to my father Mr. Blantire to tell him to join that religion for him to become rich but he did not join him because my mother refused. Mrs. Daud said.

My mother told him that if he would like to become rich and to join that satanic religion, he can do that but he must leave her marriage first. She told him that I am not rich and I hope that I shall die poor.

I cannot accept you joining that religion yet I am your wife. What you should know is that I cannot join you in that congregation it is better for me to go back to my religion as a Muslim that to follow you at the satanic religion if you would like to become rich, you can go there and do what they will tell you to do but you must be staying at your home.

My father refused he told him that he cannot join that church though he is poor. If he needs to continue with that religion, he is free to be doing that. When he saw that he is trying his best looking for the people to join him but all the people here are refusing, he decided to stop that religion then he went back to his religion which he was in the past.

Even when the people saw him going to that church, they knew that something will happen one day because he always need to talk or do like he is the church elder of that congregation.

Many people get bored [angry] with his behaviour. You shall find that many people have left that congregation because of him. Are you saying the truth? I asked, I know that Mr. Sitolo is a quiet man than his wife. I never saw him talking bad words to other people or even quarrelling with other people. I just know that his wife is not a good woman. She likes gossiping, quarrelling with her friends and even talking the bad words to other people but not her husband.

Is it true that he was quarrelling with Mr. Phesele yes but I know that Mr. Phesele is a quite old man Mr. Sitolo is a very young man to him. Mr. Phesele cannot fight with Mr. Sitolo because Mr. Phesele is an old man.

Talina answered, that is what I am telling you because I saw them with my own naked eyes. But Vingula Anglican Church is very far from here at our home. Mr. Phesele was able to be going to the church every week because the church was not far from them.

But today, can he manage to be going to Vingula to the church every week as he was doing here? I asked. That will not be possible, Mrs. Daud answered, they will be going there maybe twice a month or once per month but they cannot manage to for there every week as what they were doing before.

The mission told them to share the clothes and money to the poor Christians and orphans but Mr. Sitolo refused. He said that all the Christians should receive those money and clothes because they are all Christians that was why other people were saying that he is lacking love.

Though they are all members of that church but there are other people who are lacking many things in their life than others. There are orphans who are failing even to go to school because they have no clothes to be putting on when going to school.

They also don't have enough food to eat at their homes. They don't have any type of business because they don't have capital. Those people are supposed to be helped and not like him who has many businesses which he is doing. He is also stronger than other people who are in the same congregation.

As of now, Mr. Sitolo as well has left going to the church for the service. He is just staying at his home. He did not join any other church but he just left going there. Maybe he is getting shy [ashamed].

03-08-07

There is a certain young woman who before she got initiated was called Patuma. When she became initiated, she was called Alice and now she has a child called Tsala. Since she has that child, she is refusing to be called Miss Daniel as her father's name or even calling her Alice.

She always tell people that she is no longer called Alice or Miss Daniel but she must be called Vailet's mother.

Now I went to the well to washed my clothes and I was with Talina and Mrs. Daud, while we were there, we saw her coming to draw some water, after some minutes came Mrs. Willson and Mrs. Ganisani. They all came to draw some water at the well and they found me washing my clothes.

I just heard Mrs. Willson calling Vailet's mother. Can you draw your water please Miss Daniel? Ee please don't do that again I left that name the time when I gave birth to Vailet. I am now Vailet's mother and not Miss Daniel.

I answered no mum, that name is for your father. People respect your father by calling that name on you. But the name that you should stop that people should stop calling is Alice because that is your childish name but it is your real name as well which you will be using to other places like at the hospital, to the village headman's book and when receiving the vouchers for buying fertilizer or receiving something from the government that name will be working there.

Mrs. Daud answered what she is doing is nothing. She is like that always, do you remember, what you were doing before you gave birth to a child in your life?

You were a very quiet woman and you were refusing men to marry you. Many people had been coming to your house to propose you for the marriage but you were telling them that you cannot get married to an Ngoni person because he is not initiated.

We should say that he is not circumcised therefore you cannot get married to that man. But what did you do, people were just looking at you God is a great man, he was not sending the circumcised men to propose you for the marriage but he was just sending the men who are not initiated to propose you for the marriage.

You were still refusing but you yourself got tired. You now wanted a man to be with you. Jack came to propose you to be his boy friend yet Jack had already two wives and he was not initiated.

He became your sexual partner and you did not take a long time. He gave you a pregnant but he did not marry you and he failed even to help his child until now.

Before you followed in love with Jack came Ngome an initiated boy. He told you that you should wait for him for a short time. He will marry you but he would like to go to Blantyre first to do a small business preparing for your marriage.

You just accepted but when he went to Blantyre, you began to follow in love with Jack. Ngome came here with some clothes for you but he found that you were already impregnated by someone Ngome got worried.

Patuma, what have you done my wife? Failing to wait for me only these few months? I told you that I shall come here anytime to take you for the marriage. Did you think I was lying? He came with four zitenje clothes for you but he left them to his mother.

He said that he cannot marry you though the one who has given you that pregnant has refused to marry you. He is young I am young I never got married in my life therefore I cannot get married to a woman who has a child already.

Look now, who has married you? Is your husband an initiated man? Is Not a circumcised man? Is he a Muslim as you are and I should say as you were. Haven't you left your religion and joined him to his religion and Zione which is at Mulenga? Is a Zione Church a good religion for a normal person to join a real Muslim as you were, is it true for you to leave your religion and follow a man to Zion Church?

Now you are doing the same thing here, refusing to be known by your father's name but your child's name, is that true who gave birth to you? Had it been that you were not born by him, how would you have given birth to your child?

Please respect your father because he is the one who gave birth to you. What religion have you joined since you left Islam I asked I just know that I have joined the Christian at Mulenga but I don't know the type of religion which I joined.

We are staying in this country but it is not true that we can be doing exactly what we need. We can need something while God gives us something opposite to what we have. Whatever God wants us to be doing is okay. We just accept everything we all began laughing in the well and nobody added anything from that.

END

05-08-07

I went to the well with Talina as soon as we reached at the well, Mrs. Phesele's grand daughter came to draw water for brick layering. She began to complain that she is tired with drawing some water. She said that I am always using the tablets after I finish drawing water. This is my 16th journey coming here to the well.

It is really showing that I am going to come here up to 20 times but I am very tired. This is the second time this year to lay some bricks at home which I would like to sell because we cannot manage to pick them up to here.

Our path is very small and it has a lot of rocks therefore you cannot take them even by bicycle. That is why we have decided to lay other new bricks and build our house here.

Why were you laying other bricks at your home yet you knew that you shall build your house here and not at your home? I did not know that my grand mother will reach the point of chasing me away that I should not build my house there.

I knew that my grandmother hates me the most, she always talk bad words to me, she don't want me to chat with anybody else. Once she sees me chatting with other people somewhere, she comes there and tells me to go back home then when we reach home, she began to talk bad words to me.

She always say that I am a witch because I don't want to chat with my relatives only but I go to other village to look for the medicine to bewitch my relatives.

Any compound where I can go to chat, is bad to her. She says that those are witches. Now if you are going there it means that they are teaching you to become a witch.

They are giving you some medicine for you to bewitch your relatives here. What you want is that if people are dying here, you would like to be telling people that I am the one killing them since I am your grand parent yet you are the one bewitching people here. I don't want to see you going elsewhere to chat with people; you should be staying here always at your house.

Sometimes she was walking up early in the morning and begin talking bad words to me. When she finishes talking, she was going to her house to sleep but when she wakes up in the morning she was also greeting us isn't she mad? I asked no she is not mad she does everything very well at its time but what I see is that she is a witch. She comes to bewitch me at my house but she fails.

She also hates my biological mother saying that she is a witch if my child is ill while she is away I am not allowed to go to the hospital or to the herbourist in her absence especially to the herbourist she mostly say that I was going to the herbourist alone in order to be told by the herbourist that she is the one bewitching my children to die yet she is not. There is my aunt there who her daughter she is married to a certain man who has a taxi bicycle (bicycle hire).

He always come back from his business with cooking oil for K10, onions K5, tomatoes K5, and relish K30 that is everyday. My grandmother is saying that I am bewitching her daughter since she got married to the man who she is with now, she is not feeling well.

But people had been telling her that the man has a problem. Any woman that he marries, she just die. He has a disease called lakango. Many women have died because of him but he is still alive because of medicine. He used the herbs for him not to die but all his wives are dying including children. Now when he came to marry my aunt, she just stayed with good life for few months.

But when she got a pregnant of that man she began not to feel well since that time. In the first days, they were thinking that she was not feeling well because of the pregnant that she has but though they were thinking like that, she already heard from other he has but my grand mother was refusing. She was saying that people would like to end her daughter's marriage she was single then she was at a big problem.

Nobody was helping her, she was carrying some firewood going to sell them at Vingula. But now since she got married, she never took some firewood going to

Vingula to sell them. But people are not happy with that. They would like to end her marriage so that she should be doing the same thing as before.

But since that time, she is not feeling well, she is just becoming thin, and found ill often so that her hair is now shrinking. She is looking like she used the poison chemical to dye her hair. But she has not used any type of chemical in her hair.

She has a child but since that child was born, she is not feeling well and her child as well is not feeling well. They are both ill often but my grand mother is saying that I am the one bewitching her.

Now since I am the one bewitching people there, I asked my mother to tell me where to go because if I continue to stay with them there, everyone who can die there, they will be saying that I am the one killing them.

I have my fired bricks which are there but she asked my husband before we fired them. Is this your home? Have you seen anyone here have the fired bricks. Who told you to fire those bricks here? Do you have a place here where you can build your house?

Think twice but if you think that this is your home, you can do what you want. We don't have the Chawa (yao) people here. I am not a chawa by tribe. But my brother came and said that I have come to burn this woven of bricks for my sister.

If you are a witch, come and kill me and you should also come and bewitch these bricks for them to break down. He came and told me to start drawing water to use there when covering the woven. My grand mother began to cry that Not is rude to her. He has challenged her to do whatever she wants to him.

I know that Not as well is not a good person. He has something that is why he is challenging me, we finished that job very well but nobody at our home helped me apart from my mother only.

She is the one who always helps me when doing any type of job. My brother Not came to look for this place and bought, then he came to tell me that I should come and settle here. That is why we have come to lay other bricks for us to build our house.

We shall just sell the fired bricks because it is very far from here and there is no good road where we can use a bicycle to carry the bricks. Since we cannot manage to take all those bricks from there coming with them here, we have just decided to come and lay other bricks here but we shall not fire them.

It is now too late and we are tired. We shall just build our house with unfired bricks. I was lucky to have the fired bricks so that I would have got a good house built with the fired bricks. But I am not worried. She will need me next time.

She is hating my mother yet she is her first born child. She is also hating me yet I am her first born grand daughter. I am the one to take her name when she will die. I am

supposed to be named after her but I cannot allow that because I know that I will be not feeling well because of that name.

People will choose the right person who can replace her because I know that if I accept to be named after her I will be in trouble. Her spirit will fight me and even kill me because I am her enemy.

I know that she is my grand mother but I don't want to be named after her. If she has chased me away today while she is alive, what about when she will die? She loves my young sister most.

That one cannot leave that place, my grand mother gives her relish everyday to cook and she helps her looking after her children. But the problem is that my sister's children is that her also oftenly found ill.

Even herself, she also oftenly found ill. Sometime we went to the herbourist and he told us that my sister's house is a ground for the witches. She just built a house and left it like that she did not tell the herbourist to come and clean the house with herbs so that witches should be failing to come and dance for them or to bewitch them.

Since they just built the house, the witches come tonight to chat in that house with them. That is why her children are found ill. My grandmother is failing to come to my house to chat with her friends or to bewitch me because my house is well protected.

Now since she is failing to do what she needs, that is why she is hating me very bad. Bu I am not worried, I will leave her and stay alone here all the children who are there are for her. She left her home in Thyolo district running away from her relatives. I think that she was chased away because of her behaviour. There is no any of her relatives there who we can call the extended family.

All of them are for her, she has eight children and all of them are bearing their own children and the grand children are also bearing their own children. Now she is saying that we are many. We are lacking lands to be making our maize gardens and now we shall be working at her private area.

Each one of us has a small portion to work as her maize garden. That small portion is my grand mother's private area. She has forgotten that she is the one who gave birth to those children and she knew that though she is bearing like that, she has no land for them to stay.

She is crying today with her own children. I have left them to be working in my garden but I will remove my house nobody should stay there. We laughed then left the story.

THE END

08-08-07

I was at my house at around 12:00 noon but I was just coming back from the well to draw some water. I saw a certain old woman who I can think that she is maybe 65 year old or over. She is called Miss Piyo and she is the village headman Ntaja's sister but she is married. She was coming back from Vingula where she went to purchase some tobacco leaves for selling.

She took that to back [carried it on her back] in a plastic bag which we call a Jumbo at our home in Malawi.

Miss Piyo is our village Headman Msambuka's sister and she is married to a man called Mr. Joseph from Ntamba. I greeted her when she came to my house. How are you? I am fine and you? I am fine.

Then she continued I have come to tell you that I told you that we shall pound the Sadaka maize on Monday and now I have come to tell you that we shall cook Thobwa [locally brewed alcohol] on Wednesday this coming week and we shall eat Sadaka on the following day.

I am telling you that though you did not come to pound that maize yet I told you. Forgive me my grand parent I answered. I know that you came to tell me about that issue but I did not come to help you because I was busy.

My brother came from Blantyre the very same day that you came to tell me about pounding he came with illness he was suffering from headache therefore I was looking after him I couldn't have done otherwise since I had a patient at my home. Forgive me but since my brother have already gone back to Blantyre now, I shall try to come and help you working on that Wednesday.

May be I will fail to come on Thursday because I am busy drawing water for the bricks. We have not yet finished to build the fence here because there is a shortage of the bricks now we are adding other bricks maybe we can finish the fence.

Is your son Piyo still here at your home? I asked. No. He already went back to South Africa. But he is the one who was looking after his young brother who died when he was ill in Mangochi.

When Piyo was coming from South Africa, he found that his brother Desiyo was ill in Mangochi. He did not stay here when he heard about the illness of his brother.

Though he is a lame person, he tried his best to follow his brother in Mangochi where he was staying with his wife. He was there doing his business of a taxi. People were hiring him to pick them by his bicycle going wherever they need to go.

He began ill there so that the message came to me calling me to go to see him. Then I went there to look after him where I stayed for two months then he was looking better. As soon as I came back here, I saw Piyo coming back from South Africa. I told him about his brother's illness then he followed him in Mangochi where he also found that his sister was still ill.

He did not come back, he was there for a month until his brother died. I saw a car coming to my house around 6:30pm which I thought that it was just passing by. Then I heard his wife crying in the car then at the same time I saw Piyo coming out from the car then I knew that something has happened.

As soon as we buried the funeral, we just stayed for a week then he said that I have nothing here. If I keep on staying here waiting for Sadaka it means that I will not go back to South Africa again because I will have no money to use for the transport. You shall do the Sadaka in my absence but what I should do is to carry this sister in-law and escort her to her home to leave her.

Why escorting her back to her home before you cook the Sadaka? I asked. She was very ill though she was coming to the funeral. These people were both in their house. I don't think that she is alive until now. That one should be that she died sometime back. What was she suffering from?

I don't know the name of that disease her child was ill as well, he was coughing and suffering from headache. He was sometimes having diarrhoea suffering from malaria so that his body was not looking nice. while the daughter in-law had some sores on her whole body.

She was always scratching her body and sores were looking black therefore her whole body was very black she was not feeling well so that she was failing to do any type of job. She became very ill like she was suffering from Aids.

Those people were all ill in their house like something happened to them like stealing. Now the owners have bewitched them. The first person to die was their child there at her home in Mangochi. After that the man died then I think the woman died as well.

Did you receive the message that your daughter in-law has died? I asked. No, I don't think they can call us to go there because we went to leave her back there while she was ill. Since she went there nobody followed to see her. Now I don't think that we can know that she is well or she has died.

Nobody can come to tell us! Didn't you go to tell her about the sadaka? No, nobody went there because of lacking the transport money. We shall do it on our own here and if she shall need to cook there, she will do it on her own there.

But I don't think that she is alive. She was very ill by that time. My son sold his bicycles in order to have the transport money when going to South Africa where he lives.

I have also come to tell you what my husband is doing at home. I was refusing to get married to him but people forced me to allow him being my husband. We have stayed together for many years. But in the first days, he was looking like a man.

He was working here to the field but he never bought any clothes for me and he never built anything for me. My son built a house for me when that house fallen down, he built another house where I am staying until now.

I have also the bathroom and toilet built by my son and not him yet he is living at the same place. I have no kitchen until now but he doesn't want to build it for me. In these days, he is now beyond he is just staying at home at the same place since morning up to evening.

You cannot see him moving, you can even ask him, why are you not moving from this place going elsewhere? He can tell you that I will move sometime. But there are two things which I am hating him, the first thing is that he does not do any type of job at my home. I am the one doing everything for him and if my children have bought a clothes for me, he comes and steal that clothes going to give it to his other extra marital partner.

He is failing to buy some clothes for me but stealing my clothes and give them to his other sexual partners. He don't even help me buying relish, salt or even soap at home. I am the one doing everything.

I left my maize in the garden in March this year going to look after my son who has died very soon. I stayed there for two months then I came back but I found that he harvested my maize and sell them. When I asked him why he did that he said I don't know did you tell me that I will be your watchman to your maize garden?

I am crying until now that my son had died and I have lost my maize at the same time.

The other thing is that I am thinking that he is a witch. What he is doing and what he is talking is showing that he is a witch. Some months ago, he told me that he would like to go to his home at Ntamba. He said I would like to go back to my home at Ntamba.

I will be staying there because I am not eating a big fish here. You are not buying a big fish (Chambo) for me therefore it is better for me to go back to my home.

I asked him, who will be buying big fish for you yet you are not giving me some money for buying that fish where do you think I can get money for buying a big fish for you?

Then I bought Kambuzi for him (small fishes) I cooked those relish then I cooked nsima for him but he refused. He took those relish and threw them away. He said, I told you that I would like to eat a big fish is that a big fish? Have I told you that I would like to eat that fish which you have cooked? I will go home to eat a big fish.

He stayed only for two days then a message came from his home at Ntamba telling him that there is a funeral at his home. His sister's grand child has died he answered okay I am going there I cannot fail to attend that funeral. It is better for me to go and attend that funeral at home, you are better off than me because you don't die here at your home. I have died at my home therefore I am going.

I answered him, what do you mean? How many people have died here since you came to marry me and how many people have died at your home since you came

here to marry me? Don't you want to see anybody at this home? He answered me nothing. During that time this my son who has soon died was still ill at Mangochi and his wife as well was ill.

He went to his home where he stayed for two weeks then I saw him coming back. I did not follow him to the funeral because he told me that he was going to the funeral and at the same time he would like to eat a big fish there at his home.

I left him to go home to eat that big fish very well. Had I escorted him there, he would have failed to eat a big fish. If he has failed to buy that big fish here where he is staying and where his wife who can cook that fish is can it be good for me to follow him at his home?

It would have shown that I wanted that big fish to eat as well therefore I left him to go there alone so that he can eat his big fish very well.

What type of that big fish did he mean? I asked. I think that he wanted a person, he wanted someone to die at my home for him to eat. Now since nobody was dying at my home, he was furious.

He was complaining why I was not giving him a person to eat. After some days, I saw him coming back from his home then I asked. Why have you come back here? You went to your home where you were eating big fish.

Now you have come here yet you know that I don't buy a big fish for you. What will you be eating here? Have you come with your big fish so that you shall be eating here?

I will only be cooking nsima and giving you without relish. You shall be taking your big fish which you have taken from your home to be eating with the nsima which I will be giving you.

I shall never give you any type of relish which I will have here because I don't manage to buy a big fish yet you need to eat a big fish. He answered nothing he was staying and he was eating any type of relish that I can cook but he was showing that he was not happy with the relish.

He was staying but one day he waked up at night and told me to wake up as well. He told me to light a lamp then he said don't sleep sit down and be waiting on what I would like to be doing.

I asked him what do you want to be doing this time tonight yet people are sleeping? Don't ask me that question. I have told you that you should just be looking at what I will be doing.

I waked up and sat down but I saw him doing nothing. He just sat down but he was doing nothing I sat there for a long time then I got tired I slept then he asked, are you sleeping? Have you already forgotten that I am doing something don't lit [turn] off the lamp I am using it.

I slept but I was looking at him on what he was doing but I saw nothing he sat down for a long time then he slept. I did not ask him anything until the morning. When the sun risen I waked up then I asked him what were you doing that night since I saw you doing nothing?

He shouted at me, why asking me that questions? I know that you don't die here at your home. But myself I am the one who dies at home. You did not escort me to the funeral at my home and you did not follow me there, you just sat down here.

You were doing that because you don't die at your home. I wanted to pack up my clothes and be going back to my home but I have left it deliberately I would like to see if you really don't die here at your home.

I asked him, what do you mean? Is there anyone here who you are expecting to die? How many people have died here since you came to marry me and how many people have died at your home since you married me?

If we can compare who has lost many people between you are tired with this marriage, just go home and sit down or go elsewhere and get married there maybe you can find a woman who have many people to be killing for you because I don't have.

We just stayed for three days then I saw a car coming to my house in the evening. I thought that my son who stay in South Africa was coming to see me for few days since he was now talking of going back to South Africa.

I saw a car coming direct to my house then stopped. After a minute I saw my daughter in-law coming out but she was crying and my son who goes to South Africa was crying as well.

I then knew that my young son has died. I talked nothing but I knew that my husband is the one who has killed my son since he wanted a big fish and he also told me that I don't die at my home.

We stayed until we buried the funeral. Since that time, he is now happy then he was in the past days. Now I am tired with his behaviour. I would like to chess him back to his home. I am just waiting for the Sadaka to be cooked at my house then I will chess him away. I will chess him away he is a witch.

THE END