
Filename: **Bato_030923**
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Received on:
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Date: 030923

23/09/03

KOMA ANTHY ENA NDI ABWINO MITIMA NDITHY, ENA SANGA PANGE ZIMENE! (Chichewa)

These words were said by my friend as well as my neighbor also when we were together heading to the Market. Friend Lusi (by the name) was with me for he came home and agreed with me if I had chance and time to go to the trading to chat. It was around past 2 p.m. and then I accepted to go to the trading and my wife this time was chatting with the wife of my friend Lusi. Then I went together with Lusi to his house to say farewell to her that I was going to the trading center. I was now with friend Lusi and we were heading to the trading center. When we within our village we saw a certain woman, extremely thin sat on the palm leave mat and she had a young baby on her hands and when we saw her, friend was the one who started speaking after we had passed by her. Friend said, *KOMA ANTHY ENA NDI ABWINO MITIMA NDITHU ENA SANGAPANGE ZIMENE!* (These words were said in Chichewa as I wrote) meaning, **SOME PEOPLE ARE GOOD INDEED AND HAVE GOOD HEARTS WHILE OTHERS CANNOT DO THAT.** Then I asked him what he meant when saying such words he said that he meant the woman who sat at the veranda on the palm leave Mat chatting with a young baby who is suffering. I answered him that I normally see her whenever I am passing by this road/way and always found her asleep and said to him that for many times I had had been passing by this is my second time to see her sat down but always found her asleep. Rather lying down. Friend said that indeed the woman is _____ and he added saying that he is not hoping [hopeful] as to whether she will reach next year 2004. I said to him by God's grace she can reach even up to 2004. Friend said that she can't and said her husband had died, he went to South Africa to seek for employment and before he got the job he begun suffering until he died there and due to financial problems his parents though the phone they received from other Malawians, whom he was staying with while looking for the job, parents said to them (his friends in South Africa) that the dead body should be buried there and here they just cook *SADAKA* (*SADAKA*- Is the Yao type of system whereby they claim to say they remember someone who had died in the family and asking to God that if the member had some sins and problems God should forgive him/her and they prepare free food and give to people gathered while the Muslims praying hard and naming the name of the deceased person so that God will forgive him/her). I agreed that I had remembered the incident of what happened to the womans' husband who died in South Africa and people said that he had died of AIDS and he went there while sick and he just wanted to die away from his country (Malawi).

Then friend Lusi said that certainly the man (the deceased man died in South Africa) had given the woman AIDS and he added saying that he had his sexual partner at Nyongani who had also died recently after learning that her sexual partner had died in South Africa. Friend went on saying that indeed if we are not to be careful rather be having our eyes on the head and [we] forget about this disease AIDS certainly we are all to die and said that for example at Mphula trading centre a lot of people has this *CHIROMBO* (Chichewa), meaning H.I.V. virus. And I agreed with him. Then he went on saying that the point where AIDS has reached nowadays is that it is not going to spare anyone. I agreed with him and he went on saying that when someone has healed [?] that point as to how the woman is suffering it means she has slept with many or several partners and given each other the disease AIDS and still they are still transferring it rather spreading to each other. Then he said that nowadays to those people who are married and fond of having several other sexual partners say two to four partners and those partners slept with will also be sleeping with others and hence the disease get on spreading and spreading.

I agreed with him and he said that he meant that, when asked, that he meant (The Chichewa words he said I wrote in capital letter) he meant that there are some people who even cannot dare rather want their children

to be touched and whenever their children comes towards her/him (an AIDS patient) and be thinking that the patient will transfer the disease to the children as she has done _____ at the veranda. I was just listening. He said that he observed this behavior of segregating the AIDS patient when he went to the T/A Leyaga in Zomba to see his relatives belonging to his late father. I said I know the area at T/A Leyaga. He said that he was staying near an AIDS patient and she was the [a] woman as well and whose husband had died also. He said that the woman was completely neglected and segregated because very, very few people were coming to chat with her only few of her relatives were caring her and even their children were told not to come close her avoid contaminating the disease AIDS she was suffering. He said that when one indeed is suffering from AIDS as the woman we saw people starts running away from her and never chat with her again because she is suffering and not healthy as before. He said but to the woman we saw suffering and the way we had seen the baby in her hands and the way the woman's healthy status is it really symbolizes that her parents rather relatives really cares for her and considers her that indeed she is a human being despite that she has the disease and the goodness being that she didn't contract it through being movious but from marriage. He said that to the parents rather relatives who segregate an AIDS patient who was movious and catches it,) it is another different issue and even parents [are] not going to see that person it doesn't matter and is not of sin towards God rather because it is what he/she wanted, deserved rather. He said even him he cannot go for example having a sister and be advising her that being movious is very dangerous and destroying ones life because there is AIDS as he usually says to them and whenever they happen to be movious and not wanting to get married or marry and catches AIDS he will not be the one responsible of being troubled caring [for] that particular person because he has been advising them but [they were] neglecting his advices. He said that nowadays of AIDS the very richest and wealthy of [ways of] avoiding contracting this disease is by being prone to advice, one should greatly understand what someone is advising because words are more worthy than real medicine and moreover AIDS has no medicine and the only medicine that one can get cured of is through understanding and take into consideration whatever someone is advising concerning AIDS. Then I asked him love [?] what? He said that like what he normally says to his relatives advising them that they should wait until the time for them to marry/get married comes [rather] than being movious and they show not for example his sisters and nephews that when proposed with men at the road for instance and before appearing to her parents as him and be sleeping with them the end result is catching AIDS or given pregnant and be troubled of caring the pregnant as well as the disease she had contracted. I agreed with him that it's really painful.

He said that for example him at his family he is the only one responsible of looking after the whole family and anything good or bad is presented to him to solve the matters. He said that if anyone happens to suffer the disease he [Lusi] will not be punishing himself, for example by visiting various traditional healers getting medicine there (traditional) and be walking up and down everyday and dropping all my undertakings (job) which earns me money to feed my family and be busy with unnecessary things. I was just listening and this time we were about to reach the trading centre. And then I asked him that will he indeed be refusing to go to the traditional healers for instance to be taking medicine for any relative who might happen to suffer this disease AIDS? Since everyone can suffer it even him.

He answered saying that indeed he can suffer the disease but not contracting it through extra-marital partner perhaps through other means unknowingly like perhaps eating together with an AIDS patient or having the blood contract with the person whose blood (*KACHILOMBO* = the virus meaning H.I.V.) and he said especially during fighting each other say when he is furious because someone does a wrong thing to him and be fighting and each one of them be oozing blood out and then at battle there is no choice as to where you can choose to fight then blood may come to contact hence contracting AIDS. I agreed with him and he added saying that he is the man and subjected to move rather migrating to find/seek the job away and he may meet with difficult people on his way along and for example at night or he is running a business he has failed to find the job for him and during the course of walking up and down like that he may meet with robbers who might stab him with a knife which had already used to stab/knife another one who had *KACHILOMBO* (Chichewa= H.I.V.) and he said eventually he can contract it as well and concluded saying and not by contracting it through extra-marital affair.

Then I reminded him as to whether he will be able to go for the traditional healer to take/seek traditional medicine to be given to any relative who might happen to suffer the disease as we saw the woman at the veranda? Friend said that he will be going only to those whom he might know that they were not movious

but married or get marry and their spouses were the ones who had brought the disease into their families and he will be eager to ever [help?] most of the times, dropping his jobs and be rushing up and down seeking for medicine in traditional doctors just to please parents that indeed he loves them and the patient because he will be working[?] _____ in vain since AIDS has no medicine and only be waiting for the time for him/her to die because there's no cure in AIDS situation.

We were still walking towards the market. Then he went on saying with a light laugh: "But since *CHIBALE NDI FUPA SICHIWOLA*" then he perhaps be going to look at them, just to see and greet them (Any person who might happen to suffer the disease in talk here <AIDS>)."I said that is good, he/she will be his real relative and no need to reject him/her because she/he had contracted AIDS. He answered saying that of course yes but not going often especially to those who were advised and seemed not to understand because to him it want [won't?] be a sin towards God. I was just listening. He said [it] is the same as someone telling someone say a friend for example, telling him that, you should not go there, there are lions, don't go there for there are lions and saying to him that road had been closed long time ago because people had been scar__[?]" rather been killed by angry lions and the friend insists on wanting to go and when you let him go and he finds the problem there for example be killed by the lions than that problem will be of his own and not concerning anyone and you the one who were advising him, you will have no sin at all and he said that it's the same to this AIDS disease a lot of people are trying to advise and in churches and mosques the pastors and the Sheikhs are spending much time advising people its congregations that there is a disease which is AIDS and it is only comes to a person who doesn't love God and who does the worldly things like going for extra marital partners yet he is a married person thus showing the unfaithfulness of the person.

I agreed with him and then I asked him whether he can remind [me] of what he had been advising him/her about the problem he/she might face regarding to AIDS when one of his family members had started suffering from AIDS? Friend said that he will absolutely be saying that telling them altogether and say look! I have been saying about this, that you have to get married or marry than being movious, the world is not favoring people who are movious of nothing special to do in this world and the end result is this catching the disease! I asked him really? He answered yes really. Then I asked him: "Friend will you be able to mention that the person is suffering from AIDS?" He answered saying to them it will be like mentioning it because he said he will be saying that when one is advised and not understand the end result contracting the disease and be troubling people and Chichewa believed (_____ he said *NDI KUMAVUTITSA ANTHU NDI ANA OTSALA MBUYO*). Then I said to him that that is more or less pinpointing rather mentioning the real disease (AIDS). He laughed and he said that that is because he had been telling them but because of their/his/her misunderstandings. I agreed.

Then we chatted and chatted and then I asked him if he believes that by eating with a person suffering from AIDS can one contract AIDS? Friend answered saying that he heard so from other people and added saying that he heard that even drinking together water with a person suffering from AIDS one can also catch AIDS. I asked: "Really? When did you hear this?" he answered saying that he heard this a long time ago and probably five years ago and he also said that but the government is not wanting to let people know about this afraid that there will be total discrimination among those suffering from AIDS and the healthy one, those who are not suffering from it. He reminded me as well to what I had already heard concerning the mosquitoes bites and the drinking of water. He said that the government doesn't want to tell people the truth about the mosquitoes bite, they (government) knows that mosquitoes bite can transmit AIDS since when it sucks the blood of the person having *KACHILOMBO UA EDZI* and when it goes to bite someone say a healthy person or not a healthy person not having AIDS viruses and certainly that person