

Gande Mbatsav vo – Radio Benue – Nigeria

Translation from Tiv into English

EPISODE SIX - SCENE ONE

Narrator: (On Mic) I told you that something strange was looming over Amire and has entered Abuku's hose. We have been there and have seen two of his children sick- while his wives accuse each other of witchcraft. This strange sickness has entered in most homes in Amire clan. This strange sickness must probably have been sent by the gods or, how do you explain; everyone attacked has the symptoms. I am sure the gods of the land angry with the people of Amire, and want to wreck vengeance on the land. Could it be the work of evil or could it be that someone has carried out an abomination? The chief is not even spared; he is also attacked by this sickness. That is why I suspect the gods. I can see everyone in Amire heading towards the chief's palace, let us follow them and see what happens next.

Fade out

FADE IN: THE CHIEF'S PALACE

FX: VOICES OFF MIX

1st Voice: We insist, we must see the Chief Massanja.

Massanja: I said the chief is not well and needs to rest.

2nd Voice: Massanja, you better go and tell him to come and see us.

3rd Voice: How can the Chief rest where there is trouble in the land?

2nd Voice: That is true Amaikyoho, look Massanja if you don't tell him to come out, I will break into his inner chamber and see him.

Massanja: Abuku, you will do no such thing.

Chief Ikyume: What is happening outside?

Massanja: Zaki, the entire clan is outside.

Chief Ikyume: What! What has happened?

Massanja: I don't know Zaki, but they say it's you they want to see.

FX: FOOTSTEPS GOING OFF MIC

Chief Ikyume: (On Mic) my people, what is the matter?

Voices: Zaaki, we....

Amaikyoho: Zaki, it seems the gods want to destroy us.

Chia: Amaikyoho don't blame the gods. Zaki Chief Ikyume, this sickness has attacked every house.

Chief Ikyume: Chia, my people, I am not spared I am also ill, my fourth wife who is pregnant, is also ill.

Chief Ikyume: Anzenke Tsula, how can I live long with so many problems on my hands?

Diviner: It shall be well Zaki. The gods of our ancestors will protect you. What is the matter, the whole of Amire clan seem to converge here.

Chief Ikyume: Anzenke Tsula, the eyes and Ears and mouth piece of our ancestors, there is trouble in the land. And that is why I sent for you to tell us what is happening in the land.

FX: SOUND OF RUMMAGING, DIVINATION CHANTS AND INCANTATIONS ARE HEAD

Diviner: (Clears his throat) Zaki, it is said that, the toad does not run in the day time for nothing, something must be pursuing it.

Chief Ikyume: That is true.

Diviner: Zaki, an abomination has been committed. The land has been desecrated and unless appropriate sacrifices are made, the situation will aggravate.

Abuku: Wise one, tell us the sacrifice. Anything, we will do it.

Chief Ikyume: Abuki is right Anzenke, just name the sacrifice and it will be carried out.

Diviner: (Pause) The gods demand that every household must bring a spotless white cock, a heard of tobacco, a measure of corn, white thread, alligator pepper and three balls of kola nuts.

Chief Ikyume: (Calls) Massanja, hurry, go round and tell every household not represented here, what the diviner has said, and also tell them to bring the items immediately to my palace for the sacrifice and cleansing to commence immediately.

FX: SHOUTS OFF MIC, DRAWING CLOSER

Chief Ikyume: I wonder what that noise could be all about.

Massanja: Zaki, it is Ortwer your son. He is back form the big school for his holiday.

Doctor: (on mic) Good afternoon everyone, Good afternoon Father.

Chief Ikyume: My son, you are welcome. How is the doctor's school?

Doctor: (Laughs) the medical school you mean. It is fine in fact by next year, I will graduate as a full fledged medical doctor. By the way why are so many people gathered here?

Diviner: There is trouble in the land my son. People are just falling sick like chicken. I have consulted the oracle, and have been told that an abomination has been committed in the land, and the gods are angry with the people. And are wrecking vengeance, except something is done to appease them fast, there is more danger.

Chief Ikyume: My son, what Anzenke has said is true. In fact I was just sending Massanja to go around and collect the items for the sacrifice, when you came in.

Doctor: Father, what is the nature of this sickness?

Chief Ikyume: My son, the sickness is strange if takes people by surprise. In fact it has not spared me, the whole Ikyume, and my fourth wife who is pregnant is also down with the sickness.

Diviner: And that is a bad sign Zaki, the gods are truly furious. We must act fast.
Doctor: Father, what symptoms do the victims complain of?
Chief Ikyume: I have heard them complain of severe headache, stomachache, dizziness and loss of appetite at least I experience these ones.
Doctor: Do they also complain of General body weakness.
Chorus: Yes.
Doctor: And have high temperature and cold.
Chorus: Yes.
Doctor: What about some vomiting.
Chorus: Yes.
Abuku: In fact my son Gbev has been vomiting since morning.
Doctor: Well from what you have told me, the sickness is not caused by the gods or evil at all, it is man made.

FX: REACTIONS, EXCLAMATIONS FOR AND AGAINST DOCTOR'S REACTION

Doctor: The sickness that has attacked you is called malaria fever, and is carried by mosquito bites.
Chief Ikyume: You mean it is common mosquitoes that have caused this great calamity.
Doctor: Yes father.
Diviner: Zaki, I think we should stop wasting our time and see to the sacrifice to appease the gods.

FX: SHOUTS, RUSHING FOOTSTEPS, MIXED VOICES

Chief Ikyume: What is the matter Mama Erdo?
Mama Erdo: Zaki, you must help me, my daughter is dying.
Doctor: Let me examine her. What is wrong with her?
Mama Erdo: She complains of headache, stomachache, cold, you can see how she is shivering. She cannot walk, and cannot eat; in fact she started vomiting before I rushed her here.
Doctor: Mama Erdo, your daughter is suffering from malaria fever. I will give her first aid treatment then you take her to the clinic.

FX: SOUND OF BAG BEING OPENED AND CLOSED.

Doctor: Get some water and give her these tablets. The rest of you follow me, I will take you round the community to show you that this sickness is man made.

FX: SHOUTS, HURRIED FOOTSTEPS OFF MIC.

Chief Ikyume: Massanja, what noise is that

FX: SOUND OF PANTING.

Massanja: Zaki, Zaki, your wife has fainted.
Chief Ikyume: Which one of them?
Massanja: The fourth one who is pregnant.

FX: HURRIED FOOTSTEPS GO OFF MIC

Fade out

EPISODE SEVEN - SCENE ONE

FADE IN: NARRATOR, SINGING.

Ishuwa: My story is becoming even more interesting than I thought. Who says the baby monkey cannot out smart its mother. Everyone thought the gods were responsible for the calamity in the land, but the people Chief's son thought the people were responsible. To prove this point, he administered some drugs on Zaki's pregnant wife who had fainted and she recovered. The young doctor did not stop here; he took the people round the community showing them the places where mosquitoes breed, stagnant waters, refuse dumps, bushy surroundings. The Doctor said that it is as a result of these dirty areas that mosquitoes have breeding places, and so they bite the people causing them to suffer from malaria fever. He therefore advised them to go to the village clinic for treatment. Let us see whether the people took the advice. I will take you to Abuku's House.

Fade out

FADE IN: ABUKU'S HOUSE

Abuku: Erdoo, Erdoo, Mama Erdoo.
Mama Erdoo: (Answers off mic) Yes, I am coming.

FX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING. STOP

Mama Erdoo: Here I am, Orya.

Abuku: Why is there no water in this house?

Mama Erdoo: I don't know.

Abuku: What do you mean (Mimics her) "I don't know". Now listen Mama Erdoo, I have always told you, I will still tell you again. It is your duty to train up your daughters. Do you understand?

Mama Erdoo: Orya, I am not yet ready to quarrel this morning. Besides, today is Sunday. I am getting late for church, I must leave.

Abuku: Woman, you better behave yourself or I stop you from attending that your church or better still, I send you back to your mother to learn good manners.

Mama Erdoo: Everyday you send me packing I wonder when you will actually pack me out...

Abuku: (cuts in) Shut up! I say shut up or I shut you up for life! A man cannot have water to wash or drink in his house?

Mama Erdoo: There is no water because my daughters and are I tired of fetching water.

Abuku: That is unheard of fetching water is the duty of girls, you cannot break the tradition. No, not in my house.

Mama Erdoo: I am not breaking the tradition. But your favorite wife and her sons must fetch water too. After all, Chia's son fetches water in their house.

Abuku: You dare not compare me and Chia, is that clear, if you admire him more, go and marry him.

Mama Erdoo: We are talking about water.

Abuku: (interrupts)... On Chia?

Mama Erdoo: No, Orya my daughters travel three miles everyday to fetch water for the house. You must share the duties.

Abuku: Yes I understand. Gbev and his brothers clear bushes around the house to keep snake and mosquitoes from biting us, and also help me on the farm.

Mama Erdoo: But that is not enough. My daughters are developing a hunch back for carrying water everyday.

Abuku: No, Mama Erdoo, that cannot be, Erdoo your daughter is a lazy girl and no man will marry a lazy wife. (Calls) Erdoo, Erdoo. Send her immediately to fetch water for me.

Mama Erdoo: You know Erdoo has been sick for sometimes now, and has been vomiting too. She refuses to eat. Her body is hot.

Abuku: But I asked you to take her to the herbalist.

Mama Erdoo: But it is not a traditional sickness.

Abuku: How do you know?

Mama Erdoo: Besides the chief's son, the doctor advised us to go to the health center, but I have no money.

Abuku: I have no money too. Why don't you collect the money from the doctor since he prefers the clinic to the herbalist?

Mama Erdoo: I know that my God will not fail me (Begins to sing) Jesus never fails Jesus never fails, the man of the world may let you down but Jesus never fails. (Calls out) Erdoo get up and wash your face let go to the patent medicine dealer. God will provide the money.

FX: APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS GOING OFF MIC

Abuku: (soliloquizes) What kind of a world is this. You marry wives, it is a problem, you don't marry, and they say you are not responsible.

FX: LOUD WAILING. OFF MIC

Mama Gbev: Abuku, come and see what is happening to Gbev. His eyes are wide open and he is not blinking. My enemies have got me at last. I know it is mama Erdoo...

FX: HURRIED FOOTSTEPS GOING OFF MIC STOP.

Abuku: His body is very hot. Remove his shirt and bring some water to pour on him. Take him to the clinic immediately.

FX: CONFUSED FOOTSTEPS GOING BACK AND FRONT.

Mama Gbev: I don't have any money.

Abuku: Here, take one hundred naira, if you need more send to me.

FX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING OFF MIC

Fade out

EPISODE SEVEN - SCENE TWO

FADE IN: PATENT MEDICINE STORE. JOBICO SELLING. PEOPLE COMES, BUY AND GO. ENTER MAMA ERDOO

FX: APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS ON MIC

Jobico: En he, Madam, what did you say is wrong with your daughter?

FX: ERDOO GROANING

Mama Erdo: She has headache, vomiting and general body pain.

Jobico: Bring her here.

FX: FOOTSTEPS ON MIC

Jobico: (Feels her forehead) Yes, its true her body is very hot. But there is not problem if I treat her just once, she will be okay.

Mama Erdo: Thank you.

FX: SOUND OF DRUGS BEING POURED. CLANGING OF CONTAINERS

Mama Erdo: How much is the treatment?

Jobico: Just wait, let me calculate it.
Two tablets of paracetamol – N5.00
4 tablets of Chloroquine – N10.00
2 tablets of analgin – N5.00
(Pause) Does she have cough?

Mama Erdo: Yes, she coughed two times today, and she is not eating.

Jobico: Alright, cough mixture is N30.00 and vitamin C N10.00 okay, did you say she is not eating well she will need multivitamin tabs N10.00. So your total bill is seventy Naira. But you can pay sixty five naira only as a customer.

Mama Erdoo: I only have twenty five Naira here.

Jobico: No madam. I have stopped giving credit it is affecting my business.

Mama Erdoo: I have a chicken at home. Can I give you for the treatment? Please help me. Erdoo must not die. Let my enemies be put to shame. Let those who have male children not laugh at me.

Jobico: Okay Madam. I will not take your chicken just give me the twenty five naira. I will give you half of the medicine now, when you have money, I will give you the balance.

FX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING ON MIC. ENTER CHIEF'S SON

Mama Erdoo: Welcome, our prince, doctor what brings you here?

Doctor: I should ask you why you are here. I have come to buy drugs for my father's pregnant wife. She has malaria fever.

Mama Erdoo: Ohoo

Doctor: You know, pregnant women should prevent mosquito bites as much as possible as they are vulnerable to malaria attack.

Mama Erdoo: I brought Erdoo for treatment here. These are the drugs Jobico gave us.

FX: SOUNDS OF DRUGS DROPPED ON A HAND SURFACE

Doctor: Is this all? Jobica what are you treating Erdoo for?

Jobico: Malaria fever.

Doctor: (exclaims) But this under dosage.

Jobico: (Defensively) She only has twenty five naira now.

Doctor: That is not an excuse; you must always administer the correct and complete dose of chloroquine for the fever to go completely.

Jobico: Doctor I know but...

Doctor: You know but what, so what is the correct dose.

Jobico: It is 4 start and 2 – 2. You think I don't know. You doctor self.

Doctor: Here, (Hands him balance of money for Erdoo's treatment) is forty naira, give them the complete drugs, the girl is very ill. And for your information, the correct dose for malaria treatment with chloroquine tablets is 4 start, 2 after 6 hours and 2 – 2 on subsequent days. Do you hear?

Jobico: Sorry doctor! I now know.

Doctor: Madam takes Erdoo to the clinic if the condition does not improve after this treatment.

Mama Erdoo: Thank you doctor.

FX: FOOTSTEPS GOING OFF MIC

Fade out

EPISODE EIGHT - SCENE ONE

FADE IN: NARRATOR SITS ON A FARM. HE SINGS AS USUAL.

Ishuwa: Thank God for giving Amire village a medical student doctor, who is the chief's son. His words have been truly those of a wise man. However while some take his advice, other are set in their old ways. Come with me to the village clinic.

FX: FOOTSTEPS GOING OFF MIC.

Fade out

FADE IN: VILLAGE CLINIC. THE NURSE IS ASLEEP. ENTER GBEV'S MOTHER IN A RUSH.

FX: SOUND OF SNORING COMING ON MIC. FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING ON MIC. STOP.

Mama Gbev: Sit here Gbev. You are so heavy. I have backache from carrying you.

FX: SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS GOING OFF MIC. DOOR IS BEING OPENED. SOUND OF VOMITING IS HEARD ON MIC

Mama Gbev: Gbev, are you alright?

FX: SOUND OF VOMITING

Nurse: (Awakened reacts sharply) Who is that, what do you want?

Mama Gbev: Sorry nurse. My son is sick; he has not eaten for three days.

FX: SOUND OF VOMITING

Nurse: (Disgusted) let him go and vomit outside.

Mama Gbev: Haba Nurse! I carried him to this place. He cannot walk by himself.

Nurse: So why did you wake me up? I did not sleep well last night; there were too many mosquitoes in my room.

Mama Gbev: Please nurse, give Gbev an injection.

Nurse: Madam, you are not to tell me what to do. Why didn't you bring him yesterday? Today is Sunday.

Mama Gbev: I know, but please help. (Gbev's condition dramatically changes, he slumps on the chair seemingly stops breathing, mother burst out wailing).

FX: SOUND OF FRENZIED MOVEMENT ADMIST WAILING FROM MAMA GBEV

Mama Gbev: God help me o, Gbev, Gbev, please answer me, and nurse come oh. My enemies will not succeed, God o, nurse where you are. He is dying...

FX: SOUND OF RUNNING, DESPERATELY, INCOHERENT SPEECHES.

Mama Gbev: Nurse, bring water, give him an injection, take off his clothes pour water on him-oh-God.

Nurse: Let me send for the chief's son, who is a doctor.

FX: SOUND OF CALLING

Nurse: Kaase, Kaase.

Kaase: (off mic) Yes nurse, I am coming.

FX: HURRIED FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING OFF MIC.

Kaase: Nurse I have come

Nurse: (Hurriedly) Take your motor bike, run to the chief's house and tell his son, the doctor, there is an emergency, run.

Kaase: But there is no petrol in the machine.

Nurse: Okay, here's N10.00 (ten naira) take a bike to the chief's house, the doctor will bring you back on his bike.

Kaase: Have you forgotten nurse, that doctor's bike was stolen last week, when he joined the cue for fuel and left the fuel station.

Nurse: Okay I remember, so what do we do now?

FX: GROANING FROM THE BACKGROUND

Mama Gbev: Here is fifty naira to bring the doctor.

Nurse: Okay, Kaase, take a bike to the doctor's house use the balance for you and the doctor to come back.

FX: SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS GOING OFF MIC. SOUND OF BIKE KICKING IFF.

Nurse: Madam, how old is your son?

Mama Gbev: Gbev is just eleven years old.

Nurse: Sorry doctor, I know that you are on holidays, but we had an emergency here that's why I sent for you this is a community service please help.

Doctor: That is okay. We are on duty all the time. So what is the case?

Nurse: I have queried malaria, acute attack.

Doctor: So what did you prescribe?

Nurse: Chloroquine tablets, 4 – 2-2, paracetamol and...

Doctor: (Cuts in) No nurse, that was the old formula. The new one is four tablets for a start, two tablets after six hours and then two the next day and

another two the third day. This is acceptable dose to ensure adequate and complete treatment of malaria. So give her two more tablets.

FX: SOUND OF OPENING A CONTAINER

Nurse: You can have it.

Mama Gbev: Thank you nurse, how much is our bill nurse?

Nurse: We borrowed fifty naira from you. Your bill is thirty naira we will refund you twenty naira.

Doctor: Madam, bring your son back after one week for another check up.

Mama Gbev: Thank you very much doctor. Nurse, don't worry about the change. You can keep the twenty naira. I thank god that my son Gbev will live.

Fade out

EPISODE NINE - SCENE ONE

FADE IN: ISHUWA'S THEME MUSIC OR SONG

FX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING. STOP.

Ishuwa: You have accused me of so many things. Some of you say I am everywhere, other say I talk too much. But put yourself in my position, what else can you do? Being custodian of the people's culture, though in my own case, free of charge is no easy a job. Here I go again, Tra, tra, tra, like a tap. I only meant to remind us of our story. Heeh! Wait a minute, first thing first. The chief's son, the student doctor, became a hero, real hero. If not for injunction, had no serving worker accepts chieftaincy title, he would have been recommended for one, at least I would have mobilized worthy people to nominate him. The chief's son, doctor, told people what to do, then do it and the sickness ran away like a small boy who is afraid of the rain.

FX: COUGHS

Ishuwa: Don't quote me wrongly, let me finish before you say Ishuwa told you. Ishuwa never lies (Pause) the trouble was far from over. The sicknesses, headache, vomiting, weakness of the body returned. The people marched through the village singing war songs as if they were in Liberia, cutting down children and women particularly.

FX: SOUNDS OF PEOPLE WAILING

Ishuwa: You hear that, that is another one gone, six foot down. Son another follows, what a plague. What a calamity. The chief's son has lost face. Oyinbo medicine has lost face. Doctor tried to explain that malaria could re-occur, but no one listens, at least majority doesn't.

They say the ancestors are annoyed. In fact the chief, he great chief too is shaking and roaring like the thunder itself. I cannot describe the scene. I better take you to the chief's palace.

FADE IN: KING'S PALACE

FX: SOUND OF SOLEFUL FLUTE, SUBDUED GROANING.

Chief Ikyume: The cricket that laughs too much will always have its teeth burnt. The young cat buries its defecations because it does not want its mother to know that it defecates nearby, it believes the mother cat defecates far away from home. Our gods are angry, yes they are crying foul (pause). And what do I do, I, chief Ikyume son of the lion, the earthquake who speaks and the entire village quivers; sits down and does nothing? I know, the enemies are at it gain and this time, they will be shamed, and only then will my dead father smile in his grave. The enemies have even blinded my son's eyes. My own son, produced from my own blood, being misled. His medical background is impeccable. He has saved many lives otherwise, pronounced dead, but now that he is called to save his own people, he has failed woefully. It is the enemy and I must find out, and when I do, there will be no hiding place for all of them (Pause) Am I no longer the lion of the jungle who roars and everything trembles.

FX: CHIEF IKYUME SINGS

Chief Ikyume: Doctor, doctor.

Doctor: Father, here I am.

Chief Ikyume: Eee son, you ee know why I have called you.

Doctor: No father.

FX: WAILING OFF MIC

Chief Ikyume: That is why I am calling you. I have lost my prestige before the people. My people are dying every minute.

FX: THE SOUND OF WAILING IS HEARD LOUDLY

Chief Ikyume: Hear them crying, calling out for help, did you hear that, me chief Ikyume, the Earthquake, and I am helpless. (Pause) I have a son who is a doctor, but alas, he is helpless.

Doctor: The ailment can be explained father, the problem can...

Chief Ikyume: Enough of that. I can no longer rely on you while my subjects are dying. I must get to the root of this.

Doctor: But father...

Chief Ikyume: I am just informing you. In fact I have sent for the town crier to...

FX: SOUND OF THE CLAP OF THE HAND TO SIMULATE KNOCKING TO GAIN ENTRANCE INTO THE CHIEF'S PRESENCE.

Town Crier: Kpam, Kpam, here. Your royal highness, you call your loyal messengers and he is all ears.

Doctor: But this is totally...

Chief Ikyume: Will you shut up?

My crier, summon a meeting of the entire community. Everybody must be there, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, old, and young. Summon everybody to the village square and tell the diviner to be there with all this instruments. Rain has come and men must get their cutlasses sharpened.

Doctor: But father...

Chief Ikyume: This is no longer a case for you son. This is beyond you. The enemies have taken one step too far. They must not...

FX: SOUND OF GONG

Town Crier: The king says everybody in Amire must come to his palace immediately he says everybody. If you hear don't hesitate come immediately.

FX: FOOTSTEPS OF PEOPLE MOVING HURRIEDLY TO THE CHIEF'S PALACE. BIRDS ARE HEARD CHIRPING AND THERE IS MUFFLED SOUND OF FAR AWAY VOICES. GENERAL EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS AS PEOPLE ARRIVES AT THE PALACE.

Town Crier: (Praising the chief) His royal highness, the one that shakes his head and trees break; the one who belches and thunder reigns havoc on his enemies; the one whose watchful eyes surveys his subjects like the threatening hawks surveys hapless chickens. The one who...

Chief Ikyume: Enough of that, enough of that. The crowd gathers and rain falls where rain makers are potent. Say what you must say my crier.

Town Crier: His royal highness, the one...

Amaikyoho: (Cutting in)... urinates and rain falls on his citizens in dry season, the one who...

FX: SCUFFLE ENSURES. THERE IS SHOUTS FOR AMAIKYOHO TO KEEP QUIET. SOME ATTEMPT TO PULL HIM DOWN.

Town Crier: (Subdued) your royal highness the entire community is here.

Chief Ikyume: The lion roars and its ugly teeth are displayed. You are all aware of what is happening. At first my son, the great medical student, attacked our enemies with his western arrows and spears. Our enemies got afraid and fled with the various sicknesses they brought. Like newly married couples we stayed in bed one moment too long and our enemies regrouped and

let go cannons of havoc on us. (Pause) tell me my people, who have not lost a child.

Amaikyoho: Yes. The enemies like eating the meat of pregnant women and small children and that is why they are the one's dying.

FX: SOUND OF BELCHING. SCUFFLE, AS AMAIKYOHO IS FORCED TO SIT DOWN.

Chief Ikyume: Let him be. He has a point here. They kill all the children; kill all the mothers, so that the ones about to be born are also destroyed. Suddenly we are no more. No (pause) my enemies will never succeed. Town crier, bring in the diviner.

FX: SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS LEAVING. AFTER A WHILE, SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING, A CHILLING SONG IS HEARD ON MIC. THE SOUND OF DIVINING IS HEARD.

Diviner: Zaki, the s...

Amaikyoho: (Cuts in) the dead spirits say they are angry. To get peace again, you must make a sacrifice with one heavy bearded goat, a white cock, a cat without tail, a fly with three ears.

FX: ANGRY SOUNDS CALLING ON AMAIKYOHO TO SHUT UP AND SIT DOWN

Doctor: Yes, and a host of other things just to deceive you. Please listen to me. I just want to...

Chief Ikyume: My dear son, doctor, it is a community meeting not a family meeting.

Amaikyoho: Thank you the royal one. I will help the diviner, you need threads, white cock and...

FX: MUFFLED SOUND AS AMAIKYOHO IS BEING PUSHED OUT ADMIST ABUSES AND PROTESTS FROM HIM.

Fade out

EPISODE TEN - SCENE ONE

FADE IN: NARRATOR IN A MIXED MOOD

FX: SOUNDS OF SIGHING, HISSES.

Ishuwa: The chief, the earthquake himself could not restrain Amaikyoho. He started talking too much and was pulled off from the community meeting. Like the bad coin, Amaikyoho still forced himself, on the meeting, but he remained silent. The doctor made several attempts to address the

community but only the diviner is allowed to talk. You better hear him yourself.

Fade out

FADE IN: CHIEF'S PALACE. DIVINER, DOING INCANTATIONS.

FX: SOUND OF DIVINATION. A SONG ACCOMPANIES THE PROCESS. INCANTATIONS ARE ALSO HEARD.

Diviner: (Pause) oh no!
The people must hear my song; night cannot come unless daylight is killed. The smoke can never coil, unless the wood has come some moisture in it. What happens to protesting goats in festival time? They die, the die in their tens (pause) I see a big festival going on and goats are being slaughtered. This will continue. It will continue.

Chief Ikyume: And what must we do to stop this feast by the enemies?

Diviner: Appease the ancestors and they will stop the festival. They will send thunder on the wicked, who are now feasting. Appease them with...

Amaikyoho: (cuts in) white goat, white cock, white...

FX: ANGRY SHOUTS, TELLING AMAIKYOHO TO SIT DOWN AND BE QUIEST. CALM RETURNS AFTER A WHILE.

Diviner: Let him be. He is right. Drunks are seers.

FX: LAUGHTER

Diviner: For the community to get peace again, they must sacrifice a white goat, a black hen and a black cat. 20 cowry shells and a red feather will be needed. Perform this sacrifice and...

Doctor: (Cuts in) now that the almighty diviner has spoken. I demand to be heard.

FX: SOUND OF ARGUMENT IS HEARD. CALM RETURNS AFTER A WHILE.

Chief Ikyume: Does the hunter not allow his children to select his arrows? Do the children not drop the once sharp arrow which suddenly becomes blunt? Speak my son.

Doctor: Father, you can say everything in proverbs, but I must tell you, the diviner is wrong, the community is wrong.

Abuku: What an insult. No way. Just because you are the chief's son, you call elders liars; others may be liars but not Abuku.

Doctor: Abuku, I only say the community is wrong.

Abuku: Here he goes again. Abomination.

Chief Ikyume: Abuku, does the goat not protest till it is slain. Let him slaughter himself.

Abuku: Yes chief, but I refuse to be the cow that lies down without protest to be slain.

Doctor: I have told the community over and over again that the cause of these ailments is within us. We are the cause. Only people like Chia and his family listen to me. Have you heard of the plague in his house?

Abuku: oh hooo. So Chia is behind this. Chief, Chia is my friend but we have heard it all. He and his family must be banished from the community immediately.

Chia: Say what you want to say but the doctor is right.

Abuku: Chief, What proof do you need again we have our enemy.

Chia: My people, listen just a while. The doctor treated me and told me that as long as we are exposed to mosquitoes malaria will always attack us. He advised that we must clear our compounds of bushy surroundings, eliminate stagnant water or pour kerosene on them and sleep under bed nets where possible. I am not boasting but I have done all those and I assure you that mosquitoes hardly find a breeding place around my compound.

Doctor: Yes. That is the answer. That is the white goat, white cock and black cat. Keep your surroundings free of mosquito larvae and this plague will disappear considerably. We shall begin from the chief's house. I have contracted some young boys in the village to take care of the water from the bathroom, the Akpu waste and clear the bushy surroundings (Argument for and against the scheme).

Chief: My people, you are the ones who have made me chief. What do we do? Do we follow the diviner's injunctions or do what my son the doctor advises?

Crowd: The doctor has saved us before. Let us listen to him.

Drunk: Now we are talking. But how do we do this?

Citizen: Shut up. This gathering is for human beings, not drunks like you.

Chief: I think the drunk is right. How do we achieve this?

Doctor: Set a day aside every two markets to clear your surroundings. Levy offenders.

Chief: In that case, Abuku, you select 15 youths, boys and girls from all sections of the community and start a sanitation club.

Abuku: Why me chief?

Chief: Abuku son of Tyovenda, you.

Crowd: We want Abuku
Abuku serve your people
Abuku you are a natural leader
Abuku the youth respect you

Abuku: Who am I to say no when the entire community says Abuku must lead the youth to bring health to the community Abuku will set up the sanitation club and we shall bring results.

FADE IN: ISHUWA'S THEME MUSIC OR ADD HIS OTHER

Ishuwa: Don't mind me. Ishuwa the bad coin is back again. But one must do one's job. We won't bore you this time. It's not as if I've told you or in fact anyone a word more that is necessary. I just want to gossip with you on Abuku's sanitation club. I have this advantage of being everywhere at the same time. You see why you need me now? Well Abuku's club worked fine. Being an action man, he recruited able bodied young girls and boys. Wao! Those one! They were everywhere, like flies at the refuse dump. Talking about refuse dump, they are more or less so tidy now that one would rather not call it refuse dump; most of the stagnant water is gone while surroundings are so clean you would think everyday is a festival day. You might still see some pockets of dirty environment here and there. Some people are so terribly resistant to change and you know. But what do our people say? The child that says her mother will not sleep shall equally be sleepless. Abuku and his army raided defaulters and seized their things they grumbled and gnashed their teeth but who cares? The community is happy. Our doctor has won again health has returned shshhhh, (lower gossiping voice) don't say I told you this because the community does not know. Somebody told me that some children informed them that the diviner was said to be a cheat. According to... (Drumming, fluting and singing signifying celebration heard and it grows louder and fiercer). Aaa, let me stop wasting your time. That big celebration is in the chief's house and I am sure you want to be a part of it.

Fade out

FADE IN: SOUND OF MERRY MAKING – VERY LOUD AND ULULATIONS AND VERY LOW TALKS AND GIGGLINGS – COCKS CROWING AND THE DRUNK IS HEARD SINGING AND HE IS BEING ACKNOWLEDGED

Chief: What a day. What a good day. Who say a chief like me is not entitled to happiness. I, chief lkyume, the earthquake the hooting owl in the forest, I, the fiercest lightening in the universe. The enemies thought they had me. The lion took only one step and what do the antelopes do? They flee, scattered in all directions. And now my people are happy. They have been paying homage since morning.

1st Citizen: My family and I have brought this goat chief to celebrate with you for the past months I have not heard any member of my family cry of headache, fever or vomiting. (Sound of many people singing a victory song heard from afar. It grows louder as many people ululate).

Chief: My people, my people.

The Drunk: (From very far)

Don't you see that the lion of the wilderness wishes to speak. If I am the one now they will say I am drunk – foolish drunks that they all are.

Chief: My people, my people.

The Drunk: They are all drunk and no one except me will listen. Just see how his wife who nearly died is shining. The chief's son doctor saved her. With the permission of the chief, I the only sane man in this community hereby

confer on our doctor a chieftaincy title. From today he will be known as savior of the people. You see, they can't even clap for me. They are too happy and too drunk to listen to me. Wao, the chief too is now dancing with them. I better join too. Unity is supreme but health is wealth.

(Ululation, drumming etc Fade out)

FADE IN: ISHUWA'S THEME MUSIC – ADD HIS OTHER FX

The rejected stone,
Yes, you all heard it from the drunk
I will not repeat what he said because I don't want you to forget my story.
Be happy. Keep your surroundings clean, eliminate stagnant water,
Keep free of mosquito bites
And make sure you use pit latrine and dump refuse in designated areas.
I shall tell you more stories another time if you do what I have told you.
Remember I see everything and I am everywhere at all times.
Our health is our wealth. Bye Bye

(Theme music – fad out)