

Consequences of Premarital Sex

Shona transcript:

Boy: Mhosva iyi ndeyekuti wawanikidzwa uri kumba kwemusikana, kana kuti mutori kana kukuimba kunhanga kwemusikana uya uya. Eeh, muchitonakidzwa zvenyu. Then vaye vobva vati, ah, ndiyaniko ane mwana wangu? Vowana muri pachinhanho chisingaiti.

Girl: Muri pabonde.

Boy: Muri pabonde. Wobva wanzi, “Aihwa, makura, taona kuti zvechokwadi, makuda kuita baba naamai. Saka chirooranai, chibvai henyu pano.” Handiti. Saka mhosva yacho inenge iri yekunzi warara nemwana wevanhu usina kuita sei, usina kuroora. Saka vanenge vaaku, kunenge kwakuita sekunge kumanikidzwa kunzi, Aiwa iwe zvataona kuti unoda kurara nemwana wedu saka chiroora hako.” Saka munenge ma.. mhosva yacho inenge yayekuti, “Atezvara takutadzirai, tanga tiri kumba kwenyu tichirara nemwana wenyu tisina kuroora but sorii. Tokumbirawo ruregerero, handiti”. Then after that ndopamuno, ndopamunokwanisa kuzoti munyai wozodzokera futi wozo, akuzonokumbira kuti chii’Tingauyewo kuzoroora riinhi’. Asi apa pamusi wekutanga munyai akasangwara anogona kumhanyiswa vakamubata vanogona kumurova. Saka anotoenda akangwara, vachinosheedzera zvakanaka.

English translation:

Man: You will be at fault if you are caught at the girl’s home, maybe with her in her bedroom having fun together. Then the girl’s parents will ask, “Who has our daughter?” Say if they catch you in a compromising position.

Woman: While having sex.

Man: While having sex. Then they say, “We acknowledge that you are now fully grown for sure, and that you now want to be husband and wife. So get married and leave my house.” It will be as if they will be forcing you to marry their daughter, saying, “Since we have realized that you like sleeping with our daughter, go ahead and marry her.” The correction of the mistake will be when you say, “Our in-laws, we have wronged you, we were sleeping with your daughter in your house but we are sorry. Please forgive us.”¹ Then after that you arrange for the go-between to go and ask, “When can we come to pay the bride price?” On this first day, if the *munyai*² is not wise enough, they [the girl’s

¹ Usually, in issues of marriage, the groom’s family unites as one. Thus plural terms are generally used in order to represent the entire family.

² *Munyai* is the go-between. He is a part of the groom’s family. His duty is to conduct negotiations on behalf of the groom during marriage.

family] may chase after him and beat him. So he has to be wise when he goes there *kunosheedzera*³.

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³ This is a Shona term describing what the go-between has to do at the in-laws' residence in the event of the 'unplanned' marriages that result from mischief (such as premarital sex).