

Life Then and Now

Yoruba transcript:

Arákùnrin: Eh nígbà yẹn, bí ó ti lè jé pé àwon òkàn púpò tí a n rí nísìsìyí bí iná, omi, eh *telephone* kò sí púpò, sùgbón ó wà, ó sì dáa, a sì ní itélórùn nígbà yẹn. Ehh èkejì ni pé, eh gbogbo wa, à pù tó báyi ní Nigeria nígbà yẹn, gbogbo òkàn ó jó tuntun tuntun nígbà yẹn, gbogbo òkàn... isé sì wà nígbà yẹn ní Nigeria, a fé è ma se bí àwon èyìnbò ní ìgbà yẹn, torí àwon èyìnbò¹ kò pè tí wón kúrò nígbà yẹn. Ilé-ìwé nà, gbogbo è ló n lo, ètò ilé-ìwé nà lo dáadáa, nítorí kíni? Kò sí èniyàn púpò nà ní ilé-ìwé, a sì ní àwon olùkó tí ó kó àwon omo ilé-ìwé dáadáa nígbà yẹn. Ehh, owó osù tí àwon èniyàn òkàn, gbogbo wa, tí wón bá ko gbogbo àwa èniyàn pò, tí wón kó won jo, iyàtò púpò kò sí lára owó osù tí wón gbà. Nítorí nà, a ò yájú sí ara wa, a ò se ako sí ra wa, kó dà... kó dà bí isìsìyí tó jé pé owó tí àwon kan n gbà, ó pò dé bi pé, ó ra àwon elómí, óra gbogbo gbogbo dúkiyá wón, ó ra ní ilópo méwa. Isìsìyí ní a n rí orísirisi *motor*, àti èyí tí àwon èyàn le rà, àti èyí tí àwon èyàn ò le rà, gbogbo rè là n rí nísìyí. Nítorí nà, aiyé ìgbà yẹn, kò sí isòro púpò, láyè ìgbà tí akókó gba òmìnira ní Nigeria sí isìsìyí àti pé, emm ìdí tí wón fí dá gbogbo è rù, tí a fí ní... tí wón *change* ìjoba Nigeria ní irú 1966, tí wón ní pé gbogbo won, tí wón so pé... eh... owó ìjoba ni wón je, wón kàn je owó ìjoba ni, èyí tí wón n je nísìsìyí, a ti ẹ mò ohun tí à pé nísìsìyí, ó ti yàtò. Nísìyí ó wá dàbí pé ohun tí wón ní pé àwon èniyàn je nígbà yẹn bí pé kò ti è jé òkànkan ni. So nísìyí bí a se wà ní Nigeria nísìyí, iyàtò wà gídí gídí gan an.

Ehh sùgbón, tí a bá tún wò ní ònà miràn nà, àwon ètò... sise ìgbé... ìgbé sí aiyé wa, ó ti yàtò, nítorí kíni? Nísìyí a ní bí i *air condition*, télètétè bí oru n mú títítí, kò sí ohun tí... torí nà, àwon bí i aisàn, aisàn ma n pò ní lè. Kò dè sí ògùn púpò nílè nígbà yẹn, sùgbón nísìyí, orísirisi *hospital* lówà, orísirisi *doctors* lówà, gbogbo aisàn tó bá hù, kó se èniyàn nísìyí, ẹ ò rí eni tí yọ wo sà. Télètélè ìgbà miràn bí i aisàn *cholera*, tí àwon èniyàn yò yàgbé, tí won yò su, won ò ní ògùn è ní àwon ahéré, nítorí nà àwon èniyàn púpò ni ó mà kú nígbà yẹn, ó yàtò sí isiyi. Emm... èyí tí ó tún wà ní *telephone*, èro à ti má ba ara wa sòrò, télètélè èro òní *wire* òkàn ló wà, àwon ilú nlánlàn, orí ilú ni àwon èro yẹn ma n wà, irú ko ní Ilorin, Kaduna. Ko sí ní àwon ilú, àwon ilú ,ilú ahéré, nítorí nà, tí òkànkan bá selè, kò sí bí a se fé gbó, nígbà miràn, yó ò tó bí i ojú méjì, ojú méta kí wón tó wo ókò wá láti wá so fún wa pé òkànkan selè ní bi kan. Nítorí nà isiyi... ehh... aiyé fà mí lé tè n sítò la wà nísìyí.

English translation:

Man: Eh, in those days, even though the things we see now like electricity, running water, eh, telephone, were not widespread, but they were available and were very efficient, and we were contented. Eh, secondly, eh, we were not as much as this in those days, and everything was like new; everything... There were jobs in Nigeria; **we were almost**

¹ The British that colonized Nigeria

behaving like the British, because the British left not long before that period. There were schools, and the system was perfect. Why is that? The students were not many, and we had good teachers teaching the students in those days. Eh, the salaries that the civil servants were receiving, if you put everyone's salary together, the difference was not much. Therefore, we were not rude to each other, and we were not proud; it is not... it is not like this present day where salaries of some people are too high, such that they can buy a whole person, buy their properties, ten times. Now we see different cars, the ones we can buy and the ones we cannot buy. Therefore, in those days we did not really experience difficulties, the period we got our independence in Nigeria and now, emm, the reason why the system was scatted, that we had... that they changed the system of governance in Nigeria in 1966, it was started that the government... eh... those elected were only embezzling government funds – we don't even know what to call what they are embezzling these days; it is so different. Now we realize that what the people in government positions embezzled in those days was nothing compared to what they are embezzling now. So there is a huge difference from what we were in those days compared to what we are now.

Eh, but if we look at it from another perspective, our system... way of living is totally different. Why is that? Now we have things like air conditioners, unlike before, when if it was hot, there was nothing to... Because of that we had diseases; there were different diseases. There were no drugs in those days, but now we have different hospitals, different doctors; any kind of sickness that you have, you can easily see a doctor to treat you. Before now, when people had cholera, which makes them purge, there were no drugs in the villages, and because of this a lot of people died in those days; it is different today. Emm... another one is the telephone, a device used to communicate. Before now, we only had telephone wires, and it was only the big cities that had it – cities like Ilorin, Kaduna. We didn't have it in small towns. If anything should happen, there was no means of telling the affected persons' families; most times it would take up to two or three days before they could come through public transport to tell people what had happened. Because of these things... ehh... we live a comfortable life.

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