

A Polygamous Family

Yoruba transcript:

Òdòbìnrin: Emm báwo ni ilé yín serí nígbà tí è n dàgbà?

Arákùnrin: Emm ilé wa jé gégé bíi emm ilé tí orilè èdè wa ta... gbogbo ilé tí èyàn bá lo ní àsà ibilè wa níbí yíí, ikíní, yàtò sí bóyá ó jé ilé mùsùlùmí tàbí ó jé ilé Christian, òpòlopò wa ni... òpòlopò ilé ni wón máa ní iyàwó púpò. So ilé tí èmi gbé dàgbà, iyàwó tí bàbá mi ní pò, iyàwó mérin ni wón ní kòsì ìgbà tí won kò n ní iyàwó mérin, àwa ọmo tí wón sì bí métàdínlogbòn, làwa ọmo tí bàbá mí bí, èmi jé gégé bíi èkesàn án nínú àwon ọmo ilé wa. Sùgbón adúpé lówó olórun pé irú ilé tí a ní ní gbà yẹn, gégé bí emm ise lo, ibilè gbogbo wa, là n... gbogbo nkan tò létòlètò emm idí ni pé gbogbo wa kòsì emi tí ó yájú sí eni tí ó wà ní iwájú, tí o bá jé àbúrò ò bówò fún àwon ègbón re. So àti pé nkan bíi onje jíje tí ò ní isùro nígbà yẹn, gbogbo wa la jo n jeun níni ìgbà kan náà and emm ìgbà tò dè yá, ìgbà tí gbogbo wa bèrè sí dàgbà kálukú bèrè sí kúrò ní lé ní kànkàn kànkàn sùgbón bàbá wa ìgbà tí ó ma fi se aláìsí, àwon iyá wa tí ó kù ní lé, gbogbo won sí gbé papò náà, àwa náà la sì tún wá jé eni tí ó tójú gbogbo won di òní tí mo se sòrò yíí.

Òdòbìnrin: Sé ení láti tójú won ni?

Arákùnrin: A ní láti tójú won, sèbí àwon ni iyá wa, àwon ní wón sì gbé wa wá sí ilé-aiyé. Kò sì... kò jé nkan pé bóyá iyá eni tó bí lágbájá ni yíí àbí iyá eni tó bí lágbájá kò ní yíí, gbogbo àwon iyá wa, iyá wa náà ni gbogbo won. Torí à pàtàkì... à... à... à dá bakan, à dá won bakan pé bóyá ọmo iyá kan niyí tàbí ọmo iyá tòhún leléyì, gbogbo wa bakan náà la jé, àti pé nkan tí emm èsìn wa, èsìn mùsùlùmí so nipé... oun tí Quran so nipé kí á tójú àwon òbí wa láti ìgbà tí a bá ní agbára rè tíí di ìgbà tí won yò bá fi kú.

Òdòbìnrin: Báwo ni ẹ se má n sé? Sé ẹ kàn ma rán owó sí won ni àbí sé ẹ ma rà nkan fún won ní? Báwo lese má...

Arákùnrin: A má n rà onje fún won, a má n rà aso fún won, a dè ma n fi owó ransé sí won lósosù. So kò sí pé... àti pé ìgbà mí ì n be, irú ìgbà tí... ìgbà tí odún bá... tí odún bá wà, àwon odún Muslim, èyí tí à n pè ní odún iléyá tàbí odún ààwè. A ma tún lo ilé náà sùgbón àwon ìgbà imí ì be bíí tí a bá se ètò iyàwó àbí wón bí mo, yálà wón bí mo sílé, a ma tún lo ilé náà. So gbogbo ìgbà tí a bá lo ilé náà la má fún won ní nkan sùgbón ìgbà tí à bá lo ilé o, ososù la má fún owó ransé sí won.

English translation:

Young Girl: Emm, what was your home like when you were growing up?

Man: Emm, our home was like, emm, a home that our country... Every home according to our culture, firstly, apart from being a Muslim or a Christian, most of us are... most homes have more than one wife. So the home I grew up in, my father had so many wives, he had four wives – there was no reason not to have four wives – and he had 26 children; that is, we the children, I am in the ninth position in my home. But we thank God for the type of home we had then; according to, emm, as our culture was, we... everything went as it should; emm, the reason was that we were never rude to our elders – if you were the youngest, you would respect the elders. So, and also our eating habits had no problem because we all ate from the same plate. And, emm, after, when we started growing up, we started leaving the home one after the other, but when our father died, our mothers at home were still living together, and we the children are now responsible for their upkeep till this present time.

Young Girl: Are you supposed to be responsible for their upkeep?

Man: We have to take care of them; they are our mothers, and they brought us into this world. It is not... it was not important who our mother was among the four wives; they are all our mothers. Because we didn't care whose child this is or whose child that is, we were all the same, and also, emm, our religion, the Muslim religion states that... the Quran states that we should take care of our parents from the time we are capable till the time they die.

Young Girl: How do you do it? Do you send money to them? Or do you just buy things for them? How do you...

Man: We buy food for them, we buy clothes for them, and we also send money to them every month. So there is nothing like... And also, there are some times, times like... during the festive... when there is a celebration, Muslim celebration, celebrations like Eid al-Fitr or Ramadan, we also go home. But some other times, like when we have a wedding or a naming ceremony, we also go home. So every time we go home, we always give them things, but when we don't go home, we send money to them every month.

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