

Discipline and Living Arrangements

Yoruba transcript:

Òdòbìnrin: Tí nkan bá selè ní ilè yín, taló máa se ìdájó?

Arákùnrin: Ah bàbá... bàbá wa náà ni, òhun náà ni lolóri ilé. Ní jó hun mo rántí pé tó bá ti sè, won ò ní so ñkankan, o di ipári òsè lójo Sunday, gbogbo wa won ò wà kó wa jo. Emm bàbá mí ní jó hun, ó ní wé, iwé èsè tí gbogbo bí kálukú... èsè kálukú won ó kó sínú iwé hun kalè, a sì ní uncle wa kan, òhun ló maá n... òhun ló maá n to egba sí wa ní di nígbà hun. So bí èsè kálukú bá se tó ni wón ma n lùyàn nígbà hun. Tí o bá sí tún... èsè ni tí o bá lo sí school tí ò bá pass, tí o bá dé, o ò wá jéwó oun tí o lo se ní ilé-iwé. Yàtò sí iyen tí o bá sòrò burúkú sí mómó re àbí eni kejì re, tí o bà móò, elò míì gbó wón sì lo fí ejó re sùn, wón ò wá ko orúko re sínu iwé hun. So àwon èsè míì gan an tí a bá tí gbàgbé, won óò rán wa létí pé, tò, sé o rántí oun tí o so fún màmá ẹ ní jó báyibáyi? Egba re méfà, won yó sí to egba méfà sí o ní di nígbà hun.

Òdòbìnrin: Tí ijà bá bèrè emm nínu iyàwó... láàrin iyàwó, kiló ma selè?

Arákùnrin: Emm àwa ò sàbà rí àwon ijà àwon iyá wa, tí ijà bá sì selè, bàbá wa náà ló ma n dájó lára... àwon náà ni wón mo bí wón se ma n parí è, sùgbón kòsì eni tí ó ma n dási, wón ò sí ì fí àwa ọmo sí ijà won torí gbogbo àwa ọmo, gbogbo wá jo n sùn pèlú arawa ni, a dè jo n jeun pò ní. So yàtò sí pé àwon mómó mómó fé fí lò wá, àwa ò kí mó igbà tí wón bá jà ijà won nítorí nà...

Arákùnrin: Sé ẹ jo n gbé pò ní?

Òdòbìnrin: Kálukú ní... èè, igbà tí akókó... kó tó dipé... igbà kan n be tí ilè ò pò, tí ò tóbi púpò, àwon iya wa wón máa n sùn, àwon méji méji máa n sùn iyàrá kan, sùgbón nígbà tóyá... nígbà tí aásíkí diè wá, gbogbo won ni wón ní... kálukú... iyá wa... gbogbo àwon iyá wa ní wón ni iyàrá won kànkankànkankan sùgbón àwa ọmo gbogbo wa a jo n sùn pèlú ara wa ni, àwon iyàrá àwon ọmo wà lóto.

English translation:

Young Girl: If anything happens in your home, who decides on the judgment?

Man: Ah, father... It is our father; he is the head of the family. In those days, I can remember that when we committed any offenses, he would not say anything till the end of the week; on a Sunday, they would gather us¹ together. Emm, my father in those days had a book, a record book for our offenses... Everybody's offenses were written in that

¹ the children

book. We also had an uncle, and he was the one that... he was the one that beat us in those days. The gravity of your offenses will determine how you will be beaten. If you also... It was an offense to fail when you go to school; when you get home, you will have to give an account of what you went to school to do. Apart from that, if you were rude to your mother or to another person, if you were not aware someone heard you and could report you, and your name would be written in the offense book. Some of the offenses that we might have forgotten, we would be reminded – that “Do you remember what you said to your mother on this particular day? You are entitled to six strokes.” And you would be given six strokes on your buttocks in those days.

Young Girl: If a fight occurs, emm, between the wives, what will happen?

Man: We don't always witness fights among our mothers, and if a fight should occur, it is our father that will settle it among... He is the one that will know how to settle it. But no one else will intervene, and they don't put the children in their fights. Because we the children were always together; we slept together and ate together. So apart from the fact that our mothers deliberately wanted to involve us, we didn't always know when they were having their fights, because of that...

Young Girl: Do you live together?

Man: We all have... emm, when the time came... before it got to... There was a time when the house wasn't big enough; our mothers slept, two of them slept in the same room, but after a while... when our father became richer, each one of them had... everyone... our mothers, our mothers had their rooms to themselves, but we the children slept together in a room; the children's room was spacious.

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