

Swahili transcript:

Na mara nyingi tunapotembeleana hata kama unamtembelea tu labda rafiki yangu au ndugu yangu, ni utamaduni wa kitanzania kwamba, kwa sababu watanzania ni wakarimu, kwa hiyotumejifunza ukarimu kwamba mgeni akija nyumbani, kama huna pesa ya kununulia labda soda au juisi, basi hata glasi ya maji ya kunywa unampa yule mgeni. Au unaweza ukamtengenezea chai, mgeni akanywa akafurahi. Kwa hiyo kwa vile Tanzania hatuna taratibu kama nchi nyingine wengine wananunua wanakuwa na friji pale nyumbani na vinywaji vinakuwepo tayari. Lakini kwa Tanzania, mara nyingi mgeni anapofika ndipo anapotafutiwa kinywaji. Na huwa anaulizwa, ni huwa tunauliza kwamba aah! Samahani utapenda kutumia kinywaji gani? Kwa hiyo akisema nitapenda kutumia chai, basi unaingia jikoni unamwandalia chai, anakunywa, anafurahi. Au akitaka soda, unamuuliza soda ya aina gani? Kwa hiyo kama ni coca cola au ni pepsi cola au ni sprite au ni aina nyingine ya soda, basi unakwenda dukani, unanunua soda unarudi. Na huwa tunatumia vyupa, unachukua chupa ambacho ni kitupu, unachukua na pesa unakwenda dukani, unampa yule muuzaji, ile chupa na ile pesa kwa ajili ya ile soda na anakupa soda unarudi nyumbani. Kwa hiyo tunaponunua soda huwa hatununui tu labda sehemu nyingine kama huku Marekani ukitaka soda, unaenda tu kwenye sehemu ambazo wanauza unaingiza pesa unachukua soda unakunywa. Lakini kule lazima uwe na chupa kitupu ndio uweze kununua soda, huwezi tu ukaenda dukani ukasema nahitaji soda, watakuuliza chupa kiko wapi? Kwa sababu wanakusanya vile vyupa na vinapelekwa tena viwandani, wanasafisha na wanawekea soda nyingine. Kwa hiyo kwa Tanzania ukitaka kununua soda, ni lazima uwe na chupa ambacho ni kitupu. Kwa hiyo unafika kwa muuzaji, unampa ile chupa, unampa na pesa, anakupa soda unarudi nyumbani. Kwa hiyo kama una pesa ya kununua soda, unamnunulia mgeni soda, au kama una matunda labda ndani, unaweza ukamtengenezea juisi, kama huna pesa saa nyingine. Huwezi ukamuuliza mgeni unatumia soda gani halafu ndani huna pesa. Kwa hiyo mara nyingi kama huna pesa na labda una matunda, basi unatengeneza juisi, ukimaliza unaenda unampelekea mgeni anakunywa. Au kama hata matunda huna, basi unatengeneza chai, na mgeni huwa

hakatai, chochote ambacho kinakuja mbele yako unatumia. Ni utamaduni wetu watanzania kwamba hatukatai chakula au kinywaji, kwamba umemtembelea rafiki yako au ndugu yako, akakuletea chai, huwezi ukasema hapana mimi chai sinywi, hapana. Utakunywa hata kama huitaji sana basi utamimina kidogo kuonyesha ile shukrani kwa yule ambaye umemtembelea kwa sababu amekuandalia, ni ile kuonyesha heshima na kuonyesha shukrani kwamba unashukuru kwa ukarimu aliokufanyia. Kwa hiyohata kama huitaji sana kunywa hiyo chai, unaweza ukaweka hata nusu kikombe, ukanywa, ukamshukuru, akafurahi, na inaleta pia hali ya amani na upendo, kwa hiyo mnakuwa mnaendelea kushikamana pamoja. Kwa hiyo ndivyo ambavyo watanzania tunafanya.

English translation:

When visiting one another, even if it is a friend or relative, the host should buy you soda or juice, because we Tanzanians are generous people. If you don't have some money to buy your guest a soda or juice, you can give him a glass of water or you can make a cup of tea. It is quite different from other countries, where people have fridges and they put drinks in the fridge that are ready to be served. In Tanzania, when a guest arrives, you go out to buy him a drink. We ask him what kind of drink he likes before going to buy it. If he wants some tea, you go to the kitchen and make some tea; or if he wants soda, then you ask him what kind of soda does he like, and if it is Coca Cola, or Pepsi, or Sprite, or any type of soda, then you go to the store and buy it. Buying soda in Tanzania is quite different from other developed countries. In Tanzania, if you want to buy soda, you must have an empty bottle. You give your money and the empty bottle to the seller, and then he gives you the soda you want. It is different from other countries. For example, here in America, if you need soda, you just go to the place where they sell it, insert your money and get your soda. In Tanzania, you must have an empty bottle if you want to buy soda, because the sellers collect those empty bottles and send them to soda industries where they clean them up and use them again. So if you have some money, you can buy him soda or if you have some fruit, you can also make juice for him. If you don't have money to buy soda, or you don't have fruit, you can make a cup of tea. It is our custom that a guest cannot refuse to eat or drink anything you prepare for him. If you visit your friend

or your relative, and she makes you a cup of tea, you cannot say, "I don't like tea." No, you should drink even a little just to show respect and appreciation for the one who prepared it. So if you don't want tea, you can just pour even a half cup and drink it. That will make your host happy. This is also just to keep peace and love among Tanzanians. This is what we do when visiting one another.

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