

Dating and Visiting Family

Shona transcript:

Girl: Alfred mukomana wangu, nhasi ndaenda kumba kwavo kuChitungwiza ndikaona mukoma wake nemunin'ina wake. Ndikaona mukoma wake, nemunin'ina wake nemunin'ina wake wekwabamkuru natete vake. Tete ndihanzvadzi yababa. Ndaona na nemwana watete, mwana wavo musikana mukuru, nemudzimai wemwana wavo mukomana, muroora wavo. Yaa, saka ini ndanga ndisiri kuziva kuti ndichaona tete nhasi. Ndanga ndakazvigarirwa kumba kwangu kumba kwedu ndikabva ndafonerwa ndikabva ndanzi, “Uri kupi?” ndikati “Ndiri kumba”. “Uri kuitei?”, “Hapana zvandiri kuita”. “Buda ndikuonewo mbijana”. Ndabva ndabuda. Pandabuda ndanga ndichifunga kuti ndiri kungobuda *and then ten fifteen minutes later* ndobva ndadzoka kumba *maybe an hour tops but* haa ndingamuona kusvika kupi iye aine hama dzake. Ndikabva ndamuona. Abva ati, “Uri busy nezvaurikuita?” “Aiwa”. “Saka tipinde tese mutown?” “Ehe horaiti”. Tikabva taenda kutown, ah takutown tikatombogara mutown for nguva yakati rebei tabva tazo aah bvazvangonzi, “Aihwa handei kumba.” Saka ini kumba kwavo ngogara ndichienda *because* inherera ka saka kunenge kungorine iye nemabrothers ake nesister yake saka hakuna dambudziko asi dai vabereki vake pamwe variko zvaisaita kuti ndiendeko asi *because* hakuna munhu tinongoenda.

Interviewer: Ko sei zvaisaita?

Girl: Nekuti chivanhu chinoti hazvi hazvina hunhu kuti uende kumba kwavo kana hauende kumba kwavamwene usati wamuroora chaiye chaiye vamwene *being his mother* muroora *being* inini mukadzi wemwana wavo kana zvazoitika saka hazviite ende hauone tezvara zvekungoti pano nepapo zvinenge zviri.. zviri *not taboo but* hazvina chiremerera kuti urambe uchizviita.

English translation:

Alfred, my boyfriend, I went to his house in Chitungwiza and I met his elder and younger brothers. I saw his elder brother, younger brother, and younger brother from his dad's elder brother and his aunt. His aunt is his father's sister. I also saw the aunt's child, her eldest daughter and the wife of her eldest son—her daughter-in-law. Yah, so I did not know that I was going to meet aunt today. I was relaxing at our house and I received a phone call saying that, “Where are you?” “I am at home,” I replied. “What are you doing?” “I am not doing anything.” “Come outside so that I can see [you] for a little bit.” I went out. When I went outside, I thought I am going out and then fifteen minutes later I will be back home. Maybe an hour tops but haa how long was I going to see him in the presence of his relatives? I met him. And he said, “Are you busy?” “No.” “So can we go together in town?” “Sure, it's ok.” We then went to town, ah in town we stayed for a long time and then he said, “Let's go home.” So I usually go to their house because he is an

orphan so only his brothers and sister will be there, so there is no problem but if the parents were there, then it would not be proper for me to go there but because there is no one, we just go there.

Interviewer: Why is it not possible?

Girl: Because our tradition states that it is not proper for you to go your boyfriend's house or to go your mother-in-law's when you are not officially her daughter-in-law. *Vamwene* being his mother, *muroora* being me the wife of their son if it happens, so it's unacceptable and you can not meet your father-in-law here and there. It's not a taboo but it's disrespectful to keep doing that.

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