

Kemoh: *Yu rayt, den fɔ ɾɛspɛkt dɛnsɛf, dɛn na ɔsban ɛn wɛf. Dɛn de pwɛl dɛn mared ɛn gi bad ɛgzampul to dɛn pikin dɛm.*

You are right, they should respect each other, they are husband and wife. They are ruining their relationship and giving a bad example to their children.

Mami: *Yɛs... dɛn fɔ no aw fɔ biev...* Yes... they should know better...

Kemoh: *Sɔntɛm wi kin tɔk to dɛm...* Maybe we could talk to them...

Mami: *Bɔt Kemɔ, nɔto wi biznɛs dat...* Oh, Kemoh, that's not our business...

Kemoh: *Yɛs Mami, na wi biznɛs. Dis na wi kɔmyuniti! Wi fɔ de tek kia ɔf wisɛf! A wan fɔ tɔk to di man...*

Yes, Mami, it is our business. This is our community! We should care for each other! I want to talk to that man...

Mami: *Fayn, mi go tɔk to in wɛf dɛn...* Fine, I will talk to his wife then...

Scene 2

Sfx: woman singing, noise of swiping.

Mami: *Gud aftanun o Aysatu.* Good afternoon, Aisatu.

Aisatu: *Gud aftanun anti, aw di de?*

Good afternoon, Auntie, how are you today?

Mami: *A oke, tɛl Gɔd tɛnki. A kan si if yu oke. A bin de yɛri bɔku bɔku ala-ala dis mɔnin.*

I am fine, thank God. I came to see if you were fine. I have heard a lot of shouting this morning.

Aisatu: *E... a beg ma... na mi man na di prɔblɛm, I nɔ de aprishet wetin a de du. ɔltm: di os nɔ kiln gud, di it nɔ gud dɛn naw nain fɔ disayd ɔltin bɔt mi ɛn di pikin dɛn, luk insay de nɔ. I fɔ jɛs lɛf mi fɔ tek kia ɔf mi pikin dɛm, a no wetin fɔ du, na mi bɔn dɛm.*

Oh... I am sorry... the problem is my husband, he's never happy about what I do. The house is never clean enough, the food is not good and now he wants to decide everything about our children by himself... can you imagine? He should just let me manage my children, I know what to do, I gave birth to them!

Mami: *Okee... Listin Aysatu. Sidom le wi tok. A big pas u lilibit, a mared fo lora naw en aondastand aw yu de fil...*

I see... Listen Aisatu, let's sit and talk. I am a bit older than you, I have been married for many years now and I understand how you feel...

Aisatu: *Yu sho? A de si yu en yu man... una no de eva agyu! Aw yu go se yu onastand mi problem dem?*

Are you sure? I see you and your husband...you never argue! How can you understand my problems?

Mami: *Yu tink e wi no de agyu, bot wi sef bin de get wi yon problem den wen wi bin yora pas dis en wi stil get boku tin we wi de tok bot...*

You think that we never argue, but we have had our problems when we were younger and we still discuss a lot...

Aisatu: *Fo tru?* Really?

Mami: *Yes. Tem bin de we wi sef bin de ala pan wisef boku boku wan. Den wande mi anti kam na wi os en tok to wi, jes lek aw de tok to yu so. I eksplen to wi se noko di we dat fo solv wi problem den. I mek wi sidom en i ep wi tok en no es wi vays. Wen i bigin i no bin izi bot wantin we wi lan na dat if wi gi olman tem fo tok, en if wit ink aw fo sho aw wi de fil wi go onastand wisef bete en fen we fo solv di problem den we we go gud fo wi en wi pikin dem.*

Yes. There was a time when we used to yell at each other a lot. Then one day my aunt came to our house and she talked to us, like I am talking to you now. She explained to us that we would never solve our problems like that. She made us sit down and helped us discuss without raising our voice. It was difficult at the beginning, but then we learned that if we gave each other the time to talk, and if we thought carefully about how to express our feeling, we could understand each other better and find solutions that are good for both of us and for our children.

Aisatu: *Mi man no go eva listin to mi! I jes de kemplen ol di tem!*

My husband will never listen to me! He's just complaining all the time!

Mami: *Kemo go tok to am. Yusef get fo tray. A de yeri we yusef de ala pan am oltem!*

Kemoh will talk to him. You need to make an effort too. I hear you yelling at him all the time!

Aisatu: *A no, bot tin tranga naw. Wi no get bete moni en wi get fo le di pikin den go skol. Wi boy pikin ol 10 ia, mi man want le i lef skol go ep am pan in wok.*

I know, but things are difficult in this period. We don't have enough money and we need to send our children to school. Our son is 10 years old and my husband wants him to drop out of school and go work with him.

Mami: *Oo! A si... bɔt yu nɔ fɔ ala pan yu man, dat na bad egzampul fɔ una pikin dem... if den yeri una de ala pan unasef, den go tink se na so fɔ du en go du am to densef en to den padi dem! I ɔrayt fɔ tɔk wetin de na yu maynd bɔt yu kin du am wit respekt. Yu nɔ want ɛ den trit yu wit redpekt?*

Oh! I see... Still, you should not yell at your husband, it's a bad example for your children... if they hear you both yell at each other, they will think that is a normal way to discuss and they will do the same among them, and with their friends! It is ok to speak your mind and let your husband know how to feel, but you can do it in a respectful way. Don't you want to be treated with respect yourself?

Aisatu: *Yes a want dat!* Yes, of course!

Mami: *Den yu fɔs fɔ respekt ɔda pipul dem! Ivin yu pikin dem... tɔk to dem fayn en listin to dem.*

Then start by respecting the others! Even your children... talk to them nicely and listen to them more.

Aisatu: *A get bɔku wok fɔ du na os, tɛm nɔ de fɔ tɔk to mi pikin...*

I have too much work to do at the house, I don't have time to talk to my children...

Mami: *Tray fɛn tɛm. Yu si, yu fɛn tɛm fɔ tɔk to mi tide. Yu pikin dem veri impɔtant. Now den lili, i go fayn ɛ den nɔ gro ɔp de fred yu. If yu pikin den trɔst yu, wen den get prɔblem den go kam to yu fɔ advays dem.*

Try to find it. You see, you found the time to talk to me today. Your children are very important. Now they are very young, it's important that they don't grow up being afraid of you. If your children trust you, they will come to you when they have a problem or they need advice.

Aisatu: *A go lek ɛ mi pikin dem trɔst mi. Wen a bin lili a bin de fred tumɔs fɔ tɔk to mi mama, so a bin de sɔlv mi yon prɔblem dem en dat nɔ bin izi.*

I would like that my children trust me. When I was young, I was too afraid to talk to my mother, so I had to figure out many things by myself and it was very difficult.

Mami: *Egzaktli. A kin fil gud wen mi pikin den kin sho se den trɔt mi. Den de tɔk to mi bɔt layf, bɔt aw den de fil en den prɔblem dɔm. Bikɔs wi de tɔk a kin no wen den get prɔblem en a kin ebul ep dem. Fɔ di gyal-pikin den yon, wi jes get fɔ no se den sef. Wan ticha tray fɔ kis mi gyal-pikin trade, tret i kam pot to mi en in dadi.*

Exactly. It makes me feel very proud when my children show that they trust me. They talk to me about their life, their feelings and their problems. That way I know if they are in trouble and I can help them. In particular, with our girls, we need to be sure they are safe. The other day, a teacher tried to kiss my daughter and she immediately reported that to my husband and me.

Aisatu: *Fɔ tru! E bo di po pikin! I go de fred so!*

Really! Poor girl! She must have been so scared!

Mami: *Yes mi en mi man tek akshɔn wantem. Kemɔ tɔk to di skul prinsipul en di ed man en den de luk into di mata naw. If na tin we di ticha du, i go lɔs in job en i nɔ go tich egen na dis kɔntri.*

Yes... my husband and I took action immediately. Kemoh talked to the school principal and the village chief and they are now investigating. If the teacher is guilty, he will lose his job and never teach again in this country.

Aisatu: *Dat gud!* That's good!

Mami: *Yes, bɔt if wi gyal-pikin bin de fred fɔ tɔk to mi, jes tink wetin bin fɔ apin! Sɔntem wetin wɔs pas kis naim bin fɔ apin!*

Yes, but if my daughter was afraid to talk to me, imagine what could have happened! Maybe much worse than a kiss!

Aisatu: *A si wetin yu min. A fɔ tray fɔ de tɔk to mi pikin den mɔ...*

I see what you mean. I should make an effort to talk more to my children...

Mami: *Yen en tɔk to yu man in sef. Yu get fɔ tɔk, nɔto fɔ ala. Kemɔ go tok to am bɔt yu pikin den skul wan. Una tu get fɔ tray; yu go si aw una layf go chenj we pis kam na una os.*

Yes, and with your husband as well. You need to try to talk instead of yelling. Kemoh will talk to him, also about sending your child to school. You both need to make an effort; you will see how your life will change if your home is peaceful!

Aisatu: *E! anti tenki ma. Yu pas gud neba, yu na tru tru padi.*

Thank you Auntie, you are more than a good neighbour, you are a real friend!

Scene 3

Kemoh: *Musa gud aftanun!* Good afternoon Musa!

Musa: *Gud aftanun Kemoh, Aw yudu?* Good afternoon Kemoh, how are you?

Kemoh: *A oke... A yeri boku boku ala-ala na yu os dis manin!*
I am fine... I have heard a lot of shouting coming from your house this morning!

Musa: *Yes Bra, na mi wef o, i no razinebul at ol...*
Yes, it's because of my wife. She's so unreasonable...

Kemoh: *Fo tru? Wetin apin?* Really? What do you mean?

Musa: *A don tel am boku tem se na mi fo de tak wetin fo de bi na di os en di pikin dem, bat i no de listen to mi. Oltem i de agyu mi!*
I have told her several times that I should be the one taking decisions about our children at home, but she doesn't listen to me and she keeps arguing!

Kemoh: *Oke, a si... noto so i de bi na mi os o...*
I see... this is not how it works in my house...

Musa: *A no, a no wande yeri yu de ala, a sho se yu wef respect yu disishon dem...*
I know, I never hear you shouting, I am sure your wife respects your decision...

Kemoh: *No o, noto dat a min...* No, that's not what I mean...

Musa: *In? Wetin yu min?* What? What do you mean then?

Kemoh: *Mi en mi wef de tek ol wi disishon dem togeda. Wi de tak bat tin dem; olman de get tem fo tak den wi de gri fo wetin fo du. anten mi kin korekt, santem nain kin korekt... Santende wit u kin rayt, bat na wi sidom tak wi kin no dat.*
My wife and I take all the decisions together. We discuss, we give each other the time to talk and then we find agreement. Sometimes I am right, sometimes she is right... sometimes we are both right but we don't know until we sit together and talk!

Musa: *Yu sirys?* Are you serious?

Kemoh: *Ofkuz! Wen wi bin yon lek una, na so wi bin de ala ala pan wisef, den wi kam notis se we wi de veks en ala pan wisef oltem de mek tin wos. Naw we wi de tak saful wan wi get pis en wi en wi pikin dem de benifit boku pan dat. A sho se una pikin dem no de enjoy na os we pipul den de ala pan densef oltem.*

Of course! When we were young like you, we used to yell at each other, but we understood that being angry all the time was just making things worse. Now that we discuss calmly, we have peace at home and we all benefit from that, even our children. I am sure your children don't enjoy living in a house where people yell all the time!

Musa: Mmm...

Kemoh: *A dɔn notis se da una lili bebi kin bigin kray lawd lawd wan evritem we una kin bigin ala pan unasef...*

I have noticed that your small baby starts crying loud every time you and your wife start yelling at each other...

Musa: *Yu rayt... a nɔ kin tink bɔt dat...* You are right... I never thought of that...

Kemoh: *Yu lek yu pikin em?* Do you care about your children?

Musa: *Ɔf kɔz! A kia bɔt mi famili, mi pikin dem en mi wɛf!*

Of course! I care about my family, my children and my wife!

Kemoh: *Dɛn yu fɔ tray mek yu os bi ples we ɔlman api. Na yu wɛf bɔn dɛn pikin de, i mɛn dem...yu nɔ tink se I nɔ kia bɔt dem?*

Then you should make an effort to create a good environment at home where everyone can be happy. Your wife gave birth to those children, she nursed them... don't you think she cares about them?

Musa: *Ɔf kɔz i kia bɔt wi pikin dem!* Of course she cares about our children!

Kemoh: *Dɛn a shɔ se i kin mek gud disishɔn dem we go gud fɔ dem. Yu fɔ listin to wetin inɛf tink, en yu fɔ listin to di pikin dɛnɛf.*

Then I am sure she can take good decisions for their well-being. You should listen to her opinion, and you should listen to your children as well.

Musa: *Bɔt na mi na di man na di os!* But I am the man of the house!

Kemoh: *Fɔ le yu en yu wɛf tek disishɔn togɛda nɔ chɛnj dat. I jɛs mek yu bi gud ɔsban en gud papa we no aw fɔ listin to in wɛf en in pikin dem. We yu na bin pikin yu papa bin de listin to yu?*

Taking decisions together with your wife will not change that. You will just be a better husband and a better father who knows how to listen to his wife and children. When you were a child, did your father ever listen to you?

Musa: *Nɔ, I nɔ bin de listin to wi. I nɔ bin get tɛm. We wi du enitin rɔng i go jɛs bit wi.*
No, he would never listen to us. He didn't have time. If we did something wrong, he would just beat us.

Kemoh: *Aw dat bin de mek yu fil?* How did that make you feel?

Musa: *Wɛl mi nkin tink bɔt dat, I bin luk lek di nɔmal tin to mi. A bin de fred am.*
Well, I never thought about it, it seemed normal to me. Now that I think about it, I was scared of him.

Kemoh: *Yu si... Naw yu de tink se yu wɛf ɛn yu pikin dɛn de rɛspekt yu, bɔt na fred nɔmɔ dɛn de fred yu ɛn dat nɔ gud. Na trɔust de briŋ Tru-tru rɛspekt. Di pikin dɛn nɔ go kam to yu wen dɛn get prɔblem ɔ if dɛn wan lɛ yu no sɔntin bɔt dɛn layf. Aw una go liv lek dat ɛn se una na family?*
You see... Now you think that your wife and children respect you but they are just scared of you, that is not good. True respect comes from trust. Your children will not come to you when they have a problem or they want to share something about their lives. How can you live like that with your family?

Musa: *Kɛmɔ a nɔ de tink bɔt dat...* Kemoh, I never thought about that...

Kemoh: *A no... dat na bikɔs yu paap nɔ bin mek yu I da egzampul de na in yon layf... but yu kin sho betɛ egzampul to yu yon pikin dɛm rt Fɔ ɛna family kin bi api tin, nɔto jɛs fɔ provayd it fɔ dɛm. Mi veri prawd ɔf mi pikin dɛm. Dɛn de gro wɛl, ɛn dɛn de get gud rizɔlt na skul.*
I know... that is because your father didn't give you a good example... but you can be a better example to your own children. Family life can be full of joy; it is not just about providing food for them. I am very proud of my children. They are growing up well and have good results in school.

Musa: *Dat go fayn ɛn a go lek fɔ get da sem kayn famili de...*
That must be very nice, I would like to have the same...

Kemoh: *Yu kin get am, yu fɛ jɛs tray. A yɛri se yu wan lɛ yu bɔy-pikin lɛf skul ɛn gigin fɔ wok wit yu...*
You can, you just need to make an effort. I have heard you want your boy to quit school and start working with you...

Musa: *Yɛs, a no se di lɔ se a fɔ sɛn am go skul, bɔt tin trɔŋ dis tɛm ya...*
Yes, I know the law says I should send him to school, but things are hard these days...

Kemoh: *A no dat, bɔt yu pikin den edyukeshɔn veri imɔɔtant, so a tink se yu fɔ mekefɔt en sen yu pikin go skul.*

I know that, but your children's education is very important, so I think you should make an effort and send your child to school.

Musa: *...fayn... a go om en tɔk to mi wɛf. Sɔntɛm wit u kin fɛn way fɔ manej fɔ sen wi bɔy-pikin go skul...*

...fine... I will go home and talk to my wife. Maybe together we can find a solution to manage to send our boy to school...

Kemoh: *Dat gud! A go tɔk to di ed man insef. Yu nyu na dis kɔmyuniti bɔt yu fɔ nasewi de try ɔltɛm fɔ ep wiseɛf. Sɔntɛm wi go fɛn we fɔ ep yu family dis tranga tɛm yu.*

Very good! I will talk to the village chief as well. You are new to this community, but you should know that we always try to help each other. We might find a way to support your family in this difficult period.

Musa: *O Kemɔ, tɛnki tɛnki!* Oh, thank you Kemoh!

Radio Discussions, discussants focus on:

- The importance of joint decision making at home for the well-being of the family.

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