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Document: Binti Jabir interview

File reference: SW/PC/I3011

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**Binti Jabir interview 1985 Kanga village,
transcribed Joseph Bwaithondi 2010**

Binti Jabir lived in the centre of the village with her husband and co-wife. Only a minority of men had more than one wife, and this was the only household in which co-wives shared a house. Here they explain their arrangements.

Kuna sauti kwa mbali

RM: Na yule aliyekuja kijiji chetu kimoja

PC: Nyumba moja au mbali mbali?

RM: Mbali mbali

PC: Kila mtu kwake?

RM: Amekaa mpaka ameondoka, vyumba vyetu ndio hivi hivi

PC: Lakini kila mtu kwake na jiko lake

RM: Mmh!

AM: Wanakungoja upike upakue wao waje kula

RM: Lakini tabu hiyo

FT: Tabu kweli

RM: Uangaikwa kweli, utwange, uanike upike wao waje kula tu

FT: Sasa nyumba mbali mbali kwa nini mkapika pamoja? mkae nyumba mbali mbali na jiko pia muwe mbali mbali, nyumba moja yapendeza jiko moja lakini nyumba mbali mbali...?

RM: Sasa Fatuma nyumba vyumba viwili sasa utagawaje

FT: Atagawa yeye mwenyewe.

RM: Kikondeni?

FT: Hivyo hivyo japo kikondeni

RM: Mie nadhani hakuna haja, kikija kupikwa chakul tu nawe utamuona

PC: Tuseme kama wewe ulikuwa mja mzito umekuja na mtoto mdogo huyu mwenzio anaweza kukusaidia katika kazi zako?

FT: Sana tu

PC: Akakutunza na hata kukutunzia watoto wako?

FT: Ndio.

PC: Hivyo, mbona wengine wanasema ni miiko?

FT: Sie hatuna miiko

RM: Kumtunza gani si kama hivi kumchukua

PC : Sijuhi nyie wenzangu mnaweza kusema haa? Mnasaidia

RM: Kama kuondoka anichukue

FT: Sie tunamchukua tunamnyonyesha

PC: Hivyo

FT: Eh!

RM: Sie tunawachukua tunawaogesa hata kuwanyonyesha.

PC: Hivyo.

Wote: Eh!

PC: Mpaka kunyesha mtoto wa mwenzako?

FT: Eh!

PC: Anakuja Maya

FT: Jamaa yangu, lakini kunyonyesha hata kama sio jamaa yako mradi mnasikilizana hiyo inatosha kunyonyesha. Lakini kuna wengine wapo hawataki hata kumgusa hasimguse. Ndio wanaposema miiko na hali halisi hakuna miiko yoyote ile. Wengine wanao wakichukua watamfanyia ubaya

RM: Lakini wanajiwazia wenyewe si roho yako tena mwenyewe.

FT: Ndio moyo wako mwenyewe na ukimchukua huyu mtoto na akiumwa ndio maneno lakini hakuna ubaya wowote ni roho yako. Hapo utasikia ni mwenzangu huyu aliyemchukua ndio ameleta haya yote.

PC: Ndio.

FT: Lakini kama mnasikilizana hakuna kitu chochote . anamchukua anakogesa anamnyesha hapana tabu. Na kwa kuchukua tu hakuna miiko yoyote ila ni mtu mwenyewe hataki

PC: Mmh!

FT: Atakuwa anaona huyu akimchukua atafanya ubaya, wakati hakuna hata ubaya wowote.

PC: Lakini mimi naona inategemea sana mume, manake kama mume anakuja na kitu chake basi kila mtu apate, kama anakuja na nguo basi kila mtu apate na apate yeye na watoto wake. Lakini wengine sio hivyo

FT: Wengine kama hivyo tena amepitiwa hivyo Yule anapata na Yule hapati. Pale ndio zinapokuja chuki tena . Na hata ikawaje lazima ataiona mwenzio. Hata kama hawaishi pamoja lakini wanakaa pamoja, atamuona mwenzie anavaa nguo mpya. Yule pengine ajisifie nimepewa na mume hii na mwanzangu hajapata. Hapa ndio chuki zinaanza manake mwengine anasikia hii. Lakini unanunua na unakuja kumpa mtu hizi zako hizi na mwingine hizi zako. Hapo kutakuwa hakuna .

AM: Wakati wetu mume alikuja na nguo halafu wote mnaitwaa ili mje kuchagua ipi inakufaa. Basi pale ulipo ndio unapiga shabaha. Sasa kila mmoja atachagua anachopenda.

FT: Sasa hapakuwa na ugomvi katika kuchagua. Sasa midhali mmepewa pamoja basi. Kule kufichiana ndio kunakoleta matatizo. Hizi nzuri nitampa huyu na hizi mbaya nitampa huyu ndio inapokuja chuku. Haidhuru uwape pamoja kama hizi mbaya hizi nzuri lakini wote wamepewa pamoja bila kuficha ni jambo jema. Na hapo hakuna ugomvi tena. Ni vyema kununua namna moja na rangi moja ili kuondoa utofauti. Lakini wengine hawataki hiyo ya kuvaa namna moja.

PC: hapo kweli hakukuwa na ugomvi manake kama wote mnapewa pamoja ilikuwa jambo jema. Labda sijuhi lakini sikuona n'gombe hawajafungwa.

AM: Saa tatu hiyo hawajafungwa.

FT: Mie nataka kuuliza swali

PC: Unasemaje?

FT: Hajakuamkia. Ali hauamkii. Kamuamkie bibi

AL: Shikamoo

PC: Marhaba. Nani huyu?

AM: Mmh!

PC: Namuuliza Ali.