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# **SAMINA**

*(A play)*

By Emmanuel Okereke

## **DEDICATION.**

Dedicated

- To God Almighty
- To Onyekachi Emmanuel
- And to all African Women.

## CHARACTERS

Mallam Sani -	A retired post officer.
Mrs. Sani -	His wife.
Samina -	Their first issue and only daughter.
Alhaji Gambo -	An illiterate politician; Samina's suitor.
Hajiya -	His wife (first of five wives)
Habiba -	Their daughter
Chief Eze -	A well known Government figure
Mrs. Eze -	His wife (A Professor)
Uzo Eze -	Their only child (son)
Basil -	Sani's friend
Mrs. Basil -	His wife. A politician and a lawyer
King -	Member and Leader of the Royal House
Ogbenime -	Chief Guard and messenger of Alhaji Gambo

## ABSTRACT

*The play SAMINA has a lot of its force with passage of times and patterns of the life of families, master and servant, husbands and wives, education, inclusion, diversity, gender equality, choice and opportunity, value for strength and wisdom, whether fits into the stereotypical gender roles we hold or not.*

*The central character SAMINA is identifiable by speech, appearance and manner as the girl child .*

*The play also represent a minority culture and religion. However, the writer did not conceive this play in order to advance our modern cause of racial equality but to improve, empower and educate women and young girls to become the agents of broader positive change within their communities.*

## PROLOGUE

Light shines

Rhythm sounds ... indicating celebration.

Gently, it draws near, moving to its zenith. It came aloud and enough tune to reveal it.

What I have longed for

I will not miss it.

(Two voices rise from the group in a wailing duet)

I'm folding my maiden gowns

Preparing to sing along

What a joyous moment

Going to the man's house

Gun powders...

It makes its own noise. They hunter's chants, as the chanting of the different groups go on.

## Act 1

### Scene 1

*The scene is ... The Community ground. It is evening. A special gathering is starting.*

*Female voices, singing, punctuating drum beats; rhythmic clatters of gourd-rattles as the members of the Royal House enters and take position upstage.*

*Elderly chiefs of the land enters. They range themselves in order of seniority mid-stage right and left. The atmosphere looked lively. The young girls sing and dance to the rhythm of the tune. They made a step of beauty as they smiled to the audience that admired them. Their backs vibrate like a flowing ocean and their beauty rise to adore the twin towers on their chest as the drumming went on and on. The drummers and dancers greet the king as he enters. The people have also brought presents and the dances symbolize the sources of the presents – their occupations: and the presents. The king dancing a few steps happily as he returned to his seat. The audience cheer as the King flags his Lion skin made hand fan on their backs. It's Ori Girls High School performing on stage.*

**People: (*shouting*)**

Our king! Our King! Our King!!

*(They shouted. He smiled on his cherubic face and waves his skin made hand fan as he dances back to his seat.*

*At the right corner of the stage, two men were busy discussing and looking at Alhaji Gambo who was present.)*

**1<sup>st</sup> man: (*sighs*)**

I don't know what that man feels he is, he is there looting our money and he thinks he can come here and shake the ground.

**2<sup>nd</sup> man:**

That one! *(sighs)*

That ugly man that refused to die. Who is even voting for him again?

**1<sup>st</sup> man:**

I wish these people will think like me. *(silent he continues)* I wish they will just open their inner eyes and see what is hovering in the air.



**2<sup>nd</sup> man:** I'm seeing it with you. I know he is just here for his political interest. After all the country is corrupt, who knows what he has given to the King.

**1<sup>st</sup> man:** The one that pains me most is that, we don't know whether it is campaign or a cultural gathering. He even go to churches and the people call him their man. *(He sighs)*

**2<sup>nd</sup> man:** His plans will fail this time. It will not work.

**1<sup>st</sup> man:** *(Nods in agreement)* Yes!

*(There was no laughter or smile on their faces. He continues)*

It will not work, yes. Let's leave him; he is a fool so he doesn't know what we know. I just like coming here to witness this performance, that's why I have to come from Abuja.

**2<sup>nd</sup> man:** Even me. I love watching it but if they are now changing it into campaign or hosting politicians especially the ones like Gambo, I will not ever think of it again.

*(At the up stage, the king was seen speaking with the man those men were talking about. The Alhaji Gambo. They talked in low tune).*

**King:** *(looks at Gambo)* Friend! Hope you are enjoying the display?

**Mallam Gambo:** *(He bows in honour)* Your Majesty! *(He smiles broadly)*

**King:** *(He answers)* Yes! Gambo

**Mallam Gambo:** *(Smiling broadly again and speaks)* I must confess that our people are great. In fact I recommend this in every part of the country.

**King:** *(laughing)* Thank you! *(He leaned forward and went)*  
Ohh! *(He continues)*

And you are welcome. This is one of the things we are known for in this country. Honourable men, women and even sons of this land come from far to witness this event, including those living in abroad.

**Mallam Gambo:** *(He smiles)* Your Majesty!

**King:** *(Turns to him)* Yes! Any problem?

**Mallam Gambo:** No your Majesty. *(he goes silent for a moment and continues)* not much.

Please, Your Majesty can I use this medium to address the people? *(He whispers)*

**King:** Is it in any necessary aspect? *(He enquires)*

**Mallam Gambo:** Yes, Your Majesty. *(He smiles and continues)*

On my political matter. You know that the people will like me to speak; they will like to hear from me as the man of the people. As the man they need on the seat, which I will be.

**King:** It would have been the best as you said, but we are on a traditional ground and not political ground. I am a grown up man whom the people honours, any guest here must not address the people on his or her own interest. You have to tell me or fix a date and come to my house then I shall gather the people who will like to hear from you and not now.

**Mallam Gambo:** I understand Your Majesty. This is a family and you are still one of us, even as I talk now; I have something for you inside the car boot.

**King:** *(He looks at him)* How dare you speak to me in that manner?

**King:** Sorry, Your Majesty.

**His Majesty:** *(sad)* How much can you give to me to sell my people or satisfy your desire and loose my dignity. If not it is you, I would have placed a curse upon you.

**Mallam Gambo** I'm sorry your majesty, forgive me of my words.

**King:** That is not the word. You better be and don't corrupt me. Corruption is not the way of life.

**Mallam Gambo:** Yes Your Majesty. I will not mention it again. I'm loyal. *(he pauses, then smiles and continues).*  
Excuse me, Your Majesty, please.  
It's like my boy has an emergency message *(he stands up and dances out as his body guard follows him to the side of his car.)*

**Mallam Gambo:** *(muttering to himself)* This stupid man has insulted me, calling my desire selfish.

**Ogbenime:** Boss! *(He shakes and pounds his chest)*. Who vex you?  
*(He speaks in pidgin)*, make I go show the person  
pepper. *(He taps his finger.)*

**Mallam Gambo:** It is not now Ogbe! That will be later. Meanwhile  
we.... in fact, I will not go out here empty handed.

**Ogbenime:** *(Laughs)* Boss! Wetin you dey expect. *(He faced him.)*

**Mallam Gambo:** *(He taps his shoulder and draws him near)* See! You  
know very soon we will start running for our  
campaign?

**Ogbenime:** *( nods)* Yes boss. Are we to start now?

**Mallam Gambo:** *(He holds his left ear)* Shut up and listen.

**Ogbenime:** Aaah! Yes boss. *(He gently removes Gambo's hand)*

**Mallam Gambo:** *(He points at a direction)* Can you view those girls  
dancing over there? That is my daughter's school  
but she is not there. I will like you to go in there and  
inquire from those girls who that their leader is?

I guess she is good looking to be my new wife and complete my political career.

**Ogbenime:** *(He shakes his head)* Boss!

**Mallam Gambo:** Yes? *(his eyes gone misty as he goes quiet)*

**Ogbenime:** *(sad)* But mama Habiba and the other four wives dey. Why you wan marry again?

**Mallam Gambo:** Shut up fool. *(He knocks him and continues)*  
Shut up! Who gave you the right?

**Ogbenime:** *(Sighs)* I'm sorry boss!

**Mallam Gambo:** Stupid! *(He continues)* Don't you have respect for me as the man of the people that I am?

**Ogbenime:** I get respect boss! *(He pleads with his palms put together)*

**Mallam Gambo:** If you dare ask me that kind of question again, I will fire you; now go.

**Ogbenime:** *(tries to leave and comes back)*

Boss! *(He goes silent, smiles and continues)* You sabi say this kind message suppose carry pikin for back.

**Mallam Gambo:** What do you mean?

**Ogbenime:** *(laughs)* I go settle the people wey I go ask make them give me vital info.

**Mallam Gambo:** *(he touches Ogbenime's suit)* when I bought you this suit, I thought it will change your mentality, I don't know you are still the same illiterate. *(He points)* go there, infact tell the girl that the man of the people wants to see her. I'm waiting.

**Ogbenime:** Boss I go goo *(He tries to leave and comes back)* But! What if the girl don marry?

**Mallam Gambo:** *(shouts)* Idiot! Fool!  
get out of here.

**Ogbenime:** *(leaves gently and mutters to himself)* na all be my name, I take idiot, oga take fool.  
*(he walks to where the girls were sitting, now it was another group that were performing on the stage. The*

*girls all look at him as he approaches the girl he was sent to)*

**Ogbenime:** Well done, *(he said to her smiling foolishly)* You try well well for that dance ooo.....

**Samina:** *(smiling)* Thank you! How may I help you?

**Ogbenime:** *(smiling)* you dey talk very well, is like you sabi say I need your help.  
*(He continues in whisper as he bends to her ear)*  
Eehhh.... my boss, the man of the people is calling you. *(all the girls laugh at his words)*

**Samina:** *(Looks at him)* any problem? *(She asks Ogbenime)*

**Ogbenime:** *(Smiling)* no problems at all. He just wan see you may be for una performance.



**Samina:** (*Looking forward*) I will see him on one reason. And that is because he is my friends father, you can go I will be on my way.

**Ogbenime:** He say make you follow me come.

**Samina:** (*Looks at him*) I said you can go. I will be on my way.

**Ogbenime:** (*smiling*) ok, no problems

*(He leaves while Samina follows him at the back until they get to Gambo's spot, while Gambo gave Ogbenime a sign to shift aside).*

**Mallam Gambo:** How are you young lady?

**Samina:** (*She bows in greeting*) I'm fine sir. Good afternoon.

**Mallam Gambo:** (*Smiling*) Good afternoon, how are doing? I saw your performance on the stage, it was very impressive.

**Samina:** (*Smiling*) Thank you, sir.

**Mallam Gambo:** I believe you know me. Chief Mallam H.A.R. Gambo; MFR, OOB, FON, MON the man of the people.

**Samina:** *(laughs)* Yes, I know you very well sir, you are Habiba's father.

**Mallam Gambo:** Oh great! But you are missing something there. The man the people want even the unborn knows me.  
*(He laughs and continues)*  
Who is your father and where are you from?

**Samina:** Well my father is Alhaji F.A Sani. A retired post master.

**Mallam Gmabo:** Wait ... wait *(He taps his finger looking as though seeing a vision and shouts)* Your father is a newspaper vendour?

**Samina:** *(Smiling)* Yes sir.

**Mallam Gambo:** *(laughs)* Meaning it has already worked out.

**Samina:** *(looks surprise, no laughter)* I don't understand sir?  
What worked out?

**Mallam Gambo:** *(continues laughing)* Don't worry, tell your father that you met me.

**Samina:** *(confused)* I will! I have to go back and join my fellows. Excuse me.

**Mallam Gambo:** No! No!! No!!! *(He holds her back with his usual smile)*  
You don't meet an honourable man like me and go empty handed. *(He opens his car and try to count some money).*

**Samina:** *(shakes her head)* Sir, I'm sorry, I don't accept offers especially from strangers.

**Mallam Gambo:** *(laughs)* Oh come on..!! Are you different from other girls? Accept this, did you forget that I'm the man of the people.

**Samina:** *(Smiles slightly)* I choose to be different, it makes me unique, you can keep the money we have enough, no offence, excuse me and have a nice day. *(She*

*leaves the scene, leaving Gambo with the money in his hand).*

**Mallam Gambo:** Imagine!

*(laughs)*

Well that's how they behave at first, but I will get you, sixth wife calling! *(laughs, while Ogbenime appears from nowhere).*

**Ogbenime:** *(Smiling)* Boss! Boss!! *(He raises up his hands and hail him).* If I be woman, I go chop your money.

**Mallam Gambo:** Fool! Local one! *(He sighs and continues in rage)*

Return to your position *(he leaves to his seat)*

**Ogbenime:** *(To himself)* If I be local fool, you be international, in fact worldwide fool. Yeye man. No go find better thing do, dey here dey find small small girls. I pity the ones wey dey agree for you.

*As light fades*

*Curtain close*

*(At Alhaji F.A. Sani's house, the parlour was well decorated and furnished. Alhaji Sani sits on one of the sofa while Samina enters).*

**Samina:** *(Greetings)* Good afternoon papa.

**Sani:** Good afternoon. *(He looks at her, then the clock at the wall and back to her)*  
What says the time?

**Samina:** *(Looks at the clock)* I don't have any wrist watch here but the clock says 4:10pm.

**Sani:** *(He leans forward)* And you are just coming back now? Forgetting you have to help your mother.

**Samina:** I did my chores before leaving, so after our performance I have to go and pick up my letter.

**Sani:** I saw Chief Gambo. He invited me for the first time in his house, did you also see him?

**Samina:** Is it Habiba's father?

**Sani:** *(Looks at her)* Ask me another question! *(he continues)*

What did he tell you?

**Samina:** *(Open her hand in honesty)* nothing

*(Silence, then she continues)*

He just offered me some money but I rejected it.

**Sani:** *(shouts)* hey! *(Opens his mouth and whispers)*

This girl will not kill me ooo...

**Samina:** *(she goes)* Aaah!, any problem papa?

**Sani:** You rejected money, at this economic hazard. And you left the money and went to pick up letter? So we now eat letters in this house? By the way, whose letter was that? *(his voice was shrill as he shouts).*

**Samina:** *(she trembles)* It's Uzo, papa.

**Sani:** *(stands up)* From now onwards you are going to close that your Uzo's chapter in this house.

We don't eat letters. I have made up my mind already that you will not marry an Ibo man, talk more of that your Uzo who don't even care whether you eat or not and he is sending letters because he sees post office at cheaper rate. I don't blame him, I think he is in America enjoying himself with the white ladies and we are here receiving empty letters.

**Samina:** *(steps back)* Papa I have made up my mind too, when Uzo finishes his studies, he is coming for my hand in marriage.

**Sani** *(sad)* It's like you are not hearing what I am saying? And don't talk when I'm talking. Chief Gambo our man is coming to pay your bride price as his sixth wife.

**Samina:** *(shouts)* I will never! I'm not going to marry a man who don't have respect for himself. He is old enough to be my grandfather, his daughter is my mate and how can I be her step mother? Sixth wife for that matter. Me I have to make my own choice ooo...

**Sani:** *(sits back)* Sixth wife or no sixth wife, the money is there period!

**Samina:** *(sobs)* So papa you want to sell me out for money?

**Sani:** *(laughs)* That's what the economy now says. Give out what you have to get what you want and this particular one we need it. Besides Uzo is not going to marry you, because I have nothing at all to do with the Ibos, they will not even come near to my house.

**Samina:** *(cleans her eyes)* Uzo is the man I want. His parents have been so nice to us. Besides nothing is wrong with an Ibo man marrying me. They are good and they know how to treat women. Papa leave me alone to make my choice. This is about my life and happiness.

*(Samina's mother enters from the inner room. It's like she has been hearing the conversation, she holds Samina by her left hand and ties her wrapper well)*



**Mrs. Sani:** *(frowning)* Alhaji! (She shakes her head in disagreement)

My daughter is not going to be a sixth wife, not even second, to any ugly illiterate beast, not even that old fool who refused to die. Gambo is old enough to be her grandfather. She will wait till Uzo returns from America.

**Sani:** *(laughs)* woman! You better go back and think.

**Mrs. Sani:** *(angrily)* Think what? My daughter will never make the mistake I made. She is still young. Uzo and his parents have declared their interest. And she is not going to end as a house wife, she is still going to study and she will enjoy her marriage. I was seventeen when your parents paid my bride price. I would have been a lawyer now or like my friend. The man who was suppose to be my husband is a professor now, an Ibo man for that matter. My daughter will choose a husband. No tribalism, not even to satisfy your want by selling her with a penny. It's like you are the one to think now.

**Sani:** *(composed)* Have you finished?

**Mrs. Sani:** Not yet!

**Sani:** Continue!  
Let's see who is the man of the house. Whether you or me.

**Mrs. Sani:** *(laughs)* When the man of the house cannot reason well like the man of the house, then the woman of the house takes over. Uzo is coming back this year as a medical doctor to pick up my daughter. Samina is not going to marry Gambo. Hoha! He is a politician, what has he done for his people that you want to push in my daughter to him, what happened to his wives? Or his concubines? Or the ones he sleeps in the hotel with? I'm even sure he has HIV/AIDS.

**Samina:** Papa!

**Sani:** Shutup! Don't papa me for anything. Like mother, like daughter.

**Mrs. Sani:** *(laughs)* Like Gambo, like Sani.

**Sani:**

*(He leans forward)* Woman let me talk. *(He shouts at his wife and faces Samina)*

I trained you *(he points Samina)* with my last penny throughout your stay in Federal Government College till now you are to make me smile like others. And you still want my efforts to be in vain. If you don't marry Gambo, you will see.

**Mrs. Sani:**

She will not see anything, that same Ibo land, was where you sent your daughter to school. Yet she met friends who enlightened her. Have you forgotten that an Ibo man gave you a job? And your first car was given to you by an Ibo man when you have no hope of getting a motorcycle. What of your friend who married an Ibo woman. Who is now contesting with Gambo? She was the one who established my food business. Have they not done more than good? Uzo's father have been paying Samina's school fees when we were not able to afford a kobo for her education. What has Gambo done for you? But you want to give out your daughter's hand in marriage just like that to that greedy Gambo who is expecting better Suitors for her daughter. *(She exhales and continues)* Aaah! Samina is going nowhere, if they ask you, tell them I

said so. I am the woman of the house. *(Mrs. Sani drags her daughter in. As they left the scene, AlhajiSani Stands)*

**Sani:** *(Alone)* Alright! Alright!! *(He moves and counts his steps)*

We shall see.

After all I have passed through. Yet, this woman wants me to continue in the same way! It will not work.

*Light fades.*

## **SCENE 2**

*(Scene two opens at Basil's house, Basil was at the sitting room resting, it was a well furnished sitting room while a hand knocks at the door, Basil goes to open)*

**Basil:** *(Stands and goes for the door)* hold on!

I'm coming! *(opens the door)*

Oh! *(surprise then speaks with a smile)*

Alhaji, how are you?

**Sani:** *(laughs)* I'm fine Oh! Big man.

**Basil:** *(laughs)* long time *(they shake each other)* come in, come in and have a seat.

**Sani:** *(smiling)* Thank you. *(He takes a sit and Basil did too as they face each other).*

**Basil:** *(Smiling)* You are welcome. How is your family? Since you cannot reach me on the telephone again.

**Sani:** Aaah! They are all fine and what about your wife?

**Basil:** I guess she will soon come out, she is dressing for a meeting. *(Mrs. Basil comes out)*

**Mrs. Basil:** Oh! Alhaji *(smiles)*

Welcome!

**Sani:** *(Smiling)* Madam, how are you?

**Mrs. Basil:** *(Picks up her car key)* I'm fine, this one we don't see you again, I hope all is well?

**Sani:** *(Laughs before he speaks)* Economic matters has made us to go inside.

**Mrs. Basil:** *(Laughs)* Well, greet my friend and the children. I have a meeting to attend with the governor; my husband will make you comfortable.

**Sani:** *(Smiling)* Alright! You know you people are the government now.  
Bye!

**Mrs. Basil:** *(Laughs)* Yes oh! Women should be given that equal right and opportunity  
Have a nice day! Bye.

*(She leaves the room and her car engine starts steaming while the gate man opens the gate).*

**Basil:** *(Smiling)* she has been busy all this while, and I don't have much chance because I just came back from America where I went to see our children.

**Sani:** *(Exhales)* Your wife is on money. *(He turns to Basil)*

**Basil:**

*(Laughing)* I thank God. *(He continues)*

If not for her educational background, she wouldn't have been in the political chessboard. That's why I will always acknowledge her.

**Sani:**

*(Sighs)* Forget that thing.

Do you want to tell me that this is the best way for marriage? Where a man will sit at home and the wife works.

**Basil:**

*(Silent, and finally whispers.)*

I am proud that where my mates can give 10 penny, I will give 20 penny. Who will know? She knows that a husband is in the house and she gives me the respect I deserve.

What about your wife? Have you forgotten she is the bread winner of the family?

**Sani:**

*(Bends)* Well! *(He scratches his head in response)*

It's just that gender and her being an Ibo woman!

**Basil:**

Nothing is wrong with any Ibo man or woman. I don't know what you think about them. You wanted to confuse me when I was about marrying my wife

because she is an Ibo and you said no. But my spirit supported me. Even my daughter is getting married soon to an Ibo man.

**Sani:** *(Smiles)* So you don't have drinks in this house?

**Basil:** Oh sorry! *(Laughs)* I forgot.

*(Looks at him after standing up)*

What is your brand now? *(He enquires)*

You know now may be the economy has changed your choice in the bar.

**Sani:** *(Laughs)* do you have beer?

Or any soft drink? Anyone can go so long as it's a drink.

**Basil:** Assorted! *(He goes to bring the drink and returns with two bottles of beer and two glass cups in a tray).*

**Sani:** *(Looks at him)* what about your house help? *(He enquires)*

**Basil:** Oh! She travelled.



**Sani:** Then, who now cooks?

**Basil:** *(Laughs)* My wife of course or me.

**Sani:** *(His eyes gone misty)* You? *(Goes silent, laughs then said)*

Why can't you leave it for her? Men are not meant to cook nor enter the kitchen.

**Basil:** *(Laughs)* It's a lie. Who told you that? *(The timbre of his voice changes)*

Have you been sick? *(He asks warmly)*

**Sani:** No! *(He falls into a perfect quiet. As though in a meditative state)*

Why do you ask?

**Basil:** *(He rues and answers him)*

You speak like someone whom malaria has affected in the brain. *(He goes silent and continues).* And I see you were not prepared for marriage. The union is blessed to help each other, whether the husband or

the wife, they must enter the kitchen, if any of my children comes back we send our house help back so that the children will also partake in cooking. It is not only meant for the house help or the wife.

**Sani:**

*(He sighs)* No problem!

Wait let me open my drink first.

*(They open the drinks with a toast).*

It has been long.

**Basil:**

*(Smiling)* Yes. *(He goes quiet again. His eye glazes over as though seeing a vision. He speaks)*

Hope your wife's business is going well?

**Sani:**

*(He nods gently and exhales heavily)*

**Basil:**

*(Looks at him, his face is pained).* Hope there is no problem?

**Sani:**

*(sighs)* Not much. *(Goes silent and then continues)* She wants to over thrown me.

**Basil:**

*(Confused)* How? *(He enquires, His tone was measured and He speaks)* Explain!

**Sani:** You know I don't like Ibo? *(His voice was choked)*

**Basil:** *(He looks at him and laughs)* Why?

**Sani:** *(He speaks, When his words stepped forth, they were also choked)* My wife said our daughter will marry an Ibo boy, who is in America and my daughter agrees.

**Basil:** *(Dead silent before speaking in a refined manner)* Ehn! What's the problem in it if it is the girl's choice?

**Sani:** *(Looks at him)* you said choice? Why will a girl child be allowed to make a choice?

**Basil:** What! *(He exclaims).* A woman should be able and have the choice to select whom to marry. Don't force her. Let's build a world where women should be allowed to make a choice on what they want for themselves. Value them for all the strengths and wisdom they hold, whether those fit into the stereotypical gender roles we hold or not, just like my wife in politics.

**Sani:** I don't want to argue with you now *(Pauses)*  
The problem there is that I have a suitor for her.

**Basil:** *(He shudders)* Who?

**Sani:** The man of the people.

**Basil:** *(laughs)* Who is the man of the people?

**Sani:** *(He says dramatically)* Chief H.R.A. Gambo.

**Basil:** *(laughs and leans forward)*  
I believe what I said is true

**Sani:** *(warmly)* What is that?

**Basil:** *(Laughing)* That malaria has infected you.  
*(Sips his beer, laughs again and continues).* You mean  
that selfish man?  
How can you be giving out your first issue, your first  
daughter for that matter to a nobody, a man who  
has no reputation not even one respect for himself.  
Thank your God my wife is not here when you said  
it.

**Sani:** *(laughs)* what will she do?

**Basil:** *(He sighs)* Just thank your God and don't ask me.

**Sani:** See!

*(He taps him on the shoulder)*

Gambo is a wealthy fellow. And he is good too.

**Basil:** *(He sighs and asks)* How much good is he? Or are you pursuing his filthy wealth?

**Sani:** *(laughs)* Wait.... let me finish.

**Basil:** *(without humor or expression of happiness, he pronounces)* No! what is your problem? What exactly do you have to say? *(He goes silent then whispers)*

Leave your daughter to decide for herself, allow her to choose the right man who will help her finish up her education. Women education no longer ends in the kitchen or for them becoming a house wife. One day you will see it that a woman will rule the country.

**Sani:** *(Taps his finger and shouts)* God forbid. It will not happen.

**Basil:** *(Laughing)* it is happening already. My wife is just an example.

**Sani:** *(sighs)* Oh! is it because she is opposing Gambo?

**Basil:** *(smiles before he spoke)* Not even that. Look around my compound. All the cars that are here were bought by my wife. But its papers all bear my name. All I'm telling you is that my daughter is also getting married to an Ibo man. So leave your daughter to make a choice.

**Sani:** *(frowns)* And you supported it?

**Basil:** *(Laughs)* Look at this man. Why not? My daughter has no back idea of getting married around, even my son I think, and the choice is left for them to make. They know what they want, they know what is good for them, I will just advice when I see the wrong one.

**Sani:** *(quiet for a moment then says)* Economic situation, now looking at it I think I have to be a beneficiary to Gambo's wealth.

**Basil:** *(frowns)* Don't reason like a child. Even a child will not reason like this.

**Sani:** How?

**Basil:** Listen! *(He clears his throat and whispers as though the walls were listening)* Gambo's first wife, the father died of sickness which was not even worth Gambo's change. All his in-laws are regretting their mistake; talk more of your daughter becoming the sixth wife. And I think you don't know that Gambo may be infected with a deadly virus.

**Sani:** *(laughs)* what virus?

**Basil:** Like HIV/AIDS. *(He rubs his palms together in relish and continues)* I think you want your daughter to be infected too.

**Sani:** *(He laughs as he throws out the words.)* It is a lie.

**Basil:** *(His eyes come alive. His cheeks fill out. He looks avuncular handsome as he speaks)* After messing himself up, what then do you expect?

**Sani:** *(Relaxes on his seat)* But those with HIV are not fat and healthy!!!

**Basil:** *(Laughs)* Do you know their secret? No!  
Now, let me educate you. Those infected engage in drugs that helps last their lives.

**Sani:** *(frowns)* I have heard enough. It is like my wife came here and confused you.*(sighs)* Next time, have a better thing to tell me. *(he stands to leave)*

**Basil:** *(Amazed and goes)* Aaah! Where are you going? Do you want to use the latrine?

**Sani:** *(Smiling)* I'm not drunk.

**Basil:** *(Laughs)* I thought you are, because your zip is open.



**Sani:** *(looks at his zip and closed it and laughs)* it is like your wife use to count beer, that's why you gave me one.

**Basil:** *(Laughs)* Relax!! Let me get some assorted from the refrigerator. *(He stands and makes a step)*

**Sani:** I'm going now! My house is far, so let me join the last train. I'm not with my car. it spoilt. And also to wait for my in-law, I'm inviting you as my friend.  
*(laughs)*

**Basil:** *(frowns)* You are killing that little girl, Sani!!

**Sani:** I hear you. When she gets married we can talk more. Extend my greetings to your madam. Thank her for the one bottle of beer you gave to me. *(He smiles as he makes for the door).*

**Basil:** *(Draws him back,dips his hand in his pocket and hands him some money)* Take for your transport; we are expecting to see you and your wife soon for celebration.

**Sani:** *(smiling)* alright! *(he collects the money as usual)*

**Basil:** *(laughs)* But wait! Have a sit please

*(They both sit back again)*

**Sani:** Aaah! Any more of your problems?

**Basil:** *(smiling)* It's not my own problem. *(exhales and continues)* Haven't you heard?

**Sani:** Heard what?

**Basil:** *(smiling)* About VVF!

**Sani:** *(after a silent)* Haba! VVF! What is VVF?

**Basil:** *(Smiling)* It means Vesica vaginal fistula, VVF; it is an abnormal fistulous tract extending between the bladder and the vagina that allows the continuous involuntary discharge of urine in the vaginal vault.

**Sani:** *(Exclaim then goes)* Aaah! What is the cause of this vesica fistula something?

**Basil:** *(laughs)* it is often caused when underage girls are put in family way. Allow them to develop and get matured not even to a man who is older than their father. Because of under developed pelvic, during labour, the unborn baby presses tightly against the pelvic thereby causing their pelvic cutting off blood flow to the vesico vaginal wall.

**Sani:** Why?

**Basil:** *(smiles before he went)* It is because their pelvic is still under-developed. It is also caused by violent rape.

**Sani:** *(laughs)* Haba! Can a married woman be raped by her husband?

**Basil:** Yes of course. Because these girls are naïve about sexual issues. They are literally raped by their husbands.

*(Sani Stands up laughing. Basil joins him as they opened the door and walk outside. There is train horn blowing in the back ground)*

*(CURTAIN)*

### **SCENE 3**

*Full light on stage*

*(Sani's house.Sani was eating while Gambo walks in majestically without knocking the door)*

**Sani:**

Oh! Chief!

*(Washes his hands as he stands and moves to leave space)*

**Gambo:**

*(smiling)* my in-law. My in-law

**Sani:**

*(Bows)* Chief! Welcome, have a seat. *(Points to a couch)*

**Gambo:** *(laughs)* I can't sit on this seat, it is too low and local well I have a seat inside my car that I normally sit anywhere I go, it was made in England.  
Ogbeni! *(He calls for his guard)*

**Ogbenime:** *(Enters from outside)* Boss!

**Gambo:** *(Still standing)* Get me my seat. *(Exits Ogbenime)*

**Sani:** I'm on table, join me chief.

**Gambo:** *(laughs)* Don't worry, when you become my in-law you will see what is life. How many meats are there? *(He points inside the soup)*

**Sani:** *(laughs)* Chief! Economic matter.

**Gambo:** *(smiling)* It doesn't affect me nor people around me. Besides Where is my new wife?

**Sani:** *(Perplexed closes his food and carries it away as he comes back still standing)* You mean?

**Gambo:** *(Laughs)* My wife! Samina. Your daughter

**Sani:** Oh! Samina. *(Nods gently as he pronounces)*. She is not around now. She went out with her mother.

**Gambo:** *(Happy)* You should be staying home with her to be expecting my visit. *(After a pause)* Well let's talk business, I wish you have air freshener to clear this sitting room, when last did you furnish it? *(He looks around)*.

**Sani:** *(Smiles to himself in disgust)* Chief I can't remember.

**Gambo:** *(Laughs foolishly and looks at him helplessly)* Don't worry. Time shall come when you will be living in a mansion with cars. I will clear this place with a bulldozer and rebuild it in two days with white engineers.

**Sani:** *(Bows)* Thank you Chief.

**Gambo:** *(calling)* Ogbenime! Ogbenime!! Where is the seat?  
*(Ogbenime runs in with a chair)*

*(laughing)* Yes! *(he sits as Ogbenime exits the sitting room)*. This is the seat. I bought it the day Queen Elizabeth bought hers, from the same furniture house in England.

**Sani:** Chei! *(Touches the seat and smiles)* Chief you have seen Queen Elizabeth?

**Gambo:** *(laughs)* You don't know me very well. I'm the man the people want. Even the unborn knows Chief Mallam H.A.R Gambo MFR, OOB, FON, MON.  
*(laughs)* Even the Queen don't even have all my title and award.

**Sani:** *(smiling)* Chief you are wonderful! *(Looks around the house and look back at Gambo before asking)*. What do I offer you?

**Gambo:** *(Laughs)* Don't worry, you have nothing to offer me rather I will give you. *(calling.)*  
Ogbenime! Ogbeni!

**Ogbenime:** *(Comes in)* Boss! At your service *(Stands at attention)*

**Gambo:** Bring all those things in the boot, everything.

**Ogbenime:** Both the jark?

**Gambo:** Don't be stupid, fool.

**Ogbenime:** *(Stepping back)* Boss na you say everything.

**Gambo:** Do fast and don't keep my in-law waiting.

**Ogbenime:** Yes boss *(he runs out and comes back)* But boss!

**Gambo:** Yes! *(Looks at him growing impatient)*

**Ogbenime:** You never marry his daughter and you dey call him in-law.

**Gambo:** I will rather choose a goat over you, will you leave here. *(Ogbenime runs out)*

**Sani:** *(whispers)* Is he mentally affected, Chief?

**Gambo:** *(sighs)* I think so.



**Sani:** You better start avoiding him before he strangles you to death.

**Gambo:** *(Exclaims)* Allah forbid! *(Pauses and exhales)* Your daughter suppose to be the first lady, even before election starts, I wanted to see the president with her. That's why I'm rushing all this because she is presentable, so that after the election both of us can travel together to England. So that she will see the Queen.

**Sani:** *(smiling)* Don't worry Chief. I will prepare her as soon as possible.

**Gambo:** Have you discussed this with her? *(He whispers)*

**Sani:** *(happily)* Yes, I have been reminding her.

**Gambo:** And what's her response

**Sani:** *(laughs and goes)* Aaah! Chief, She is very happy.

**Gambo:** *(smiling)* That's great.

**Sani:** Chief! *(Pauses and looks at him)*

**Gambo:** Yes! *(waits)*

**Sani:** You know... eh-h-h-h-m-m-m!

**Gambo:** *(laughs)* I understand. *(He dips his hand in his pocket, counts some money and hands to Sani)*. In case she needs more tell her to come to my house.

**Sani:** *(smiling)* Thank you Chief.

**Gambo:** Alhaji!

**Sani:** *(laughs)* Yes Chief

**Gambo:** *(leans forward)* What about your wife?

**Sani:** As I said earlier, she went out.

**Gambo:** Extend my greetings to her.

**Sani:** *(smiling)* Don't worry, Samina is already yours.

**Gambo:** Alhaji, don't play pranks with me. And you know nobody plays with the great Gambo and goes scot free.

**Sani:** *(smiling)* already, you don't even need to tell me. If not Gambo, who else?

**Gambo:** *(stands to leave)* I shall be leaving now. Ogben!  
Ogben!! *(he calls out Ogbeni who rushes in)*

**Ogbenime:** Boss! *(stand sat attention)* I hear my name na you dey call?

**Gambo:** I'm not surprise *(he says to Ogbenime)* Are you surprise about his behavior? *(he asks Sani)*

**Sani:** No Chief, *(laughs and continues)* you know this children of nowadays.

**Ogbenime:** *(To Sani)* If to say you nobe Alhaji thunder for fire your nyashi!

**Gambo:** Shut up! How dare you insult my in-law in my presence. Carry this chair, I'm leaving. *(Ogbenim carries the chair and tries to make a step while Gambo*

*calls him back*). Wait, don't be faster than your shadow.

**Ogbenime:** I don't have shadow for day time. *(He puts the chair down)*

**Gambo:** *(sits)* Alhaji!  
*(He looks at Ogbenime)* Ogbenime excuse us.  
*(Ogbenime leaves the sitting room)*

**Sani:** Yes Chief!

**Gambo:** *(He whispers)* Hope there is no other suitor?

**Sani:** *(laughs)* Not at all. *(continues)*  
The whole family of AhajiSani is looking up to Honourable Chief H.A.R. Gambo. Only you chief! Home and Abroad.

**Gambo:** *(laughs)* You have not completed it. Some other things are attached.

**Sani:** *(smiling)* Chief, it's only the one I know. Do you answer any other name?

**Gambo:** MFR, OOB, FON, MON even the African Republic is going to award me the Africa man and England is going to award me. *(Laughing)* infact you have not known me yet, just wait let me marry Samina, I will surprise you. *(His laugh subsided and he whispers)* Why I was asking if there is any suitor was that no one touches my food or washes his hand to eat from my plate. Everybody knows Gambo. My name is everywhere, ask George bush of Washington in America.

**Sani:** *(laughs)* I have not seen him before.

**Gambo:** So, nobody challenges me and go scot free so let the person withdraw. Especially when I win my next election.

**Sani:** *(Laughing)* I trust you chief  
You can do and undo  
You are our man and we have already started to say, go ahead.

**Gambo:** *(stands again)* Thank Allah, you know. I will be leaving now.

**Sani:** Alright Chief! *(Gambo strides out and Sani escorts him as he enters his car and drove away. As Sani returns to the house, his wife was already waiting in the sitting room)*

**Sani:** *(exclaiimes)* Ahhh! When did you come back?

**Mrs. Sani:** *(looking away)* I came back through the backyard when Gambo was here.

**Sani:** Were you hearing our discussion?

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Angry)* No! *(Turns back to him)* My ears were closed. Let me make it known and clear to you. Samina my daughter is not going to marry her grandfather.

**Sani:** *(perplexed but calm)* Which grandfather? *(Confused)*

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Visibly angry)* Gambo! Since Gambo is now your father. I heard all your discussion clearly. He has

come again to confuse you with his cold money. I don't know you can be easily deceived with money even some women are better than you. Go and see for yourself, the third wife and the fourth wife are fighting in his compound. Is this what you want my daughter to go into? Never!!

**Sani:** *(laughs)* how does it concern me? a man who has enough to marry more than two is in power and will marry as many as he wishes. After all, Solomon was wise when he married 700 wives.

**Mrs. Sani:** My Bible says one man, one woman; if you like marry Ten Thousand. That's what it said if you are still on that old side, infact any day I see Gambo here again, God knows what he will be like.

**Sani:** *(Sad but composed)* In my house?

**Mrs. Sani:** *(laughs)* Which house? Has Gambo stopped us from paying house rent? These are things you should have considered before asking in your house?

**Sani:** *(Sits down)* bring my food. I don't have your time now.

**Mrs. Sani:** No food for you. *(She looks away)* Go to Gambo's house and feed enough. I thought he gave you some money? Go and eat with it.

**Sani:** *(still calm)* You better stop this your jokes now. Go in there and dish my food or else...

**Mrs. Sani:** *(cuts in)* you will burn down the house? *(turns to him)* greedy man.  
Money! Money!! If I had known I would have married my choice and live a better life with my children.

**Sani:** *(laughs heartily)* What stopped you?

**Mrs. Sani:** My daughter will not and never make that mistake again. Go and die with your Gambo and his stolen money. My daughter is going to marry Uzo and will finish her studies in America and that is final. Not even tribalism will stop it.

**Sani:** *(Angry and stands to leave)*  
Your daughter! Who is then the father?



Did I force you to marry me? *(leaves in fury)*

**Mrs. Sani:**

*(shouting)* Oh! You have forgotten?

The mistake has been made already.

Your parents were even the people that paid my bride price.

*(To herself)* That time who knows you “Mr. nobody” If not for my mother and I. I suffered to bring up this marriage. I helped you with my boarding fees when you were in Grammar School. You killed my dream. Look at my friend Mrs. Basil, I was coming first when she was nowhere to be found near the class position but she is contesting and that’s the extent my daughter will study too, even if she wants to be a Professor, and not to be her class mates step mother or just a house wife. *(She leaves)*

*Light fades.*

## ACT TWO

### SCENE 1

*(Full light on stage, A well furnished sitting room. Chief Eze's house) discussion between him and his son Uzo on a telephone call.)*

*Chief Eze is on his news paper while the telephone rings. He picks it near his coffee stool since he was expecting a call from his son in America.*

**Chief Eze:** Hello son *(smiling)*

**Uzo:** Hello dad!

**Chief Eze:** *(Visibly excited)* How are you doing

**Uzo:** I'm fine dad.

**Chief Eze:** I have been expecting this call, what kept it so long. Even your mother has been trying to hear from you.

**Uzo:** I was so busy that I forgot. I'm sorry dad. What about mum?

**Chief Eze:** I guess she will soon join me. The driver just went to pick her from the airport some hours ago.

**Uzo:** Where did she travel to?

**Chief Eze:** Oh! Abuja  
Just for a conference.  
What about your studies? It's been long we heard from you meanwhile your mum is so anxious to hear from you.

**Uzo:** Studies have been good. I thank God. I don't know how you people are preparing for my graduation.

**Chief Eze:** That's going to be great: *(laughs)* well we'll be joining you over there soon.

**Uzo:** That's what I'm expecting. Honestly dad, I'm so happy. But dad something is bothering me, so I want to come down to Nigeria or you people can still take that step for me.

**Chief Eze:**                    (*calm*) what's the problem that you even have the intention of coming down?

**Uzo:**                            It is important?

**Chief Eze:**                   (*Listens carefully*)

**Uzo:**                            I'm no longer getting young.

*(Mrs. Eze enters with her driver and the luggage, while she gives the driver a sign to take the bags in, she draws near to her husband and whispers)*

**Mrs. Eze:**                    Uzo! *(Sits near her husband)*

Darling! Is it Uzo?

**Chief Eze:**                   (*Still on call*) Uzo, your mum is here. *(He nods)*.

**Uzo:**                            Please put the voice out, you and mum have to make it work.

**Chief Eze:** Go on son. We are all ears.

**Uzo:** *(Pauses a while)* It is about Samina.

**Chief Eze:** Samina! Yes any problem?

**Uzo:** I think it is time for me to make my intensions and meet the family in a normal way.

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Smiling)* Uz!

**Uzo:** Mum! Welcome

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Happily)* thanks my dear! I understand you son.

**Chief Eze;** *(Smiles)* well, I and your mother will take the possible steps and meet the family. I'm glad you have started thinking like your father.

**Mrs. Eze;** *(Laughs)* That is the right decision. It makes you a man, son.

**Uzo:** She will come along with you to America, so prepare her visa along with yours.

*(Mrs. Eze looks at her husband , they smile).*

**Mrs. Eze:** But son! You haven't married her yet. It is not part of the Ibo tradition to take a woman without paying her bride price though she is not from Ibo they still have a tradition.

**Uzo:** It is among the steps mum.

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Laughs)* It should not bother you, son. We will do as you said.

**Chief Eze:** We will see them.

**Uzo;** Thanks dad, thanks mum.

**Chief Eze:** You are welcome, send their address over it has been a while we saw her. It will be a nice union of ethnics and tribes.

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Smiling)* consider the best from us.

**Uzo:** I'm so grateful.

**Chief Eze:** Son! I won't miss your graduation *(laughs)* I have missed you so much.

**Uzo:** I miss you too dad. Speak with you later bye.  
*(ends the call)*

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Smiling)* Bye! Bye. Wow! Our son is now thinking like a man.

**Chief Eze:** *(Smiling)* Yes!  
He is like his father.  
His idea is an impressive one, he is not even concerned about where the young lady comes from or her tribe.

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Still in a happy mood)* Yes! That's bringing our country together. Well, soon I will carry my grandchild.

**Chief Eze:** *(Laughs)* I pray so also. *(He pauses before asking his wife).*  
When and how shall we go about this? Because Uzo's demand this time around is serious and I know him that he does not demand anything very serious like this.

**Mrs. Eze:** I think next week, my office needs my assistance and it has to be on weekend.

**Chief Eze:** We have to inform her parents. The driver will take us to that place, then we will pick a flight back or we can move

to Abuja immediately and start processing our papers ,  
even hers too, next month is near.

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Rises)* Alright darling. *(Leaving)*

I have to be in the kitchen now. Your favourite.

**Chief Eze:** *(Smiling and picks up his newspaper again as Mrs. Eze walks gently and he yawns as both of them laugh)* But are you not tired?

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Turns to him and smiles)* No!

**Chief Eze:** You can still shun it for me.

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Laughs)* You won't cease to amaze me.

*(Light fades, curtain close)*



## SCENE 2

*(At Mallam Gambo's house. His wife seated with Habiba her daughter, Habiba is looking angry while her mother noticed her mood.)*

**Hajiya:** *(Looks at her)* You don't seem to be happy, daughter.

**Habiba:** *(Keeps quiet for sometime then speaks)* Of course I'm not, why should I be happy?

**Hajiya:** *(Smiling)* You have every reason to be happy. Tell me, what's the problem, I'm your mother if it is in my power and doable why won't I solve it?

**Habiba:** *(Confused)* How can my class mate be my step mother? How will I appear in front of my friends?

**Hajiya:** *(Smiling)* Do not feel bad about that! *(Exhales loudly)*

**Habiba:** Mum! *(She looks into her mother's eyes)*

**Hajiya:** Yes! *(She goes calm and whispers)*

I said so, you see, your father has the right to marry as many wives as he desires according to the traditions of the land.

**Habiba:** *(Shouts)* mum! The ones he has are they not enough? We are closely forty something children in this house. I don't even know all of them by name yet he still wants to marry another one. I'm tired of his problems. *(Looks away)*

**Hajiya:** *(Sad)* Don't let him hear that from your mouth. I have tried to talk to him but he refused, so let him be.

**Habiba:** I want to wait for him so that I can collect money for my jamb. I want to study like an Ibo woman.

**Hajiya:** *(Exclaims)* study? *(Laughs)*

And who will be cooking for your husband when you married?

**Habiba:** *(Mutters)* Maid of course.

**Hajiya:** *(frowns)* Don't be stupid. Did they tell you that those Ibo women who are even professors don't cook? What has come over you? I didn't say your idea to study is not good, even if I had the opportunity like you, I would have prefer going to the university to getting married immediately.  
*(Mallam Gambo enters).*

**Habiba:** *(Calm)* Welcome! Papa

**Hajiya:** *(Smiling)* welcome my husband.

**Gambo:** *(Sits in a sofa, looking weak).* Thank you

**Habiba:** *(Visibly sad)* Papa!

**Gambo:** *(Turns to Habiba)* What's the problem?

**Hajiya:** *(Looks at her husband)* you look tired.

**Gambo:** *(Closes his eyes)* my body is weak and I'm having headache.

**Hajiya:** so sorry! *(shows child like concern. Draws closer to her husband).*  
Hope the campaign went well?.

**Gambo:** so far that I'm still the man of the people. Campaign is just to fulfill all righteousness after that, we play our game.

**Habiba:** *(Taps Gambo)* Papa

**Gambo:** *(Opens his eyes)* what! You keep on disturbing me.

**Habiba:** *(Looks away)* I need some money.

**Gambo:** *(Leans forward)* money for what? In fact I have no money.  
*(Relaxes back).*

**Habiba:** Papa! The Money is for jamb registration.

**Gambo:** *(Sighs)* When last did I give you some money for Jamb? The last time you requested money you told me it was for jamb.

**Habiba:** That one is different, you don't know school now.

**Gambo:** *(Angry)* shut up! *(Raises his hand to strike his daughter then relents).* Do you know more than I do? Before I married your mother, I studied in England with the queen. Is it because I don't answer professor? We were the first set in oxford

University, not even to talk more of when I was the first professor in University of Ibadan. I'm an international man,. Go and ask questions around.

**Habiba:** *(Kneels in front of her father)* No dad!.I'm so sorry what I mean is that, we pay for jamb writing and jamb passing. They are both different and we pay the buying of scratch cards too.

**Gambo:** *(Sighs)* How much?

**Habiba:** Twenty five thousand for writing and twenty five thousand for passing making it fifty thousand for both.

**Gambo:** *(Shouts)* What? I must go to jamb office and enquire.

**Habiba:** *(Shakes her head)* They don't have office.

**Gambo:** And you didn't price them?

**Habiba:** They don't price in Jamb, price is constant in the demand. My teacher said it is unalterable.

**Gambo:** *(Confused)* What is the meaning?

**Habiba:** *(Smiling)* I thought you said you are from Oxford?

**Gambo:** I remembered the meaning.  
This is what I have now (*Hands her Twenty Five Thousand Naira*)  
pay for half and I will give you the remaining tomorrow. I want to  
give attention to my campaign.

**Habiba:** (*Collects the Money and Smiles*) I will not fail to be here tomorrow.  
(*Dances around*)

**Gambo:** Don't fail.  
That reminds me, have you seen Samina?

**Habiba:** No!  
I'm not her keeper. (*Leaving*).

**Gambo:** will you Leave here.  
(*Habiba exits*) Instead of playing a good role you are here  
making matters worse (*To Hajiya his wife*) you will be preparing  
to welcome Samina, my new wife.

**Hajiya:** As you wish (*Exit Hajiya*)

(*Light Fades*).

### SCENE 3:

*(In Mallam Sani's house, Mrs. Sani goes to see who is at the door. Chief Eze enters with his wife.)*

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Excited)* Wow! *(She bows in respect and greeting)* Good day chief, Good day madam, come in. *(she leads the way)*

**Chief Eze:** *(Smiling)* Good day, how are you?

**Mrs. Sani** *(Happy)* I'm good Chief have a seat.

**Chief Eze:** *(Smiling)* How is everybody?

**Mrs. Sani** All fine. *(Still feeling excited)*  
*(They are now sitting)*

**Chief Eze:** Hope you got our letter? And how is your husband?

**Mrs. Sani** *(Confused)* I didn't see any letter may be my husband did.

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Visibly happy)* What about Samina?

**Mrs. Sani** Let me call her *(Calling)* Samina! Samina!!

*(Samina appears from the room and greets both of them).*

**Samina:** *(Bows)* Good day sir, Good day ma.

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Hugs her)* Samina! You are now a big lady.

**Samina:** *(Smiling)* Thank you ma.

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Happy)* We missed you so much.

**Samina:** *(a bit shy)* Me too!

**Chief Eze;** What about your daddy?



**Samina:**                    (*Turns to him*) He just left.

**Chief Eze:**                Madam Sani!

**Mrs. Sani:**                (*Goes close*) chief  
  
*(she sits with Samina)*

**Chief Eze:**                (*Clears his throat*) We have come to see how you people are doing. I would have loved your husband to be here. Our son sent a message to us. He will be graduating soon and likely he wants Samina to come over to America with us.

**Samina;**                    Wow! (*Happily*) thank you sir, thank you ma.

**Mrs. Sani:**                (*Visibly Excited*) I'm so happy.

**Chief Eze:**                I think he has something in mind (*Looks at Samina and turn again*) Samina has been all he wanted, so we have come to see her, get her prepared for her Visa and likewise you will prepare her for a maiden and then give us date to come with our Kinsmen before the election.

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Smiling)* Madam Sani! You don't need to worry about anything. Thank God we saw you. I and my husband say thank you.

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Excited)* Samina get some cold drinks for them.  
*(Samina stands to leave).*

**Chief Eze:** *(Smiling)* Don't worry Samina *(Rising)* we have to catch a flight back to East and our time is running late.

**Mrs. Sani;** *(Stands)* Thank you chief.

**Mrs. Eze:** *(Stands)* Samina. What about your younger brothers?

**Samina:** They went to school.

**Mrs. Eze:** Alright! Come and give me a helping hand. There is something in the car boot. *(Mrs. Eze and Samina with Mrs. Sani goes outside to carry in a bag of rice, tomatoes in carton, yams and wine. Mrs. Eze hands a big bag to Samina and her*

*mum as they go inside. Chief Ezegave Mrs. Sani a huge amount of money).*

**Chief Eze:** This is for your family. And help yourself in business. Samina! (*Turns to Samina and gave her some money too*)  
This is for your upkeep.

**Mrs. Sani:** (*Bows*) Thank you Chief (*In unison with Samina*) I'm so happy may God continue to bless your family.

**Mrs. Eze:** Amen!

**Mrs.Sani:** My regards to Uzo.

**Chief Eze:** And your husband too. Greet him don't forget to give us a date we will be leaving now. (*Leaving*)

**Samina:** (*Smiling*) Thank you sir.

**Chief Eze:** That reminds me, your sons can still be coming to my place for holidays, if they wish.

**Mrs. Eze:** Take care of yourself Samina bye.  
(*Exit Chief Eze and wife*).

**Mrs. Sani :** Bye. (*Samina and mum dancing happily on the stage*).

**Mrs. Sani:** Thank God for you Samina! (*Hugs her daughter*) so you will be going to America, Ehee!

**Samina:** (*smiling*) Uzo never fails.

**Mrs. Sani:** we will leave this things here (*pointing at those items*) so that your father will see it when he comes in. I guess he got their letter but didn't let us know.  
(*A knock at the door, it's Mallam Sani*)

**Sani:** (*Surprised*) Wow! It's like Chief Gambo came? Why didn't I wait to see him before I left. (*To Samina and Mrs. Sani*) It's like he gave you people money to give me? And when did both of you agree for the marriage?.

**Mrs. Sani:** (*Forces a smile*) Which Chief are you talking about? Our in-law came. (*Laughs*) original in-law.

**Sani:** (*Confused*) Which in-law? And which one is original?

**Mrs. Sani:** Chief and Mrs. Eze. (*Dances on the stage, then stops and speaks*) they gave us this things with huge amount of money.

**Sani:** Did they ask of me?

**Mrs. Sani:** Yes of course! (*Smiling*) Samina is going to America before election.

**Sani:** (*Opens the wine and taste*) wow! This is American wine. You said Samina is going to America?

**Mrs. Sani:** (*Smiling*) Yes! They said you should give them a date.

**Sani:** (*Sits*) It's like you have gone nuts? Do you know how much Chief Gambo has given to me? Samina is going to be his wife.

**Mrs. Sani:** (*Frowns*) It's a lie. Samina is my daughter. Whether you like it or not, she is getting married to Uzo. Better settle with that fool, Gambo. (*Snatches the drink from him*) give me this thing. Your plans with that old and ugly goat will not work. (*To Samina*) let's take all this things inside, in fact you won't taste any.

**Sani:** *(to himself)*. Have I married the wrong woman?

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Sighs)* The answers are in your pocket.

**Sani:** This house will not contain both of us its better you start telling your people that you are coming back.

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Laughs)* I agree I will take my children, they will go and leave with Chief Eze, then I will go and nurse my daughter's baby in America. Stay here with Gambo, let me see how you will pay the rent.

**Sani:** *(Calm)* Imagine!  
You are not going any where with my children.

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Leaving)*  
When last did you pay their school fees? Has Gambo given you any money to start a life?  
Chief Uzo gave me money for my children and I, even for my business and gave Samina for her up keep too. Has Gambo thought of that any day? Think like a man.  
*(she leaves with her daughter).*

**Sani:** *(To himself)* I don't think this is real life. It is a dream.

*(Lights fades).*

**SCENE 4** *Same Day, the Scene Here Is Same As Act2, Scene 3.*

*(At mallam Sani's house Samina returns to see her mother)*

**Samina:** *(Calls)* Mum! *(Opens the door and rushes in breathless)*

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Tremble)* what? What is it?

**Samina:** Habiba is pregnant.

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Exclaims)* What? Who told you this? Are you sure?

**Samina:**           *(Calm)* I'm sure. Her stupid boy friend who she normally gives her money is responsible and the boy is nowhere to be found.

**Mrs. Sani:**       *(Surprised)* Did you see her lab. result or test?

**Samina:**           It was confirmed by our teacher, Mrs. Benson, who saw her vomiting.

**Mrs. Sani:**       *(Laughs and claps)* This is the beginning of Gambo's failure. I wish after today's election when the result will be called, he will also fail. He claims to be the man of our people when no one knows him.

**Samina:**           *(Sits)* I even heard that the entire pooling unit, he is not even going up.

**Mrs. Sani:**       *(Calm and composed)* Have you packed the cloths? Remember Chief Eze and his Kinsmen are coming, I know the Ibos they keep to time. I have to pray harder for Gambo to lose so that your father will agree with me.

**Samina:**           *(Smiling)* Trust me mum, my things are ready. Mum have you voted?



**Mrs. Sani:** Yes! I voted for my friend, Mrs. Nasiru she will win Gambo, she even promised that I will be representing her in our section.

**Samina:** wow! Mum, let me help you with the food.

**Mrs. Sani:** Thank you. Thank God you know how to prepare Ibo dishes.

**Samina:** *(Laughs)* I was even learning more of it when I was in the East.

**Mrs. Sani:** That's why it's good to go to places. Never restrict any of your children from following his or her dream.

**Samina:** Alright mum *(Mallam Sani enters)* Good Afternoon papa.

**Sani:** *(Sits)* Good afternoon! How are you?

**Samina:** *(Smiling)* I'm fine.

**Mrs. Sani:** welcome!

**Sani:** Thank you, any food ready? I'm hungry.

**Mrs. Sani:** As I said earlier the only food in this house is the one that chief Eze brought.

**Sani:** Leave that matter for now. Why are you doing this?  
I'm hungry please.

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Smiling)* Have you agreed with me?

**Sani:** Let me eat first, then I will know what to say, No strength to talk now.

**Mrs. Sani:** Decide it now, I can even put as many meat as you want and give you wine.

**Sani:** *(Laughs)* Will you put money on top?

**Mrs. Sani:** Leave money first. I don't know the kind of charm they have done to you with money.

**Samina:** *(Calls)* papa!

**Sani:** Yes! Wait first. plead your mum.

**Samina:** Habiba is pregnant.

**Sani:** Serious? Who is responsible?

**Samina:** Yes! I don't really know.

**Sani:** Leave it for now that I am hungry, we can talk later.

**Mrs. Sani:** Let me get your food for you.

**Sani:** (*Smiling*) I thank God that I married a good woman.

**Mrs. Sani:** Don't thank God yet. You will eat the food on one Condition.

**Sani:** Aaah! Must someone eat food on Conditions?

**Mrs. Sani:** Yes Now! or you forget the food.

**Sani:** (*Confused*) Alright what Condition.?

**Mrs. Sani:** Choose a date!

**Sani:** (*More confused*) which date?

**Mrs. Sani:** When Chief Eze will be coming.

**Sani:**                   *(Sighs)* You can choose it yourself, I will be here to receive them. Bring the food.

**Samina:**               *(Smiling)* Papa thank you.

**Sani:**                   Not yet! until I finish eating.

**Mrs. Sani:**           *(Laughs)* Samina! Get his food for him (*Samina leaves for the food*) (*to his husband*) When will they call the election result?

**Sani:**                   It will be tomorrow.

**Mrs. Sani:**           I pray that my friend wins.

**Sani:**                   *(Sighs)* Which friend? No woman will rule in this country, not even a woman who is married from another tribe to come and rule us.

**Mrs. Sani:**           Why won't a woman rule? They even care more than men. We are mothers.

**Sani:**                   Get the food first. But what I know is that no woman is going to rule. Think about how they behave sometimes talk more of when they are in authority.

**Mrs. Sani:** Is it men that are perfect? Men like Gambo, who are illiterates, foolish, greedy and ugly, who refuse to die when it is their time. They will all see their result.

**Sani:** I agree. My food first. If a woman wins, men will now be worshipping their wives, we will even be leaking under their feet, weaker vessels (*Sighs*). It can't happen in this country, not even in Africa. (*Samina rushes in with the food, while Mallam Sani concentrated on eating the food, and never spoke again*)

**Mrs. Sani:** Don't you see people like queen Elizabeth of England, Ngozi Okonjo and lots of their kind in Africa? When the chance will be given to us, we will do better!

**Sani:** (*Silent for a while*) Woman allow me to eat.

(*Samina leaves with Mrs. Sani*)

(*To himself*) let me see that your friend win or even that your chief Eze, I will know if the Ibos don't have respect for the man of the house.

(*Light fades*).

## ACT 3

### SCENE 1

*(At Mallam Gambo's house, Mallam Gambo and his wife discovers Habiba's pregnancy)*

**Habiba:** *(Crying)* Please Papa! Please I didn't mean to.

**Gambo:** *(Turns in fury)* You have disgraced me nationwide. An international man like me. My daughter, pregnant!! What will they say? Who knows?

**Habiba:** Papa *(Wailing bitterly)* he said I will pass my jamb, if I sleep with him and I have been giving him all the money you gave to me.

**Gambo:** *(Shouts)* Hey! *(with his hands on his head)*. You have killed me.

**Habiba:** *(Crying)* Papa, I wanted to go to the university. That's why I did it.

**Hajiya:** *(Sad)* You are a serious disgrace.

**Gambo:** Serious one. I forbid you being my daughter.

**Habiba:** Papa it is not a good idea, remember you have also been sleeping with me.

**Gambo:** *(Shame)* Shut up, idiot.

**Hajiya:** *(Turns to him)* what? Mallam, you have been sleeping with your daughter?

**Gambo:** *(To his wife)* Who told you?

**Hajiya:** Look at what you are asking me, your daughter just said it now.

**Habiba:** Papa! The child is also for me and you.

**Gambo:** *(Ran out in shame)* I forbid it. I don't welcome bastards in my house you want to spoil my ambition.

**Hajiya:** *(Stands)* I thought you are educated, Look at you, shameless thing. *(Exits Hajiya)*

**Habiba:** Oh! University. I don't even know the future of the baby,

. *(Crying)* I better kill myself. Had I known Oh! Look at me, I wish I would have held myself, what a shame to me.  
*(Mallam Gambo comes in again)*

**Gambo:** You better start packing your cloths you are leaving this house.

**Habiba:** It is your baby.

**Gambo:** And vomit all the money I gave to you.

**Habiba:** *(Crying)* It is not your money.

**Gambo:** Whose Money?

**Habiba:** Government money. It's for everybody. You caused it.

**Gambo:** *(Angry)* Alright! We will see, if you are the government or me. Everybody knows me. Even that your bastard baby.

**Habiba:** Because you are the father. That's why the baby knows you.



## ACT 3

### SCENE 2

*(Full light on stage at Mallam Sani's house, Mrs. Sani and her daughter rejoicing after the election result was called)*

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Excited)* I thank God who has answered my prayer? I know the ugly ones will lose. Beautiful things are not meant for ugly people.

**Samina:** *(Happy)* Yes! Mum, you are now going to be a leader.

**Mrs. Sani:** Yes! *(Dancing around on the stage and stops)* my friend won, I am going to congratulate her, she has been sending letters to me.

*(Mallam sani enters sweating)*

**Sani:** *(worried)* wonders shall never end. *(He sits)*

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Laughs, then to mallam Sani)* your husband lost.

**Sani:** Whose husband? That ugly man. He is responsible for her daughter's pregnancy.

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Shouts)* Seriously? He is a beast.

**Sani:** Samina, Habiba was seen hanged at their backyard. She is dead.

**Samina;** *(Sad)* What?

**Sani:** Not even that. Mallam Gambo, after hearing it and seeing the election result that he lost, collapsed and died, all his wives ran away.

**Mrs. Sani:** My Bible says I should not rejoice over the death of my enemy. It is warning to them like him.

**Sani:** *(smiling)* I thank God for you. You stopped the work of the enemy. Please inform Chief Eze to come tomorrow and take Samina. I was just in fear how I am going to pay back everything.

**Mrs. Sani:** *(Rejoicing)* I have already informed them.

**Samina:**           *(Happy)*. And they said my visa is out.

**Sani:**               *(Happy)* And you people didn't tell me?

**Mrs. Sani:**       We thought it was not necessary

**Sani:**               *(Laughs)* It is! The Ibos give respect to the women. And they don't normally have second wife now. Just call them. *(He rejoices and continues)*. We are going to visit your friend Mrs. Nasiru, congratulations to her.

**Mrs. Sani:**       *(Excited)* Yes! Now the ugly ones have died. You will see a better government and leadership. Mothers are the best, since they have been bringing voters into the world. They should be voted also.

**Sani:**               *(Smiling)* Seeing is believing.

**Samina:**           Papa!

**Sani:**               *(Smiling)* Yes my princess. What you will do for me is start speaking American and Ibo language.

*(They laugh as light fades).*

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