

## THE DIRTY TRICK



Long ago near Maone city lived Lumbani and his ageing parents. Lumbani was 14. He was a hard working lad in the family. His father left him cattle and goats to attend to. Apart from that he was encouraged to go to school.

One day, his father wanted money to food and farm inputs. Hunger broke out in Mwalanga village. He told his son to sell one of his bulls at a price of Twenty Thousand Kwacha. The only market that sold well was in Maone city. It was a very long distance to reach Maone.

Being a lad he was tired when he walked a distance of twenty five kilometres. On the way he met a man on his way who insisted that the lad was going to sell a goat. However He was convincing the boy that he has to sell the goat to him. Furthermore, he persuaded the boy by telling him that a bull or a cow in Maone city is a very huge animal that no one can control. However he refused.

The same man changed his attire. He met Lumbani again. He asked him where he was going with his goat. Lumbani was amazed to hear that his bull was a goat. He answered that he was going to sell it in the market of Maone city. The thief tried to convince the boy, it did not work.

Later the thief changed his attire and persuaded the boy for the third time. "How much do you think you can buy my goat then?" Lumbani asked.

"One thousand kwacha "replied the thief. He gave the money to Lumbani. He immediately discovered he was duped. He also changed his attire following the man. Finally he discovered that them man sold the bull at Fifty thousand Kwacha.

Lumbani thought of some tricks to get the money back. He bought a hat. He went with it to a nearby bottle store. He bought ten bottles of beer and five soft drinks for himself. He asked if the barman could keep them. He gave him a sign that he will raise his hat three times then the barman could realise that the lad had paid.

He also went to a restaurant where he bought two meals. He gave the restaurant owner the same sign that he had paid. He hired a vehicle for five hundred, Kwacha. He gave the driver the money and the sign that he had paid.

He made his way to the market where he found the thief. He told him that he wanted to thank him for buying his goat. He had prepared 10 beers, a meal and hiring a vehicle.

The thief was excited for hearing this. He and Lumbani boarded a vehicle. When it was time to pay for the taxi, the boy waved his hat three times in the air. "Yes Sir you have paid" the driver said.

When they reached at the restaurant, they ate and the thief thanked the boy. The restaurant owner could not remember the boy. When he waved his hat thrice, the owner said, "Yes Sir you have paid"

This amazed the thief. He wanted to buy the hat which he thought it was a magic hat. The boy refused saying that he can not sell the hat because all his blessings are in it.

Later they went to the bar where the boy was drinking soft drinks. As they were drinking, the thief offered the boy 40 thousand, but the boy asked if it were 50 thousand Kwacha. The boy waved his hat three times and later the bar man said "Yes sir you have paid"

The boy went to find a vehicle to his village. It was expensive however he managed to travel. The thief went to another bottle store. He started drinking, when it was time to pay money, he raised his hat three times nothing happened. He was beaten severely. Later the police arrested him.

Editors Notes:

It takes courage to deal with issues that are tough

Who is the main character and why?

How did Lumbani diversified in the story?

Lumbani managed to get his money back.

His wise decision helped him and it also led to the arrest of the thief.

If you were Lumbani, what could you do in that situation?

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