

مَا مَا مُسْلَمَةٌ

Mtungaji: Ustadh Mau (Mahmoud Ahmad Abdulkadir), 2005

This poem was written in response to a report in the newspaper *Taifa Jumapili* of 8 May 2005 about how a dog had found an abandoned baby girl in the forest and rescued her, carrying her home in its mouth to the dog's owner. In the face of the general criticism about how a mother could have left her baby like this, the poet argues for greater compassion for the mother, reminding us that we do not know what pressures she was facing.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِمْنِيدِ كُنِينَ قَبْلَ وَنْعِ وَقَاتِ
imenibidi kunena * kabla wangu wakati
I have been compelled to talk before my time

سَبَابُ نِمَوَانِ مَا مَانَعُ هُمْلَيْتِ
sababu nimewaona * mamangu humlaiti
because I have seen them condemning my mother

مَا مَانَعُ مَاكُوسَ هَانَ سِيُوكَ أَمَزْهَتِ
mamangu makosa hana * si pweke amezohiti
my mother is blameless, she is not the only one who is guilty

كُوسَ هِيلِ نَدَ أُمَّتِ
kosa hili nda ummati
this is everyone's fault

نَدَ أُمَّتِ هِيلِ كُوسَ نَ زَانْعُوزِ وَ نَتِ
nda ummati hili kosa * na ziongozi wa nti
this is fault of everyone and the leaders of the country

كُوسَ نَدَدَ وَنَ سِيَّاسَ نَ مَا حَكِيمُ وَ كُوتِ
kosa nda wanasiasa * na mahakimu wa koti
the fault belongs to the politicians and the magistrates in the courts

كُوسَ نَدَ وَنِي مَآپَسَ نَ وَسِيُؤُ نَ سَنَتِ
kosa nda wenye mapesa * na wasiyo na senti
it is the fault of the wealthy and of those who have no money

كُوسَ هِلِ نَدَ اُمَّتِ

kosa hili nda ummati
this is everyone's fault

2g

مَامَانُغُ سَمَرِيَامُ وَعِمْرَنَ بِنْتِ

mamangu si Mariyamu * wa Imrana binti
my mother is not Maryam the daughter of Imran

٣

3a/b

مَامَ نِ مَوَانَ اَدَمُ مَيْشِ هَاپَ تِيَاتِ

mama ni mwana adamu * meishi hapa tiyati
she is [just] a human being living here on the earth

3c/d

نَ نِيُوتِنِ مَوَافَهَامُ كُنَ ضَعِيفُ وَقَاتِ

na nyoteni mwafahamu * kuna dhaifu wakati
and you all understand there is weakness sometimes

3e/f

هُشِنْدُوا كُذِّبَتِ

hushindwa kuidhibiti

one is incapable of restraining oneself

3g

مَامَا هَكُتَنَدَ پُوكُ نَ لُبْدِ هَاكُكِرِ

mama hakutenda pweke * na labuda hakukiri
[my] mother did not act alone and perhaps she did not consent

٤

4a/b

أَلِ نَ مُونَدَانِ وَكُ أَلُوْفَنِي جَاسِرِ

ali na mwendani wake * aloifanya jasiri
there was a companion of hers who acted as if brave

4c/d

نَدِيُومِ نَامِبِكُ مَامَانُغُ كُمُعَزِرِ

ndipo mimi niumbike * mamangu kumuaziri
and that was when I was created to demean my mother

4e/f

پَاسِنَ يَانُغُ خِيَارِ

pasina yangu khiari
without my willing it

4g

لَوَمَ نَ زِتَانْغَانِي	ئِكْوُ كُون لَوَمَ	۵
ikiwa kuna lawama * lawama na zitanganye		5a/b
<i>if there is blame let it be spread about</i>		
نَاءِ بَاب مُمَكْنِي	مُكِمْلُكُمْ مَامَا	
mukimlaumu mama * naye baba mumkanye		5c/d
<i>if you blame my mother criticise my father too</i>		
أُبَاغُوزِ مُسِفْنِي	نَدِيُوهَايُو يَاتَاكُومَ	
ndipo hapo yatakoma * ubaguzi musifanye		5e/f
<i>that's when [things] will come to a conclusion don't make a distinction</i>		
وَنَوَاكُ مُسِفْنِي		
wanawake musifinye		5g
<i>do not oppress women</i>		
مَامَانْغُ كُملْمُ	مِم قَطُّ سِكُبَالِ	٦
mimi katu sikubali * mamangu kumlaumu		6a/b
<i>I refuse point-blank to criticise my mother</i>		
هُوَ نِ كُملْمُ	نَ پُوكُ كُملْجَلِ	
na pweke kumkejeli * huwa ni kumdhulumu		6c/d
<i>and to berate her by herself is to oppress her</i>		
أَصِلَانِ هَلِيتُمُ	كُوَايِ پُوكُ يَامْبُ هِلِ	
kwaye pweke yambo hili * asilani halitimu		6e/f
<i>left to herself this issue could not have occurred to start with</i>		
هَلُو نِيُوتَ مَوَافَهَامُ		
hilo nyote mwafahamu		6g
<i>you all understand this</i>		
الْيُو كَايُوكِيَا	كِتَنْدُ نِگَ وُولِ	٧
kitendo ni cha wawili * alipoa kapokea		7a/b
<i>it is a joint act -- he offered and she accepted</i>		

هُتُوكُو عَدِلِ مَامَا يُوَكْ كُموَمِيَا
 huitokuwa adili * mama pweke kumwemea 7c/d
it is not proper to burden my mother alone

هَالِهَتَا جِ دَلِيلِ وَلَ حُجَّ كُزَنَغِيَا
 halihitaji dalili * wala huja kuzengeya 7e/f
there is no need of proof or to search for evidence

أَيُّو كُلِّ مُمُوِيَا
 ayuwa kula mmuya 7g
every one of us knows

مَنُو هُونِ أَتَنُغْ كِوَسِكِي هُونِ
 mno huona utungu * kiwasikiya hunena 8a/b
we hear too much bitterness listening to people talk

هُمْلُومَ مَامَانُغْ كُوَا كُو مَكُوسَ سَانِ
 humlaumu mamangu * kwa kuwa mkosa sana 8c/d
blaming my mother for being at fault

مِمِ نَ وَنَدَنِ وَنُغْ هَتُپَاتِ هَاتَ نِ
 mimi na wendani wangu * hatupati hata ina 8e/f
I and those like me do not have even a name

نِ سِنِ أَوْ سِبِنِ
 ni sina au sibina 8g

مِنْتِپَ وَنُغْ مَامَا سَكُوَاكُو هَنِپِنْدِ
 menitupa wangu mama * si kwa kuwa hanipendi 9a/b
my mother abandoned me [but] it was not because she did not love me

نِ بَابَا مِمْسُكُومَ كِسَ كُموَاوَكْ لَنْدِ
 ni baba memsukuma * kisa kumwawika landi 9c/d
it was [because] my father pressured her and forced her

نَاءِ كُوَا كُتْ لَوْمَ زَا وَنِي نَدِمِ نَ تَنْدِ
 naye kwa kucha lawama * za wenye ndimi na tundi 9e/f
and from fearing blame from gossips and critics

مَنْتُبُ يَكْ كَانْدِ		
menitupa yake kandi		9g
<i>she abandoned her light</i>		
نَ اَمِنْ اَنِپِنْدَ	مَامَا هَكُنْتُوكِي	١٠
naamini anipenda * mama hakunitukiya		10a/b
<i>I believe she loves me -- my mother does not hate me</i>		
نِ لِبِ لِلْوَمَشِنْدَ	پُمَزِ كُنْزَوِي	
ni lipi lilomshinda * pumzi kuniziwiya		10c/d
<i>what prevented her from suffocating me?</i>		
تُوكِي سِكُ يَا كُونَدَ	دُنْيَانِ مِمِ كُوِي	
tokea siku ya kwanda * duniyani mimi kuya		10e/f
<i>from the first day I came into this world</i>		
نِ رُحْمَ كُنُونِي		
ni ruhuma kunonea		10g
<i>it was compassion she felt for me</i>		
نَ تَمَانِ نَ تَمَانِ	وَنُغْ مَامَا كُمْپَاتَ	١١
natamani natamani * wangu mama kumpata		11a/b
<i>I really wish to find my mother</i>		
نِ مَوَامْبِي شُكْرِنِ	نِ مِپِي أَحْسَنَتَ	
nimwambiye shukurani * nimpe ahasanta		11c/d
<i>so that I can thank her and give her my gratitude</i>		
كُؤَا كُنِلِكْ تُمْبُونِ	هَاتَ سِكُ زِكَاپِتَ	
kwa kunilicha tumboni * hata siku zikapita		11e/f
<i>for sustaining me in her womb until the days passed</i>		
نَدِي نَامِ كَفُوتَ		
ndiya nami kafuata		11g
<i>I was lucky</i>		

هُمِيجِي سِلُوتِ مَامَانْغُ كُؤَا وَكْ وَمِ ١٢
humpijiya siloti * mamangu kwa wake wema 12a/b
I give my mother a salute for her goodness

كُؤَا كُنُوتَ نِكِتِ مَاتُومُبُونِ كُؤَا سَلَامَ 12c/d
kwa kuniwa niketi * matumboni kwa salama
for letting me stay in her womb in safety

نَ وَلَ سِمَلَيْتِ كُؤَا اَلُؤَفْنِي مَامَا 12e/f
na wala simlaiti * kwa alilofanya mama
and do not blame her either for what she did, my mother,

اَلِتِنْدَ كُؤَا لَرِمَ 12g
alitenda kwa lazima
she did it from necessity

مِنَتَاتِي تَمْبَارَ كُسُدِ كُنْدِيبَتِ ١٣
menitatiya tambara * kusudi kunididhibiti 13a/b
she wrapped me in cloth in order to protect me

نِسِيَاتِ لَمَظَرَ كِنُوكَ كَاْفُ نِتِ 13c/d
nisipate la madhara * kiniweka kavu nti
so that I should not come to harm, putting me on dry land

بَارِدِ اِنْغَنِكِرَ نِ كَاكُتُؤَا نِ مَيْتِ 13e/f
baridi ingenikera * nikakutwa ni maiti
the cold would have hurt me and I would have been found dead

اَلُؤَفْنِي سِكَاتِ 13g
alofanya si katiti
what she did was no small thing

قَبْلَ يَا كُمَلَزَ كُفْنُغَ يَانْغُ قَوْلِ ١٤
kabla ya kumaliza * kufunga yangu kauli 14a/b
before finishing and closing my statement

وَلِمُونْغُ نُوْلَزَ تَزَاوَ مَارَ يَا پِلِ 14c/d
walimwengu nauliza * tazawa mara ya pili
I ask people -- will I be born a second time?

كُوَ وَ مَامَا بَدَلِ

هَآكُونُ تَكَآءُوزَ

hakuna takaoweza * kuwa wa mama badali
there is no-one who would be able to be my mother in her place

14e/f

نَشْكُرُ وَفَاضِلِ

nashukuru wafadhili
I am grateful to my benefactors

14g

نَوَ مَبَوَا مَشْهُورِ

وَمَ وَنُ سِآكَانِ

wema wenu siukani * na wa mbwa mashuhuri
I do not dispute your kindness and that of the famous dog

١٥

15a/b

مُمَ نِ فَنِّي مَآزُورِ

مُمَ نِ تَنَدَ حِسَانِ

mumenitenda hisani * mumenifanya mazuri
you have done me a favour you have done me a good turn

15c/d

وَجَ وَپِنْدَاءِ خِرِ

وَنُغَالِكُو دُنْيَانِ

wangaliko duniani * waja wapendao heri
there are still those in the world who love to do good

15e/f

تَمَّتِ هَآپَ شَيْرِ

tammati hapa shairi
I conclude my poem here

15g

محمود احمد عبد القادر

لَا مُمُ ٩/٥/٢٠٠٥