

The twin brother



“Kenede, what’s the matter with you, you are not really taking part?” said Miss Sibanda wondering about Kenede, who always was the heart of the team when preparing their annual Christmas play.

“Excuse me, Miss Sibanda”, said Kenede.

As a matter of fact she was not able to concentrate on anything since Miss Mawajo, their English teacher had announced the opportunity for ten girls from the Matopo primary school to continue their secondary school thanks to the donations of some generous people from a faraway country named Switzerland.

The scholarship, which would cover both the school fees as well as food and board could be applied for under two conditions.

The first one didn’t bother Kenede; she was praised by all the teachers. But she knew that there were many other excellent pupils much poorer than her family. Not that they were rich; they had just enough to eat and could afford to send her elder brother to secondary school, and her father hoped the same for her twin brother. There would definitely be no money for three pupils. There were also two younger brothers and their grandmother who needed to be fed.

But the possibility of getting a scholarship raised great expectations. She wished so eagerly to continue her education. She adored Miss Mawajo and liked her lessons so much. All these Johns and Marys from her English textbook revealed a completely new world to her. And she wanted to become a teacher and lead an independent life like the dear Miss Mawajo.

She knew her father’s viewpoint very well; Daughters will marry anyway and leave their home; it has always been so and it will always be. Kenede needed all her courage to speak to her father. “Would you let me go to secondary school if I got a scholarship, please?” she asked and looked at her father with her big eyes. He loved his daughter, the only girl among five children. He was aware that she was the brightest of them all. But she was just a girl! Their tradition didn’t involve any further education for girls.

But now as his daughter watched him full of hope, he couldn’t very well say “No”. And he was sure she wouldn’t get the scholarship anyway because he knew about the two conditions.

“O.K. But only if you get the scholarship”



“What were you doing so long in the classroom?” Kenede asked her brother after their English lesson. “Nothing” he answered, “Miss Mawoyo just told me off because of this fight with Simba,” He didnt want to tell her the truth. That he talked to Miss Mawoyo about his sister’s greatest wish.

Finally Christmas Eve came. All the school children, the teachers and many parents and relatives gathered in the school hall. There were songs and prayers and the Christmas play, naturally. Eventually the great moment came. The headmaster wished everybody a merry Christmas and a happy New Year and then read the names of the girls who were to receive a scholarship. Hearing her name Kenede nearly fainted. She embraced her father in front of the whole audience and whispered, “You promised” “You promised” For her these were going to be the happiest Christmas holidays ever. Life was full of promises.