

# COMEDY: THE WORLD WE LONG FOR

## VIDEO ONE

Okeke and his wife Ugbala lived happily together.

Okeke was a trader. Every day he visited the markets to buy goods to sell: the freshest fruit - udara, guava, pawpaw; fine cloth and material; fragrant herbs and spices.

Okeke's neighbour was also a trader. But he was deceitful.

One day, this neighbour returned home from the market before Okeke and went to Okeke's house. Ugbala thought it was Okeke returning home, so she put out bowls of food which, without her seeing, the neighbour stole and ate himself.

Returning home, Okeke asked 'Where's my meal?'

'I already put it out for you!' Ugbala exclaimed. And they argued.

The next day, the neighbour returned home early, Ugbala put out bowls of food, and the same happened again!

Another furious argument broke out – Okeke demanding his food, Ugbala insisting she'd fed him.

It happened a third time. Okeke became so angry that he exclaimed: "I'll send you away, you troublesome woman!"

He furiously gathered the clothes and shoes that Ugbala had worn at their wedding and threw them into a canoe. Then, forcing Ugbala into the canoe, he pushed her out into the fast-flowing river, which swept her away.

Many miles downriver, some fishermen were mending their nets. Seeing them, Ugbala cried out for help. And they brought her to safety.

Seeing this beautiful woman and the wedding clothes, one of the fishermen asked her – 'Will you not stay here and marry me?'

'No', Ugbala replied. 'I must go back to the land where I was born, to my father's house.'

So, she began the long journey.

Finally, she reached her father's house.

'I want to be a trader', she told her father.

Now her father was a generous man, so gave her money. And quickly Ugbala found great success, becoming very wealthy.

Many miles away, Okeke was not finding such success. Forced to borrow from his neighbours, still his profits fell. Until, to settle his debts, the neighbours took Okeke's house. He'd lost everything.

And so he travelled from market to market. Now not as a trader, but a beggar.

One day, Okeke reached the market nearest Ugbala's home. Across the busy market, Ugbala noticed him – begging for food, his clothes ragged. So she sent her servant to fetch him. But when brought to Ugbala, Okeke did not recognise his wife.

'Take care of this man at my house', Ugbala said, 'feed him, cut his hair, clothe him.' The servant did so.

Returning home, Ugbala put on her wedding clothes and shoes.

And as she walked into Okeke's presence, the shoes began to sing 'Ugbala and Okeke, Ugbala and Okeke'.

Okeke began to weep. 'Madam, where did you get those shoes?'

'They are mine', Ugbala replied. 'I am the wife you pushed away at the riverside. Now you see, I am alive.'

Realising who she was, Okeke cried out in fear.

'Don't be afraid', said Ugbala tenderly. 'I forgive you. I am wealthy now. Stay here as my husband.'

So Okeke stayed. And from that day, he and Ugbala were happy together. And he became a successful trader once again.