



The Tree  
Mti mzuri

by Edith Schütt  
and Waltraud Appenrod

Kimetoyarishwa na Edith Schütt  
na Waltraud Appenrod





# The Tree

# Mti mzuri

told by Edith Schütt  
painted by Waltraud Appenrodt

Kimeandikwa na Edith Schütt  
Kimechapishwa na Waltraud Appenrodt  
Kimetafsiriwa na Isaya Shemangale

A book goes around the World  
It goes around our World  
We all have only one World

Kitabi hiki hupatikana dunia nzima  
Maudhui ya kitabu hiki ni dunia yetu  
Sisi sote ni dunia moja na dunia yetu ni moja

## Practical Solidarity International

dedicates this book at the occasion  
of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
to the children of Namibia.

Bremen, Germany, September 2005

© 2016

Print and translation were supported by:  
German Tanzanian Partnership ([www.dtpev.de](http://www.dtpev.de))

Contact:  
Barbara Leyendecker  
Ludwigstraße 26 F  
D-63179 Obertshausen  
Germany  
E-mail: [bmw.leyendecker@t-online.de](mailto:bmw.leyendecker@t-online.de)

Reproduction only with the permission by the  
authors.

## Kitabu hiki Practical Solidarity International

inatabaruki watoto wa Namibia, Tanzania na watoto wote  
Ulimwenguni katika kumbukumbu ya  
miaka ishirini

Bremen, Ujerumani, Septemba 2005

© 2016

Tafsiri na chapa zimesaidiwa na:  
German Tanzanian Partnership ([www.dtpev.de](http://www.dtpev.de))

Anwani:  
Barbara Leyendecker  
Ludwigstraße 36 F  
D-63179 Obertshausen  
Ujerumani  
[bmw.leyendecker@t-online.de](mailto:bmw.leyendecker@t-online.de)

Haki zote zimehifadhiwa. Hairuhusiwi kuiga, kunakili,  
kutafsiri, kupiga chapa au kukittoa kitabu hiki kwa jinsi  
yeyote ile bila idhini ya waandishi.



## Chapter 1

Once upon a time there was a tree.

It was a big tree.

It was a big and beautiful tree.

It was a big, beautiful green tree.

The tree was happy and sad.

He was happy, because he was a big, beautiful, green and living tree.

He was sad, because he was all alone.

As far as he could see around him there was no other tree. He was standing all alone.

Therefore he was sad.

Earlier there had been many trees, and he could remember them well.

He had loved these other trees.

## Sura ya kwanza

Hapo zamani za kale palikuwa na mti.

Ulikuwa mti mkubwa.

Mti mkubwa na mzuri.

Ulikuwa ni mti mkubwa mzuri wa kijani.

Mti wenye furaha na huzuni.

Wenye furaha kwa sababu ni mkubwa, mzuri wa kijani na wenye uhai.

Wenye huzuni kwa sababu ya upweke.

Kila ukiangaza huku na kule hakukuwa na mti mwingine. Ulisimama pweke.

Hivyo ulikuwa na huzuni.

Uliweza kukumbuka vyema miti mingine iliyokuwepo mwanzo.

Uliipenda miti hii.



Beautiful birds came from the other trees, sat down on his branches and sang wonderful songs. The tree sang a wonderful melody from his memory.

The birds brought songs and greetings from the other trees and took greetings to them.

Colourful butterflies came - small ones and big ones - with wings like velvet and with long and funny feelers.

Fat beetles had been crawling on his trunk and on his branches. They had hummed and buzzed to his enjoyment.

Now the tree was all alone.

Ndege wa kupendeza toka kwenye miti mingine walitua kwenye matawi yake wakiimba nyimbo za kuvutia. Uliimba nyimbo hizi kwa kumbukumbu.

Ndege hawa walileta nyimbo na salamu kutoka miti mingine na kurudisha salamu kwa miti hiyo.

Vipepeo vya rangi vikubwa kwa vidogo vilitua kwa mbawa kama sufu na antena ndefu za kuvutia.

Wadudu wanene waliutambaa mwili wake na matawi yake. Walikuwa wakiuzunguka na kuzizima kwa furaha yake.

Sasa ulikuwa peke yake.



## Chapter 2

No birds were coming to his branches and brought songs and greetings. No butterflies with velvet wings and with long and funny feelers came any more, and also no beetles crawled on his trunk and on his branches.

He no longer heard the well-known rustling from the other trees, when the wind rushed through their crowns.

He was all alone. No one could come to him, no bird, no butterfly and no beetle, because it was too far to go.

As far as the eye could see, there was no other tree to be seen.

That's why he was sad.

The tree fell asleep in loneliness.

## Sura ya pili

Hakuna ndege matawini tena, waletao nyimbo na salam. Hakuna vipepeo wenye mbawa za sufu na antena ndefu za kuvutia vilivyokuja tena, wadudu waaliotambaa kwenye vichanga na matawi yake hawakuwepo vilevile.

Hausikii tena mning'ono wa sauti toka kwa miti mingine alioufahamu pindi upepo uvumapo kwenye vilele vyao.

Ulikuwa pekee. Hakuna chochote kinachoutembelea si ndege, vipepeo wala wadudu, sababu palikuwa na masafa marefu.

Hapakuwa na miti mingine yakuonekana katika upeo wa macho yake.

Ndiyo maana ulikuwa na majonzi.

Ulilala katika upweke.



The heaven was blue.

The heaven was deep blue from one side of the horizon to the other. There was not a single cloud, because it was not the rainy season. The sun was shining. She had risen red and sleepy in the morning. Now she was slowly walking over the blue sky looking down on earth.

Since long, long time the sun had been wandering every day over the sky, and she had seen many things on earth.

Mbingu zilikuwa za samawati.

Zilikuwa za samawati iliyokoza kwa upeo wa macho. Hapakuwa hata na chembe ya mawingu. Sababu si msimu wa mvua. Jua lilikuwa likichomoza. Lilitoa mwanga hafifu mwekundu wa asubuhi. Sasa likitembea taratibu likitembea kwenye wingu la samawati likiangaza ardhini.

Tangu zamani, zama za kale jua limekuwa likizunguka kila siku angani na limekuwa likiona vitu vingi ardhini.



Long time ago there were rivers in the area, which sprang fresh and wild from the mountains and cut deep gorges in the body of the mountains.

There were lakes with blue waters, fishes, hippos and crocodiles.

The land was covered with green forests in which elephants, giraffes, rhinos, apes, antelopes and many other animals led a happy life.

The people lived in round homesteads with their families and friends and were happy as well.

Hapo kale ilikuwepo mito eneo hilo ambayo ikitiririka kutoka milimani ikifanya vidimbwi kwenye milima hiyo.

Yalikuwepo maziwa yenye maji ya kibuluu iliyokuwa na samaki, viboko na mamba.

Ardhi ilifunikwa kwa misitu ya kijani ambamo tembo, twiga, vifaru, sokwe na wanyama wengine wengi waliishi kwa furaha.

Watu waliishi jirani na familia zao na marafiki nao walikuwa na furaha vilevile.



There were clouds, on which the sun could take a rest. They also brought the rain, which made the plants flourish.

All this was there a long time ago.

Now the sun saw only one single tree.

There was not a living creature to be seen anywhere, and the sun became very sad.

### Chapter 3

But - suddenly she saw that something was moving on the earth. What was it?

It was a big man and a small man. The big man carried something on his shoulder, the small man had something in his hand. The two moved on and on, and the sun watched them.

Mawingu yalikuwepo, yaliofanya jua lipumzike. Yalioleta mvua ambayo ilifanya mimea kustawi.

Yote haya yalikuwepo zamani hizo.

Sasa jua linauangaza mti mmoja tu.

Hakuna kiumbe hai kionekacho popote, na jua likawa na majonzi.

### Sura ya tatu

Lakini ghafla jua liliona kitu kitembeacho ardhini. Ni nini hiki?

Alikuwa ni mtu mzima na mtoto. Mtu mzima alibeba kitu begani na mtoto alikuwa na kitu mkononi. Wawili hawa walienda na kuenda na juu likiwatazama.



The big man and the small man were father and son. The father carried an axe on his shoulder, the son had a tied rope in his hand.

They had been walking a long way; now they arrived at the tree.

The father threw the axe on the ground. The tree awoke from the noise. He was happy to see two people, because now he had company.

The father said to the son: "Sit in the shade and rest for a while until we start."

Hawa walikuwa mtu na mwanawe. Baba alibeba shoka begani na mtoto alikuwa na kamba iliyokunjwa mkononi.

Wametembea masafa marefu; sasa wamefika kwenye mti.

Baba alitupa shoka chini. Mti uliamshwa kwa kiele kishindo. Ulifurahi kuona watu wawili kwa vile sasa unawenzake.

Baba alimwambia kijana "Kaa kivulini na upumzike kwa muda mpaka tutakapoanza."



The tree wondered: "What are they going to start with?"

The two people rested, and the tree gave them his shade.

#### **Chapter 4**

The father jumped on his feet and looked at the tree. "It is a big, beautiful and green tree", he said. "It will be hard work, but it will give a lot of wood."

"I can work hard", said the son, although he was only a small man.

Mti ulishangaa: "Wanakwenda kuanza na nini?"

Wote walipumzika na mti uliwapa kivuli chake.

#### **Sura ya nne**

Yule baba alisimama na kuuangalia ule mti.

"Ni mti mkbwa, mzuri na wakijani ", alisema  
"Itakuwa kazi nzito, lakini utatupatia kuni nyingi" .

"Naweza kufanya kazi sana", mototo alisema, ingawa alikuwa kijana mdogo tu.



"What are you going to do?" asked the tree.  
"Tree", said the man, "we want to fell you to take your wood to our homestead".

The tree was alarmed. Horror filled him from his crown to the roots. He remembered the scene, when the other trees were being felled. They had moaned and creaked and had fallen groaning. Then they had been taken away, one after the other, until our tree was left all alone.

Since then nothing could grow around him, only sand and rocks were to be seen and a little bit of grass around him.

No beautiful birds came to him singing wonderful songs.

No colourful butterflies with velvet wings and long, funny feelers could reach him any more. No fat beetles hummed and buzzed on his trunk and on his branches.

And no people came any more, because the way was long and there was no shade to rest in.

Now, finally, two people HAD come - and now he was going to die!?

21

"Mnakusudia kufanya kazi gani?" Mti uliwaauliza. Baba alijibu, "Tunataka tukuangushe na tuchukue kuni zako tupeleke kwetu."

Mti ulishitushwa, hofu iliushika toka kileleni hadi kwenye mizizi. Ulikumbuka hali ilivyokuwa wakati miti mingine ilipo angushwa.

Ilihuzunuka na kuendelea kulia. Hivyo ilichukuliwa mbali, mmoja baada ya mwingine, mpaka ukabaki wenyewe.

Tangu hapo hakuna ambacho kingeota karibu yake ila mchanga, miamba na nyasi chache pekee zingekana jirani.

Hakuna ndege wazuri walio kuja mtini na kuimba nyimbo za kupendeza.

Hapakuwa na vipepeo vya rangi vyenye mbawa kama sufu na antena ndefu za kuvutia vingefikia tena.

Hapakuwa na wadudu wanene waliovitambaa vichanga vyake na kuzizima katika matawi yake.

Watu nao pia hawakuja tena kwa sababu njia ilikuwa ndefu na hapakuwa na kivuli cha kupumzikia.

Sasa, hatimaye, watu wawili wamekuja na sasa unaenda kufa?



## Chapter 5

The father said to his son: "Let us start now, later it will be too hot".

The tree plucked up all his courage and asked: "Why do you want to fell me?"

"Tree", said the man, "we need your wood to make fire and cook our food. I have a wife, this son and some more small children. They must eat to live and to be healthy".

"Also I want to live", said the tree sadly.

The child said: "We have not had anything to eat for many days, because we have no firewood. We cannot eat our Ugali uncooked!"

The tree started crying.

"My mom and my small sisters and brothers are also crying", said the boy.

## Sura ya tano

Baba alimwambia mwanawe: "Sasa natuanze, baadae jua litakuwa kali mno."

Mti ulijikaza kwa moyo wake wote na kuauliza: "Kwanini mnataka kuniangusha?"

"Baba alisema, "Tunahitaji gogo lako kwa ajili ya kuni za kupika chakula chetu. Nina mke, huyu kijana na wengine wadogo. Ni lazima wale na wawe na afya."

"Nahitaji kuishi pia", mti ulisema kwa huzuni. Mtoto alisema: " Hatujala kitu kwa muda mrefu kwa sababu hatuna kuni ,hatuwezi tukala ugali mbichi."

Mti ukanza kulia.

"Mama yangu, dada zangu na kaka zangu nao wote wanalia", alisema yule kijana.



The father looked at his son and said: "You are right. We have to fell that tree to be able to cook food, so that your mom and your brothers and sisters don't have to cry anymore."

"Soon all of you will cry", said the tree. "When there are no more trees, there will be no more rain. Our beautiful country will be a desert. Nothing will grow anymore, not even your maize."

The father was astonished and laid down the axe.

"Why won't the rain come?"

"In the whole world, rain can only come to places where trees are growing", answered the tree. "You can see that around here grass is still growing under my shade close to my trunk. Look around and see: where the trees have been felled nothing grows anymore -only sand and rocks are to be seen."

Baba alimtazama kijana wake na kusema.

"Uko sahihi, ni lazima tuungushe ili tuweze kupika, ili mama na ndugu zako wasiendeleo kulia tena".

Mti ukasema, "Siyo muda mrefu nyote mtalia"

"Miti yote ikiisha, hakutakuwa na mvua tena. Nchi yetu nzuri itakuwa jangwa. Hakuna kitakacho ota tena, sio hata mahindi yenu".

Yule baba alishangaa na kuweka chini shoka lake.

"Kwa nini mvua isinyeshe?"

Mti ulijibu, "Dunia kote mvua hunyesha mahala miti iotapo".

Mnaweza kuona hapa mlipo majani yamestawi chini yangu tu kwenye kivuli changu karibu na vichanga vyangu. Angalieni kila upande na muone: popote miti ilipokatwa hapana chengine kimeacho, ni mchanga na miamba tu ndivyo vinavyoonekana.



## Chapter 6

The boy became thoughtful and asked: "What was it like around here when trees were still growing?"

"When many trees grew here, there was rain, more rain, there were rivers which sprang fresh and wild from the mountains. There were lakes with blue water, fish, hippos and crocodiles. In the forests lived elephants, giraffes, rhinos, apes, antelopes, and many other animals. The people had everything they needed and were happy. Beautiful birds visited me from the other trees and sang wonderful songs. Colourful butterflies came - big and small ones - with velvet wings and long, funny feelers. Fat beetles crawled over my trunk and my branches. They hummed and buzzed and we were happy. Now, nobody can come anymore - when the trees die, the land dies with them."

27

## Mlango wa sita

Kijana alitafakari na kuuliza "Lilikuwaje eneo hili wakati ilipokuwapo miti?"

"Wakati miti mingi ilipokuwepo kwenye eneo hili mvua ilikuwa nyingi, ilikuwepo mito iliyotiririka kutoka milimani. Yalikuwepo maziwa yenye maji ya kibuluu, samaki, viboko na mamba. Ndani ya misitu waliishi tembo, twiga, vifaru, sokwe, nyati na wanyama wengine wengi. Watu walipata mahitaji yao yote na walikuwa na furaha. Ndege wazuri walinitembelea toka kwenye miti mingine na kuimba nyimbo nzuri. Vipepeo vya rangi vikubwa kwa vidogo vilitua kwa mbawa kama sufu na antena ndefu za kuvutia. Wadudu wanene waliutambaa mwili wake na matawi yake. Walikuwa wakiuzunguka na kuzizima na tulifurahi. Sasa hakuna wakuja tena- miti inapokufa, ardhi nayo hufa."



"I don't want to see the land die", said the father, "all of us love the land. But what can we do?", asked the father.

"You must plant trees all over the land, hedge them in, protect them and give them water. Then the rain will come again, and your children will live in happiness.

When the last rain came, I blossomed and produced seeds. Take them and plant them and protect them".

The father bent down to pick up the seeds, which were lying around the tree.

The boy bowed his head and said: "We must cook NOW and eat."

Baba alisema "Sitaki kuona ardhi inakufa, sote sisi tunaipenda ardhi, lakini tutafanya nini?" Baba aliuliza.

"Ni lazima mpande miti maeneo yote maitunze na maitilie maji.

Hapo mvua zitanyesha na watoto wenu wataishi kwa furaha.

Mvua zilipo nyesha, nilitoa maua na hatimae mbegu. Zichukueni mzipande na maitunze."

Baba aliinama na kuokota mbegu zilizokuwa zimeanguka chini ya ule mti.

Kijana alinamisha kichwa chake na akasema, „Ni lazima tupike SASA na kula."



## Chapter 7

The tree moved his branches and said to the father and his son:

"Look up in the sky you can see the sun. She is there almost all the time. The sun gives life and light to the earth.

She can also give you energy to cook your food.

You don't need to fell trees and destroy your future.

Catch the light of the sun, so it will cook the food for you, for the mother, the smaller children and for your friends."

## Mlango wa saba

Mti ulitikisa matawi na kumseme kwa baba na kijana wake:

"Tazameni juu mnaona jua. Liko pale muda wote. Jua hutoa uhai na mwanga kwa ardhi.

Linaweza pia kuwapa nishati ya kupikia chakula chenu.

Hamhitaji kukata miti na kuharibu hatma yenu.

Chukueni nishati ya jua, itawapikia chakula kwa ajili mama, watoto na marafiki."



"Thank you very much, tree", said the father.

"We have learned a lot today. We will do our best to prevent our land from becoming a desert, so that our children can live in happiness. We will learn to plant trees, to protect them and to irrigate them. We will learn how to catch the sun and to cook food for all of us."

"Take one of my branches, so that you can have a fire tonight. Tell the other families to plant trees and to cook with the sun", said the tree, "and good bye."

The father reverently cut a branch from the tree and the son tied it with the rope.

They silently walked home.

What do you think they did when they arrived?

"Tunashukuru sana mti", Baba alisema.

"Tumejifunza mengi sana leo.

Tutafanya kila linalowezezana ili kuzuia eneo letu lisiwe jangwa.

Ili watoto wetu waishi kwa furaha.

Tutajifunza kupanda miti, kuitunza na kuimwagilia.

Tutajifunza namna ya kukusanya NISHATI YAJUA ili tuitumie kwa kupikia chakula chetu."

"Chukuweni moja ya matawi yangu ili mpate moto usiku wa leo. Waambie wezenu wapande miti na wapike kwa kutumia NISHATI YA JUA," na kwa kherini, mti ulisema"

Kwa utiifu baba alikata tawi na mtoto akafunga kuni kwa ile kamba aliyokuja nayo.

Walirejea nyumbani kwa utulivu.

Unafikiri walifaya nini walipofika?



