

The Death of a Disobedient Girl

By HAKIZIMANA Aimé Cesaire

Long ago, there was a girl whose name was Nyiramwiza. She was the most beautiful girl in the village. Her parents loved her greatly, and they prevented her from going anywhere. They said, “If you leave our home, a wild animal will kill and eat you.”

Days and days passed. She was staying at her home, but one day,



twenty girls from the village came to her home.

They said, “Please come with us.”

“No, I can’t,” Nyiramwiza replied.

“Why?”

“If I do, a monstrous animal will kill me.”

“Don’t worry. We will protect you.”

“Go on. After cleaning the dishes I will come after you, but go slowly.”

“Yes, we will go slowly.”

After half an hour, Nyiramwiza left home and went through the dark forest. In the middle of it she

saw a monstrous animal like a human being. It had five fingers on one hand.

“Where are you going, beautiful girl?” the monster asked.

“To have my teeth carved. My friends left me. There are two hours left, but now I’m in this forest. Please don’t eat me,” Nyiramwiza begged the monster.

“Be quiet, my girl, and I’ll do it well, but don’t tell anyone that I carved them.”

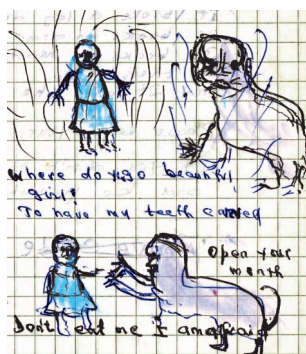
“I won’t.”

“Okay. Open your mouth,” the monster said, and he carved them well. “Go back home quickly. Don’t smile. If you do, I will eat you.”

“Thanks. I will not smile.”

In a marriage ceremony where all the village girls were dancing, Nyiramwiza smiled, and everyone looked at her carved teeth. They said to one another, “Look at how Nyiramwiza’s teeth are carved.”

Well, after dancing, everyone came to her and asked her who did them, but she said, “If I tell



you, a monstrous animal will kill and eat me.”

They said to her, “Don’t worry.”

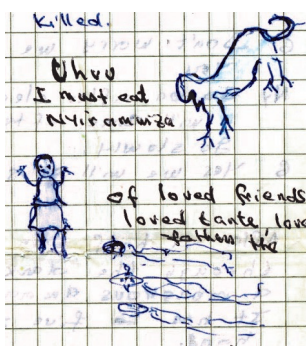
She refused to answer. Her aunt asked her, but she refused. Her niece asked her, but she refused. Everyone asked her, but she refused.



Then, her parents begged her and said, “Please tell us what happened to you.”

She said, “My mother, my father, if I tell you, I will die.”

“If you don’t, we will kill you,” they said. So



Nyiramwiza told them what happened.

It was night. Immediately, all fell asleep, and a monstrous animal cried out, “Uuhuu! I must eat Nyiramwiza.”

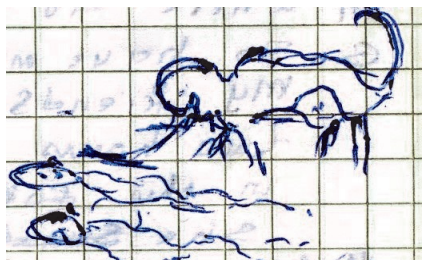
Nyiramwiza tried to wake everyone up, but it was all for naught.

“Oh father! Oh mother! That animal is coming to eat me,” she sang. But still they slept.

The monstrous animal came to the gate and said, “Uuhuu! I must eat Nyiramwiza.”

She sang again. “Oh beloved aunt, beloved father, beloved mother, beloved friends! The monstrous animal

comes to kill me and eat me! Good-bye, everyone. Good-bye, friends. Good-bye, my



beloved brothers and sisters. I must be eaten. Oh good-bye, father. Good-bye, mother.”

After that, the monstrous animal killed Nyiramwiza. It broke off a leg and put it around the father’s neck. It broke off an arm and put it around her mother’s neck. It broke off her head and put it in the middle of their gate, and then it ate the remains of her corpse.

Please heed your parents’ advice. If you don’t, you will go astray and be punished severely.