

Bambo Makwatila

Just-Married Man

Inu bambo makwatida*; koma kumenyana musiye
You, sir, have just paid lobola; do not raise a hand to each other
Inu bambo makwatida; koma kumenyana mulekhe
You, sir, have just paid lobola; do not raise a hand to each other
Inu bambo makwatida; koma kumenyana musiye
You, sir, have just paid lobola; do not raise a hand to each other

Ngati pali mawu mungochita zokamba
When you have an argument, talk about it
Koma kumenyana mulekhe
Do not raise a hand to each other
Ngati pali mawu mungochita zokamba
When you have an argument, talk about it
Koma kumenyana mulekhe
Do not raise a hand to each other
Ngati mamwa mowa mungochita zokamba
When you have had some drinks, just talk
Koma kumenyana musiye
Do not raise a hand to each other

Guitar solo

Inu amai makwatidwa*; koma kumenyana musiye
You, madam, have just had lobola paid for you; do not raise a hand to each other
Inu amai makwatidwa; koma kumenyana mulekhe
You, madam, have just had lobola paid for you; do not raise a hand to each other
Inu amai makwatidwa; koma kumenyana musiye
You, madam, have just had lobola paid for you; do not raise a hand to each other

Ngati pali mawu mungochita zokamba
When you have an argument, talk about it
Koma kumenyana mulekhe
Do not raise a hand to each other
Ngati maledzela mungochita zokamba
When you're drunk, just talk
Koma kumenyana mulekhe
Do not raise a hand to each other
Ngati mamwa mowa mungochita zokamba
When you have had some drinks, just talk
Koma kumenyana mulekhe
Do not raise a hand to each other
Ngati maledzela mungochita zokamba
When you're drunk, just talk
Koma kumenyana mulekhe

Do not raise a hand to each other
Ngati mamwa mowa mungochita zokamba
When you have had some drinks, just talk
Koma kumenyana mulekhe
Do not raise a hand to each other

This is a song about (hopefully preventing) domestic violence. It is giving advice to a newly married couple on how to live together peaceably – premarital counseling of a sort, as the couple is preparing to live together. *Makwatila* means you (the man) have married, as in the actual custom of paying the bride-price, or *lobola*, to the woman's family. *Makwatilwa* means *lobola* has been paid for you (the woman.) The song encourages the couple to talk out their differences rather than resorting to violence, even when inebriated.

* In the Southern part of Malawi and in Zambia “makwatila/makwatilwa” would be appropriate, because they do pronounce the “l”. Here we went with “makwatida/makwatidwa” because of the way that Mr. Manatsa pronounces these words in this song.

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