

OUR HERITAGE, OUR PRIDE

Written by

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1 FADE IN

2 I/E. COMPANY - DAY

We open on AKUNYE as he arrives at the company premises. ASEDA is seen holding some files as she approaches an office. Akunye catches up with her.

AKUNYE

Excuse me. Good afternoon.

ASEDA

Afternoon. How can I help you sir.

AKUNYE

I was scheduled for an interview here. Which direction is Mr. Ambuley's office?

Aseda looks at Akunye from head to toe.

ASEDA

Are you Akunye?

AKUNYE

Yes

ASEDA

In addition to the documents required for the interview, I sent you the dress code.

AKUNYE

Yes you did. I have read it.

Aseda takes a look at Akunye from head to toe again.

ASEDA

Ok. Have a seat. I will let my boss know you are in.

AKUNYE

Thank you.

Aseda enters the office. Mr. AMBULEY is seated behind his desk.

ASEDA

Sir, these are the files you requested for.

AMBULEY

Ok. Show them to me.

Ambuley gives Aseda a seductive look as she moves to stand by his side.

ASEDA

This is for the ongoing project.
This one for the litigation case in
the court. And this one for the
loan request.

AMBULEY

Have I told you how beautiful you
are looking today?

ASEDA

Yes, 10 times already.

Aseda puts the files in front of Ambuley, moves in front of the desk, Ambuley taps her on the waist as she moves.

ASEDA (CONT'D)

Sir, I have asked you to stop
touching me. I don't like it.

AMBULEY

Come on, I'm just kidding. Don't
sue me for sexual harassment.
(laughs)

ASEDA

Akunye is here for the interview.

AMBULEY

Alright, let him in on your way
out.

Aseda walks out, stops in front of Akunye.

ASEDA

Sir, my boss is ready for you.

AKUNYE

Thank you.

Aseda walks away as Akunye enters the office. Ambuley has his eyes fixed on his laptop.

AKUNYE (CONT'D)

Good afternoon sir.

AMBULEY

After---noon

Ambuley lifts his head, sees Akunye in smock. He looks at him from head to toe.

AMBULEY (CONT'D)

Have a seat.

Ambuley continues to look at Akunye's outfit as he sits.
Ambuley pulls a paper from a file.

AMBULEY (CONT'D)

You are welcome.

AKUNYE

Thank you

AMBULEY

I have gone through your C.V and it is impressive. Tell me a brief story about yourself and why you think you deserve the job.

AKUNYE

Thank you sir. My name is Atibil Akunye, the first born of a family of six. My journey so far has been hindered with obstacles, but with determination and perseverance, I pull through every time....

Akunye continues to talk as we...

FADE TO:

3

MOMENTS LATER

Akunye ends his introduction.

AKUNYE

...determination, hardworking, just to mention a few are my strengths. This is why I think I'm best suited for this job.

Ambuley takes a hesitant look at Akunye

AMBULEY

(smiles)

You are very eloquent, I will give you that. Your delivery was on point and perfect, but there is just one problem. We take dress code very serious here.

AKUNYE

I don't understand sir.

AMBULEY

You were supposed to look official for this interview. But you appeared as a traditional ruler.

AKUNYE

With all due respect sir. I think I'm as official as I can be.

AMBULEY

You are wearing a smock, while you are supposed to be in a suit.

AKUNYE

I think that is where the problem is.

AMBULEY

What problem?

AKUNYE

When will we learn to appreciate ourselves? When will we learn to put value on ourselves as Ghanaians? Why can't I look official in an African print or wear? Why do we look down on our own cultural and traditional values? You see, when we begin to appreciate and value ourselves, value our culture, others will value us as well.

AMBULEY

What point are you trying to make.

AKUNYE

I'm getting there. Do you know what will happen when we accept and use African print as official wear for workers? More jobs will be created. The fabric industry will be boosted. Tailors and fashion designers will expand and hence provide employment to the youth. Our identity will be restored. Our culture will be preserved. For instance, look at the Indians and the Chinese, their traditional wears are as official as they can be. It is only in Africa that we don't value our own. And it is time we have a change of mindset.

AMBULEY

Well, you have spoken like a preacher. However, this company has rules and we must follow them. Being in a suit or shirt and a trouser are the only outfit considered official here. So I'm sorry...

MR. KABUTEY, the CEO of the firm enters, dressed in an African print.

KABUTEY

Sorry to interrupt your interview. I was actually standing by the window, listening to the interview. And I must say, I'm very impressed.

AMBULEY

Yes, he is very good. But he has a problem.

KABUTEY

He doesn't have a problem.
(turns to Akunye and offers a handshake)
My name is Kabutey, the CEO of the company.

AKUNYE

(handshake)
I'm Akunye. It is a pleasure sir.

KABUTEY

I like your idea of us putting value on ourselves and preserving our culture. Frankly speaking, I don't know why we have to put on African wear on only Fridays. I think we need to have a change in the company policy on what we consider official wear. It is time for us to allow the world to accept us for who we are, and not what they want us to be.

AMBULEY

Boss I also love my African wear. But the company policy prevented me from wearing what I look good in.

KABUTEY

That is now a thing of the past.
Thanks to Akunye for this message,
it really touched my heart. Akunye,
let's talk more about the position
you will be occupying in my office.

AKUNYE

Ok sir. Thank you.

Kabutey and Akunye walk out of the office. Ambuley moves to close the door, comes back to his seat. Pulls out an African wear from a bag under his desk and puts it on. Aseda enters the office holding her bag.

ASEDA

What are you doing sir?

AMBULEY

We can now wear African print any day.

ASEDA

(happily)

Wao. Interesting. Let me also change into my African wear.

Ambuley shoots a surprise look at Aseda as she quickly changes.

Aseda and Ambuley are fully dressed in African wear.

ASEDA (CONT'D)

Look at how beautiful I look in this dress.

Ambuley moves closer, holds Aseda by the waist.

AMBULEY

You are now looking more beautiful.

Aseda gives Ambuley a disdain look.

ASEDA

I'm suing you for sexual harassment.

Aseda walks our, Ambuley laughs and moves to his seat as we...

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END