

Glossed text

See p. 10-11 in:

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“A strange obligation out of friendship” is a children’s story I learned from my mother.

Záki ná Mukóko vandáka banduku ya ngólo mpénzá.

Zaki with Mukoko sit.PST CL2-friend CONN strong very

Zaki and Mukoko were very good friends.

Kasi bó vandáka kuzínga na bwála mosi vé. Vandáa

but 3PL sit.PST INF.live CONN CL1a-village one NEG sit.PST

But they did not live in the same village. There was

ná mwá mfínda na kukatúka na bwála ya Záki

CONN DIM forest CONN INF.leave CONN village CONN Záki

a small forest between Zaki’s village

sámbu na kukwénda na bwála ya Mukóko.

for CONN INF.go CONN village CONN Mukóko

and Mukoko’s village.

Mpóso nyónso, kana Záki kwenda kutála Mukóko na

week every/all if Záki NARR.go INF.see Mukóko CONN

Every week, if Zaki did not go visit Mukoko

ízo na yánda vé, Mukoko kwisa kutála

CL1a-house CONN 3SG NEG Mukóko NARR.come INF.see

at his house, Mukoko visited

Záki na ízo na yáandi. Kilúmbu mósi, Mukóko
Záki CONN CL1a-house CONN 3SG CL7-day one Mukóko
him at his house. One day, Mukoko

kwísa kutála Záki. Bó dia mpi nwa
NARR.come INF.see Záki 3PL NARR.eat also NARR.drink
came to visit Zaki. They ate and drank

malúfu, ye bó sepila míngi mpénzá. Disulú
alcohol and 3PL NARR.enjoy much very CL5-talk
alcohol and they enjoyed it very much. The conversation

kwísa nda. Mpímpa bwa, masulú kée fúla
NARR.come long CL9-night NARR.fall CL6-talk DUR continue
got long. The night fell, the conversation continued.

káka. Bó sulula tíi na káti ya mpímpa, pána
still 3PL NARR.talk until CONN middle CONN CL9-night there
They talked till the middle of the night, when

malúfu mée mana. Mukóko pésa Zaki melesí
CL6-alcohol PRF finish Mukóko NARR.give Záki thanks
the alcohol was finished. Mukoko thanked Zaki

túba nde: “Móno mée vutúka na bwála.”
NARR.say QUOT.COMP 1SG PRF NARR.return CONN village
[and] said: “I am leaving for home.”

Záki nde: “Mpímpa míngi, badiábulu míngi na
Záki COMP CL9-night much CL2-ghost/devil much CONN
Zaki [said]: “It’s late in the night, there are a lot of ghosts

nzilá. Móno zóla vé ngé sabúka mfinda
CL1a-road 1SG NARR.want NEG 2SG SBJV.cross CL9-forest
on the way. I don’t want you to cross the forest

ngé mósi. Fingíla móno, béto kwénda béto zóle. Búna ngé
2SG one IMP.wait 1SG 1PL SBJV.go 1PL two then 2SG
alone. Wait for me; let's go together. Then you

ata tambúla na kingónsa vé.” Bó kwénda mpi
FUT travel CONN CL7-danger NEG 3PL NARR.go also
will not travel in danger.” They left and

bó sabúka mfínda. Kúma na símu, bó
3PL NARR.cross CL9-forest NARR.come CONN overside 3PL
crossed the forest. Once on the other side, they

kóta na disulú ya nkáka, tí Záki
NARR.enter CONN CL5-talk CONN other until Záki
started another conversation, until Zaki

túba nde: “Nduku Mukóko, ngé mée kúma pembene
NARR.say COMP CL1a-friend Mukóko 2SG PRF arrive proximity
said: “My friend Mukoko, you are near

ya bwála na ngé. Ntángu yayi móno vutúka
CONN village CONN 2SG time this 1SG SBJV.return
your village. Now, let me go back

kulála. Mono kée kwénda na bilanga na síka.”
INF.sleep 1SG DUR go CONN CL4-field CONN morning
[and] sleep. I am going to the field in the morning.”

Mukóko nde: “Dí Záki, mudídí míngi mpénza,
Mukóko COMP my.friend Záki CL3-darkness much very
Mukoko [replied]: “Dear Zaki, it is very dark

badiábulu kée tambúla na mfínda. Móno kée kwísa
CL2-ghost DUR travel CONN CL9-forest 1SG DUR come
and ghosts are traveling in the forest. I am coming

na ngé, béto sabúka mfinda béto zóle. Búna ngé
CONN 2SG 1PL SBJV.cross CL9-forest 1PL two then 2SG
with you, let's cross the forest together. Then you

ata vánda na kingónsa vé.” Bó sabúka mfinda.
FUT sit CONN CL7-danger NEG 3PL NARR.cross CL9-forest
won't be in danger.” They crossed the forest.

Kúma na símu, bó kóta na disulú
NARR.arrive CONN overside 3PL NARR.enter CONN CL5-talk
Once on the other side, they started another conversation.

ya nkáka. Mpímpa ya mvimba bó sabúka
CONN other CL9-night CONN whole 3PL NARR.cross
All night, they crossed

mfinda banda disulú ya nkáka, sabúka
CL9-forest NARR.start CL5-talk CONN other NARR-cross
the forest, started another conversation, crossed the

mfinda kóta disulú ya nkáka, tíí bo
CL9-forest NARR.enter CL5-talk CONN other until 3PL
forest [again], started another conversation, until they

úá nsúsú mée dila kokoriko. Ntáma vé
NARR.hear CL1a-hen PRF cry cockadoodledoo far NEG
heard the rooster crow. Before long,

ntángu mée mata. Bó laláa vé. Bantu mée kúma
CL9-sun PRF rise 3PL sleep.PST NEG CL2-person PRF arrive
the sun rose. They had not slept. People were starting

kukwénda bilanga kée lúta bó na nzilá. Yáyi kinduku
INF.go CL4-field DUR pass 3PL CONN road this CL7-friend
to go to the field, passing them on the way. Is this friendship

toó buzóba?

or CL13-stupid

or stupidity?