

THE OLD WOMAN OF DZAYE



Once upon a time there lived an old woman in Dzaye village. Her name was Namango. The village was near a fast flowing river. The area of Dzaye was popular because of Maye fruits which were found in abundance in the forest.

The old woman had a big garden across the river where she grew various crops. She used to cross the river easily during the dry season to cultivate her crops. However, her movement to the side of the river was restricted by the flooding of the river during the rainy season.

One day during the rainy season she crossed the river to work in her garden. After working for several hours, she thought of returning home. She was shocked to learn that the river had flooded. Mud was everywhere. Rain fell continuously. The poor old woman began to weep. Suddenly, she saw strange figures moving towards her. They carried her. According to the tradition, it was believed that spirits of ancestors accompanied her. She was shivering and could not take her breath. Within the twinkle of an eye, the spirits changed into huge birds. They flew high in the sky holding Namango in their claws. She was amazed to see her hut and was dropped down right next to it.

One of the birds told her to tell the people of the village to respect culture which was initiated by the ancestors hundred years ago.

Moral of the story:

- Main characters of the story are the Old woman and the Strange figures.
- Culture is one of the main elements of Malawian society and should be sustained.
- In the Malawian setting, many people have belief in traditions and customs.

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