

**RUTH'S CHOICE:
A GREAT INHERITANCE.**

Guhitamo kwa Rusi : Umurage
ukomeye

by Ruth Dickson

Byasubiwemo na Ruth Dickson

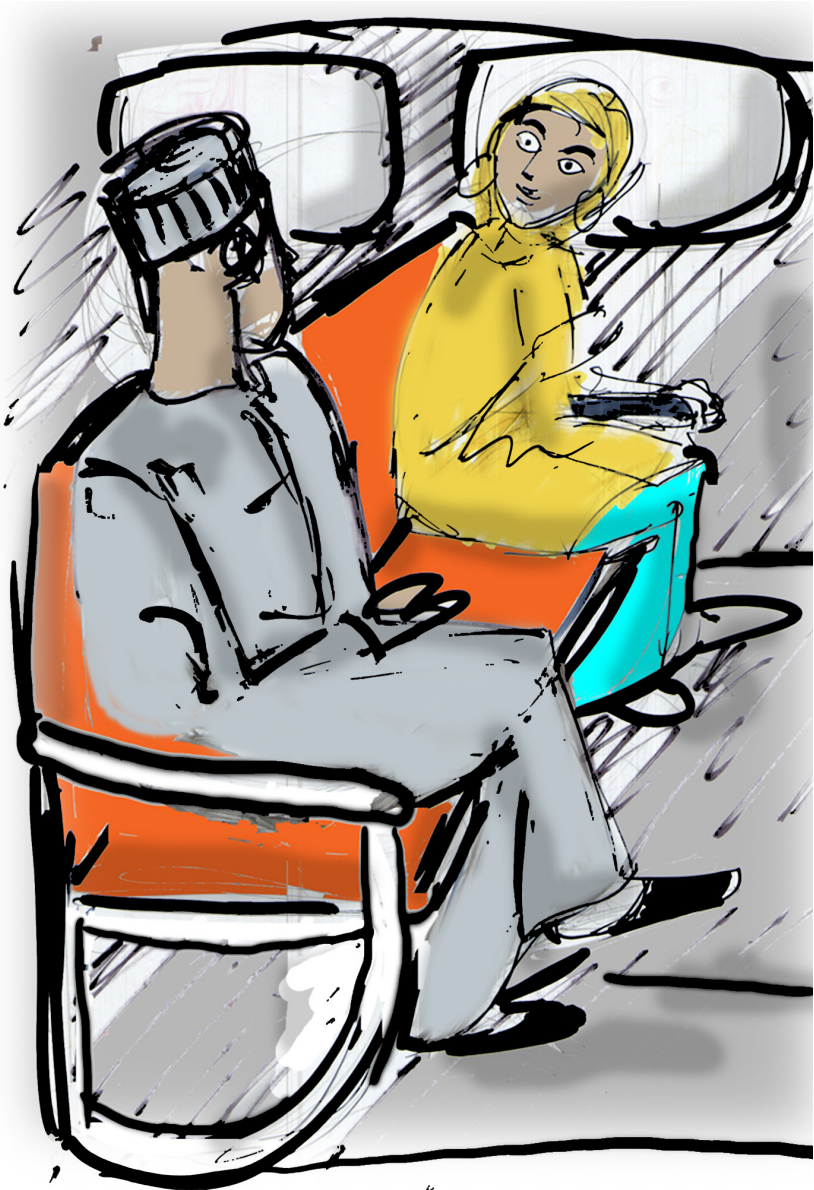
Rusi yari umukobwa w'ibwami mu mu-
jyi aho yaturukaga i Mowabo.

Mowabo wari umujyi utangaje. Kari
agahugu gato ugereraniye n'ibindi bi-
hugu byari bigakikije.

Abaturage b'I Mowabo basengaga ibi-
girwamana. Se wa Rusi, nyina,
bashiki be na basaza be basengaga
ikigirwamana cyitwaga
SHEMOSHI.

Ruth was a young Moabite
princess who lived in the town of
Moab. Moab was a funny sort of town.
It was a small nation compared to
those around it. Everyone lived as they
pleased. The people of Moab wor-
shipped idols. Ruth's father, mother,
brothers and sisters worshipped a god
called Chemosh.

Umunsi umwe, igihe nyina yari amu-
tumye ahura n'umusore witwaga
MAHILONI. Yari umusore w'uburanga



kandi akaba n'umushyitsi muri icyo gihugu cy'I Mowabo.

Rusi na Mahiloni babaye inshuti ndetse bigera umunsi umwe biyemeza kubana nk'umugore n'umugabo. Rusi na Mahilon bagize urugo rw'umunezero, ariko nyuma gato Rusi yamenye ko byose byenda guhinduka.

One day, while she was running errands for her mother, she met a young man by the name of Mahlon. He was a good looking young man and a foreigner in the land of Moab. They became friends and one day they decided to get married. Ruth and Mahlon were a very happy couple, but little did Ruth know that all was about to change.



Umunsi umwe umugabo wa Rusi,
Mahiloni yararwaye bikomeye.

Yakomeje kumuba hafi ariko ari nako uburwayi bwe bukomera kuko yari yanze kugira icyo arya. Rusi yakomeje gutakamba cyane kuko atarazi icyo ashobora gukora kubw'umugabo we muri icyo kibazo.

Ikintu kimwe gusa cyabashije kumwongerera ibyiringiro ni ugusenga guhoraho kwaranze nyirabukwe Naomi muri icyo gihe.

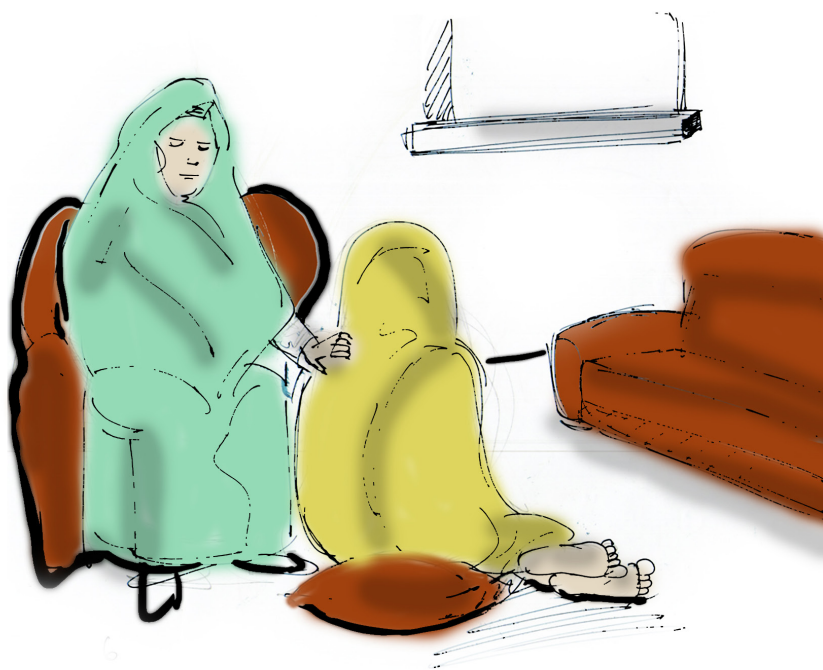
Yari umupfakazi kandi ubona wanyuze mubihe bitoroshye kandi by'mubabaro mugihe cy'ubuzima bwe. Rusi rero yagombaga kurebera kuri nyirabukwe umunsi kuwundi kandi agasenga Imana ye. Yatangariye Imana Naomi yasengaga. Yari Imana itandukanye na SHEMOSHI we n'umuryango we basengaga.

Ruth's husband, Mahlon, became very ill. She had watched him grow thinner and thinner, every day, as he refused to eat. Ruth cried a lot because she did not know what to do about her husband. The only thing that gave her hope was the constant prayers of her husband's mother Naomi. She was a widow and had experienced much sorrow in her life. Ruth would watch Mahlon's mother day in and day out praying to her God. She wondered about the God of Naomi. He was very different to the god she and her family worshipped.



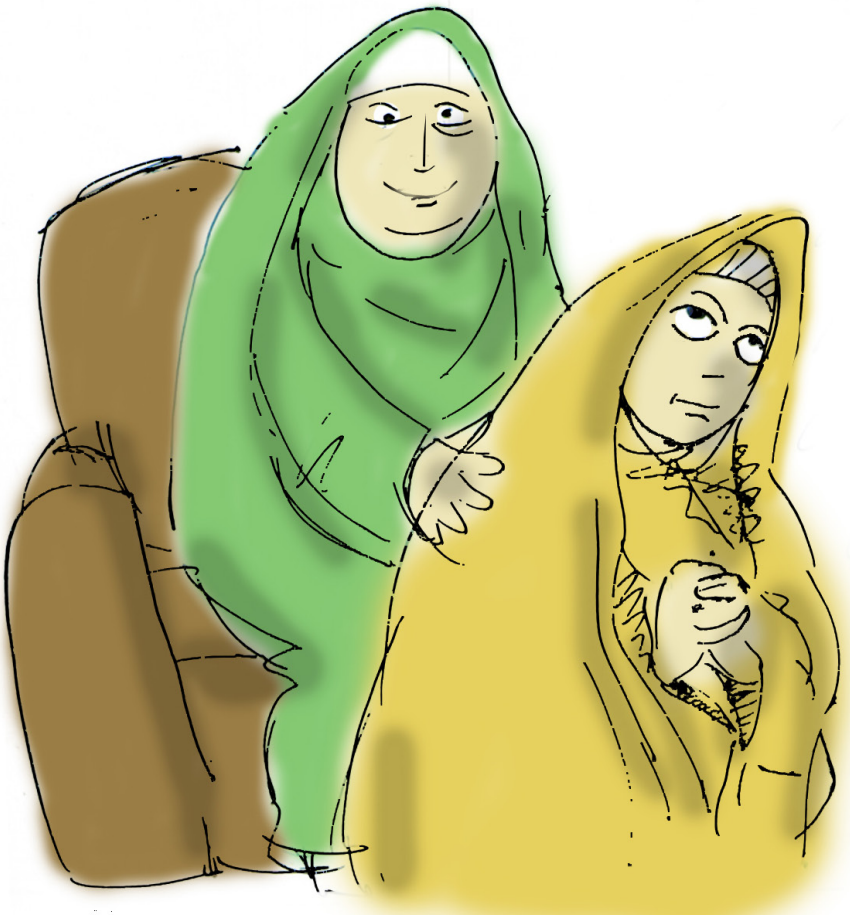
Nawomi yari umudamu w'isengesho. Umugabo we yari yarapfuye hashize igihe kitari kinini. Umwana we muto w'umuhungu, Shilioni nawe yari yarapfuye asigaye abana n'umugore wari ukiri muto witwanga Orupa. Rusi nawe yari afite ubwoba ko umugabo we nawe agiye gupfa. Rusi yahise atekereza umubabaro wose umuryango w'umugabowe wagiye uhura nawo. Muri ayo marira n'ibyo bibazo yabashije kuboneramo neza ubutwari nyirabukwe yagize, kuko Naomi yahoraga asenga ibihe byose kandi aririmba indirimbo zo gusingiza Imana. Rusi yibazaga uburyo Nyirabukwe yakomeza gusingiza Imana ye, akurikije ibyo yanyuzemo byose, aravuga ati: ntibishoboka, biragoye kubisobanukirwa.

Naomi was a woman of prayer. Her husband had died not so long ago. Her younger son Chilion had also died, leaving his young wife Orpah behind. Ruth was worried that her husband was going to die also? Ruth thought about all the sadness her husband's family had been through and wept. Through her tears, she looked at her mother-in law, Naomi, she thought, "What a strong woman". Naomi was always praying and singing praises onto her God. "How could she still sing praises to her God, look at all the sad things that had happened to her," she said out loud.



Hashize ibyumweru bicye, umugabo wa Rusi, Mahiloni yaje kwitaba Imana. Uburwayi bwari bwaribasiye ubuzima bwe. Rusi yatekereje inzozo z'ubuzima zose bari bafite, kuko n'ugabowe yari akiri muto. Ni gute yari gukomeza kubaho atari kumwe n'umugabo we? Rusi yararize arahogora. Nirabukwe wa Naomi yamusanze mucyumba, Rusi amupfukama imbere y'ibirenge. Afata mubugombambari bwa Naomi. Naomi yakomeje Rusi amusaba kwiringira Nyagasani Imana ya Israel. Kwizera kwa Naomi kwamuahaye ibyiringiro. Yarahagaze, asubiza ubwenge kugihe ko agomba kureba ku Mana ya Naomi. "Aha niho Naomi, Mabukwe yakuye ibyiringiro bye no gukomezwa" "Ngomba kuyihanga amaso" niko yavuze.

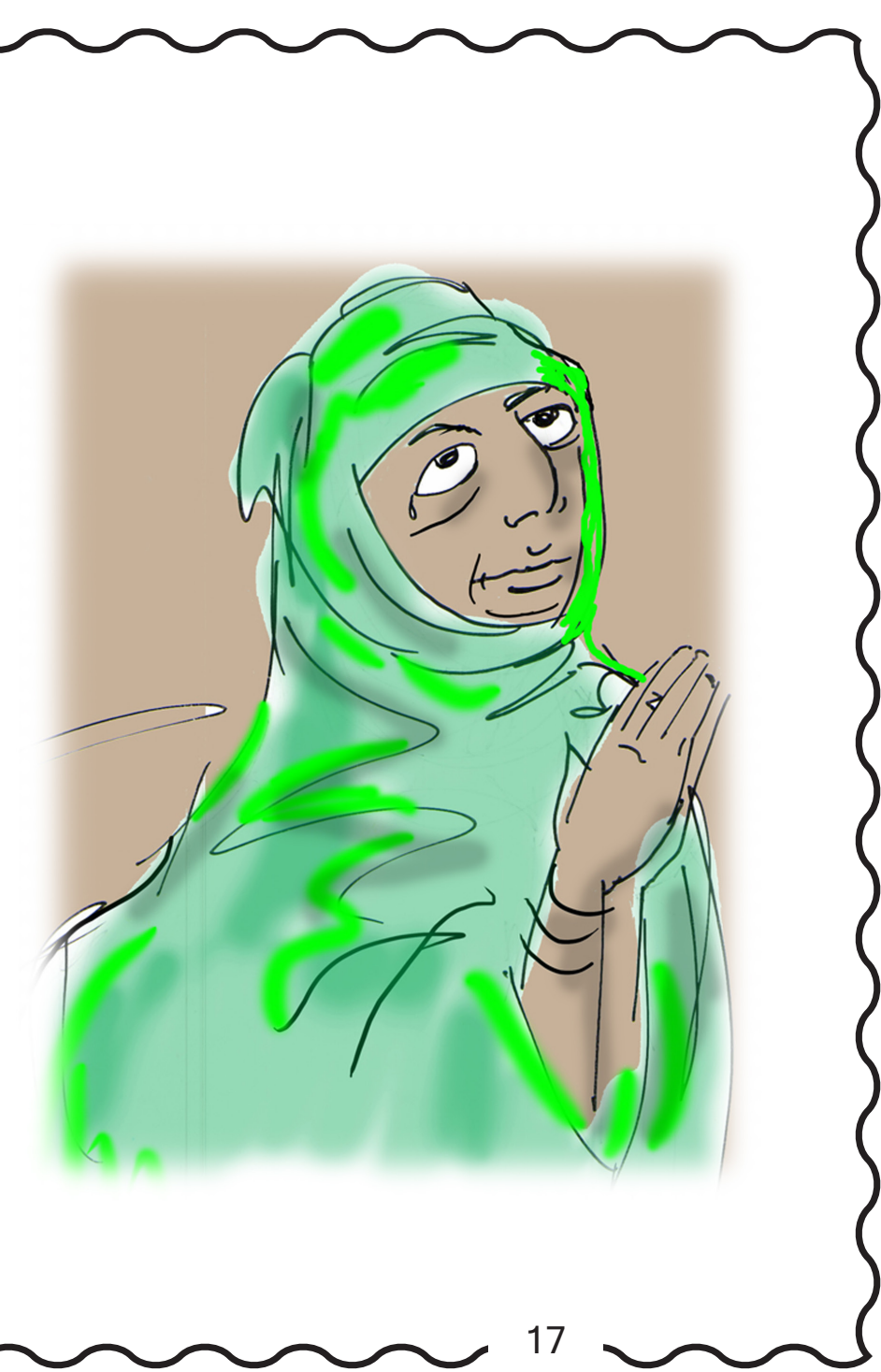
A few weeks later, Ruth's husband, Mahlon, died. The sickness had claimed his life. She thought about all the dreams he had about the future. He was still very young. How was she going to live without him? Ruth wept bitterly. Naomi came into the room and Ruth fell at her feet. She held onto Naomi's ankles. Naomi comforted Ruth and asked her to trust in the Lord God of Israel. The faith of Naomi gave her hope. She stood and made up her mind that she would lift up her eyes and look unto the God of Naomi. "This is where Naomi, my Chilion's mother gets her hope and Strength from". "I must look at Him also," she said.



Hashize imyaka, Rusi yari amaze kugira imishikirano ihamye na nyirabukwe. Bari babanye neza kuburyo na nyina ubyara Rusi yagezeho agira ishyari ry'uwu mubano. Rusi yabonye ikintu kigiciro muri Naomi. Naomi yavuganaga n'Imana ye nk'uvugana n'inshuti y'umuntu isanzwe. Imbere y'ibigeragezo byose yabonaga neza ko Naomi ahora asenga. Uko yari ateye ntibyigeze bihinduka, yari umu-nyangeso nziza kandi yitonze. Naomi yari yaramubwiye ku bitangaza by'Imana ya Isiraheli. Rusi yifuje mu mutima we kugirana imishyikirano yihariye n'Imana ya Naomi.

Over the years, Ruth had developed a strong loving relationship with Naomi. She was so kind to Ruth that even her real mother became jealous about their relationship. Ruth saw something

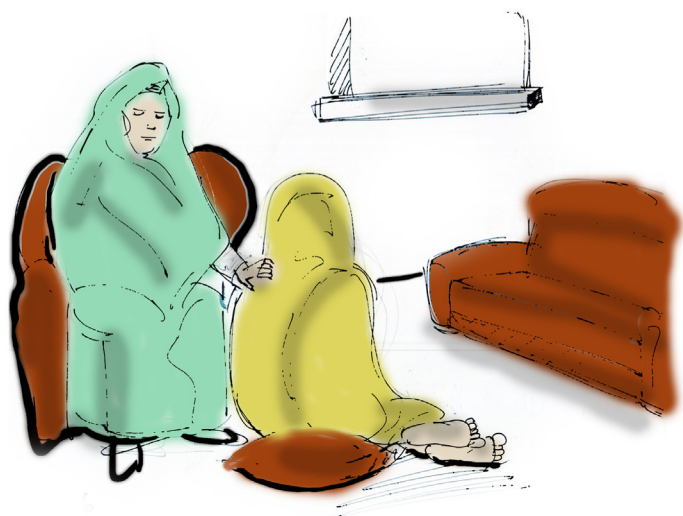
great in Naomi. Naomi talked to her God like He was her personal friend. In the face of hardship, she had watched Naomi always praying. Her character never changed, she was always kind and gentle. Naomi had taught her about the great miracles the God of Israel. Ruth desired in her heart to also have this personal relationship with Naomi's God.



Naomi Agira ati "Turimo kujya i Betelehemu". Rusi yakuwe umutima n'ibyo nyirabukwe yagombaga kuvuga. "Numvise uburyo Imana yasuye ubwoko bwacu hamwe n'umugisha w'igitangaza" "Ni igihe cyo kuzinga ibyacu tukava hano I Mowabo". Rusi yatekereje kuri nyina na se n'uburyo bazakira kuva i Mowabo kwe. Ntanubwo yabonaga ko ashobora kubibabwira. Yagombaga kuba umunyamahanga i Betelehemu, nyine nkuko Naomi yari umunyamahanaga i Mowabo. icyo gihe yagombaga kumenya neza uburyo Naomi yumvaga amerewe mugihe nawe yari mugihugu cy'amahanga. Ese yari buzemerwe, anonako atari n'umuheburayokazi. Gutekereza gutyo byabangamiraga Rusi, ariko yari yarabonye ikintu cy'igiciro, ndetse kirenze icy'igiciro. Cyari ikintu isi itashoboraga gusoba-

nura. Yakimanuye ndetse akibika kure mumutima we.

“We are leaving for Bethlehem,” she said. Ruth was shocked about what Naomi had to say. “I have heard how the Lord has visited my people with great blessings”. It is time for us to pack up our things and leave Moab. Ruth thought about her mother and father and how they would feel about her leaving Moab. She was not looking forward to telling them. She would be a foreigner in Bethlehem, just like Naomi was in Moab. Now she would know how Naomi felt living in a foreign land. “Would she be accepted seeing she was not Hebrew?” These thoughts bothered Ruth, but she saw something greater, something that words could not describe. She felt it deep within her heart.



Nkuko barimo bitegura urugendo rurerure, yatekereje kuri byose yagombaga gusiga inyuma. Ntiyari buzongere kubona ababeyi be hafiye ye ukundi. Bari bifuje ko yasigara I Mowabo bityo akongera akarongorwa maze agatangira undi muryango. Ntabwo byari bigiye kumworohera gujyana n'umupfakazi w'umucyene.

Ariko Rusi yari yiteguye gukurikira Nawomi, kabone n'ubwo byagaragaraga ko bigoye. Maze Rusi ajya gusezera kumuryango we. Akomanga kurugi rwo ku irembo nyina aba ariwe umuha ikaze anagira ati " Kucyi wumva utagaruka murugo iwanyu bityo tukagushakira umugabo mwiza?"

Nubwo Rusi yakundaga se na nyina cyane, ntiyagombaga gutakaza igitekerezo cya nyirabukwe, Nawomi, akora urugendo ruhambaye kubwe. Yababwiye ko ari bugende I Betelehemu

umunsi wari bukurikire. Bamuhesheje umugisha maze bamuha n'ubufasha, ariko Rusi arabyanga.

Yari yarabonye Nawomi yizera Imana, Yehova, imyaka yose, kandi ntiyigeze acika intege. Yamenye ko nawe agomba kwiringira Imana.

As they prepared to set out on the long journey, she thought about her mother and father. They had wanted her to stay in Moab so that she would remarry and start a family. It was not going to be easy travelling with a poor widow. But Ruth was prepared to follow Naomi despite her situation. So Ruth went to say goodbye to her family. She knocked on the front door and her mother answered it. "Why don't you come back home so we can find a good husband for you," she said. Even

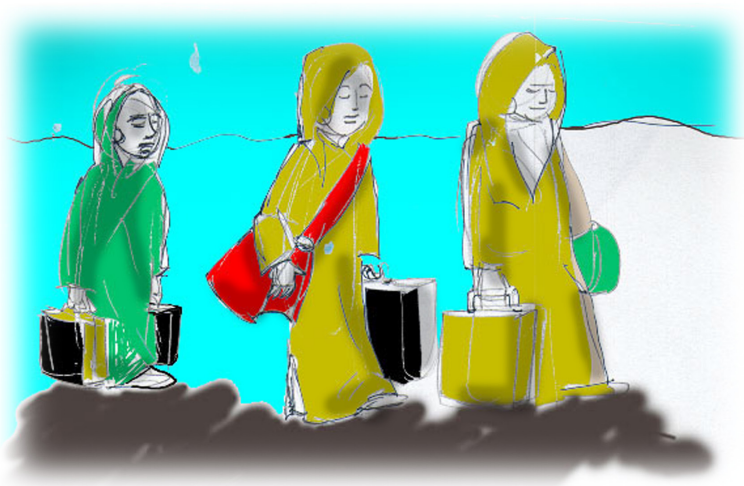


though Ruth loved her parents so much, she could not bear the thought of Naomi making such a dangerous journey on her own. She told them that she was leaving for Bethlehem the following day. They blessed her and offered to help, but Ruth refused. She had seen Naomi trust her God over the years and he had never failed her. She knew that she must now learn to do the same, trust Him also.

Maze Rusi, murumuna we na nyirabukwe bafata inzira berekeza iy'I Betelehemu. Rwari urugendo rugoye kandi rurerure icyakora Nawomi yinginga abakazana be yibwira ati " Ese Rusi na Orupa bazemererwa neza batari I Mowabo?" Nawomi yari afite impamvu nyinshi zarimo kumutera kwingingira abakazana be gusubira kubabyeyi babo. Bamubaniye neza kuburyo byashobokaga ko iyo neza Imana iyibi-

tura. Bagombaga kuzabona abandi bagabo ahandi kuko we yari ashaje adashobora kuzongera kubyara abandi bahungu ukundi. Bari bakiri bato kuburyo bari bwihanganire kunyura mubyo nyirabukwe yari yanyuzemo. Nawomi yatekereje cyane ndetse umwanya munini kubakazana be.

So Ruth, Orpah and Naomi arose and set off for Bethlehem. It was a long hard journey and Naomi felt very sorry them. "Would Ruth and Orpah not be better off in Moab", thought Naomi. She had many reasons why she felt they should return to their Parents houses. They had been so kind to her and surely the Lord would return this kindness to them. They could meet future husbands as she was too old give birth to any more sons. She also felt it was not fair or them to continue to go



through all the hardship she had been going through. Naomi thought long and hard about the situation of Ruth and Orpah.

Hamwe n'uko kwemera guhamye, Orupa yemera gusubira I Mowabo. Yahobeye nyirabukwe arangije aramusoma hamwe na Rusi. Yarabasezeye afata ibikapu bye arangije asubira I Mowabo. Rusi yababajwe no kubona Orupa asubiye Mowabo.

Orupa yasubiye kuri bya bigirwa mana bye no kubwoko bwe, ariko Rusi agumana na Nawomi. "Ni kuki ugumanye nange?" Aya ni amagambo yavuzwe na Naomi. Rusi asubiza agira ati: "Imana yawe izaba Imana yange, kandi ubwoko bwawe buzaba ubwoko bwange". Rusi yamenye Imana ya Naomi nk'Imana y'imbaraga, ihebuje mubushobozi kandi ikomeye byo

guhimbazwa. Nawomi yagezeho akica integer mu kwemeza Rusi gusubira mu muryango we I Mowabo.

With much persuasion, Orpah agreed to return to Moab. She kissed and embraced Naomi and Ruth, said good-bye, picked up her bags and returned to Moab. Ruth was sad to see her leave, but she knew Naomi would need her now more than ever. She would miss all the fun times they had spent together as a family. Orpah went back to her gods and her people, but Ruth stayed with Naomi. "Why are you staying with me," cried Naomi? You should also return to your land and your family and your gods, said Naomi. But Ruth refused to listen to a word she said. Ruth said, "Your God shall be my God and your people shall be my people". Ruth recognised the God of Naomi as a



great God, mighty in power and great to be praised. Naomi decided to give up persuading Ruth to return to her family in Moab.

Rusi na Nawomi begera irembo ry'umurwa batangira gutekereza ibyagombaga kubabaho. Abagore bamwe barabahagarika batangira guhwihwisa "Uriya si Naomi, umugore wa Bowazi wavuye ino muryaka myinshi ishize?" Bavugaga bongorerana hagati yabo ubwabo. Bamwe bageragez gushyira intoki kuminwa bumiwe kuko bari batangajwe no kongera kubona Nawomi ashaje cyane. Abandi bamurebaga basa n'abamucyeka gusa ariko ubona batamumenye bacyeka ko ari umunyamahanga.

Bahise bamubaza ibyerekeye umugabo we n'abahungu be bombi. Yazunguje umutwe kuko yabonaga ko bi-

goye kubabwira inkuru ye ibabaje.

Umutima wa Nawomi wari wuzuye agahinda abasaba ko bamwita Marahi kuko yumvaga ko ari byo bayari bisobanuye neza icyo yumvaga yarabaye cyo. Bahise bubika imitwe yabo batewe ubwoba n'uko bari bibutse uburyo wari umuryango unezerewe mugihe bavaga I Betelehemu. Bavugira rimwe bati: " O Nawomi agarutse amaramasa".

Ruth and Naomi approached the gates of the city wondering what would happen to them. A group of women spotted them and started to whisper. "Is that not Naomi, the wife of Boaz, whom left many years ago?" They spoke amongst themselves. Some of them held their mouths because they were surprised at how much Naomi had aged. Others looked at Ruth with



suspicion. They knew that she was a foreigner. They asked Naomi after her husband and her two boys. She bowed her head, as she found it very difficult to tell them her sad story. They shook their heads in dismay as they remembered the happy family that left Bethlehem. "O, Naomi has come back empty," they gossiped amongst themselves.

Nta mafaranga, ubukene ari bwose, Rusi ajya gushaka akazi. Yagiye mu isambu y'umuhinzi umwe maze agirira umugisha kubakozi be, maze bamwemerera guhumba mu murima. Mukazi bari bamuhaye Rusi yakoranaga umwete maze na nyirumurima aza kumumenya. Atumaho Rusi maze amubaza ibibazo byinshi. Yari yarumvise uburyo yabereye nyirabukwe Nawomi umukazana mwiza, maze asaba abakozi be bese kumwitaho byumwihariko. Yamuhaye ibyo kurya bihagije ngo abijyane

murugo.

Ageze murugo, Nawomi yari afite ibibazo byinshi yagombaga kumubaza byerekeye n'uko umunsi wagenze. Aramubaza " uyu munsi wakoreye he?". Amusubiza ko yakoze mu murima w'umugabo w'umukire witwa Bowazi. Yahise atangara amubwirako uwo Bowazi ari inshuti ye. Yahise yibuka uburyo babanye mbere yo kuva I Betelehemu n'uburyo yari umugabo w'imico myiza. Nawomi yakomeje gutangazwa n'uburyo Bowazi yari yarababereye umuntu mwiza ndetse akomeza kubagaragariza ubugwaneza. " Bowazi ni inshuti yange" Abisubiramo inshuro nyinshi. Ubwenge bwe bwari- mo kwibuka ibyo byose. Yahise amwe- nyura maze agaragaza umunezero mu maso. Muri we hahise hazamo igiteker- ezo.



With no money and merely a roof over their heads, Ruth set out to find work. She went to the farm of a local farmer and found favour with the workers. Ruth worked very hard and was noticed by the owner of the field. He sent for Ruth and asked her many questions. He had heard how kindly she had treated Naomi. He asked all his servants to be especially kind to her. He gave her lots of food to take home. When she got home, Naomi was so excited. She said, "Where did you work today?" I worked in the field of a rich man called Boaz. Naomi was silent for a while. She remembered that the rich man Boaz was in fact a relation of hers. Naomi marvelled at how kind he had been to Ruth and she thought up a plan.

Nawomi yatekereje kuri mubyara we Bowazi n'uburyo ashobora kubera Rusi umugabo mwiza. Yahise agira ikifuzo cyo kuba yahuza Bowazi na Rusi. Yasa-bye Rusi gukaraba akisiga n'amavuta maze akanashyiramo umwenda we w'igiciro. Gahunda ye yari uko Rusi yasaba Bowazi kumurongora ariko akabimubwira mubwenge adahutiyeho, yikubita imbere y'ibirenge bye kuko muri icyo gihe niwo wari umuco. Rusi yari umugore w'intwari. Yiyumviriye kugitekerezo cya nyirabukwe maze aramubwira ati " ndizera ko amasenge-sho yawe azasubizwa". Amureba amuhanze amaso, maze Nawomi azunguza umutwe. Wabonaga ibyo avuga abyiyumvamo binamugaragara mu maso ndetse Rusi ntiyongera kuzunguza umutwe ukundi kuko ntagushidikanya kwari kugihari. Bowazi yishimiye icyo gitekerezo. Bowazi yanejejwe n'uko Rusi ahisemo kuba yarongorwa nawe

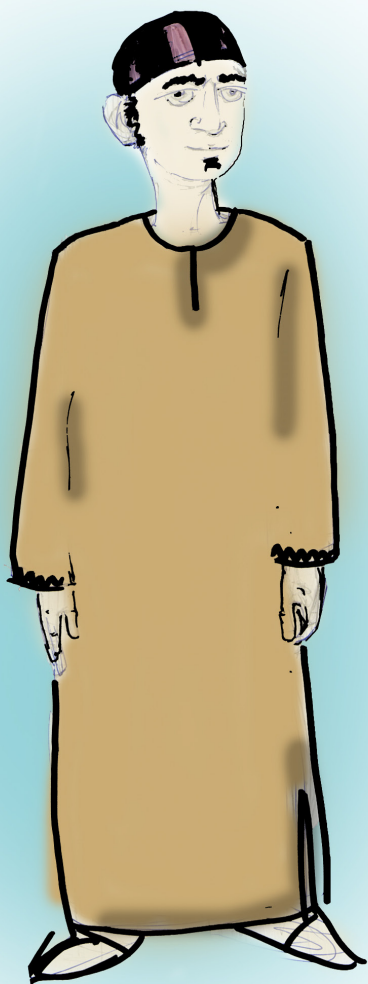


yirengajije abandi basore bo mukigero cye.

Naomi thought about her cousin Boaz and how he would make a good husband for Ruth. It was her desire to bring Ruth and Boaz together. She asked Ruth to wash, anoint herself and put on her best clothes. Her plan was that Ruth would indirectly ask Boaz to marry her by lying at his feet. This was the custom in those days. Ruth was a virtuous woman and she trembled at the thought. "I do hope our prayers will be answered", she said to Naomi. Looking her straight in the eye, Naomi chuckled. She had a very confident look on her face and Ruth trembled no more. Boaz was happy about this plan. He praised her because she wanted to marry him and not any of the other young men around.

Rusi na Bowazi bakora ubukwe maze habaho ibirori by'akataraboneka. Bowazi yibukije Rusi uburyo yamazwe impungenge no kumenyako Nawomi yari afite inshuti nziza. Hakurikijwe amategeko y'icyo gihugu, yagombye kuba yararongoye Rusi mbere. Uko byari bimeze kose iyo mibanire myiza hagati y'iyo miryango siyo yari ishishikaje mukuzuza amategeko y'igihugu. Rusi na Bowazi babyaye umwana w'imfura bamwita Obedi. Ibyo byanejeje Nawomi cyane. Ubwo aba abonye umwuzukuru w'igikundiro yagombaga kwitaho kandi ibyo byari bishimishije inshuti ze zose. Rusi yarashimishije nyirabukwe kumurutira abahungu barindwi bari baritabye Imana. Yeretse Nawomi umutima mwiza no kuzirikana.

Ruth and Boaz got married and it was a



wonderful celebration. Boaz reminded Ruth about how anxious he got when he discovered that Naomi had a closer relative. By law of the land, he would have been entitled to marry Ruth first. However, this closer relative was not interested in fulfilling the law of the land. Ruth and Boaz gave birth to a son called Obed. This made Naomi very happy. Now she had a lovely boy to take care of and she was the envy of all her friends. The same friends who had laughed at her, now praised her for the wonderful work God had done in her life. Ruth meant more to her than seven sons. She had shown kindness and loyalty to Naomi.

Guhitamo kwa Rusi, icyo byamutwaye cyose ariko yabonye umurage uturutse ku Mana. Yari umuntu usuzuguritse w'umunyamahanaga I Betelehemu.

Yaciye intege umuryango we maze akurikira Nawomi. Ntiyigeze areba inyuma. Ikintu gito Rusi yakoze mugihe yafataga inzira ava mu mutekano w'I Mowabo, cyatumye yinjira mu bisekuruza bya Yesu Kristo. Rusi yazirikanye Imana ya Nawomi kuba ariyo Mana yonyine kandi y'ukuri. Rusi ntiyigeze areba kubucyene bwa Nawomi cyangwa kungorane bari buhure nazo mu rugendo runini bakoze. Yarebye kure y'ibyo byose. Rusi yagize guhitamo kwiza. Imana yaramwubahishije, imuha umugabo mwiza imuha umugisha imuha umwana w'umuhungu. Ubu izina rye rirazwi muri Isiraheli ndetse no mwisi yose. Ni umwe muri ba nyirakuru bakomeye ba Yesu Kristo. Ninde wari gutekereza ko Rusi umunyamowabokazi yagera kuri Yesu. Umuhunge Obedi yrarongoye abyara umumwa w'umuhungu amwita Yese. Mugihe Yese yaramaze gukura, nawe



yararongowe abyara umwami Dawidi. Uvuye ku mwami Dawidi kugeza kumwami w'abami, Yesu kristo. Niryo herezo ryiza ry'inkuru itangaje.

Ruth's choice though costly, earned her a heavenly inheritance. She was a despised foreigner in Bethlehem. She gave up her family and all that she was familiar with to follow Naomi. She did not look back. Little did Ruth know that when she walked away from the security of Moab, she would walk into the secure lineage of Jesus Christ. Ruth recognised the God of Naomi to be the true God. Ruth did not see the poverty of Naomi nor the difficulty of the journey. She looked beyond these things. Ruth made the right choice. God honoured her, by giving her a good husband and blessing her with a son. Now her name is known throughout Israel

and indeed the whole world. She is one of the great grandmothers of Jesus Christ! Who would have thought that she would be linked to Jesus Christ? Her son Obed got married and gave birth to Jesse, who in turn gave birth to King David. From King David came the link to the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. Though her beginning was little, her end was very great. Wow, what a wonderful story.

Subiza ibibazo:

- Ni irihe zina ry'umujiyi Rusi yabagamo?
- Ni irihe zina ry'ikigirwamana I Mowa bo basengaga?
- Ni irihe zina ry'umugabo Rusi yahuye nawe I Mowabo?
- Nawomi ni muntu?
- Ni biki byabaye kuri Mahiloni?
- Orupa ni nde?
- Sobanura imiterere ya Nawomi.
- Sobanura imiterere ya Rusi.

- Ni ibiki byabaye kuri Rusi na Maomi bakigera I Betelehemu?

Answer these questions:

- What is the name of the town Ruth lived in?
- What is the name of the God they worshipped in Moab?
- What is the name of the man Ruth met in Moab?
- Who is Naomi?
- What happened to Mahlon?
- Who was Orpah?
- Describe Naomi's character.
- Describe Ruth's character.
- What happened when Ruth and Naomi got to Bethlehem?
- What was Ruth's choice?
- Who is Ruth related to and how is she related to him?

WHY DONT YOU PUT YOUR CREATIVE SKILLS TO THE
TEST AND COLOUR THESE CHARACTERS IN?
(WE HAVE HELPED YOU OUT A LITTLE)

