

The Katapila of Mtakataka

An adaptation of "The Merchant of Venice"
written by Victoria Gondoloni, Annie Chidale,
and Alisoun Probert, for performance by
the learners at Mua School for Deaf
Children at the 2026 Malawi
Shakespeare Schools Festival.

(2)

CHARACTERS



ALBERT. A FISHERMAN
FROM MUA. HE IS
VERY KIND AND GOOD
MAN.



BLESSINGS. BEST
FRIEND OF
ALBERT.



SHYLOCK. HE IS VERY STRICT
MAN. HE IS KATAPILA
FROM MTAKATAKA.



PATIENCE.
SHE IS
BEAUTIFUL
YOUNG LADY
FROM
DEDZA.

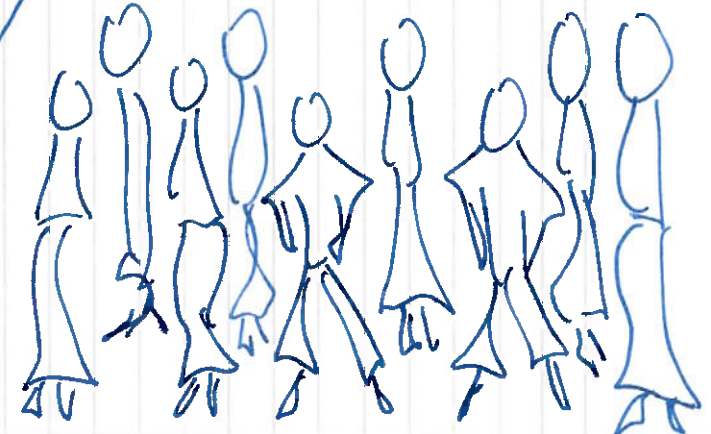


NATASHA.
SHE IS
BEST
FRIEND
OF PATIENCE.



CHIEF

VILLAGERS



③

SCENE 1: MUA, EARLY MORNING



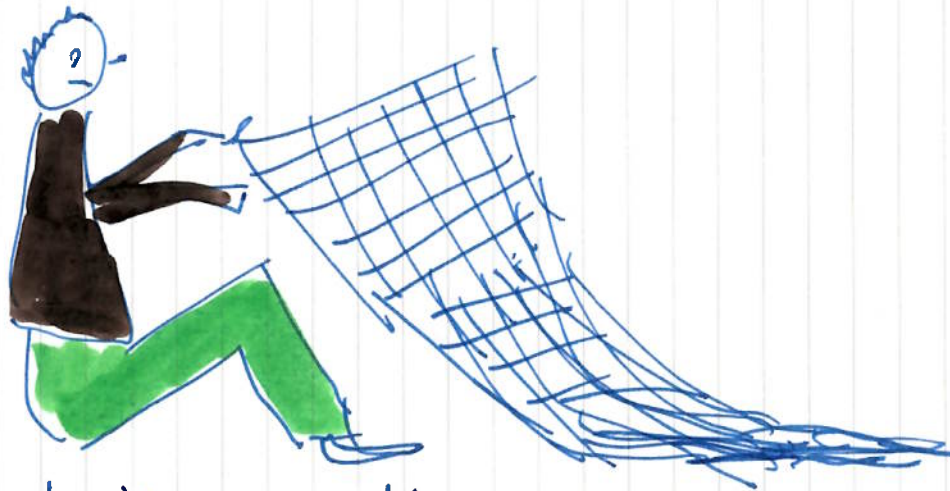
CARRYING
WATER



CARRYING
MAIZE



CARRYING
WOOD



Albert is mending
his fishing net.



Blessings is walking
towards his best friend Albert.

(4)

My friend! Please help me! I want go to Dedza to meet Patience! I love Patience! I want ask Patience to marry me! But, I have no money for bus!



Albert



Blessings

You will borrow money from who?

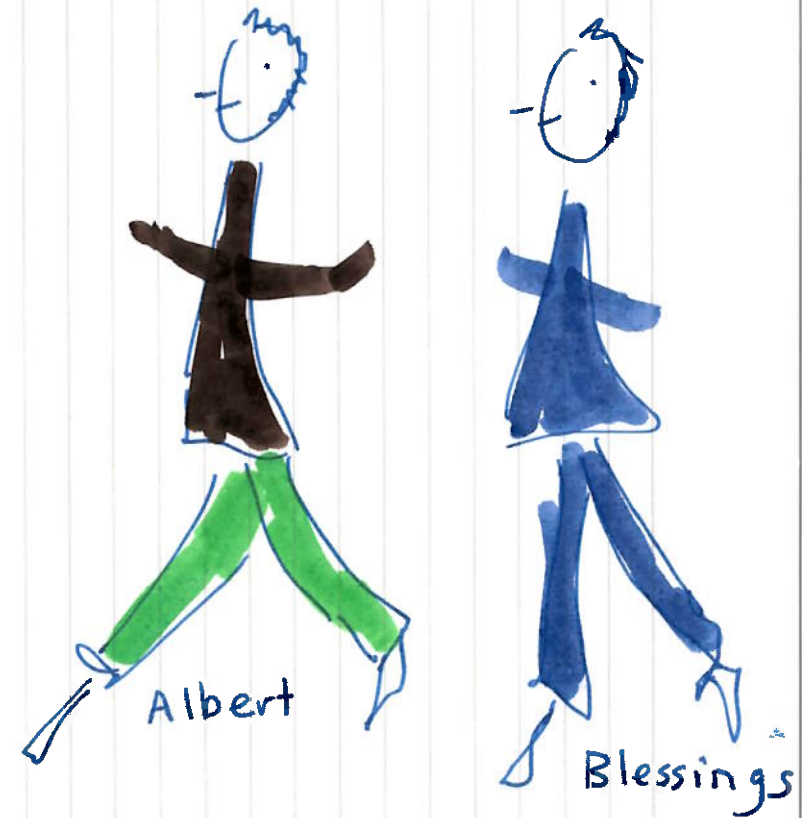


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SCENE 2: MTAKATAKA TRADING CENTRE



Shylock is sitting.
He is counting
money.



Albert and Blessings
walk towards
Shylock.

(6)

Shylock! I wish to borrow money!

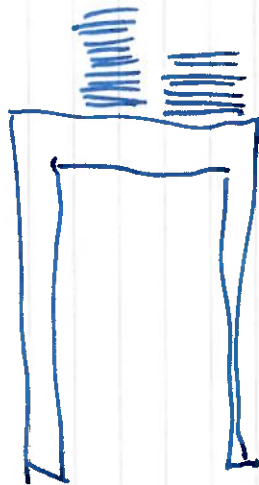
But you are always late to pay back!

I will pay back next week! Next week I will catch many fish!

I don't believe you! If you don't have the money next week, you must give me your most valuable possession!



Shylock



Albert



Blessings

(7)

Ok! If I don't have the money next week,
I will give you my fishing net! It was
my father's, he gave
it to me!

Ok, I give
you the
money.



Shylock and Albert
shake hands.

Blessings

(8)

No!!! You can't promise to
give your fishing net to
him!!!

Yes! Because you
are my friend!



Shylock.



Albert



Blessings

⑨

SCENE 3: IN DEDZA. PATIENCE AND NATASHA
ARE SHELLING GROUNDNUTS.



(10)

I want to ask you to marry me!

Yes! I will marry you!



PATIENCE



BLESSINGS



Natasha, Patience and Blessings dance!

(12)

Suddenly, Blessings remembers that his best friend Albert must now pay the money back to Shylock.

I must travel to Mua! I must help Albert!



Natasha



Patience

Ok!
Travel
well!



Blessings

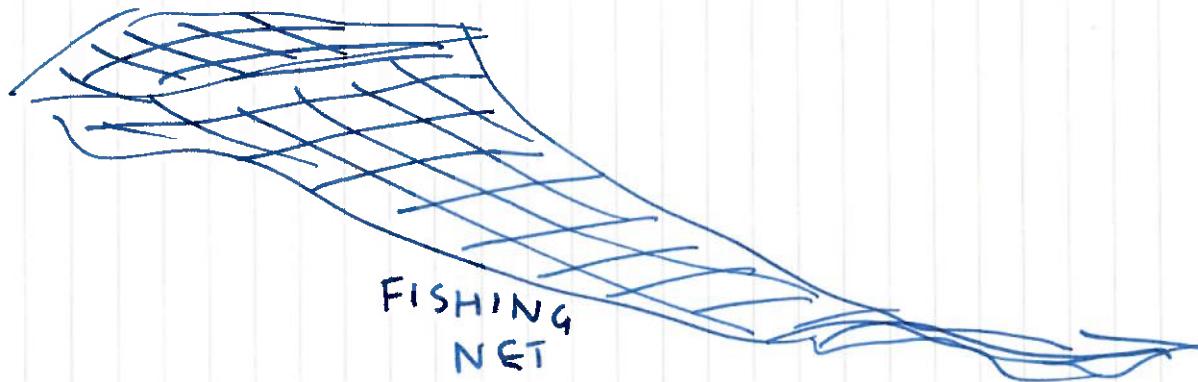
(13)

SCENE 4: MUA. ALBERT IS SAD.

There was a storm on
Lake Malawi! No fish!
I have no money!
I cannot pay
shylock!



ALBERT



FISHING
NET

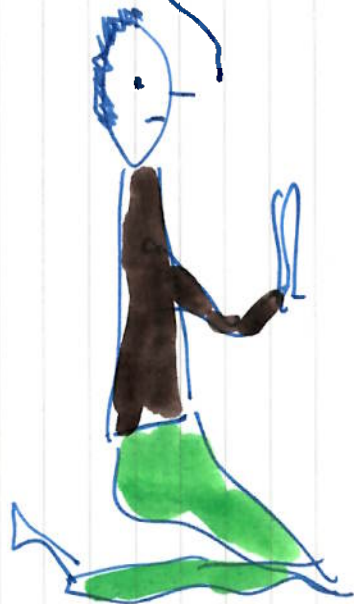


Shylock is
walking towards
Albert.

Give me your fishing net!

Please! I beg you! Have mercy! Give me more time!

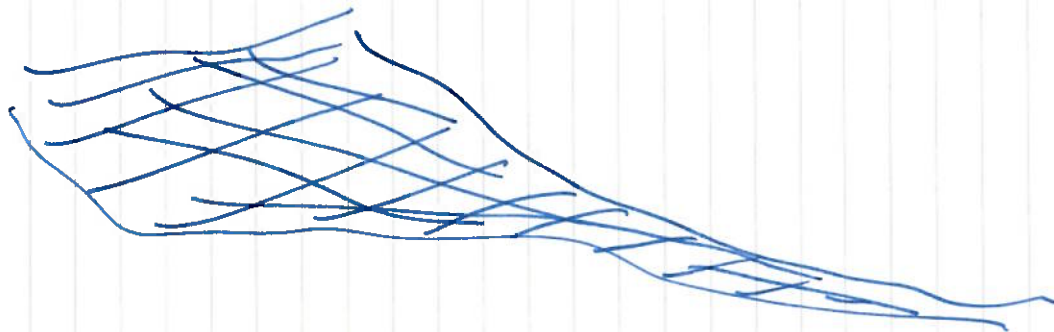
No! We go to the chief!



Albert.



Shylock.



SCENE 5: MUA. AT THE CHIEF'S HOUSE.

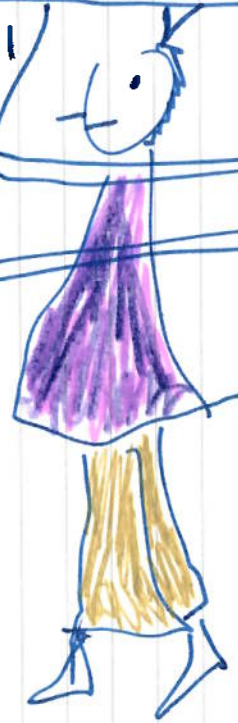
[Albert has not paid on time! He must give his net!]

I failed to pay. I accept. I must give my fishing net to Shylock!

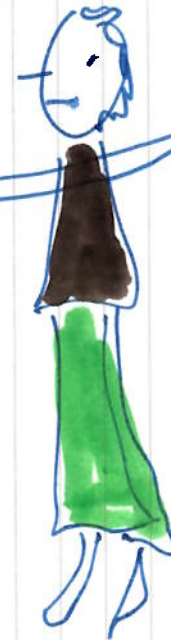
Chief! Please have mercy on Albert!



Chief



Shylock



Albert



Blessings

(16)

Shylock! You asked Albert for his most valuable possession. His fishing net is not his most valuable possession. His most valuable possession is his good name!

He cannot give you his good name!



Chief



Shylock



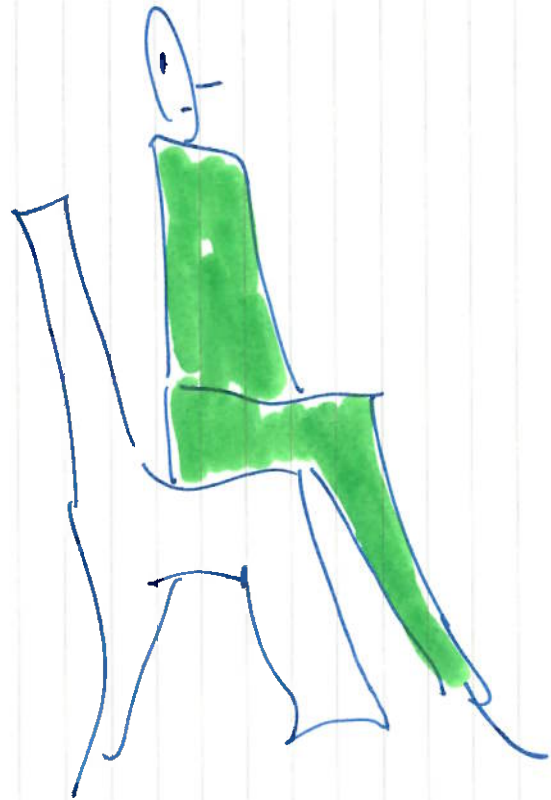
Albert



Blessings

(17)

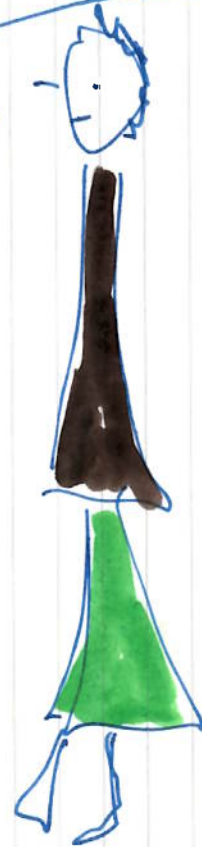
Albert! Keep your fishing net!
I am very grateful!



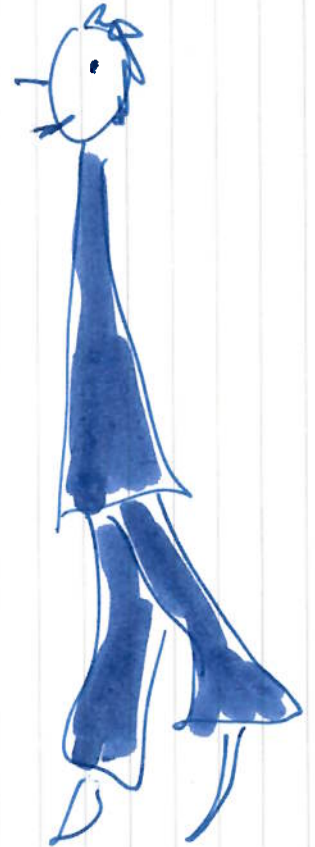
Chief



Shylock

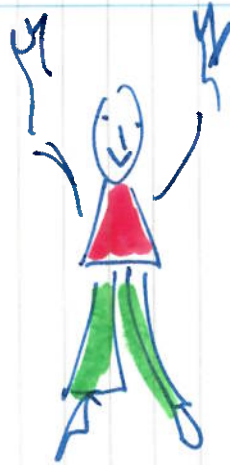
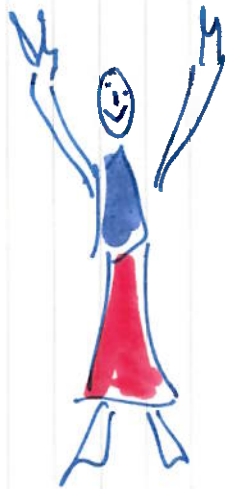


Albert

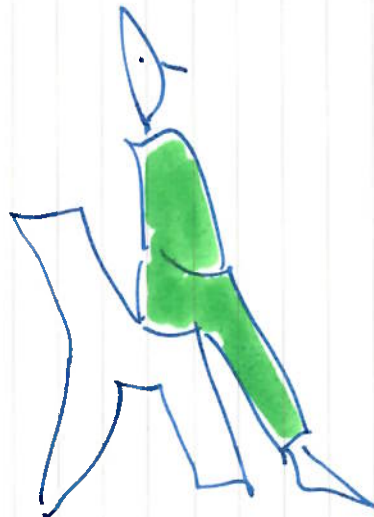


Blessings

(18)



VILLAGERS ARE VERY HAPPY!
THEY CHEER!



Chief



Shylock



Albert

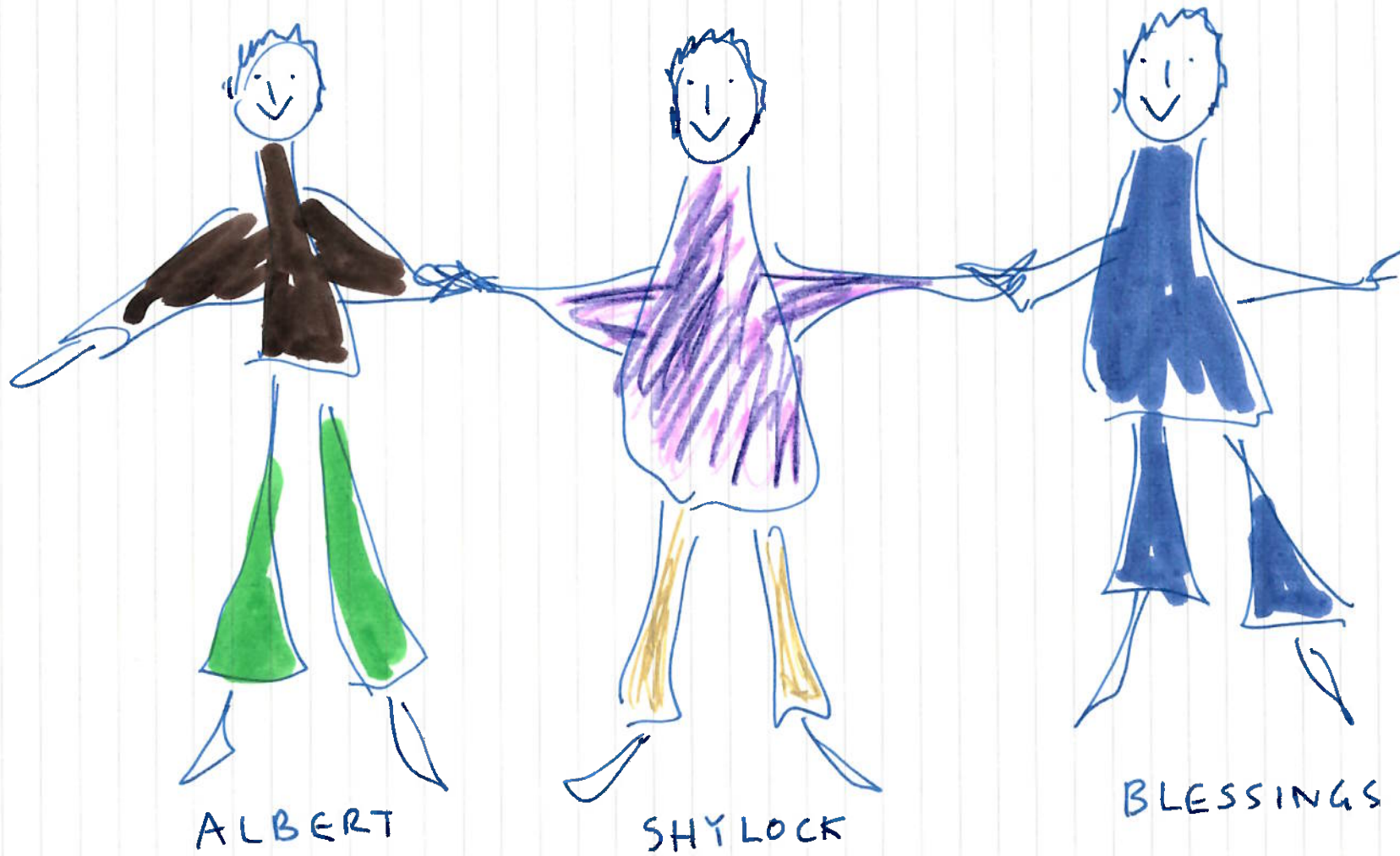


Blessings

(19)

SCENE 6: PEACE IN MUA





THE MEN HOLD HANDS & BOW!

(21)

THE
END!