

Learning by Ear 2010 – Urban Exodus

Episode 07: “Failing the corrupt way”

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CHARACTERS:

Scene 1:

- **BEN** (AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER, 29 YEARS OLD)
- **KABO** (FARMER, BEN'S UNCLE, 57 YEARS OLD)
- **BAKI** (26 YEARS OLD, SOCIOLOGIST, FRIEND OF ZEINA AND BEN'S)
- **ZEINA** (24 YEARS OLD, ECONOMIST, FRIEND OF BAKI AND BEN'S)
- **NANA** (22 ANS, PRESIDENT OF YOUTH ASSOCIATION)

Scene 2:

- **KABO** (FARMER, BEN'S UNCLE; 57 YEARS OLD)
- **BAKI** (26 YEARS OLD, SOCIOLOGIST, FRIEND OF ZEINA AND BEN'S)
- **HADARI** (48 ANS, HEAD OF RURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT)

Scene 3:

- **BEN** (AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER, 29 YEARS OLD)
- **ZEINA** (24 YEARS OLD, ECONOMIST, FRIEND OF BAKI AND BEN'S)
- **NANA** (22 YEARS OLD, PRESIDENT OF YOUTH ASSOCIATION)

Intro:

Welcome to *Learning by Ear* for Episode 7 of our series "Against the Current" about urban exodus. Why not leave the city for the countryside to fulfill certain professional dreams? Sick of the lack of prospects in the capital, our heroes, Ben, Baki and Zeina, three unemployed young graduates, have decided to set up an agricultural cooperative in their village.

They want to boost rural production. The constituent assembly was a great success and the villagers are enthusiastic about the project.

In today's episode, we will find out how the cooperative's development is hindered by bureaucracy. Join the whole team at Ben's and listen in!

Scene 1: At Ben's.**KABO, BEN, ZEINA, BAKI AND NANA**

- 1. ATMO** **AT BEN'S. CRICKETS, HENS, SOUND OF POUNDING IN THE DISTANCE, LOW INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FROM THE RADIO**

- 2. BEN** Everything is going like clockwork, my friends! We've been given a field so we can do experiments and train the villagers in the techniques that I have been looking at. Moreover, an agricultural research institute has agreed to supply us with improved woody and leguminous seeds to protect soil and boost productivity. What do you say?

3. **BAKI** That's great Ben, but the research institute will only supply us with these seeds on two conditions: We have to have the approval for the whole cooperative and we have to pay for the transport of the seeds!
4. **BEN** Baki is right. I keep going to Hadari's office, you know, the head of rural services department, and he always promises to give me the approval the next day. Once he told me I had to rewrite the minutes of the constituent assembly because they were not written according to the standards. Yesterday he told me he didn't have enough gas to go to the sub-prefecture.
5. **NANA** That's his way of getting money out of you!
6. **BEN** Well, he's picked the wrong guy, I can assure you, Nana!
7. **KABO** Yes, but we're likely to have to wait a long time.
8. **BAKI** **(firmly)** Ben, give me the folder. He'll give me the approval even if I have to punch him!
9. **ZEINA** Baki! All you can think of is violence!
10. **BAKI** But Zeina, he's paid to do this, isn't he? He should do his work!
11. **BEN** Of course he should! Of course. But slow down. Let me go back to see him first.
12. **BAKI** We're not going to give him a penny!

- 13. ZEINA, NANA & BEN (at the same time)** Of course not!
- 14. KABO** So what's the solution? These civil servants are really powerful. They can mess everything up for you by pretending to forget you until you succumb to their blackmail.
- 15. BEN** It's all going to change! If I have to I'll go to the sub-prefecture myself!
- 16. KABO (amused)** Hi hi! Ben you are so naïve. You'll just find others there who are even greedier and more pernicious than Hadari.
- 17. BAKI** Well, if we give in, they'll never stop. Ben is too nice to Hadari. Let me sort this out.
- 18. KABO** OK Baki, but I'll come with you.
- 19. NANA** But that's not all. I also think people are becoming less motivated. The women have stopped coming to the meetings. Down from 40 to 12 from one day to the next and I don't understand why.
- 20. BAKI** And I haven't even got 10 recruits for the first training session.
- 21. BEN** But when we told them all about the project, there was so much enthusiasm!
- 22. BAKI** We must have made a mistake in our approach.

- 23. NANA** Which one?
- 24. BAKI** I think someone's trying to sabotage our project!
- 25. NANA** It's a bit too easy to blame our failures on someone else, isn't it?
- 26. BEN** That's what I was going to say!
- 27. KABO** Nana, Ben, you might be right, but you know... Dirty water doesn't just get dirty on its own. We have to pay more attention to what people are saying about the cooperative.
- 28. BAKI** Most of the villagers are saying that we're poor and can't even support ourselves.
- 29. BEN** Which is true.
- 30. BAKI** Yes... but in their minds it means they can't expect anything from us.
- 31. NANA** The women are saying that we're nothing but dreamers.
- 32. BEN** We should take that as a compliment. People don't dream anymore as a result of decades of failure and disappointment in every area. Our dreams and convictions will bring wealth and restore people's dignity.
- 33. ZEINA** Except that the project needs time and concrete results.
- 34. NANA** Tingo promises them wads of money to produce peanuts.

- 35. KABO** That's why we absolutely have to improve the image of the cooperative.
- 36. BAKI** Kabo, let's go and see our friend Hadari again. He has to be in his office at this time.
- 37. BEN** Off you go! And in the meantime Nana, Zeina and I will work on a communications plan and how to raise resources.
- 38. SFX** **STEPS WALKING AWAY (KABO, BAKI - indoor)**

----- MUSIC -----

Scene 2: Hadari's office.

BAKI, HADARI AND KABO

- 39. ATMO** **HADARI'S OFFICE SOUNDS. COMPUTER KEYBOARD; TELEPHONE RINGING**
- 40. HADARI** I haven't finished with your file yet. Come back in two days!
- 41. KABO** Mr Hadari, you promised yesterday that you would be finished today.
- 42. HADARI** Indeed I did. I'm sorry... But... It's not that simple!
- 43. BAKI** What's the problem? Did we forget something?

- 44. HADARI** Your file is fine... but the situation is complicated and I need a bit more time to go through it...
- 45. BAKI** Mr Hadari! Before submitting our application we read up on the law about agricultural cooperatives and we understood everything.
- 46. HADARI** And?
- 47. BAKI** All you have to do is tell us whether our activity plan conforms to national agricultural policy. All you have to do is tick a box and sign.
- 48. HADARI** Do you think I can just authorize it without checking it at all? It's my responsibility after all to make sure everything is OK!
- 49. BAKI** No, you're wrong. It's not your job to give permission to cooperatives to exercise their activities.
- 50. HADARI** You're right, it's the sub-prefect who gives permission but he does it on the basis of MY opinion.
- 51. BAKI** Stop treating us like fools!
- 52. HADARI** Since you know how to do it so well, do it yourself!
- 53. BAKI** You get paid to do it!
- 54. HADARI** Of course I do. I'm not a slave. What do you think?
- 55. BAKI** I think you're taking your time on purpose. I think you're hoping to get some money out of us before you step up your pace!

- 56. HADARI** I've been working in this village for ten years. This is the first time I've been accused of such a thing.
- 57. BAKI** So why are you refusing to give your opinion? Why do you want to slow down our cooperative?
- 58. HADARI** You're wrong young man! It's not my style!
- 59. BAKI** I hope not because we don't intend to give you a single penny for something that is free and is a right recognized by all the laws of this country.
- 60. KABO** If there's a problem with this file, tell us. We'll do everything we can to bring it up to date.
- 61. HADARI** There is no problem! It just takes time! Be patient and come back tomorrow afternoon.
- 62. BAKI** **(calm but determined)** We won't leave here without the approval.
- 63. HADARI** Is that a threat?
- 64. BAKI** You can take it as you like.
- 65. KABO** Let's not get excited here!
- 66. HADARI** Careful, young man. I don't take my orders from you.
- 67. BAKI** I'm just claiming my rights.
- 68. HADARI** Your rights?
- 69. BAKI** Of course! It's your job to look after my application.

- 70. HADARI** Who do you think you are?
- 71. BAKI** A user of public services. And you are a civil servant. You're paid to work, not to spend your life at the bar.
- 72. HADARI** Don't insult me!
- 73. KABO** Let's calm down!
- 74. HADARI** You are going to pay for this!
- 75. BAKI** Get the form, tick the boxes, sign it and give it to us. That's all you have to do. It won't even take a minute.
- 76. KABO** Mr Hadari...
- 77. HADARI** Get out of my office!
- 78. KABO** Mr Hadari!
- 79. BAKI** I'm not going anywhere without the document!
- 80. KABO** Baki!
- 81. HADARI** Get out or I'll throw you out!
- 82. BAKI** I wouldn't recommend doing that!
- 83. HADARI** We'll see!
- 84. SFX** **NOISE OF A STRUGGLE. A CHAIR FALLING. A SHIRT BEING RIPPED. A TABLE BEING PULLED TO AND FRO. HEAVY BREATHING (BAKI, HADARI).**

85. **KABO** Stop it! This is not the way to solve the problem! Stop it now!
Baki!
86. **HADARI** **(panting)** Get out! Get out!
87. **BAKI** **(panting)** We'll see!
88. **KABO** You're both crazy!
89. **HADARI** **(panting)** I told you to get out! Get out!
90. **KABO** Please!
91. **BAKI** Ow!
92. **SFX** **SOUND OF A BODY COLLAPSING ONTO A PIECE OF FURNITURE AND THEN ONTO THE GROUND (BAKI)**
93. **KABO** Baki! What did you do to him, Hadari?
94. **HADARI** I didn't touch him! He fell on his own!
95. **BAKI** **(groaning with pain)**
96. **KABO** My God! Oh my God!
97. **HADARI** Is it serious? Young man? Can you hear me?
98. **BAKI** **(groaning with pain)**
99. **KABO** He's not well at all. We have to do something!
100. **HADARI** Let's go to the clinic, quickly!
101. **SFX** **SOUND OF TWO PEOPLE TRYING TO CARRY A BODY**

Scene 3: A street

BEN, ZEINA AND NANA

102. **ATMO** **STREET NOISES. TRAFFIC, ENGINES, HORNS**
103. **SFX** **SOUND OF RAPID STEPS (NANA, BEN, ZEINA, street)**
104. **NANA** **(completely out of breath)** I can't go on anymore!
105. **BEN** **(out of breath)** Let's stop for a bit. Zeina!
106. **ZEINA** **(from the distance)** I want to see him!
107. **BEN** Zeina, wait for us!
108. **NANA** She won't stop.
109. **BEN** Let's catch up with her!
110. **SFX** **RAPID STEPS (NANA, BEN)**
111. **ZEINA** I have to see him. I have to see Baki!
112. **NANA** You will see him!
113. **BEN** We're almost there!
114. **ZEINA** Is he alive?
115. **BEN** We're already there!
116. **ZEINA** Answer me! Is he alive?

117. **BEN** They said he wasn't in any danger.
118. **ZEINA** He hit his head. He wasn't moving when they transported him to the clinic.
119. **BEN** They told us he had just fainted!
120. **NANA** The doctor is very good.
121. **ZEINA** There's nothing at that clinic. What are they going to treat him with?
122. **NANA** Is he going to be OK?
123. **ZEINA** **(bursting into tears)** Oh... oh if anything happens to him...
124. **NANA** Nothing will happen to him.
125. **ZEINA** **(still crying)** It's my fault! It's my fault!
126. **BEN** Stop talking nonsense!
127. **BEN** Come on let's go!
128. **ZEINA** He didn't want to come here. He just wanted one thing – to try his luck in the US. I forced him to come here. I knew he felt obliged because he loves me. And now...
129. **NANA** **(in tears)** Please Zeina! Don't say that!
130. **BEN** Stop crying. People are going to wonder what's going on and swamp us. Come on. I'm sure he's already awake and fine. Let's go and see him!

131. ZEINA (SNIFFING AND CRYING CONTINUE)

132. SFX STEPS GOING AWAY (ZEINA, NANA, BEN)

Outro:

This is how the seventh episode of our Learning by Ear series on urban exodus called "Against the Current" ends.

Don't miss the next episode to find out what happens to Baki in hospital after his violent quarrel with Hadari.

If you want to listen to this program again or give us any feedback visit our website www.dw-world.de/lbe or send us an email at lbe@dw-world.de.

Don't forget to tune in next time!

END OF EPISODE 7