



Introduction to Compassion and Madupe

by Mama Rashida Forman-Bey

Virtues are the universal gifts of character that live inside of all of us. I have these gifts and you have these gifts. They are gifts that money can't buy. No matter your age, your race, your religion, or how much money you or your family have or don't have, we all have these amazing gifts of character that live within each of us. **Gifts like joy peace determination, faith hope cooperation friendliness caring respect thankfulness helpfulness devotion justice fairness empathy creativity service kindness and COMPASSION!** Some of these virtues are strong in us and some of them we need to grow in. For example... I am strong in helpfulness. I love helping others, it is what gives me joy. I go out of my way to be as helpful as I can to others in need. Yet I am growing in

patience. I am working on being more patient with the youth that I work with. Sometimes with my quest for sharing knowledge and my depth of love for young people... I want them to get it and GET IT NOW. I am growing in my patience to allow others space for their own process.

One of the most powerful virtues is the virtue of compassion. In its most simplest form ..compassion is having kind feelings toward another who is troubled or in pain. It is caring deeply and wanting to help, even if you don't know them. It is being kind and forgiving to someone who has hurt you.

I am one of the founding directors of WombWork Productions and a Master's Virtue Project facilitator, who has been training others to become virtues facilitators. We have been using the Virtues Project in all of our programming in many underserved communities throughout the state of Maryland, with a deep concentration on the youth of Baltimore City who have experienced various levels of trauma.

We focus on the 5 Strategies of Virtues Project:

Strategy 1. Speaking the language of Virtues

Strategy 2. Teachable moments

Strategy 3. Setting clear boundaries

Strategy 4. Honoring Spirit

Strategy 5. Companionship.

WombWork Productions, Inc, is a social justice theatre company whose mission is to heal and empower youth, their families and communities while preserving cultural legacies through the performing arts. We utilize a very powerful resource called The Virtues Project Education Guide written by Linda Kavelin Popov, the founder of the Virtues Project International.

I believe this guide will assist in helping young people to have meaningful discussions about the virtue of compassion. I am also sharing a story that I have written that focuses on the virtues of kindness, love and compassion. This story is called Madupe. I share the story form as well as the scripted play form so that teachers may engage their students as active listeners during storytelling time or active cast members in a play! Participating in the actual play as a cast member is an exciting way to experience the world of compassion through the acting in the play. After the play we engage the youth and/or audience members in a talk-back or panel discussion that creates a safe space for participants to delve a little deeper into understanding compassion.

Madupe by Mama Rashida Forman-Bey

Long, long ago in a land called Zimbabwe, there was born unto a fisherman and his wife a beautiful baby girl. At the time of her birth there was gentle rain that fell upon the earth and because of this they named their daughter Madupe, which means gentle rain.

Madupe loved the rain! The rain is what made her special. For on any sunny day whenever she would laugh or dance or sing; the rain would come pouring through; watering the trees, the flowers, and of course beautiful little Madupe.

Now Madupe loved one other thing as much as she loved the rain. She loved the marketplace in her village where all the people came together in **unity**! She loved all beautiful colors, sounds, and scents. She loved the fabric maker who sold her colorful fabric. She loved the basket weaver who made the beautiful baskets, and she loved the farmer who sold delicious fruits and vegetables.

One day Madupe's father sent her to the market place to buy a gift for her mother. While Madupe was at the market place she saw a man dancing with a monkey on his head! This sight made Madupe laugh and laugh. As always, just as she started to laugh, the rain came and all the people left the marketplace.

The fabric maker, the basket weaver and the farmer angrily turned to Madupe and exclaimed, " Rain in the middle of a sunny day, we knew it had to be you, Madupe! "Look what you have done with all that laughing...you have caused it to rain and all the people have left the market place

"Who will buy my colorful fabric," said the fabric Maker:

"Who will buy my beautiful baskets" said the basket weaver and who will buy my delicious fruits and vegetables," said the farmer:

"Go away Madupe ...go away and don't come back to the marketplace again" **they said to Madupe in the meanest voices ever.**

Madupe was so sad. She was so sad she ran crying all the way home. When she got home she cried to her mother and father, **She said,** "Baba they treated me so mean."

"Mama,they said to me "don't come to this marketplace again." Madupe's father and mother hugged her and said "Oh Madupe, those people don't understand the importance of having you here and they don't know why; but they will respect and understand you better by and by."

With those words Madupe went to her room to lie down on her mat.Now forty days passed and for forty days Madupe had not laughed or danced or sang. For she missed the marketplace. She missed the old woman and her colorful fabric, and she missed the basket weaver and the beautiful baskets, and she missed the farmer and his delicious vegetables.

But you see, while Madupe had not laughed for forty days, no rain had fallen on their village for 40 days... not even a drop of dew. All the flowers began to wilt. The grass turned brown, The leaves on the trees began to shrivel. The animals were so thin and thirsty, and the people of the village for the first time knew what it felt like to be hungry.

So all the people of the village went to the fabric maker, the basket weaver, and the farmer and cried "It is because of you that no rain has fallen on our village. "We are not going to

suffer because of you"..." you must go to that girl Madupe, show her compassion, be kind to her and apologize." Go and go now!

The fabric maker, the basket weaver, and the farmer went to Madupe's house, knocked on her door and said, "Madupe please forgive us for treating you so mean, you were so **kind** to us, always giving **love** to all who cross your path" "Please come back to the marketplace, for you spread joy wherever you go. Please laugh because your laughter brings the rain"

"Without the rain," The fabric maker said, "I have no cotton to make my colorful fabric"

Without the rain I have no straw to make my beautiful baskets," said the basket weaver.

"without the rain I can grow no fruits and vegetables," said the farmer.

All the children of village circled Madupe's house and began to sing "Madupe! Madupe!"

Come on out and play.

Come join hands with us on this sunshiny day.

Madupe! Madupe!

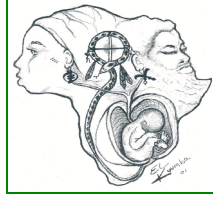
Come on out and play.

Come dance now with us on this sunshiny day.

Suddenly Madupe began to smile and her smile turned to laughter. Just as she started to laugh the rain came pouring through the sun. Not a harsh rain, but a gentle soothing rain; for little Madupe, sweet gentle rain ...had all of her friends of

the marketplace and she was laughing again. All the people of the village were dancing and singing in the rain!

They dance and sing praises of **thankfulness** for Madupe from that day until this. This story teaches us that when we have something special in our lives we must show compassion and we must show that we **care** by taking special care of it. **Asante Sana. Thank you very much.**



The Story of MADUPE

Written by: Mama Rashida Forman- Bey

CHARACTERS

Madupe	Farmer	Narrator #1
Father	Man with monkey on his head	Narrator #2
Mother	Village adults	Narrator #3
Fabric Maker	Village children	Narrator #4
Basket weaver		

Costumes: each cast member will have either African fabric on their waist, head, wrist,

Madupe will have headpiece, skirt of African fabric

Props:

Colorful fabric for fabric maker

3 baskets for basket weaver

1 basket of artificial fruit and vegetables for farmer

A toy monkey that is large enough to sit on the shoulders of the person who will be dancing with him.

(The scene opens with Mother and Father Standing side by side CS with Madupe standing behind them not seen by audience)

Narrator 1: Long, long ago in a land called Zimbabwe, there was born unto a fisherman and his wife a beautiful baby girl. **(Madupe enters between mother and Father)** At the time of her birth there was gentle rain **(make sign for rainfall)** that fell upon the earth and because of this they named their daughter Madupe, which means gentle rain.

Narrator 2: Madupe loved the rain! The rain is what made her special. For on any sunny day whenever she would laugh or dance or sing **(Madupe laughs, dances, and sings)**the rain would come pouring through; watering the trees, the flowers, and of course beautiful little Madupe.

Narrator 3: Now Madupe loved one other thing as much as she loved the rain. She loved the marketplace in her village! **(Mother and father exit upstage; the fabric maker, the basket weaver and farmer enter from SR to CS)**

Where all the people came together in **unity!**

She loved all beautiful colors, sounds, and scents. She loved the fabric maker who sold her colorful fabric. She loved the basket weaver who made the beautiful baskets, and she loved the farmer who sold delicious fruits and vegetables.

Narrator 4: One day Madupe's father sent her to the market place to buy a gift for her mother. While Madupe was at the market place she saw a man dancing with a monkey on his

head!(Enter man dancing with monkey moving to CS and dancing all around marketplace)

Narrator 1: This sight made Madupe laugh and laugh. As always, just as she started to laugh the rain came and all the people left the marketplace.

Narrator 2: The old woman, the basket weaver, and the farmer angrily turned to Madupe and exclaimed,

The fabric maker: " Rain in the middle of a sunny day, we knew it had to be you, Madupe! "

The Basket Weaver: Madupe look what you have done with all that laughing....you have caused it to rain

Farmer: and all the people have left the market place

The Fabric Maker: and who will buy my colorful fabric

Basket weaver: And who will buy my beautiful baskets"

Farmer: and who will buy my delicious fruits and vegetables,"

All Three: "Go away Madupe ...go away and don't come back to the marketplace again". (

Narrator 3: Madupe was so sad. She was so sad; she ran crying all the way home.

(The 3 marketplace vendors exit SR as Mother and Father move CS; Madupe joins parents CS)

Narrator 4: When she got home she cried to her mother and father,

Madupe: "Baba they treated me so mean, they said to me "don't come to this marketplace again." Madupe's father and mother hugged her and said

Father: "Oh Madupe, those people don't understand the importance of having you here and they don't know why;

Mother: but they will **respect** and understand you better by and by."

Narrator 1: With those words Madupe went to her room to lie down on her mat.

(Madupe lays on mat CS)

Narrator 1: Now forty days passed and for forty days Madupe had not laughed for she missed the marketplace; she missed the old woman and her colorful fabric, and she missed the basket weaver and her beautiful baskets, and she missed the farmer and his delicious vegetables.

Narrator2: But you see, while Madupe had not laughed for forty days, no rain had fallen on their village for 40 days... not even a drop of dew.

Narrator 3: All the flowers began to wilt, the grass turned brown, the trees began to shrivel, the animals were so thin and thirsty,

(Enter SL village people looking sad and hungry)

Narrator 4: and the people of the village for the first time knew what it felt like to be hungry.

Narrator 1: So all the people of the village went to the old woman, the basket weaver, and the farmer and cried (Village people walk SR to The Market Vendors)

Villager1: "It is because of you that no rain has fallen on our village.

Villager 2: We are not going to suffer because of you...

Villager 3: you had better go to that girl Madupe, be kind to her and apologize.

All villagers: Go and go now!

(Market place vendors walk CS toward Madupe and family)

Narrator 1: The fabric maker, the basket weaver, and the farmer they went to Madupe's house they knocked on her door said,

Fabric maker: "MadupeMadupe please forgive us for treating you so mean, you were so **kind** to us always giving **love** to all who cross your path

Basket Weaver: please come back to the marketplace, for you spread joy wherever you go.

Farmer: please laugh because your laughter brings the rain

Fabric maker: and without the rain I have no cotton to make my fabric

Narrator 2: said the old woman."

Basket Weaver: And without the rain I have no straw to make my baskets"

Narrator 3: said the basket weaver

Farmer: and "without the rain I can grow no fruits and vegetables"

Narrator 4: said the farmer.

(Village Children/people enter from SL walk CS toward Madupe)

Narrator 1: All the children of village circled Madupe's house and began to sing

All Village Children: "Madupe! Madupe!" Come on out and play. Come join hands with us on this sunshiny day. Madupe! Madupe! Come on out and play. Come dance now with us on this sunshiny day.

(Everyone takes places on stage to dance Fungi)

All: African Dance

Narrator 2: Suddenly Madupe began to smile and her smile turned to laughter. Just as she started to laugh the rain came pouring through the sun.

(Madupe moves CS with entire cast closely behind her in a large crowd)

Narrator 3: Not a harsh rain, but a gentle soothing rain; for little Madupe sweet gentle rain ...had all of her friends of the marketplace and she was laughing again.

Narrator 4: They sing praises of **thankfulness** to Madupe from that day until this. This story teaches us that when we have something special in our lives we must show compassion and show that we **care** by taking special care of it.

All: Asante Sana. (all cast bow to audience)

Discussion:

What was special about Madupe?

How was Madupe hurting?

How do you think she felt when the merchants at the market place asked her to leave?

How did the people of the village show compassion for Madupe?

How did Madupe show compassion and forgiveness?