The day I left home for the city



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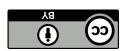




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እታ ኣብ ዓድና ዘላ ንእሽቶ መዕረፍ ኣውቶቡሳት ብህዝብን ልዕሊ ዓቕመን ብዝጸዓና ኣውቶቡሳትን ኣዕለቕሊቓ ነበረት። ዋላ ኣብ ባይታ ኻኣ ዝጸዓን ተወሳኺ ንብረት ነበረ። ተመትቲ ኣስማት ናይቲ ኣውቶቡሳቶም ዝኸድኦ ቦታታት ይጭድሩ ነበሩ።

. . .

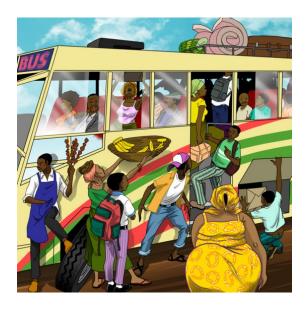
The small bus stop in my village was busy with people and overloaded buses. On the ground were even more things to load. Touts were shouting the names where their buses were going.



ከተማ! ከታማ! ናብ ምዕራብ! ኢሉ ሐደ ተማቲ ክጭድር ሰማዕክዎ። የት እያ እታ ክወሰዳ ዝደለች አውቶመጾ ቭ'ለ፯ዠ ዶሰወศ ቲፈ ዩፈ ሶና

• • •

"City! City! Going west!" I heard a tout shouting. That was the bus I needed to catch.



እታ ኣውቶቡስ ከተማ ዳርጋ መሊኣ እያ ኔራ፡ ግን ጌና ተወሰኽቲ ሰባት ንኽኣትዉ ይደፋፍኡ ነበሩ። ገሊኣቶም ንብረቶም ኣብ ትሕቲ እታ ኣውቶቡስ ጸዓንዎ። ካልኦት ድማ ኣብቲ ኣብ ውሽጢ ዘሎ መጸፍጸፊ ኣእተውዎ።

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The city bus was almost full, but more people were still pushing to get on. Some packed their luggage under the bus. Others put theirs on the racks inside.



እታ ኣውቶቡስ ንኽትምለስ ብቕልጡፍ ትመልእ ነበረት። ብተሎ ናብ ምብራቕ ክትምለስ እያ። ሕጂ እምበኣር እቲ ንዓይ ኣዝዩ ዘገድሰኒ ነገር፡ እንዳ ኣኮይ ሃሰው ክብል ምጅማር እዩ።

. . .

The return bus was filling up quickly. Soon it would make its way back east. The most important thing for me now, was to start looking for my uncle's house.



. . .

Nine hours later, I woke up with loud banging and calling for passengers going back to my village. I grabbed my small bag and jumped out of the bus.

New passengers clutched their tickets as they looked for somewhere to sit in the crowded bus. Women with young children made them comfortable for the long journey.

።ሞሓላሸሾመላ ዛዕዣ ሐምነ ታየ የተብልቆና ተቲጴለ

የወጋበየዙ ብልቆ ተሸ术ን ። ትበየ ያልጷጲ አበመ ቅሳ ሰብቶ-ወለ

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ኣነ ኣብ ጥቓ መስኮት ተጨባቢጠ ኮፍ በልኩ። ኣብ ጐነይ ኮፍ ዝበለ ሰብ ሓንቲ ቀጠልያ ሳንጣ ቀጠው ኣቢሉ ሒዙ ነበረ። ብላይ ሳንደል ሳእንን ዝኣረገ ካቦትን'ዩ ወድዩ፡ ዝተጨነቐ ድማ ይመስል ነበረ።

. . .

I squeezed in next to a window. The person sitting next to me was holding tightly to a green plastic bag. He wore old sandals, a worn out coat, and he looked nervous.



ኣብ መንገደይ፡ ስም ናይቲ ኣኮይ ዝነብረሉ ኣብቲ ዓቢ ኸተማ ዘሎ ቦታ ሸምደድክዎ። ጌና ደቂሰ ከለኹ ነቲ ስም ብትሕቲ መልሓሰይ ይደጋግሞ ነበርኩ።

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On the way, I memorised the name of the place where my uncle lived in the big city. I was still mumbling it when I fell asleep.



ንያ ንያ ነር። ሁት ሦራትሁ ነር ይ መንላወይ ተረድኦነ። የብት ዓባይ ከተማ እየ ከህን አውቶሁ የብር ማዳም ጠመትኩም ዓደይ፡ እታ ዝዓበችሉ

. . .

I looked outside the bus and realised that I was leaving my village, the place where I had grown up. I was going to the big city.

L

ል'ናሐ<u>ጳ</u>ቡ ደደጾ ።ተተ-ወሃ ሳ/አመተ ፈተብ ቡን ንሮ <u>ጳ</u>ጋሞ*ለ*ጾ

. . .

But my mind drifted back home. Will my mother be safe? Will my rabbits fetch any money? Will my brother remember to water my tree seedlings?

ゖ



እቲ ምጽዓን ተወዲኡ እዩ ኵሉ ተሳፋራይ ድማ ኮፍ በለ። እናዞሩ ኣቕሑ ዝሸጡ ሰባት ንብረቶም ናብ ተሳፈርቲ ንምሻጥ ጌና ናብታ ኣውቶቡስ ተዳፍኡ። ነፍስወከፎም ስም እቲ ንመሸጣ ዝቐረብዎ ንብረት እናጠቐሱ ይጭድሩ ነበሩ። እቲ ቃላት ንዓይ ኣስሒቑኒ።

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The loading was completed and all passengers were seated. Hawkers still pushed their way into the bus to sell their goods to the passengers. Everyone was shouting the names of what was available for sale. The words sounded funny to me.



ኣብ ጕዕዞና ምስገስገስና፡ እቲ ውሽጢ ኣውቶቡስ ኣዝዩ መቘ። ክድቅስ እናተተስፈኹ ዓይነይ ዓመትኩ።

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As the journey progressed, the inside of the bus got very hot. I closed my eyes hoping to sleep.

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ትማልርት ዝስተ ገዚአም። እዳው በንዘብ ዘይነበረና፡ በዓል ነነ፡ ዓዲጎው ሕሕይዥ ጀሚሮም። እቶም ገንዘብ ዘይነበረና፡ በዓል ትንት አልና ቅብብና።

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A few passengers bought drinks, others bought small snacks and began to chew. Those who did not have any money, like me, just watched.



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As the bus left the bus stop, I stared out of the window. I wondered if I would ever go back to my village again.



እዚ ንጥፈታት በቲ ክንብገስ ምዃ'ና ዘአንፍት ድምጺ ጥሩምባ ናይታ ኣውቶቡስ ተቛረጸ። እቲ ተማቲ ነቶም ሸያጦ ንኽወጹ ኣዕበርበረሎም።

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These activities were interrupted by the hooting of the bus, a sign that we were ready to leave. The tout yelled at the hawkers to get out.



ሸያጦ ካብታ ኣውቶቡስ ንምውራድ ንሓድሕዶም ተደፋፍኡ። ገሊኦም ነቶም ተሳፈርቲ ማልስ ሂቦሞም። ካልኦት ድማ ተወሳኺ ነገራት ንምሻጥ ናይ መወዳእታ ፈተነ ኣካየዱ።

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Hawkers pushed each other to make their way out of the bus. Some gave back change to the travellers. Others made last minute attempts to sell more items.

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