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Why we have more HIV than sexual US

Grace was the girl who snatched my virginity in the year of our Lord, 19-something. I had originally planned to live with my virginity forever, but she had different ideas. And I miss being a virgin because I cannot remember how it feels to be unexplored.

Grace found me in the Garden of Eden, living innocently with delicious animals and not caring to eat them. She brought me her fruit. I can tell you that I resisted, but you know how determined these daughters of Eve can be when the fruit is in their hands! So I ate it and became naked instantly! And I have never found my clothes since.

But that is not what I wanted to tell you about Grace today. Tomorrow is World AIDS Day. We remember our beloved departed due to AIDS, the bereaved, the relieved, the affected, but also those who have participated in throwing a stone at the enemy; the researchers, volunteers, activists and donors. But for me, in addition to these, I always dedicate this day to Grace.

After feeding me on her fruit, she disappeared into the world the way Stella Nyanzi did. By the time she reappeared, I had added on a few eating skills and wanted to show her that my teeth were sharper. But she refused to let me. We spent a few valuable calories fighting over it one evening. In the Constitution of our times, being in a room alone with a girl and a bed and especially when that girl has ever fed you on fruits, was equal to sex. But Grace refused. And because of that incident, I fully understand how Mugisha Muntu felt when he lost the FDC chair.

The next time I saw Grace was a few months later. She sent me a message that she was in hospital. When I arrived there, she was not the Grace I had just seen. She was admitted with full-blown AIDS. She asked the mother who was attending to her to leave so that she could tell me something. Then she told me how, the last time I lost the FDC presidency, she didn't want to 'kill' me because she already knew she had HIV. She asked me to remember her always. That was the last time I saw Grace alive. Thank you Grace; without you, I would



never have lived on to see the NRM; you saved my life.

AIDS took us by storm because of the aforesaid constitution. Because our HIV is largely spread through sex, it spread like fire and proved to all pretenders that Africans are actually sexual people. It is only the secrecy surrounding sex that made the naïve to imagine that only married people ate fruits. The only difference in our sexual propensity is that to us, sex is fundamentally spiritual, while other Caucasoid and Mongoloid races have a lot more sex than us, but largely casual.

On the surface, if AIDS was to kill people who are sexually active, the US would be depopulated. Yet going by the AIDS deaths, you would imagine that it is the Africans who are more into the fray. The difference is that in the US and most of Europe, people do not spiritualise sex that much and so, share it as a matter of course. That is why they gave the world one night stands, three-somes, dildos, pornography and other factors Lokodo considers deviant because to him, and all of us, sex is supposed to be spiritual and sacred.

In their constitution, once you have shared the fruit with someone else, there is no guarantee that either of you will have access next time. But in Africa, once sex has happened, the couple acquires sexual entitlement for the next times it meets.

They want to live like they are married, with sexual rights and as often as possible! Even among the

married, once one cheats on the partner, they want to do it again and again until it begins to look like polygamy.

And HIV becomes riskier with repeated exposure. A one or two offs with an infected partner can still leave you discordant, but because you are African, you find it difficult to stop at two and by the time you are romping the 10th time, your amnesty has expired and HIV makes an entrance.

In Thailand, for example, a lot of marital infidelity happens with sex workers. And because they are sex workers, men go with condoms. And they tend not to return to the same person. Thus while HIV is high among sex workers, it is low in the population, especially monogamous marriages. In Africa, when husbands go for a sex worker, they want to return until it begins to look like a relationship. And eventually, off goes the condom and in comes the virus.

However, the problem is not that our sexual propensity is towards the spiritual realm; in fact, that makes sex more meaningful, valuable and bond-cementing. The problem is that we are entering spiritual unions with temporary people, who have no motivation to be faithful. In the end, we mix the milk with blood by succumbing to the compulsion to return without the external support systems that would protect that sexual relationship from infiltration by HIV. That is why we end up on the wrong side of the HIV test.

If you are a spiritual lover like me, it is much safer to have one sexual partner because, for our kind, sex cements the bond, gives the couple motivation to return and creates the responsibility to each other. If it was initially supposed to be casual and ends up giving the couple return rights, it creates a risk of infection because casual and spiritual do not rhyme.

The only wish I have for you, on behalf of Grace, is that by the next World AIDS Day, you will still be alive and maintaining the same HIV status you have today. Thank you Grace.

WEIRD BUT TRUE

Pastor confesses to defilement US

A Colorado pastor accused of having sex with a 14-year-old girl admitted to fathering a child with the teenager after he was arrested. According to the police, the girl became pregnant and gave birth to a child which the 32-year-old pastor admitted was his. The Police began investigating him in May after getting a tip from the pregnancy centre, where the girl and her mother sought help. The teenage mother gave birth to the child on September 15, shortly after she turned 15. According to court documents, the teenage girl did not mention the pregnancy to anyone until noticed her 'larger belly' in May. Authorities say the pastor is associated with several churches that meet at a Colorado Springs Hotel.

Naked man accident reveals more craze US

When a car crashed into a tree in Washington, it revealed more than meets the eye. First, the Police discovered that the driver, Michael G. Tonkin, 23, was naked. Two, he was having sex with a woman. And, three, that the woman's baby was in the backseat. The baby was not injured in the crash. State Patrol spokesperson Brooke Bova said Tonkin was driving while drunk and crashed the tree after the 23-year-old woman, identified as Laroque, climbed on top of him while he was driving. Shocked witnesses said they saw the pair emerge naked from the car, following the collision. Police has decided to charge Tonkin but not Laroque.

GRAND OF SCIENCE

Researchers reveal link between HIV and alcohol

A study in Uganda has revealed that an association between a history of alcohol consumption and being HIV-positive. Doctors carried out a study in rural southwestern Uganda. The results were published in the *International Journal of*

and HIV sero-positivity in a rural Ugandan population, they asked 3,279 adult respondents in 15 villages about their history of alcohol consumption, the sale of alcohol in their household, and other socio-demographic information. After informed consent, blood was drawn for HIV

interviewed, 48% were males, 8% had HIV, 57% had ever drunk alcohol, and 4% lived in households where alcohol was sold. Living in a household where alcohol was sold was associated with a history of having ever drunk alcohol.

HIV prevalence among adults

among those living in households not selling alcohol. Individuals who had ever drunk alcohol experienced an HIV prevalence twice that of those who had never drunk, 10% versus 5%.

This association remained after adjusting for potential confounders, including sale of

status and having ever drunk alcohol independently predicted HIV positivity in a logistic regression model.

This unexplored factor may explain in part the observed lower prevalence of HIV infection among Muslims. Public health campaigns need to stress the