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UDUMU. An artwork by
Johnson Mwanzia

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December 2022

out of the house.

Just go, said the tree

to the Journey.

Stones and sand until tarmac was reached,

**Transcription of the artist's explanations
about his painting:**

There is this Mama, a baby, and there is this pot. Because this painting was coming from the word *udumu*. This is a Swahili name, and it means 'lasting'. Forever and ever. Something which lasts is forever and ever. When we were born it was there. When we will die it will remain there. Those are things which will stay forever. What I painted. Starting with ... ok ... this is sharing. The way people share. I depend on you. You depend on her. We go round. You have the pot pouring water here, the water is pouring to the other pot spreading to the world. This is how we share things from me to you to her to the world. That will never change. It was there before you were born, it will remain to be there. How we make food. We eat. We make food. We make styles of food. How we bring food, this is gourd. Not pot. Gourd. Because if I paint following the culture. This is pouring to the pot. So, we bring food. By the end of today you have to buy food. How you feed your family. This is how you feed your family. This will never change. Rainbow. This rainbow. Rainbow will never change. Rainbow is there. When you were born, when you were not born. When in the world there was nobody, there was rainbow. And sun. There is music. This is music. This is guitar. Ok from the gourd ... from the gourd if you look keenly there is a guitar, there is music. Even birds play music. Sound of music. Drumbeat Bambambam. This is Mama, carrying a baby. This is a baby. Everybody you see in the world was brought up by a Mama. By your mother. You was brought up by a

mother. She was brought up by a mother. I was brought up by my mother. That is nature. That will never change. So that is the painting. The other are decorations. Because where there is painting, there must be decorations. So: house. Shelter is also *udumu*. Because even birds, even before humans started making houses, birds naturally, centuries and centuries and centuries they were making shelter somewhere. This is the sign of shelter. To either human beings or animals. They make shelter. So this is *udumu*. It talks about lasting. Things lasting forever. And. Ok. For example, how we make food like in Africa. You have to go to the shamba. You have to do seedings when they. This is how we plant food. How we make food. We go to the shamba, we put maize. We put this thing, we call it Jembe in Swahili. Jembe is everything in Africa. Every family has this in Africa, and this are traditional things. There is no modern, anything from modern world. This are things from traditional, which was there and will remain to be there even without our generation, even the coming generation. This thing will upline the world.

Can I stay here?

and honked the Journey to Tiwi.

a tuktuk on three wheels honked and honked







Asked the Journey

and learned

that a Journey is duration and must have

its beginning