

Stay in the Boat

Good afternoon.

My name is Mr. William Kyeyune, and I am the Founder of Lapatutu Writing Creations. Today, I want to speak to you about a simple message, a message I have entitled: Stay in the Boat.

I want to start with a story.

There were seven people travelling from Nakiwogo to Buwaya. They were going by boat—a traditional wooden boat that had to be oared.

Now, on this boat, there was a prize of great value waiting for everyone who completed the journey. But there was only one rule: You must remain inside the boat. If you get out, you cannot come back in, and you forfeit the prize.

As they set off on their journey—a journey meant to take about four hours—impatience began to set in.

Some looked at the boat and thought, "Why don't I just jump out and swim?" You see, with a boat like that, it is easy to trick yourself into thinking you can swim faster than it moves. So, two people jumped out and started swimming. In the short run, indeed, they seemed to move faster than the boat. But after some time, fatigue caught up with them. Their hands grew heavy and their strength failed them. They lost out on the prize.

Further along the way, two other people felt the boat was moving far too slowly. They looked into the distance and saw a large ferry passing by. They thought, "Let's jump out of this boat and board the ferry instead!" So, they jumped into the water. But the moment their feet left the boat, they broke the rule and lost their chance at the prize.

To make matters worse, when they finally reached the ferry, the captain looked down and told them they could not come on board wet and dripping. They too, lost out on the prize.

Then, a bit further down the journey, one more person looked back at where they had come from and thought, "Why am I bothering myself with this long, tiring journey? The friends I left behind seemed to be happy, they were playing any time, watching TV from any time! I should just go back." That person fell out of the boat and was lost to the lake.

In the end, only two people remained in the boat. Slowly but surely, stroke after stroke, they stayed in the boat until they reached Buwaya—where a great reward was waiting for them. It took time, it took patience, but they got there.

I want you to know today that the journey of education you are on is just like the journey of those people in that boat.

Along the way, many of you will be tempted to jump out. You may think, "Ah, I can make money in a much faster way!" Or you may feel like you are just wasting your time.

Today, I came to encourage you: **Stay in the boat.**

To the young ladies: You may think life will become easy if you find a man to give you quick money. But remember—people who seek to use you for a moment are never looking at your long-term future. Stay in the boat.

To the young men: You may think, "If I go into sports betting or gambling, I can make so much money in a short time!" But you cannot depend on the luck of betting for your entire life. Stay in the boat.

Look around you today. We are only standing here because we stayed in the boat. My team from Lapatutu Writing Creations—Mrs. Mercy Nimusiima, our Editorial Director, and Ms. Michelle Akello, our Junior Editor—they are here today because they stayed in the boat.

The team from Newman's—Mr. Uthman Katende is here because he stayed in the boat.

The media and social media team you see recording this event, headed by Mr. Kajubi Vincent, are here because they stayed in the boat.

Yes, you can be an influencer on TikTok with many followers, but when serious businesses want to invest real money, they want to partner with people who are educated and grounded.

So whatever temptations come your way:

Stay in the boat.

Stay in the boat.

Stay in the boat.

Thank you very much.

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