

**TEXT 1****IF LANGUAGE TELLS US WHO WE ARE, THEN WHO AM I?**

- 1 My father says language tells us not just who we are but where we are. He is a wise man; it is wisdom that comes from the certainty of being. He is a Wiradjuri<sup>1</sup> man: born and raised in his country, the country in which he lives still.
- 2 I have never known my father to have a crisis of identity. To him, being Wiradjuri is as natural as breathing. My father has language that speaks to his sense of place. The birds, the rocks, the trees, the hills and the waters have names that echo through millennia. To hear these words fall from his tongue is to know who he is and where he is. '*Balladhu Wiradjuri gibir. Dyriramadalinya badhu Wiradjuri*. I am a Wiradjuri man. I am proud to be Wiradjuri.'
- 3 My father can speak those words with unflinching belief. There is no dissonance between word and man and place. In a country of many tongues that speak of other lands, who can say this? I am who I am and I am from here.
- 4 It is a certainty I don't quite possess; I don't seek to possess. My life has been lived in the worlds in between. If language tells us not just who we are but where we are, then who am I? Where am I when my language is English?
- 5 I have made my life, my career, out of a love of the English language. I have had a lifelong passion for words and books. This is the language of Shakespeare. Who could not find the divine in the bard's sonnets? This is the language that sets loose the imagination of Bob Dylan. Dickens, Hemingway, Twain; these were the companions of my childhood. Later came James Baldwin, an African American writer who set my mind and soul ablaze.
- 6 My travels have opened up a world of languages and the people who speak them. My closest friend overseas was an Iranian cameraman steeped in Persian poetry. My Pakistani friends introduced me to the music of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. I had no need of interpretation to feel the power of his words. I have the same feeling listening to the Tuareg rock band Tinariwen.
- 7 Other languages have words that speak with a force that eludes their English equivalent. The Arabic word for justice – *adl* – means to put things in order, to return to their rightful place. That has always felt more profound to me than our western ideas of fairness, equity or objectivity.
- 8 Being exposed to new languages, meeting different people, understanding how they see and express their world and the world around them has enriched me. These friendships have made me a better person.
- 9 I can speak some Chinese, some Arabic and some French. I will spend my lifetime struggling and failing to master English.
- 10 But Wiradjuri – the language of my people – was never a big part of my life. As a boy it wasn't spoken. The old people kept their silence. We fashioned a patois – a creole mix of Wiradjuri and English.
- 11 We had words for white people and police and food and animals; it was a language apart, it belonged to us, likely incomprehensible to others. But it wasn't Wiradjuri. It was a language like us – people clinging to often shattered traditions, part of an old world and not yet finding a place in the new.

- 12 My father's grandfather was arrested and locked up after police overheard him speaking Wiradjuri to his grandson in the main street of town. Now my father has kept faith with his grandfather. My father is teaching Wiradjuri to a new generation.
- 13 To some Indigenous people, recovering language is like recovering self. They see it not just as reasserting their blackness but rejecting whiteness. Some reclaim or create 'traditional' names, reaching back to an ancestral past that feels more authentic than the names of the colonisers they were born with.
- 14 Language and names are markers of identity. This is how we introduce ourselves to the world; how we explain ourselves to each other. I admire this conscious effort to keep themselves and their people alive in the world, but I am wary too.
- 15 Reviving Indigenous languages is in itself a response to a history of oppression and denial. It can be liberating and assertive but like all identity it is a construction. My struggle is to live free to determine my identity unconstrained by the expectations or definitions of others.
- 16 Identity – to me – is not a singular thing. I prefer a layered identity; I am the sum of many parts. In this world I keep a place for myself, my ancestors and my family. In the words of Shakespeare in *Titus Andronicus*: 'For all the water in the ocean cannot turn the swan's black legs to white.'

[Adapted from the original written by Stan Grant, The Guardian, 31 August 2016>]

**GLOSSARY:**

<sup>1</sup> The Wiradjuri people are a group of indigenous Australian Aboriginal people

**TEXT 2A****An extract from an infographic explaining the chapter on Social Protection in the South African National Development Plan 2030**

Social protection is a major area that helps deal with inequality and poverty. It aims to ensure that no South African is forced to live below a certain poverty level.

Government support should not function on its own. It must build on and use the capabilities of individuals, households, communities and NGOs in order to promote self-reliant development. This links back to the employment ambitions of the plan ensuring that skills development helps individuals become more employable. Social protection needs to be something that all South Africans see value in, to ensure that social cohesion is maintained. It also has to be sustainable and affordable to government without putting other development objectives at risk.

Social protection is also seen as a bridge to elevate people out of the lingering poverty traps created by apartheid and equip them to participate in the formal economy. The plan recognises that the economic objectives will take time, but serious deprivation has to be tackled immediately. For the unemployed, social protection should aim to create incentives to work and to ensure the labour market is able to absorb them.

[Source: <[https://bsazone1-2m4ngwd4.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/NDP\\_social.jpg](https://bsazone1-2m4ngwd4.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/NDP_social.jpg)>]

**TEXT 2B****The Preamble to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996**

We, the people of South Africa,  
Recognise the injustices of our past;  
Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;  
Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and  
Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic so as to:

Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;  
Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law;  
Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and  
Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

[Source: <<http://www.gov.za/documents/constitution-republic-south-africa-1996-preamble>>]

**TEXT 3**



[Source:  
<<http://constitutionallyspeaking.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/blind-justice.gif>>]

**TEXT 4**



[Source: <[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)>]

**TEXT 5**

TED is an organisation devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks. TED began in 1984 as a conference on Technology, Entertainment and Design, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 110 languages. TED is a global community, welcoming people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world. The TEDx Programme is designed to help communities, organisations and individuals to spark conversation and connection through local TED-like experiences. We believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and, ultimately, the world.

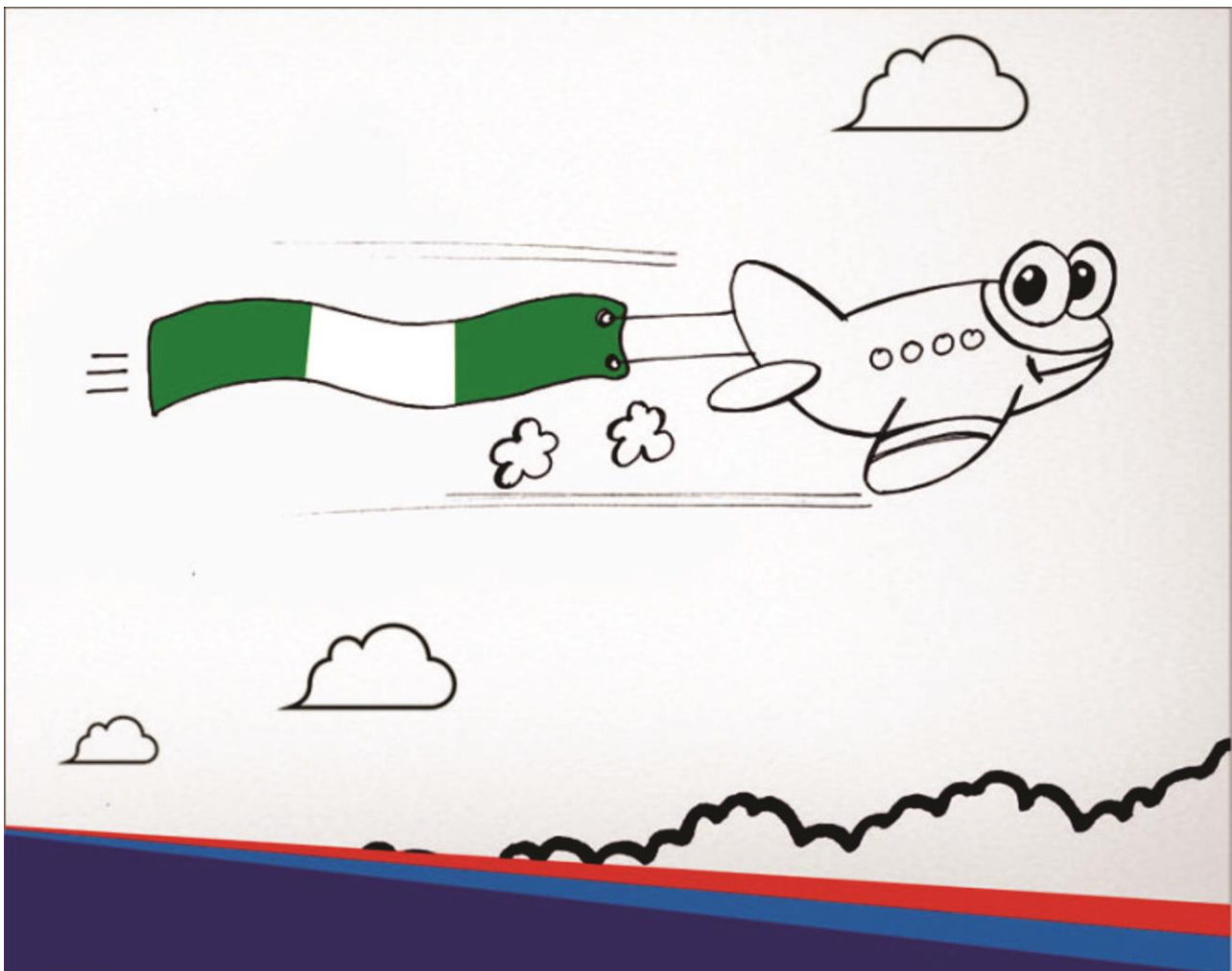
[Source: <<https://www.ted.com/about/programs-initiatives/tedx-program>>]

**TEXT 6**



[Source: <<http://www.advertblog.com>>]

TEXT 7



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