**Toen en Nu** **Then and now**

Toe ouma getrouw het di dikwyls vertel When granny got married she would often tell

Toe was dit in Afrika anders gesteld Then things in Africa were different

Hul praat van vooruitgang di jonge geslag They talk about the progression of the younger generation

Mar dis agteruitgang als hy dit betrag But it is regression if you reflect

Toe werk elkeen vlytig vor zyn stukki brood Then everyone worked hard for their piece of bread

En roep tot di Heere in voorspoed en nood And called to God in prosperity and distress

Mar nou is daar weinig wat werk nog met vlyt But now there are few who work industriously

Hul soek naar verstrooiing ofmos met hul tyd They are searching for destruction or waste their time

Van handel en kwansel wil elkeen bestaan From trade and exchange everyone wants to make a living

Als jy maar zy sak veel wat gaat dit heel aan (Not clear what is meant here)

In handel is eerlykheid skaars nog gekend In trade honesty hardly exists

Mar niemand bemerk dit hul is dit gewend But nobody notices as they are used to it

Lees die vendusier in enige krant Read the auction column in any newspaper

Wie glo sos dit daar staan gen mens van verstand Who believes what it states – nobody with a brain

Jy lees honderd pere opreg geresseer You read one hundred horses purely bred

Jy kom daar dis knolle brandmaar ongeleer You arrive there they are thin and untrained

Daar staan duizend skape bai fraai en spek vet There stand thousand sheep very nice and fat

Jy vind hul veel minder en slag baar mar net You find them much less and hardly worth butchering

Daars niemand wat nau advertensie meer gloo There is nobody that now believes advertisements any longer

Mar wie neem hul kwalyk hul dind dit hoort zo But who can blame them in that they believe it to be correct

Toe kon jy veel meer op in man ze woord gaan Then you could rely much more on a man’s word

Als nou op kontrake waar getuige by staan Everything now based on contracts supported by witnesses

Toe zou gin man ver jou gefop he mar nou Then no man would have deceived you but now

Kan jy amper jou vader en broer ni vertrou You can almost not trust your father or brother

Toe was daar nog liefde en waargodsdienstzen Then there was still love and religious services

En Gods Heilig woord neem die eerste plaats en And Gods Holy word got priority

Mar nou leg die Bybel in di kas op gesluit But now the Bible lies in a locked-up cupboard

En kom daar heel selde of nooit nie weer uit And is hardly ever or never removed

Behalve als de Leeraar kom huis besoek hou Except when the Reverend does a house visit

Dan kry dit ‘n kans om die lug te aan skou Then it gets the opportunity to see the light

Van novels en songs is die boekrake vol The bookshelf is full of novels and songs

En daar deur is di jong volk se koppe op hol And due to this the younger generation’s heads are on the loose

Die modes geleerdheid en hoogmoedigheid Fashion educated and haughty

Die neem nou die plaats in van ootmoed en vlyt It takes the place of dignity and industriousness

Toe ry hul naar kerk toe om Gods woord te gaan hoor Then they rode to church to hear God’s word

Met n bokwa en rooi span osse daarvoor With a goat wagon and a group of red oxen in front

Mar ry hulle met n spaaeder n twee hengste daarvoor But they arrive with a fancy horse cart with two stallions in front

En nie om Gods Heilig woord te gaan hoor And not to go and hear Gods Holy word

Mar veel om die nietste uitvendsels gaan wys But rather to go and show off the latest invention

Bestel in die Kaap ver n drommel se prys Ordered from the Cape at one heck of a price

Toe was die hoet broek en baatje van vel Then it was hat, pants and jacket of hide

Mar nou is dit n lakense broek kyl en manel But now it is a refined pants, top hat and coat

Elk was in zyn stand tevrede en bly Everyone satisfied and happy with their status

En niemand hoe arm het die ryke beny And not even the poor envied the rich

Toe was die boer seuns hul hande grof van di werk The farmer’s sons had coarse hands from work

Die kerels was kragtig gesond fres en sterk These men were very healthy and strong

Mar nou leer hul op skole die engels gebrou But now they teach them at school English mess

Of stap in die straat zos n mannetjes pouw Or walk down the street like a male peacock

Met die handskoene aan en di das om die nek Wearing gloves and a tie around the neck

Die bloem voor die bors en die sigarrets in die bek A flower on the chest and cigarette in their beak

Toe het die noointjes gewas en gestryk Then the young ladies did the washing and ironed

Die koeie gemelk en naar di potte gekyk Milked the cows and looked after the pots

Mar nou zit hul klevier speel en sing ver hul hees Now they sit and play piano and sing themselves hoarse

Of leg op hul rug en novel te lees Or lie on their backs reading novels

Mar nou staan hul voor die spiel om hul self te bekyk But now they stand in front of the mirror to look at themselves

Trek hul mond op n plooi om te zien hoe dit lyk Pulling their mouth into a wrinkle to see what it looks like

Toe kom die vamiljies met elk nuwejaar The family would visit every new year

Van heinde ver op n plek bymekaar From all over at a place together

Toe ken die vreugde gin pal of gin perk Then joy had no boundaries

Want almal is vroolik hul dink aan geen werk Because everyone was happy and did not think about work

Mar nou wil ons rondslenter stuur ons mekaar But now we want to wander around and send each

Mooi kaartjes met wense vir see ens vir di jaar Beautiful cards with wishes and blessings for the year

Mar tog gaan ons hart met die wense nie saam Yet our hearts do not go with the wishes

Ons stuir daar die kaartjes maar net vir die naam We send that card only for the name

Toe was ons tevrede met n ruive klein huis Then we were satisfied with a rustic small house

En ma die kok buite nog zonder kombuis With mother cooking outside as there was no kitchen

Mar nou is ons al die paleise gewend But now we got use to all the palaces

Met die mooiste en fraaiste meubeliment With the most beautiful and nicest furniture

Toe maak jy ver jou warm by n stoof of n pan Then you obtained heat from a stove or pan

Met kole daar in net zo goed als jy kan With coals in them as best as you can

Mar nou moet n engelse kaggel daar staan But now an English fire place has to stand there

Met gordyntjes daarvoor en strikjes daaraan With little curtains in front and bow ties attached

Toe het die kinders kaalvoete geloop Then children walked bear-foot

Mar nou word voor hulle blink skoene gekoop But now they are bought shiny shoes

Pa steek saans n dop en stap die kooi in Father has a drink at night and steps into bed

In die dag gebruik die ou n drankie mar min During the day he hardly consumes any drink

Mar leg di jongkerels dronk in di kantien Yet young men lie drunk in the canteen

Bakly en biljart speel dis al wat jy zien Fighting and billiard playing is all you see

Toe spriek hul makaar als niggie en neef Then they addressed each other as niggie and neef (cousin)

Als oom en als Tanta want dit lyk beleef As Uncle and as Aunt because it is polite

Mar nou is dit Mr en net al wat jy hoor But now it is Mister and it is all you hear

En Mrs en Miss kom daarna en daarvoor And Mrs and Miss is placed in front and at the back

Toen het hul malkander die liefde bewys Then they showed each other love

Mar is dit alles zoo koud als di ys But it is all as cold as ice

Toe hang sakkies geld aan die hanebalk vas Then money hung in bags on rooster beams

Mar nou die beurs leeg en plaats is belas But now the wallets are empty and the farm is taxed

Jou Ompie Your Uncle