**Maria’s Celebration of life Scene**

*The women are in a beautiful hall in a Buddhist Temple.*

*There is an Altar. The women are standing around this Altar.*

Edwige I did not know that Sunflowers were her favourite

 Flowers.

Virginia It seems that there’s a lot that we didn’ t know about Maria.

Selam But we knew that she was very kind. *Pause*

She reminded me of the lady I worked for in Greece before I came to England.

Beatrice Those rich people who owned that hotel?

Selam Yes. The ones who really took good care of

 me. Surprised me on my birthday by taking me out

 to a Dessert Restaurant, bought me a present

 and made me feel special. Even though I was poor.

 They treated me respectfully

Fatmata Maria was like everybody’s Mama.

Anna I remember when my baby girl was so sick and

 had to have surgery I was so shocked and sad and

 Maria just held me and said “God will make

 a way.” And Thank God my daughter is doing well

 *now.*

*Virginia takes a candle and lights it on the Altar*

Virginia I love a candle.

 The candle signifies the Light in the world.

 When I received my first Holy Communion

 I lit a candle and the Priest said

‘ Bless you, you are the light of the world,

may your Light always shine,

for a world without Light is full of darkness.’

Fatmata Maria used to say ‘at any moment something

 wonderful could happen!’ Smile.

Beatrice And she used to say; ‘ Stay close to people who

 feel like Sunshine’.

Edwige But sometimes you don’t know what someone is

 struggling with. That young girl that I met who I

 found out didn’t have any money or food and

 though I was also struggling at the time I took

 her to the shop and got her a small bottle of

 milk and a few items of grocery.

 She was so grateful.

Selam What goes around comes around….

Edwige for certain!

 I was wondering how I was going to manage

 when I got a call from Baobab saying

 you are entitled to some money come to the

 office and collect it.

 It taught me that good actions always pays.

Beatrice I met a lady from the Congo when I arrived here

 and was sent to Newcastle to a charity,

 she could speak my language and showed me

 places to go . She became my friend.

 PAUSE I got a text from her. It said that her son

 had got cancer and he’s passed away.

*Pause*

Anna Life is strange. Bad things happen to

 good people.

Fatmata My sister died. *PAUSE*

 She died because I wasn’t able to send

 the 800 pounds for her operation when

 she broke her ankle.

*Edwige gives Fatmata a hug*

Fatmata If I had the money I would have given it.

 But I didn’t have the money.

 I couldn’t even go to her funeral.

*Virginia starts to sing the Malika song from Kenya. The others join in.*