What is the fight really about?

"Land trouble" is not a problem you can solve. It is too big. But a survey marker that was moved is a problem you can solve. So is a garden planted over a line, rent that was not paid, a road blocked, or a burial on ground two families claim.

The same is true of payback. People say a fight is about payback, but underneath it is usually something more exact. Nobody is sure who did it. Relatives are pushing a young man to act. He is afraid that waiting will make him look weak. Or nothing official has started, so fighting feels like the only thing left.

> **Each one of those needs a different answer. So before you plan anything, get specific.**

ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

01 What actually happened? Not the story going around — the part people saw.

02 What do we know for certain, and what are we still guessing?

03 Who was directly hurt or affected?

04 Who is being blamed?

05 Who gains if this gets bigger? There is often someone.

06 What decision needs to be made, and by when?

07 Which body has the right to make it — village court, land mediation, police, church leaders, clan leaders?

08 Who needs protection right now?

09 What rumour could make this much worse?

10 **What could we do this week that would be fair to both sides while the facts are being checked?**

That last question is the important one. People turn to fighting when nothing else is moving. Something small and fair, started quickly, buys the time that everything else needs.

Write the answers down and keep them somewhere safe.

Do not write down names of people you suspect, and do not put any of it in a group chat.