

I HAVE RECONCILIATION IDEA !!

> ERQI ENDERTA (THE RECONCILIATION
OF ENDERTA)

NAME : KISANET GIZACHEW TSEGAY ID.No : 1157

AGE : 21

SEX : FEMALE

ADDRESS : 0953431258 / A.A / ETHIOPIA

My name is Kisanet Gizachew Tsegay, living in Ethiopia/Addis Ababa. I am 21 and have hobbies like reading Spiritual, inspirational, historical and psychological books. Even though the freedom of being youth has given me the chance to do whatever i want, i always choose ways that develop my mentality and perception. The torrent of modernity haven't snatched the value i gave for my country. Participating in this project is one witness for that. I am Happy to participate in this historical project. I hope and see forward to do more historical works with you.

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PREFACE

Ethiopia is one of the ancient countries from the world, and have almost about 3000 years of history. With various victorical, spiritual and haunting Images. The land of Ethiopia have seen alot's of distressing and joyful moments. But above all moments and memories of Ethiopia the set off and intelligible thing was the love and respect of the people for each other.

Ethiopia has a distinct and varied kinds of culture and traditions also is one of the most spiritual countre than other nations. Although each the peoples and nations always reflect their various traditions and religions they are always warm hearted and respectful for each other .

We can not say its always peaceful inside but each and every clan or tribe has a various traditional reconciliation systems to dispel conflicts and this systems has kept the peoples of Ethiopia and the land peacefully even though when their was no constitution in the country.

In the current situation Ethiopia has her own constitution, legal courts, governmental and parlamntal systems. Above all their is rule of law. But it will be prevarication if we say their is is full ground performance. The problem may be from the government or the people but since Ethiopians are result of the religion and strong culture of various clans in the country, they are influenced by the systems of the traditions. So, to recall the peace and just full moments in Ethiopia and to have less conflicts its advisable to recall and activate more traditional reconciliation systems. As i have referred before Ethiopia is possessor of many reconciliation systems and traditions. In this paper we will see a reconciliation system called "Erqi Enderta" which is practiced in the region of Tigray/Enderta.

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1. APPEARANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

LOCATION

Tigray is one of historical regions in Ethiopia and have about 35 districts, among them one is Enderta.

Enderta is located around east wage of tigray with sleepee land. Other neighboring districts are Hintalo wajirat, Shiket, Gera alta and seharti samre. Many peoples have made their dwellings in Enderta.

LANGUAGE AND TRADITIONS

As other tigrians they speak language of "tigrigna". Also the tradition around and inside Enderta is almost the same as 75% of tigrians. Aynalem and Qwiha are towns and the Historic village Chalacot is also in Enderta.

Very spiritual district! Specially in Christianity, and endowed with large collections like hymns and spiritual scriptures. Because of their spirituality they are very decent and lovable peoples.

Celebrations and feasts like Ashenda, baptism, wedding ceremonies, eastern, are highly valuable and celebrated there, at these moments of celebrations womens make them selves stunning by some traditional cosmetics called "Ensosila" which is applied to their hands and feet's. They also have unique traditional hair styles called "alwaso, gilbich, sadula sinkr"

When we come to the famous food in Enderta, its unbelievable if we say its bread! The famous type of bread in Enderta is "Ambasha".

In the community Elders have special honor among all. That is why youngsters, teenagers, stipplings, husbands, wives and kids always show obeisance and obedience to them. They call elderly fathers "Abo" or "Aboy" and for elderly mothers "Eney".

2. THE RECONCILIATION SYSTEM

We have already seen how respectful and lovable the people of Enderta is. also the district is kept peacefully even though when their was no constitution. This will lead us to question what the secret is for this composedness.

The only reason is their reconciliation system called "Erqi Enderta" the meaning is "reconciliation of Enderta" named after the district. Which is processed by assigned, respected and well known elderly fathers. These elders are known by their noble acts and their intention for the community.

If peoples have some arguments, conflict of opinions and misunderstandings with each other they come to this selected elders.

As i have mentioned before elders are highly valuated in the community and thats why they are also center of the reconciliation system. From 10-15 elderly fathers are sitting in one forum to reconcile and judge among the people in Cases like land sharing marriage and home problems, crimes, conflicts of opinions e.t.c.

Lets see the stages how the reconciliation system goes on briefly.

STAGE 1

Peoples who have cases to be judged will go and tell to one of selected elderly fathers so that one of the elderly father will go and discuss with assigned fathers to make appointment for the case to be seen.

After they have made appointment with two parties of the cases and the judges, they will meet in the clearance land at the appointed time.

(The case may be about land, marriage, crime or any conflict between two parties/sides/groups) so both parties will come not only by them selves but also with their Families (Father and mothers) and also witness.

STAGE 2

The assigned Fathers and all the forum will seat. The judges will give orders for each parties and their witness to describe their cases.

STAGE 3

The assigned elderly fathers will discuss what it have to be and how to solve it. The judgement and the reconciliation is totally far from siding to one party.

STAGE 4

After coming to one judgement before giving orders they will give advise and reprimand and rebuke for each party regardless of the social, environmental spiritual and traditional norms. After giving some advises for both sides they make them realize their falls, weakness and strength. So they can come to the point of saying "sorry" for each other. Each party say sorry for the other and hug in front of all. (This activity mean alot to each parties, this indicated that even though their are misunderstandings I Forgive you)

STAGE 5

The cases may need compensations to give for the victim. Peoples who come with each parties will give rates, then the judges compromise and give approval.

STAGE 6

The final stage is giving approval for the whole forum about the case to confirm the reconciliation and an oath for not to harm each other.

This oath is conformed by activity by a stake ("Chikal"). This activity is processed as follow :

- A. In front of the forum the elderly fathers plant stake
- B. After planting it, they invite the two sides in front to make an oath.
- C. Saying " If i ever harm, do wrong, or revenge the other side/party may i be diged up like the stake from the earth"
- D. After Giving an oath they will dig up the stake together. This means the reconciliation system is conformed by oath. And they will respect their word.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Currently seventy elders are elected from each local administration /"gereb"/ of Enderta to serve as mediators and peace makers among the inhabitants of many districts (woredas) of Enderta in case of rivalries, uprising and disputes that might arise within Enderta. These seventy elders were also bestowed provincial authority by the governor of the province to legally represent Enderta and its people in a provincial level with neighboring districts, countries and provinces.

RESPONSE OF THE YOUTH

Nowadays although there is more modernity and a lot of forward-looking youngsters, it is surprising to say they are still obedient to this system. The torrent of civilization doesn't make youngsters and teenagers to forget and garbage the tradition and the unique reconciliation system.

PROBLEMS

But there are some hardship and trouble on carrying out this system. The system that allows cases to be finished by peaceful forgiveness and compensation with oath, makes some anarchist individuals to continue delinquency frequently.

Not only this but when cases and people that need more strong punishment and imprisonment are passed by forgiveness and amends, it is whipping up some insecurity in the society. And makes the community to retreat and seek more legal systems.

SOLUTIONS /PERSONAL/

The best quality of the people and the reconciliation system is that they are totally based on an oath and the value they give to their oath or word.

This is a big quality but the solution for such problem is to make connection with the state government more and deal with some regulations.

The connection with the state government will be processed when people that are given more than two warnings in big crimes. These will help to clear the insecurity within the community and at the same time to keep the reconciliation system longer.

4. PERSONAL PERSPECT IN THE GENERAL RECONCILIATION SYSTEM

Sometimes things that are kept in inward movements when they start addressing the outward environment either they will be good or bad consequences. In the case of this reconciliation system "Erqi Enderta" it is obvious that if other regions know and learn about it that it will bring many peace moments and positive effects as a nation

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE AS A NATION

Since Enderta is located in tigray, the local government should dig and know about this system, not only that but take action to help the system to grow and develop to dispel conflicts that are rising frequently so that can be reduced.

To give awareness and some trainings about the reconciliation system will help to spread this peaceful and unique system.

So, the state government, federal government, social intellectuals, peace federation, should give attention and make some review to magnify "Erqi Enderta" through out Ethiopia.

WHAT SHOULD WE LEARN

Have you thought about oath? Oath is a confirmation between two parties promises. Human being is living in lots of kinds of circles of oath. In mirage oath, religion oath, in courts, even after learning all those years doctors, lawyers e.t.c conclude their education and start their works by giving oath. Also ministers do that.

- But in current situation this generations are not giving value to their oath. In this reconciliation system we recognize how valuable and respected an oath is.

- By this reconciliation system we can recall the value we give to an oath and keeping it.

- The other thing is in these system the centers are the elderly fathers and the people highly respecting them. This is the thing the torrent of modernity is snatching it from youngsters.

- this will help us to re - echo the missing obedience to our elders from us youngsters

- Since the judgement and the reconciliation system is given fairly and without siding, this character is what peoples, courts, governments and all sectors should learn!

SELF REFLECTION

It is Very astonishing and delightful thing for me to present this project and to magnify the system. By this time where people are tensioned by racism and violent acts doing this project is like giving a riddle for everyone to see that their is also unique and peaceful system to dispel Conflicts. Not only for others but it also shaped myself more and more to give attention and do more about this system.

I am sure everyone that reads this paper will at least recall the value of an oath. And i know this will bring many positive things and achievements in various sectors.

5. CONCLUSION

Generally "Erqi Enderta" The reconciliation of enderta transformed alots of conflicts, hate and revenges to love and togetherness. It have to be inherited to generations to generations and have to be seen as a big heritage because a lots of useful things are inclose inside the system.

Its not only reconciling system but also shapes peoples mind to be proper. Specially we youngsters should learn from this system and reform ourselves.

Since we have such justful system Its our job to magnify and practice such reconciliation systems when conflicts rise in our country.

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