

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

First of all, I want to acknowledge the producer of this program and TIKVAH for giving us this chance. Pluto once said “before you ask what your country have done for you, ask what you have done for your country”. The reason why I came up with is quote is that, if this program was not invented, I couldn’t say “yeah, now I do something for my country, even if its simple thing”. So, the program producers thank you so much.

Also, I want to acknowledge my family for the help they give me. I was not even the first one who heard about the competition. Its my mother who told me about. First, I was not interested but my mother said to me that “son, I can help you, you can write about the place where I came from, just do something”. Then I agree with her and I start seeking information about it. Also, my father and sister help me a lot, my father have travel and live many places in the country, so I ask him to tell me what he knows. My sister helps me on editing. So, my family thank you so much.

## INTRODUCTION

In this world, when you live something will happen between you and someone then, you clash with that person. After that you start seeking for solutions. You might go to court or cultural court. Now, the point comes, forgiveness. Forgiveness is that you eliminate the negativity that results from hurt by letting go of emotional baggage. There are a lot of reasons why you forgive and the first one is because “the one who forgive will be forgiven by GOD” and also when we forgive, we don’t forgive for other person; we forgive for our-selves. Forgiveness will free us from thinking about revenge and anger, then we move on to peace.

Once DALAI LAMA said that “one moment of anger can wipe out a lifetime of merit”. Forgiveness responses like developing feeling of empathy and granting forgiveness can reduce arousal negative emotions and stress responses. In this world we live in, we have police, we have national security and other security keepers but we still have problems of peace, there are terrorists still. In my opinion the reason why we can’t solve this problem is that there is no love and forgiveness we give to each other.

In Ethiopia there are more than 80 types of nation and nationalities. Every one of them have their own cultural court system. In Ethiopia most of the people prefer to use those traditional courts first to seek peace and forgiveness. Our diversity makes us unique and if we can use it for good purpose like this program then it can be helpful, we just need the willingness and effort from us.

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# **1. BACKGROUD ABOUT THE SYSTEM**

## **1.1. WHERE DOES THE SYSTEM LOCATE?**

This system is located in the southern part of Ethiopia. Its in Gurage zone. Gurage located in SNNPR. Welkite is the administrative center of the zone. The place has border with Oromiya in the west, north and east part of the country, with Silt'e in the southeast part of the country and with hadiya in the southwest part of the country.

They divide in to two, one the 7 houses and Sodo. Both of them are almost similar except their language. The seven houses are GYETA, INOR, CHEHA, EZHA, GWAMARE, ENDEGAGNE AND MUHER. The Gurage people are known for HARD WORKING CAPACITY. Also, they have heritage called TIYA TIKIL DINGAY

## **1.2 LANGUAGE**

The gurage people speak GURAGIGN language. GURAGIGNA is one of the sematic Ethiopian language. Gurage language relate with GE'EZ language. Gurage is written left to right using a system that grew out of the GE'EZ script. The language doesn't have its own letter they use Amharic letters.

## **1.3 RELIGION**

The people follow diverse religion.

Most of them are Muslims and Christian. 51 percent of the people are Muslims, 42 percent are Christians. 6 percent of the people are protestant and 1 percent of the people are catholic people. Most of the Sodo peoples are Christian and known for their MESKEL BEAL celebration.

## **1.4 JOBS and WORKS**

Most of the people are farmers and peasants.

The farmers mainly have "ENSET" and potato. They also produce khat, coffee, wheat and tef. ENSET is one of the most ubiquitous and traditional crops of the land.

The peasants have sheep, goat, cow, ox, donkey and others. They use ox for farming, donkey and horse for transportation and cows for milk.

There are a lot of Gurage people settle through out the country. Most of them are Merchants.

## 1.5 OTHERS

Enset is totally involved in every aspects of their daily social and ritual life of the people, who, with several other tribes in southwest Ethiopia, from what has been termed the ENSET culture complex area. the life of Gurage is enmeshed with various uses of Enset, not the least of which is nutritional.

## 2. THE JOKA SYSTEM

The Gurage have no centralized institutional political power or leadership. Local power is rested in lineages; these descent groups, display corporate rights, obligation and influence.

In contrast, the religious or ritual system is highly centralized; ritual officials sanction the authority of the political elders. Their cultural system of peace and forgiveness is called YEJOKA BSARIK. It stands for the elder people who involve in the judgement process. BARIK means elder people.

The process includes 3 main parts. The debate, the decision making and the forgiveness part.

The discipline befallen in well known place. Peoples will gather on the place. The place has 1 sycamore tree. They choose that tree because of its umbrella type of shape and it can shadow wider area. The people also make a lot of things in that place (they make meetings and celebration there). The process starts by father's praise and entreaty. The judges are elder people, its because they consider they have more knowledge than others because they have lived more years than others. They have more life experience than others.

### 2.1 THE DEBATE

After the praise, the debate starts. The first speaker is the dupe(victim). The judge gives him a chance to describe how he get battered by the offender. The dupe starts it by acknowledging the judge. Then he describes one by one. He will never use offensive words. He will just accuse the offender for what he has done. The judges will give the chance to the offender to speak. The offender will either defend or confess his mistakes. If he defends then the judge asks for witness from both sides. The judge will ask some questions for both of them. In this process, they don't speak normal. They should speak in terms of poems. They won't practice the poems in their house they should create it there.

### 2.2 THE DECISION MAKING

After the debate, the decision-making starts. The judges will give open floor for peoples to tell their opinions about the issue. They also give questions to the offender and dupe. After listening to all those debates and answers, the judges ask the people to give them several minutes to discuss each other and their decision. Until then elder peoples make "SHILELA" and "KERERTO".

Traditionally named as “WEG”. After the judges came up with decision, they ask the peoples to pay attention. The judgement will be based on the roughness of the mistake. If the offend is murder the offender will be asked to pay 3 cows and other mileage milage and to say sorry for what he has done. If the people and the victim don’t agree with the mulct then they give chance for both to make another debate and do the same process.

## **2.3 THE RECONCILIATION**

If the dupe and offender agree with the mulct then the elders move on to the reconciliation process. this will be the last part of the process. The aim of this system is making reconciliation between the offender and the victim. In this reconciliation process the first thing that will is that the elder people start teaching why we have to forgive and how to forgive. This teaching process will aspire both the offender and dupe to come to make peace and love between them. After this event the judges will ask if both of them want to forgive and to make peace with other. This word will be spoken by elder peoples because they have big respect in the community. So that most of them will agree to make peace. The judge will ask them to hug and say sorry each other. Then the crowd will show their happiness by saying “ELELLLLL”. Then “TSIWA YIKERBL”, TSIWA is something they will drink, it could be “TELA” or “TEJ”. Also, there will be sheep or goat. First the elders will praise and bless the SHEEP and TSIWA. Then their will be ERID celebration. After the food cooking is done, the elders will invite both the dupe and offender to drink from one cup. They do this because they consider making this will increase the love between them. Also, the elders ask them to pull up the food each other. This will increase the love between them. After they eat the food and drink, the judges will make a schedule a date for the offender to pay the mulct. Then they praise and bless each other and say GOOD BYE.

## **3. PERSONAL VIEW**

### **3.1 HOW DOES THE SYSTEM GOING THESE DAYS?**

These days, the system seems to lose its earlier faith and change to the modern faith. Its obvious that globalization affects one culture but we can modernize it in good way. But the way the system is changing seems that the system will no longer live again. One of the wrong changes is that, they make debates but they don’t use poems, they make the reconciliation but there is no food or TSIWA instead they drink alcohol (AREKE).

### **3.2 WHAT DOES THE YOUTH THINK ABOUT TRADITION RECONCILIATION?**

The youth still believes in this reconciliation. They use it frequently. When problems happen, they go to elder peoples to seek for peace. But the problem is that they youth don’t understand the faith is changing. In my opinion if they know about the change, they will start seeking solutions.

### **3.3 WHAT SHOULD BE THE SOLUTION?**

In my opinion teaching the youth could be the solution for the problems mentioned above. As we know the youth is the next generation that can keep the system. The government can teach them by adding this in education curriculum. PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE, in my opinion we shouldn't work on reconciliation, instead we should focus on the root. Our work should be creating well mannered youth. If the youth is will mannered then their will be no chaos and then there will be reconciliation process and other peace keeping systems.

## **4. PERSONAL VIEW ABOUT THIS PROGRAM?**

### **4.1 WHAT SHOULD WE HAVE TO DO, AS A COUNTRY?**

As a county, the first thing we need to do is teaching each other and helping other than love between us will help us to grow together forever. The government also need to help peoples who can work on this kind of things. The government also can provide the space needed to make meeting and discussion between the people and the government.

### **4.2 WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE SYSTEM?**

Mainly we can learn two things from those tradition reconciliation system.

The first thing is the use of forgiving and the other one is respect and love. Our fathers teach us what we don't know about forgiving others. Then when we forgive our pain will decrease and also, we will live in peace. The other one is respect and love. So, in my opinion the only problem in this world is lack of love. From this system we can learn who to respect and why we respect. In Every step foot we make will have love and respect on the back which will make our life filled with happiness.

### **4.3 MY REACTION ABOUT THIS PROGRAM?**

This program makes me search and read some about my country. Also, this program makes me forgive others. Pluto once said "before you ask what your country have done for you, ask what you have done for your country". The reason why I came up with is quote is that, if this program was not invented, I couldn't say "yeah, now I do something for my country, even if its simple thing". So, the program is helpful for me.

## 5. CONCLUSION

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These days, the system seems to lose its earlier faith and change to the modern faith. In my opinion teaching the youth could be the solution for the problems mentioned above. PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE, in my opinion we shouldn't work on reconciliation, instead we should focus on the root. Our work should be creating well-mannered youth. As a county, the first thing we need to do is teaching each other and helping other than love between us will help us to grow together forever. Mainly we can learn two things from those tradition reconciliation system. The first thing is the use of forgiving and the other one is respect and love.

Forgiveness will free us from thinking about revenge and anger, then we move on to peace. In this world we live in, we have police, we have national security and other security keepers but we still have problems of peace, there are terrorists still. In my opinion the reason why we can't solve this problem is that there is no love and forgiveness we give to each other.