

## **Q & A-“Tomorrow is brighter than today”**

Written by Makda Solomon  
Saturday, 02 September 2017 01:09

**The value of a family is so great in every corner of the world, but the value of mother is the most treasured. We have here with us an exemplary Eritrean mother. The moment her husband joined the armed struggle for freedom, Mrs. Tiebe understood the meaning of self-reliance and fully initiated her energy into raising her family on her own. She has worked her way up from scratch to owning a vegetable garden and producing chicken.**

**Q&A shares with you the motivational story of Mrs. Tiebe Redae.**

➤ **-Tell us a little about you?**

Thank you for having me. I am from Adi Bus in the sub-zone of Dubarwa. I got married young to Mr. Gebremika’el Kflesion and we were blessed with five children. Since we were under the Derg regime we were not lucky enough to enjoy the love of the family we had. It was a time when every Eritrean family was denied the right to live a peaceful life. I remember that my husband was facing challenges on his way to work.

The derg regime did not only affect specific areas it destroyed all the social, economic and political ties of the society. This led to the separation of families because they could not live under the suppression and dominance of the Derg regime. Some went abroad and some others joined the armed struggle, and the rest were working as collaborator to the freedom fighters. Later, my husband left to join the battle fields in Sahl. Being left alone with five children was another battle for me. This time not only did I have to be the mother, but the “man” of the house as well.

Responsibilities became hard for me that I finally decided to go back to my village. I thought it would be easier to be in an area where I grew up, but that didn't seem to work either. But I couldn't just give up. I was in no position to just give up. I had a family to raise. I moved to Sudan with my kids to face life. There, I had to face life working at whatever jobs I could find besides selling our traditional food such as Shiro, Berbere, and Enjera. But finally, the long awaited dream happened; Eritrea was freed. And I came here with my family.

➤ **-Did life get better after liberation for you?**

It definitely wasn't for me. Every family paid their precious one to have free Eritrea today, and my husband was one of those precious ones. I came back in 1997 and settled in Tesenei until I moved to Asmara in 1998 when the First Ethiopian offensive happened. Many Eritreans left their homes to protect their families at that time. I had to do the same for my family's sake.

Yet again, I started a new life in Asmara braiding hairs. However, it was not a stable job and it was not enough to cover all of my family's expenses. I wanted to have a stable income, and I thought producing chicken could be a great start. The Eritrean government does a great help to those who are willing to work, which creates a good opportunity for them. I got a thirty- thousand Nakfa loan from the saving and loan program in 2003 which I used to buy nine hundred chickens. That is the turning point and the first step I took to have a stable life for me and my family.

➤ **-How did you get into gardening, Mrs. Tiebe?**

I have never liked to sit around and chitchat; I have always liked to work. There was an abandoned area behind Expo, it was of garbage. At the beginning, I was just cleaning it because it was dirty and it's near my place. But then I thought that if it is

cleaned it is the best ground to grow vegetables. This undeniably requires a great amount of budget, so I sold my jewelries and rented a dozer to help me with the work and finally made it ready for farming. I had to also dig a waterwheel for the garden on which I spent a hundred thousand Nakfa. Now I am able to produce different kinds of vegetables and cereals.

Also recently, I took another loan from the saving and loan program to start cattle raring but it didn't go well since I have not found a steady stall for it.

- **-Care to share any story during your journey to get here?**

I have numerous memories; some of them, I lough about and some bring pain. For instance, people used to run away from me when they saw me after I was done with cleaning the garden because most of the time I was covered in mud. Which by t h e way is very green at the moment.

- **-What is the motive behind your efforts in life?**

Everywhere, mother is the link that holds her family. And under any circumstance, especially in our culture, she is obliged to take care of her family. The Eritrean are known for their strong beliefs in overcoming challenges, even in the armed struggle. Besides, I fully understand the value of self-reliance which our great grandparents and our freedom fighters upheld. So it is not solely my career but it is a lesson that I have gained from former heroine mother and hero fathers.

- **-Anything you might want to add?**

We Eritreans have gone through a lot of challenges to reach where we are today. Humans are created to experience the hardest and happiest days of their life. So whatever challenge

we face we have to know tomorrow is the brightest day. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture, the saving and loan program, my employees and my children for their endless support and discipline.

➤ **-Thank you for your time.**

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### **Q & A-“Present based Future”**

Written by Asmait Futsumbrhan |

Wednesday, 06 September 2017 11:26

**She is someone, who gives you energy starting from the way she talks to the things she says. She is small, but her determination to become some one great is bigger than her age and size. Sabela Tsegai, is a 24 years old lady with big hopes and dreams. She said “I sometimes think that I am greedy where ambition is concerned”. Sabel is remembered by her schoolmates as one of the most influential and inspirational students of their times.**

**In today’s Q&A, we give you a young Eritrean female judge who is leading a court at the Central Region Court. She has also worked as an associate judge and legal adviser after her graduation.**

➤ **-It is nice to have you with us**

The pleasure is all mine.

➤ **-How did you get into Law?**

For starters, I wanted to be so many things when I was growing up. Which being a lawyer was among the many dreams I had. Also I never had many friends, so basically I spent my times

reading a lot of books, so many of them. Recently I tried to count how many books I read but got tired of counting them. I was really interested in investigative or law related books. By the time i came back from Sawa, I found out that the Law Department was opening up and I took the chance to choose the department. It is an interesting department; there were so many interesting subdivisions; Political Science, Anthropology, and Archeology. I never used to give attention to those things. And I wanted to give it a shot. I got enrolled and I got it.

➤ **-Was it your first choice?**

Well, I had two choices in mind, Mining Engineering and Law. I went to Nakfa for my cadre lessons so I didn't get the orientation for the next departments to choose. But cadre was an important time for me as well since I had the intention to go for political science. Then again, I was advised that getting into political science through law is much easier and better. That was right.

➤ **-You said you wanted to be so many things...**

The dream I am pursuing right now is one amongst many. I sometimes think that I am greedy where ambition is concerned. And sometimes I am very lazy to not work at the things I want as much as I should have. For instance I was 100% sure that I was going to get a full mark at the matriculation exam, instead I got 3.6. Which was alright but that is the only moment I regretted for not working as hard as I should have. I felt like I have let everyone who believed in me down. It was hard for me to find out that I was lower than everyone had expected me. I have never regretted any of my choices in life but that moment.

I never had many role models in my life except one, my grandmother. Despite the huge difference between us she has influenced me in so many ways. She has dictated what I believe

and do at this moment and probably yet to come as well. She taught me to be strong and determined. I was actively participating in different activities as a student, I was one of the debaters in my schools. I even represented my region in a debating contest along with other debaters. I was also part of a TV program in Eri-Tv. I have also liked astronomical sciences, medical field especially cardiovascular surgery. But passion alone is not enough. For instance, I found out that I am no good to be a medical doctor after I fainted at a class tour we had in the blood bank when I saw blood. You should know that you can handle your career.

➤ **-How was Law school?**

Law School is very interesting. You get to touch every aspect of every single person's life; contracts, for instance, marriage the very thing that almost everyone does is a contract, Family law, and criminal law. It is a multicolored subject matter. It is a field that you work on with discussions. Even the exams are open book. I loved it.

➤ **-Your time in Sawa..**

I have always liked adventures. Sawa was an adventure for me. It is the freest I have ever been. It is a place where you learn so many things and so many characters. I was never sick in Sawa except for one time, just after being there one month. Around 154 of us students lived under one roof, every one of them came to visit me and they took care of me in their own ways. That was one of my emotional moments. That is when I realized that you can never be alone in Sawa. We were like a big family.

➤ **-You went from Science to Social Science and Arts, was it challenging?**

People's opinions were exactly that. It was a change for me. It was not challenging, as a matter of fact it added an exciting turn in my life.

➤ **-Law career after graduation?**

Honestly, it was a different world. An independent and observing one. I thought of it just as a career. But it is more than that actually, it is a life shaping constituent part. One thing I have learned is theory is way different than the world out there. Back in my junior and high school years, I lived on books. I was a loner and didn't have many friends to play or talk with, so I drowned myself in books. That world where I was living in was a beautiful imaginative world, and Law school was like that for me. After graduation, when the stories I learned in theories became reality, it was different for me. I was going to be the one who dictates a person's life. That decision I make is going to influence people's lives in positive or negative ways. It was scary at first, specially recently as I became the judge for the Central region court. After graduation I did my community service as an associate judge of criminal bench and later was assigned as a legal adviser at the head office of the Ministry of Justice in the department called legal services. As there is reassigning, I went to judgeship.

➤ **-It was hard at first?**

Yes, people don't really like it when I am handling their cases. They look at me, how young I am and how small I am, they just don't accept it. I tell them that it not my age or size judging them, it's the position I have. In our culture's perspective, we picture a judge as an older person, well reserved, calm and wise. All they see is a young lady handling their cases. So yes, sometimes it can be hard.

➤ **-Do we have many female lawyers?**

I don't have the statistics, but I don't think that we can say we have the right number yet. Back in college we were not many. Now they are all working in different positions, some became prosecutors, some of them became associate judges and are working in different parts of the country. However, I think the numbers are increasing each year because the batch behind us were many in number. So the numbers are growing.

➤ **-Anything else you want to say...**

One thing I learned in life, anything you wish or hope for, once you get it, it is never the same. I have changed my motto from a future based to present based. It used to be the other way around. My future was everything to me before I got older and knew the better of the world. But now my future is truly going to dictate my future. And my present I own it.

➤ **-Thank you Sabela**

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**Q & A-On the 20th anniversary of the Dept. of  
Anthropology and Archeology...**

Written by Billion Temesghen  
Saturday, 09 September 2017 01

**In the past 26 years of independence one of Eritrea's major undertakings has been educational advancement and so now from one university there are eight colleges of several disciplines.**

**It has been 20 years since the department of Anthropology and Archeology was introduced in the Eritrean Higher Institution system. It produced many graduates of whom some are contributing to the discovery and conservation of**



**historic wonders while some others are teaching and nurturing young future professionals. Eritrea is located in the intersection point of three ancient civilizations it acclaims its substance in connecting the history of several civilizations: Africans, Arabs and maybe Europeans.**

**In celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Dept. of Anthropology and Archeology we speak today to the department's former student and today's instructor: Dr. Robel Haile.**

➤ **-How did you end up studying archeology?**

The passion started when I was very young. My history teacher in high school (Mr. Alem Gebrekal) was a big inspiration. His history classes were so fascinating that every student would end up being a history enthusiast. And then when I joined Asmara University, in the first semester of the freshman year, we had a common course of anthropology and there I came across another great inspirational man. If you are an Eritrean student then you would know Professor Abebe. You know how his classes are; he literally reminds every student that there is so much to be done in Eritrea and of the paramount importance Eritrean anthropology and archeology hold. Therefore Professor Abebe's class made me ardently want to be an archeologist and, in some small way, make a difference.

➤ **-What about the biggest impact of them all; I know you have an experience related to your field, which is worth sharing.**

I am sure you have heard about Metera. It is an important monument with inscriptions dating back to safely some 2000 years, and that's the least. I was still a teenager when the

Ethiopian offensive broke on May 25th 2000. For the 3rd offensive I enrolled in the military while I was semester of my freshman year. My unit had been deployed in Senafe for the 3rd offensive in 2000. I was 19 years old then and I had already sat in Professor Abebe's class. So I realized that we were in one of the historically rich zones of Eritrea. Of course it is a luxury to even think of archeology amidst the war but often times some classes would flash in my head as we moved around Senafe. Like everyone else there, and the people of Eritrea in general, we were so angry that a new era of invasions was instigated when we just had come out of a long armed struggle for independence. Anyways, as we were the last unit to withdraw from Senafe I walked close by the famous monument of Metera and I was so excited to have walked so close to Metera. We reached Adi Keih, and then I heard on the news that Ethiopian soldiers destroyed Metera. I was so sad. I was one of the last people who saw Metera standing for the last time. I did not know whether I was going to get out of the war alive but I thought "if I ever do, I will make sure I will tell people about how history was bestially destroyed.

That move made me want to learn archeology and stand for the remnants of humanity. I mean, Ethiopia does have knowledge of the importance of archeology. Haile Selasie was the one to set an archaeology institute for the preservation of cultural heritages in collaboration with many French professionals, and yet again, they just blew a TNT bomb and destroyed something that could have been a link to their own heritage. In few words I was angry but mostly sad.

➤ **-What happened to the monument?**

There is an international norm for UNESCO to protect such heritage, so it did protect it, but it was kind of late because it

took them some two or three years. The reason was that the Ethiopian soldiers had planted bombs in the surrounding area.

➤ **-And what happened to you?**

I went back to school and joined the Department of Anthropology and Archeology; I graduated with the 4th batch. My dream job was to be a member of the junior faculty, sort of a GA, and teach. In 2010 I went to Japan, studied in the Osaka University and got my PhD. I want to mention another professor I admire greatly, Prof. Eisei Kurimoto and JICA office in Asmara. Now, I am back home teaching archeology in the college of Arts and Social Sciences of AdiKeih, CASS. Every time I teach I fill full filled. After all, I came a long way, and a big part of my life is connected to the Department of Anthropology and Archeology. An emotional journey, no doubt.

➤ **-Now give us a hint of how your department handles the teaching learning process.**

Every college in Eritrea is located strategically; our colleges are located in places that are pertinent to the fields of studies housed in them. Location is a smart lead for students to incorporate theory with what they see and experience on the ground. Likewise, CASS is situated in Adikeih, one of the archeologically rich areas of our country. There are two ethnic groups there, which is a plus to the students of social sciences and history, while students of geography can benefit from the marvelous topography, landmarks and the vegetation of the place.

I represent the Department of Anthropology and Archeology, which I love so much. I would say that it is one of the thriving departments of Eritrean Institutions of Higher Education. The department was founded in 1997. It started so small and the

good news is that it has stood successfully for so many years. We celebrate this September its 20th anniversary. Speaking of its current state, I would say that, the potential is immense. In other departments the faculty members are mostly expats. Differently. In our department we mostly are Eritrean nationals. The fact that gradually the number of Eritrean faculty members is growing gives me pleasure.

The students are extremely brilliant. I think we have to work harder in triggering their curiosity because I believe that in comparison with foreign students, the curiosity of our students is a bit lower. However, they are extremely committed to their studies and are very responsible. The way our department handles the teaching learning process is rather fascinating. We have camps outside of the campus; we receive invitations from communities to live with them for a couple of days and experience the life style, and we have expeditions to excavated areas and archeological sites. In general, we have so much more to do outside of the class room, and that really boosts the enthusiasm of our students.

Eritrea's geographical location makes it important factor to understand the Nile civilizations, the Axumite civilization. In the coastal area all the way across the sea there is the link with Arab civilization. Other factors would be the excavations so far attained pinpointing us back in time to the prehistoric era. We are in an important location and we need to work in enhancing our own capacities and work on international relations because archeology is also about partnerships and academic linkages.

➤ **-Anything you want to say at the end Dr.?**

Well, first of all congratulations to my professor, instructors, my colleagues and my school mates from the old days. I wish that in the coming 10 years the Dept. of Anthropology and

Archeology grows to match international standard and be a center of communication with universities around the world. My thanks to my mother Tsigeweni Berhe, my two older brothers Tedros and Girmatsion, my wife and five children.

➤ **-Thank you!**

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