**8.**

**Aba Restom: A priest from St. Antonio, Keren, Eritrea**

**Lina: How do you know my mother?**

**Restom: I knew her from the time when she came to get your birth certificate. She used to come to Keren and one day it was very hot and I saw her. She was uncomfortable. I decided to help her immediately. It had to do with the change of names in the baptismal certificate and yes, I was able to find the correct name in the registry and then he fixed the problem.**

**That’s how I met Lucia, and from then on, I would come to see her. During the colonial period there was no birth certificates made available for *meticci,* half cast children, but yes to the baptismal certificate.**

**I helped her and she was grateful to me.**

**I also knew that she knew Abba Simon. I told her that I would bring the certificate to her at home. That was our introduction.**

**Lina: How was she as a person, a woman?**

**Restom: she would call me about this certificate, she cared about me, she would call me and ask about me. She always welcomed me at home, she is generous, and kind, took care of me like a mother.**

**Then you came to Keren and we met and got to be friends. Whenever I came to Asmara, I would never leave without seeing/visiting her. She was kind and here she had many people that she took care of. I saw many people coming and going. Her health troubles her. She seemed always tired, I remember that when she came to Keren the sun was bad and she was weak, I offered her a place to rest. Lucia did more to me than others, it was her attempt to thank me, and we got to know each other.**

**She always remembered things about her children, her husband and many others. She loved to tell stories**

**Lina: Are there like her?**

**Restom: She was special *filiti* (different), she was different. She continually helped me many times even though she did not have to, but helping her once she does more to you in return.**

**Restom: She had different character and habit, good habit in that she never forgets people. She makes herself available to me and many others, if one is poor, they can expect help form her. She put people before her.**

**Lina: After all of the court cases etc, I say that her own family did bad. The court is won. Five years of work and headache. I ask why her family did not help me??**

**Yet her friends help me more than her family. That pains me, I never thought I would find this behavior in Eritrea.**

**Restom: They should make peace with you because you could in fact help them. A&L did not want anything from them. Doing bad we cannot win, if it is not yours it is not. Life is short, I will give you advice. There is no time, you did do good, I can say find her friends and see what they have to say about her. Her friends will tell stories about her time from Sudan who knew her and spent time with her.**

**If you do well it stays, but if you do bad it stays.**

**Restom: her friends will inform you more about Lucia. I really do not know much about her.**

Lina: I want to write her history, a short history.

Restom: Short, when I come, she welcomes me into the house openly and gladly. I felt at home here. She welcomed me as if I did a huge job but not really, besides I am a priest and do help all. Yet she felt it were good and great.

I really advised her and helped her about the certificate. It was not too much trouble; the paper and it was not hard to get it.

Lina: I told him the story of the Italian priest in the Sudan and how he tried to help Eritrean/Italian children.

Lina: An Italian man would offer his name without anything attached. This was done through the Italian embassy in Khartoum.

Many *metticii* (half caste kids) did leave the Sudan and went to Italy. The Italian priest was worried that we would convert to Islam.

Lucia had no idea what the whole thing meant. I saw that it was all there and now I came to know what had happened.

Lina: I have some information already about Lucia from the film now I am adding to that from the interviews. It will take time,

Restom: *Erdadata* (collection) of facts data and information, I cannot help you too much, it should be the people who knew her and those she helped.

You cannot get much from me., except how we met and we became friends.

I used to come and she would welcome me but always as a guest. There are others who knew her better. So, for the book, you have to look for other people.

Today you cannot find all of these people, but go and ask people who knew her through Internet and ask people.

Lina: My mother was a good human being. She never asked who they were but immediately extended her hands to help. Most of all she loved her country, really loved her land.

Restom: I have family here, but I preferred to see Lucia, where I would rest and eat something. It was my preference to come to her house. I cannot leave the city without seeing her. I feel that close to her like my mom. I call her and she wants you to come and see her. I wish I could help you more.

You can hide something bad but we always remember the good since that was all that is left to tell.