

Introduction to his interview:

Asmara May 2019, I am Daniel Berhane; I got acquainted with Lucia Tesba through *my friend* Maakele Haile.

She came back from Sudan to Eritrea, her country. Maakale was driving her around in his taxi. Lucia was like a mother to Maakele. The two of them were the nicest people who often met, supported each other, and were honest with each other. I began to visit Mama Lucia occasionally and establish my ties with her. In our Eritrean culture, one can establish relationships not simply through blood, but strong friendships can result in being brothers and forming a family.

Unfortunately, we are losing some of our good traditions and cannot maintain good, *the* honest habits that surpass selfishness and self-interest. Yes, we won our freedom from Ethiopia, but we lost our traditions and free expression.

We are left with the bad habits from Ethiopia, we won our freedom and now we must give up the bad habits we inherited.-We must drop what is not ours and restore the Eritrean meaning of family. We are losing who we are and losing our tradition, and now, *all of us* must reestablish our traditional idea of family. When I visited and spent time with Lucia, I recall how she disliked this current bad culture *of habits* in Eritrea. All she wanted was to reestablish the goodness of Eritrean culture in a post-colonial era. Mama Lucia loved everyone, impoverished people who needed help, and *whom* she could assist.

I heard that Mama Lucia raised and educated 21 children in Sudan, children from diverse religions and nationalities. There is no greater truth about goodness than this fact alone. We remember all this goodness about Mama Lucia as the fruit of her work. May God bless her soul; we will not forget her as a living presence among us.