

HERE IS MY PEACEFUL WORLD

(Original)

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It was turmoil, battle and violence killing. It was an experience of conflict all year long in my community. Gunshots, clashing of machetes and blood bath was the order of the day. Running several kilometers with bare feet, I struggled with my feeble and wobbly legs. My tongue completely dried up in my mouth. Fear engulfed my entire body. I could never tell if I would survive to see the next day. Many children were orphaned by the constant and unending feud, many were killed just when they barely opened their eyes for the first time on earth.

There were series of dialogues and mediations, these yielded no fruit. So I woke up one day very determined to contribute to build peace and end violence. I decided to use indigenous ‘tools’ from the two feuding communities to pass the message of peace and love for one another. I compiled songs from all the indigenous folktales and folklores that border on peace, love, charity, forgiveness and care for one another. I also developed some other songs from the native proverbs and chanting.

Though seen as a youth and might not be listened to, I met my father and told him I had a message of peace that I would like the elders to hear. He listened to what I had to say and agreed I should go further with it. On the next dialogue day, I came with my message of peace in songs, parables and folklores. After my presentation, the message sank deep into their hearts. One of the songs requested them to reflect on what they have done to themselves and to their fellow humans. They could contemplate on humane means of settling scores other than being barbaric.

The next dialogue day when the two parties in conflict met, I was asked to go there. I was nervous when I began by telling them I came for peace and not for war. I appealed to them

to give peace a chance. Fortunately, they permitted me but reluctantly. They recorded every bit of my songs and folktales. I was able to shape their minds towards peace in my own little ways. They asked me to repeat every bit of it, I obeyed. Though they were happy to see that I was determined to bring peace to the land of the fighting communities, they were all overwhelmed with guilt. My goal was to build a sustainable peace. I returned home very happy. I barely rested when the elders from my community sent for me. They wanted to learn more about what I had done. I updated them and added more to what they heard before. They were excited, this led them to sponsor me to make fliers and records. I did it. The next day, the songs and recitations I had done was shown on TV and announced on the radio.

I was encouraged by the outcome, so I did more by adding drama and sculpting to the program. I could not do all these alone, so I made all the youth who were interested in my cause to be involved. When I noticed we had made impact, I crossed to the other community that was fighting with us and got more youth from there into the group. All the songs, dance and other performances carried the message of peace. We also performed in village square of many communities in addition to the two communities in conflict. Our performances and the whole program yielded results. The fighting communities agreed to embrace peace. They continued to coexist peacefully. A world of peace is all about love, care, forgiving one another and to live in harmony. We, the youth can build peace in the world today by coming together to spread the message of peace. We can make it happen everywhere. I have many unforgettable performances with strong messages of peace. Looking at how I started, the young people can come together to use our creativity and innovation to find solutions to the main causes of conflicts that affect our hearts, our homes, our countries and the whole world. Why don't you give us a chance?