

Philemon Lamunai

„A stream flowing to the mountain”

It was in the month of September, 2017 that I received this call to be a disciple of Jesus. Even if He calls me from my mother’s womb, that was when I responded positively to this calling of servanthood. One evening I went into my bedroom, sat on my bed and was reflecting on my life. So many questions were coming into my mind. Therefore, I started to ask myself several questions; What is happening to my life? Am I going to live my life this way? What will happen in my future, or God what is your plan for my life? Not realizing it, tears started rolling down my chin. It was after some years that I prayed by myself for the first time, but this time with countless tears asking God to show my path and make it a new beginning.

I never dreamt of becoming a priest. My calling was like a flowing stream whose course they change, diverting it against its own current. After completing my grade 12 in 2011, I did not receive any offer to foster study at a college; therefore, I had to stay home. I did enjoy the life at home, but in a wrong way and manner, and I thought that was all life was, is and would be in the future, not knowing that I would be in the seminary some years later. I spent six and half years at the village doing all unhealthy practices, namely drinking, smoking, and doing all sorts of bad practices that young people usually do to make life sweet and interesting. But worst of all I never attended mass, and even did not go for the sacrament of Confession in order for me to receive the Holy Eucharist. It was only when I attended the “Come and See” program at Malmal Parish, and then I was selected to enter the seminary in the mid-September 2017 that I went for confession and then received the Eucharist after some years. It was such a quick and sudden call which leads to instant conversion that when I was trying to reflect and understand it, I still failed to understand it because it is the mystery of God’s love and mercy. All I know is that Jesus calls sinners to be His disciples, and of course He came for the sinners, not the righteous. That was the simple reason why I title my vocation story “A stream flowing to the mountain,” because the title best describe my vocation and suitably reflects my life.

Nevertheless, in my childhood, I had an outstanding experience which I believed that Jesus was really present in me. I did not realize it for many years. It was not until I was in the seminary that I discovered it. It was after much prayer, meditation, and reflection that I came to recall that inspiring experience. When I was in the elementary school in the year 2001 we had a thanksgiving mass and we were asked to play a drama in the church. In the drama I acted as Jesus hanging on the cross calling those who are weary and overburdened to come to him and shoulder his yoke because it’s not heavy and burdensome. While I was singing my part on the drama which was, “Come to me this way where you will receive the love and the glory and you will enter the Kingdom of God.” While I was singing my part on the play, also being nailed to the cross, people started crying especially the mothers. I could not help seeing those crying, so tears started rolling out of my eyes. When I was reflecting, I came to ask myself this question: the play was normal, but why did they cry? What did they see that I did not realize? Or to simplify it, what was their experience? That little experience is one of my greatest motivations in my seminary life, in my vocation, and on my journey to my ultimate destination.

„A stream flowing to the mountains” is the metaphoric statement which best describes my vocation and suitably reflects my spiritual life. In that fact, it is also the title of my vocation story. Simply because every stream flows down to the sea but my stream had returned its course to the mountains. Therefore it runs back to its foundation, where it came from, and surely it will reach the peak of its mountain because now it flows to where it pleases. I am filled with great joy and peace as I continue to swim against the current of my own stream.

I am prepared to face my present and future with love in response to God’s call. I came to realize that God has a great plan for me. As it has been stated, that what God has plan for, humans have no right over it, not even myself. However I need to play my part, and God will do the rest. All I need to do is to submit to Him in trust, hope and love so that the stream will reach its mountain solemnly...Thy will be done.