

STORIES FOR HOPE

<http://www.storiesforhope.org> • ph: 734.678.5512 (US) / 0788260317 (RW) • email: ppasick@gmail.com

Transcript of an Audio-Recorded Conversation in Post-Conflict Rwanda

Participants:

- Ingabire Pascaline
- Umuhoza Fanny

Relation: Mother

Relation: Daughter

Facilitator:

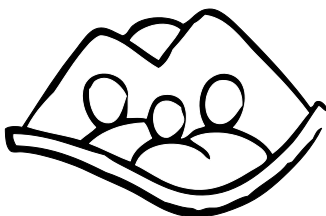
Date: August 2009

Recording Location: Kigali

Story Number: SFH0073

NOTICE:

- This transcript contains personal reflections and remembrances of Rwanda's culture and history and is exclusively provided with the participants' permission.
- Alteration or manipulation of content (which includes the creation of derivative works) is expressly forbidden.
- Individuals may copy this transcript solely for personal, noncommercial use and must provide full attribution to Stories For Hope and include Stories For Hope's contact information with any reproduction.
- Parties interested in other uses of this material please contact Stories For Hope.



STORIES FOR HOPE

<http://www.storiesforhope.org> • ph: 734.678.5512 (US) / 0788260317 (RW) • email: ppasick@gmail.com

(Ingabire Pascaline & Umuhoza Fanny)

Story Number: SFH0073

Fanny: I am called Umuhoza Fanny and I am here with my parent Ingabire Pascaline. She told me that she fled the country and went to other countries. I want to ask her why she left for those countries and why she returned to Rwanda. I want to hear the story of her life, how she grew up as a girl because there are many distractions out here I want to know how she fought off these temptations and managed to live well with my father. Thank you, mum you can have your say.

Pascaline: My name is Pascaline and this is my daughter Fanny. Indeed it is true what she is saying. I had to flee the country in 1959 for Burundi. I lived in Burundi and grew up there. My dear child I tell you my mother died when I was still very young and I was raised by my father. He told me to always carry myself really well and avoid temptations. He reminded me that I was an orphan. I came back as a returned like all others. We went through a lot.

Fanny: Could you tell me specifically what you went through for instance, as refugees what problems did you face.

Pascaline: The problems we faced as refugees were not easy. We witnessed many challenges. We used to work for people so we could get food. We met many hardships particularly for me since I was an orphan with only one parent. Eventually life came back to normal; we were resettled and given land where we could grow crops, then after a while we came back.

Fanny: Did your mother die when you were young? Did she die at birth or did she die after? How old were you when she died?

Pascaline: She died when I was three.

Youth: I am curious, how many children did your father have? Or how many wives did he have? I want to know the biography of my grandfather. How did he die? I also heard that mother died but you never said how. Did she die after she gave birth to you? Did she die of AIDS.

A conversation between Ingabire Pascaline and Umuhoza Fanny

Pascaline: Did you mean grandmother?

Fanny: Yes

Pascaline: Grandmother died long time ago. By the time I was born she was already dead.

Fanny: How many girls and how many boys did your father have? How did they die and how did your father die?

Pascaline: Father gave birth to five girls, as I told you, mum had died long before. When we got to Burundi, father took care of all of us. He eventually died recently three years before we could come back to Rwanda. He died of sickness, nothing else.

Fanny: You have told me that your father gave birth to five children. What was he doing to support you all?

Pascaline: Father was a peasant. He used to plough the land. Of the five children, only two are left the other three are deceased.

Fanny: Did the three who are deceased pass on because of sickness?

Pascaline: They all died of disease.

Fanny: Am glad that you have shared all that with me but you never gave me the details of... Were you born in Rwanda or you said you were born in Burundi?

Pascaline: No, I was born in Rwanda.

Fanny: Where in Rwanda were you born?

Pascaline: I was born in Butare, in a place called Nyaruguru. They fled with me when I was three years old. When we got to Gasenyi that is where my mother died. After she died, she left me with father. He never even found another wife. He just took care of all of us. He found a wife much later after I got married.

Fanny: How did you find a husband, my father? How did you meet? Am sure you were approached by many men who you might have rejected. Tell me about what you went through to become a mother. I know that out here there are many young men who could have approached you. How did you choose my father and how did you eventually live with him?

A conversation between Ingabire Pascaline and Umuhoza Fanny

Pascaline: Your father lived in Tanzania. It is my elder brother who connected me to him. After a while they came together to see me and we talked and agreed on it. After this we moved in together.

Fanny: You mean all he had to do was talk to your brother and meet you once and that was it.

Pascaline: He came and had a traditional introduction ceremony where he asked for my hand in marriage from my parents and they accepted.

Fanny: I know you have 5 children. Where did you have the first child and how did you raise them? Tell me how you did this so that I can know what I will do with my family in the future.

Pascaline: My first child was born when we were in Bujumbura. My husband was a handyman he made a decent living and we were able to take care of our child very well. After this were had you and now you can see that you are all grown up and lies

Fanny: Do you think am old enough to... Well thank you for sharing what you have shared today. Am curious if you have any questions for me - I have asked all my questions.

Pascaline: All I can tell you is that I grew up an orphan without my mother to raise me and teach me things. You are lucky to have me and this is a blessing. I want to warn you because in this city you have heard how girls behave and what they do. I want to warn you that you should avoid temptations and wait until you are married like your mother was. Don't take short cuts and end up with HIV or pregnant then end up in a bad situation.

Fanny: Thank you

Facilitator: Thank you very much mum for sharing the good information. It will be very helpful to her. You told us that you went through so many problems, including going to exile. How did you persevere through all those problems to the point where you got married? What advice do you have for her to learn from your example?

Pascaline: The advice is patience. In the same way that I was raised as an orphan, I didn't have a mother to tell me what to do. Only my father was the only one who could give me advice. He would say my child, behave yourself well and you will find a good partner, don't go into these games. So I have no other advice for her except to protect her virginity.

Facilitator: Do you have an story, parable or proverb you would like to leave her with that relates to your life so that she can always remember that her mother taught her this lesson.

Pascaline: The proverb I leave her with is "He who is patient, enjoys well ground grain", if she is patient she will enjoy it too.

A conversation between Ingabire Pascaline and Umuhoza Fanny

Facilitator: Would you like to relate this proverb to an experience you have had so that she can equally apply it to her life.

Pascaline: Well I went through a lot and as I told her that, “He who is patient, enjoys well ground grain”, I was patient and I ended up with my own home. Likewise if she is patient she will be able to live well and become a successful person. She will be able to have her own children and set a good example for them in a home like the one she saw me keep.

Facilitator: Do you have any other question for your mother related to the discussion we have had.

Fanny: I don't have any other question. All the questions I have I have asked and she has answered. She has also given some good advice about the good and bad life she has been through. However there is something she did not explain in good detail. You mentioned that you fled the country, in what year did you flee 1953?

Pascaline: No, 1959

Fanny: Ok, 1959. You haven't told me exactly why you fled the country. Did you flee war, hunger – there are many reasons why someone could flee their country. What made you flee Rwanda?

Pascaline: We were fleeing the war in 1959 there was war going on and we left this country fleeing that.

Fanny: Was that war based on ethnic divisions like the one I hear of in 1994? Or was it a war that just hacked everyone?

Pascaline: No, it was based on ethnicities – it was selective just like this one.

Fanny: Thank you, to my parent for the advice and words of warning she has given me. There are many things that she has told me about her youth and all her life since he was she was born. She has never seen her mother face to face but I am thankful that my mother has been able to see me while she is alive. I thank her and I think God even more for creating her. I am thankful that she gave birth to me and has raised me to this point. Everything I am today is because of you. That's all thank you.

Facilitator: Thank you all. I feel that our discussion has come to an end, unless you have something to add. Thank you for participating.

Pascaline & Fanny (at once) : Thank you.