

幸福來訪時組 第三名 / 蔣茹茹 (傳播一)

Have you ever had a close friendship or relationship with someone from outside of your own cultural and/or ethnic background? How did you meet and what have you learned from your friendship with this person?

My Friendship with a Kenyan Girl

The Visitor reminds me of my Muslim friend Amina, a Kenyan girl who once studied in Beijing. In one minute, past memories flooded in and I decided to write and share our story.

The first time I met Amina was at a private party. There were about ten people and Amina caught my attention at first sight since she was wearing a robe with a turban, while others were in T-shirts. A mild smile was shining on her black face when she introduced herself.

Amina was from a Kenyan family in which there were nine children and she was the middle one. Since she was young, she had a great interest in airplanes and aimed at becoming an aviatrix. Though her elder sisters and brothers all received little education, she persuaded her father to support her studying abroad. She abandoned MIT's offer of mathematics major and chose to study aerospace at Beihang University in China.

Her experiences deeply touched me and I was amazed that she was fluent in six languages including Chinese. We talked with each other happily and exchanged WeChat ID during dessert time.

Several days later, I invited Amina to Tsinghua University, at which I was a freshman. We traveled to some intriguing sites on the campus like the auditorium and the lotus pond. We stopped at the pavilion at the center of the pond to rest and I did a further interview on her.

She really appreciated living in Beijing where she made many friends and visited many places of interest such as the Great Wall and the Palace Museum which deepened her understanding of China. After graduation, she would leave for America to get her pilot's license.

Knowing that she was a Muslim, I took her to the campus Muslim canteen for dinner. She thanked me for being a great guide and for the considerate choice

of diets. Before long, she returned to Kenya, bringing me a handmade wristband emblazoned with flag of Kenya and my name in tiny colorful beads.

I am now at NCCU as an exchange student while she is in the US. As the old poem goes, “A bosom buddy afar brings a distant land near” describes how we bless each other from different sides of the world.

That’s also similar to the friendship between Walter and Tarek, as well as his mother Mouna in the movie. At the end, although Tarek and Mouna return to their home country which is filled with turbulence, Walter still plays the drum Tarek left for him and prays for the son and her mother. What they once experienced together will be precious memories forever.

Even though we are from various cultures, nothing can impede our friendship since we have the same belief in love and truth. That’s what Amina and *The Visitor* taught me, and I have implicit faith in it.