



Closing the year with a letter to my husband:

Birhin, I am down on my knees after almost 38 years begging you to come back. Our kids look at me and dread July 15th of each year because of the sadness I am left with.

How can I explain to our own kids and to strangers that after so many years I could not find anyone to understand me before I even try to explain the pain and the dreams inside me? Only you did.

You loved me for my self- confidence, my intelligence and because I always dared to tell the truth to power around me. You never felt overpowered. You did all you could to make my weak points stronger and then



*We sat side by side in the morning light
and looked out at life together*

you stood on the side to let me shine. I love and miss beyond words a man like you; my only friend and the only one who could make me feel that I belonged to the top of this world.

You were the only one who told me that my beauty was God's given gift. And you told me to pair it with intelligence, sophistication and humility and put it at the service of our people and country. You were my first love, my only husband, my first everything and the for-ever charming man who could make my knees tremble and my heart skip so many beats!

You loved every broken pieces of me and put it back together. You looked through the prism of possibilities I did not even know I had. You stood on the side and smiled when everyone turned their head to look at me and you were always fully confident that I was yours and yours only.

Today my legs have fine spider vein, but I know you would take me with all the fading of age. You would look at me and tell me the same words you told me – on our wedding day that far away time at the Municipality of Asmara - :“I have a stunning wife”.

Tell me then my love: who am I without you? You know well that my life is only a make-believe. All I do is never enough to bring you back and to find the peace at heart you wish for me. There is no need for a particular day to remind me how special you are for me. The stars always shine whenever I think of you.
Happy Birthday to you love on this upcoming Christmas day.

I end my letter with words you would tell me : “I will be near you, for I am not at the place where my bones and ashes are. Watch for the signs my beloved. I am always with you”.

Forever loving you, your wife Kiki

End of this 2015 year

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