

³Recommendations based on this research, later became a Law Reform Commission report to Government in November of that year. The *trokosi* practice was specifically stated to be a crime under the criminal code in the latter part of 1998.

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God's Gift of an Answered Prayer

Ten years ago, I was seventeen; just a baby myself,
when I had to approach my the Lord above and ask him for help.
I said, "Father, I am with infant, what ever am I to do?"
He said, "My child, you're first priority should have been school."
I replied, "But Father, I can feel movement of a miracle within."
He says, "I'm sorry, but you have committed a sin.
I trusted that you would make the right choices in your days,
but whatever you were attempting to accomplish, was handled the wrong way.
Now you must live with what you have done,
and your sacrifices will begin to mound from that one evening of fun."
The moment came; nine months from the time the baby was conceived.
He was the most precious little dear; way beyond my belief.
I wrapped him securely, and cradled him in my arms.
I thought he was protected, and sheltered from harm.
I would have been so relieved just to feel him breath,
but my Father spoke and told me that the baby had to leave.
The tears fell uncontrollably as they rolled down my face.
I pleaded for the Lord not to take him, and break my embrace.
I said, "For the rest of my life, I will do whatever needs to be done.
Please, Dear Lord, return me my son.
Dear Father, I beg you to grant me this one asking prayer.
For this pain is one that I just cannot bear.
You have not only taken my heart and soul; he was my everything."
Then, as I gazed toward the floor, I heard the flapping of an angels wings.
The angel spoke to me with the softest and gentlest of tone,
and told me about the long journey that he had flown.
After our conversation, he vanished; never to return,
unless he is my ten year old that is now named Vern.