



Family Apart, Family Together

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 The Asia Foundation



Nanoy was hardworking, intelligent, and dependable. He lived with his parents and his sister in a simple house next to a rice field.



“Nano-,” Nanoy’s mom started to call him, but he appeared before she could even finish saying his name.

“Yes, Mama? Do you need me?” Nanoy asked.

“Wow, you got here so quickly,” Nanoy’s mom said, surprised. “Can you take out this rice I made so we can all eat?”

“Yes Mama. I’ll go call Lina as well,” Nanoy said as he quickly served the food and went to get his sister.



“I’ll do the dishes after we eat,” Nanoy said.
“Don’t worry about them, I’ll do it. Go play with your cousins next door. They’re waiting for you,” his mom said.



"Thank you, Mama," Nanoy said as he dashed out the door to play.



The next day Nanoy woke up and looked for his dad.

"Mama! Mama! Where is Papa?" Nanoy asked. He couldn't find his father in the bedroom or living room.

"Papa left too early!" Nanoy said.

"Nanoy, Papa left early because your uncle found a better job for him that's far away. He will be there for about a month," his mom explained.



"Papa didn't even wake me up!" Nanoy lamented.

"He said he'd call when he got to work," his Mama, who was also upset, explained.

"It's because we have a lot of expenses these days, son, and your Papa also works long distance for you."



“We want to send you to a high school in the city and buy your sister and you all the school supplies you need,” his mom continued.

Nanoy thought about what his mom said.

“Papa will call soon,” his mom reassured him.

Nanoy’s face brightened with a smile.

“Okay, Mama,” Nanoy said, understanding his Mama’s explanation. “I’ll help you with the chores here at home, Ma. I’ll also help prepare the snacks you sell.” Nanoy grabbed

the *winnowing basket* that was hanging on the wall.

winnowing basket - a basket used to separate dirt and peels from grains like rice



"I'll prepare the snacks. Go do your homework, and help Lina with hers too," his mom said as she began winnowing the rice. "Okay, Mama," Nanoy replied.



“Nano-,” Nanoy’s mom called.

Again, Nanoy arrived before his mom had finished saying his name.

“How do you get here so quickly? You’re so quick!!” his Mama exclaimed. “Have Lina and you finished your homework?”

“Yes, Mama,” Nanoy replied.



For the rest of the month, Nanoy looked for ways to take care of his mom and his sister. He studied hard and even when he played, he always had one ear listening for his mom's call. He was always right there when his mom needed him. She never needed to call him.



One day, Nanoy's friends invited him to go fishing at the lake. He had been wanting to go boating, fishing, and walking at Bato Lake for so long.

"I'd love to come, but I promised Mama I'd help her in the kitchen today," Nanoy said sadly.



"Na-"
Mama called as Nanoy appeared by her
side.

"Yes,
Mama?" he replied.

"Nanoy,
Papa called and said he's finished with his

work. He'll be home tomorrow. When he gets home, we'll all go to Lake Bato. I know you've been wanting to go for a long time," Mama smiled. "Lina told me you could've gone with your friends but you didn't because you had promised to help me. That's very thoughtful of you Nanoy, but you don't need to take care of me. You're a kid, I want you to have fun with your friends too."

"

Okay Mama. I can't wait to see Papa!" Nanoy exclaimed, jumping for joy.



The next day, Nanoy woke up at five o'clock in the morning. When he saw his Papa, he hugged him very tightly.

"Thank you, Papa, for going far away to work for us. I'm so glad you're home," Nanoy said cheerfully.



"I heard, son, that you are helping your Mama here at home, so today we will go to the place you have wanted to go for a long time. We will go boating and fishing with your Mama and sister Lina at Lake Bato. We're going to have a picnic right after. I asked your Mama to cook your and Lina's favorite dishes: tilapia picadillo and laing."

"Really, Papa? Yehey! Yehey!" said Nanoy, jumping for joy.



They spent all day at Lake Bato. Nanoy couldn't stop smiling.

Nanoy shouted excitedly when he caught a fish and his family smiled. Nanoy's smile grew even bigger.



Nanoy couldn't have asked for a better day than spending time at Lake Bato with his family. It was perfect.



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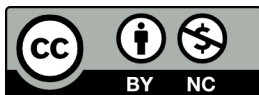
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Original Story

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