

Baro lives on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. He awoke early in the morning by the sun's rays shining through the gaps in the corrugated iron house. As he sleepily looks through the cracks he can see the red dust already dancing through the air. He no longer hears the loud beeping of the laden trucks driving past, full with goods to be sold, nor the general buzz of people waking for the day.

Baro wonders what this day will bring. His life combines begging and boredom together. Sometimes he has a good day and can buy some food to eat, sometimes he has a bad day and has to steal to satisfy his hunger. The reason he does not know what this day will bring is because of a strange encounter with a man he had the previous day.

The man had approached him and given him some money. He was white, but he was also very friendly. Baro was not used to that. This man had attempted to speak to him in his own language and had asked him why he did not work. Baro gave him the answer he always gave to that sort of question. His parents died in a fatal bus crash when he was young. He was left to find money to provide for himself. Nobody wanted to help him. School was not an option so he had to live off the street.

The white man had asked him to come to his place of work. Baro did not really know what to expect. Could this friendly man be trusted? Anyway, he had learned to run fast so if need be, he could make his get-away.

As the sun started to rise above the rooftops he left his house with its rusted corrugated iron and walked to the area where the workplace was. He was familiar with the neighborhood; he had often wandered along those roads looking for food. Although his stomach is empty, he is not thinking about that now.

The white man is standing by the door. It looks as though he is waiting. There are other men from his race there. Some have planks in their hands. Others are banging planks of wood with a hammer. They are busy removing something from the wood. Baro is allowed to enter and cannot believe his eyes. He has started on an adventure.

First of all he is given two injera (Ethiopian bread). He quickly eats them up and drinks his warm tea. After that the man tells him that he is looking for someone to do odd jobs in and around the building. Baro accepts the invitation.

A Month Later

Baro looks out the round window with trembling. The white man is sitting next to him, two of his colleagues from the workplace are sitting in front of him. Even though he is not alone his stomach is still churning as he slowly sees the clouds passing. This time he hears the roar of the engines which propel the airplane through the clouds.

There he is. On his way to Sydney, Australia. He has never even heard of this city before! But that is where his new boss lives and he, Baro, is allowed to go with him. Wow! It is incredible what has happened in such a short time. As the roar of the airplane engines becomes more constant and the plane is running smooth, he starts to feel the excitement rise in his heart. What is going to happen? The first thing he notices is that everything is a lot cleaner in the new world. The airport, the roads, the city, the people. What is also strange is that the vehicles drive on the other side of the road. That was scarily dangerous when he first tried to cross the road. Fortunately, the white man called to him to watch out.

Baro is awakened by the first rays of sun. They shine directly into his beautiful room. It is sooo quiet and still. His body does not want to wake. His new boss had said that when it is light in Australia, it is dark at home and vice versa.

In his room there is a bed and sheets. There is a shower! And don't forget the switch for the air conditioning. The heat simply leaves his room thanks to that. Everything here is so different. As Baro finally gets up and puts on his new clothes, a big smile appears on his face. Papa had said the day before he died that God had a plan for his life. If he would search for God, he would find Him. Baro searched for God every day but could not find him anywhere in the city. That was until his Ethiopian friend at work told him that he knew God. Since that day his life changed; just as if he had lived in darkness while somewhere else in the world the light was shining.