

Exam Failure Praying

Make the prayer, my father tell me last night at our aiga lotu, so I make the prayer and say to God our Father, you look after us tonight and so on. I am good at the prayers because, since I was a tiny boy, my father he get me and my brothers and my sisters and my cousins for to learn how to make the prayers. He also get us for to read from the Holy Book until now I am sixteen years old and am the expert in the reading of the Book. My father he always tell us that the prayer is always a help to us for to pass our exams in school. He instruct us for to pray before every exam, so from primer one at our Sapepe school I pray and up through the standards and up to form four at the Catholic high school, St Josephs. My father he don't like the Roman Church but he arrange for me to go schooling there because I don't get good enough marks at form two for to go into a government high school. He really want me for to go to Samoa College where all the clever students go, but I fail and it is the first time I disgrace my father and my aiga. This time I commit the second disgrace. Last month I sit the form four exam and even with all my prayers I still fail it and now I am too afraid for to tell my father and my aiga. Last night I was going for to tell him but I do not get enough courage from God for to do it. The form four exam it is very important, because if you do not pass it you are not allowed into form five

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and so on. All day today I spend in our plantation and pretend for to work. I am so afraid and lost for what to do. I am a disgrace. My father he spend all his money and life trying for to get me through school and here I am a failure. My father tell us that in Samoa if you do not have a good education you go nowhere and get no job or even go to New Zealand to earn much money. My father he want me for to be a government scholarship student and go to New Zealand and become a lawyer. It is the desire of every father in Samoa for their sons to do this. In my aiga only my cousin Uili he is able to go to New Zealand on the scholarship but he only return as a plumber with the palagi wife who soon get sick of the village life and go back home with their two children. I am the oldest so my father expect me for to pass everything and be the good example to the young ones. But here I am the failure. Perhaps I shall go and hang myself like that other boy in Salamumu I read about in the *Samoa Times*. Perhaps I shall go and drink poison weed-killer like that other boy in Vaivase who I read about too. But there is still hope in the prayers. I shall keep praying to God for to enter into my father's heart and make him forgive me when I tell him about my failure. If our loving God He does that for me, I will try for to pass the entering exam into Malua Theological College and study for to be a pastor like my uncle Samani who is very loved and respected by his village, Savaia. Samani he never been to high school but he still pass Malua College so with the help of God and my humble prayers to Him I too can pass and become a Man of God. If I become that I am sure my father and aiga they will all love me because being a Man of God is more worthy than becoming a lawyer. Tonight at our aiga lotu I hope for to receive enough courage from our Loving Father for to tell my father and aiga about my failure and the bad disgrace I have again brought to them. If I do not get the courage I do not know what I am going to do.