

mosques. We were glad we had joined a day tour and at that point, I think Via was glad she was not staying overnight.

The first place they took us to was the "Medina," otherwise known as the market. It was quite interesting, very long, narrow and muddy. They sold everything, from baby clothes to chickens hanging down with heads still intact, from horses' heads to slices of fruit with occasional flies. Then I saw this vendor and I could not resist taking a picture of her. Can you blame me? As soon as I took her picture, the lady vendor next to her threw this small piece of fruit at me and it hit me so hard on my chest that I was hurting for about a half hour. Since the tour was moving along fast, I initially didn't know what hit me. I was so stunned. I wanted to hit back but I remembered the Bible saying, "He who casts the first stone" Sorry, I can't remember the rest, but it calmed me down. Later on, I found out that another girl in the group had taken a picture before I did and she also was hit by a fruit in the stomach. As I related this to Tita Mitos, she told me that Moslems do not want to take their pictures taken because they feel that part of their soul goes with the picture. Why didn't you tell me sooner? Then I could have avoided being the first Laico that ever got stoned. Or am I right, Popoy?

So the moral of the story, read up on a place before you go there or risk being stoned.

The one who got me stoned.



Name that Laico! by Cristina Flores

1. She had an argument with a suitor who had given her a 14 karat gold bracelet, so as soon as he left, she threw the bracelet in the *kanal* (a stinky ditch). Is that why they say she ditched him?
2. She was reprimanded by Mama, so the following morning she wrapped her clothes in newspaper, put them in a paper bag, and revealed her plan to run away from home.
3. She was caught scooping water from the toilet bowl using a *tabo* (water ladle) and pouring it generously over her head.
4. She would lie down on one of the steps and peacefully nap there.
5. She put her foot into an old boot and had a screaming duet with the mouse she found huddled in there.
6. She would hide under the table and pick her ear with a hairpin.
7. The poor dog rolled over in pain after she fed the poor thing a burnt cake she had baked.
8. He had one of the sisters spray an insecticide on his Afro to get rid of the lice.
9. She would get up in the middle of the night sleepwalking, having a nightmare, or dancing ballet.
10. Two neighborhood friends idolized him so much that on Saturday mornings while he was still snoozing in bed, these friends would already be waiting for him, sitting in the driveway in their pajamas.
11. She had an admirer who we nicknamed "Kidlat" (Filipino word for lightning because his huge eyes were bulging out) and another one named ATO whom she who she claimed was a genius. *Talaga ba?* (Was it really true?)
12. Until she turned about 5 years old she was always terrified and would panic when she saw a bald man.
13. Papa delighted in making her sing *Nagpapando Ang General, Si Don Pepe Ikakasal*. It's still her favorite song, by the way.
14. She was a thumbsucker until she was seven, and developed a big callous on her thumb.
15. Have you ever seen someone dancing on plates? Well a Laico sister did!

(answers below)

Answers:
1 Nini 2 Bingbing 3 Bibot 4 PeeWee 5 Bingbing
6 Mitos 7 Bingbing 8 Popoy 9 Rory 10 Chicho
11 Ching 12 Nonon 13 Malu 14 PeeWee 15 Nonon