

My Favorite Filipino Word

When I was a little boy, I used to scratch my head or any part of my face rather than cry every time I feel annoyed, disappointed, or forced to do something I can't give any thoughts about. My mother noticed this and refrained me from this habit. Feeling much obliged to her, I scratched my head one last time and decided to find the best possible alternative. I consulted my father for this and he responded by teaching me the art of the 'wordly actions'. He explained that sometimes saying something is as good as doing it. I got the idea, so ever since, instead of the actual scratch every time I'm unhappy or bored, I just say to myself, 'kamot'.

Eventually, it became my most used unspoken word. The fondness that I have for the word is inexplicable. I can't get enough of it, the word comes out of mind in almost every occasion. I even sometimes commit the mistake of speaking it out aloud and cause myself some trouble. Yes, indeed it is my favorite. Nevertheless, it's not the fondness or frequent usage of the word that made it as such, it's what it reminds me. It perfectly reminisces the image of a little boy scratching his head, trying to be strong not to cry despite the odds in front of him. It reminds me the virtue that I have acquired from the innocence of my childhood. It makes my ignorance of pain, failure and pressure stronger, because deep inside I know that whatever it is, I could just scratch it away.

*'Kamot' in English means scratch.