

5 years at Sea



and you learn from him.

Ronaldo, a Filipino fisherman, has been home to see his wife twice in the last 5 years (going home only to renew his passport and travelling documents). To make matters worse, he hasn't been paid for the last few months and two months ago, his father was killed. As I speak to Ronaldo, one cannot help but notice the wounds his soul bares. As I look into his eyes, I do however notice a glimmer of hope that he will soon be re-united with his wife. I invite him to play a game of pool with me, to which he responds "not sure really how to play". I explain the rules as best I can- he however ends up beating me. I enjoyed meeting Ronaldo and I enjoyed speaking to him and learning from him. You see, five years is a long time to be away from your wife and father, but to have been through what has been through and to still be content in life, it amazes me, and it humbles me. Ronaldo will see his wife in the next two weeks, and has been paid his outstanding salary as well as some extra money thanks to the ITF.

This is the situation for so many fishermen, all over the world, some have it better than others, and some have it far worse. So what do I say to a hurting man, with deep wounds, yet still hope? Nothing, you play a game of pool (let him beat you ;))