Hope in a Tap

While reflecting on this piece during *World Teachers' Month*, I initially planned to draw stars and planets to symbolize hope. Honestly, I have not drawn by hand in a while and am not very confident in my skills, so I just wanted to practice. As I was mindlessly doodling my ideas, two unexpected images emerged that completely shifted my direction around the word *tap*.

First, the hand I tried drawing pointing at the sky accidentally became a hand reaching out to touch a shoulder. Then, perhaps with the looming El Niño on my mind, I doodled a faucet tap.

That second image got me thinking about how we function as educators. Teachers are always giving, but we cannot pour anything if we are empty inside. A faucet is only as effective as its water source. When pressure is low, the water merely drips; when the supply is high, it flows freely. Hope in our hearts works the exact same way. We cannot share or preach hope if we are feeling barren. To channel hope to our students, it must first be alive in us.

This connects directly to that second tap—a gentle touch on the shoulder. As teachers, we do not always need grand speeches. A simple nod or a tap on a shoulder means the world to a student. That small gesture is pure affirmation and consolation. It signals that we are truly present for them, proving that teaching is not just a job, but a real mission to spread values, virtues, and hope.

When we help students feel and hold onto hope, they can see their future much more clearly. Sometimes, all it takes is a steady inner reservoir and a simple, caring tap on the shoulder.