

FIND YOURSELF A “PERSONAL NATE” OH!

YOU NO MAKE MISTAKE OH! You read the title correctly. I did mean “**NATE**”, as in, the short form of the name “**NATHAN**”, not “**MATE**”. I am, by no means, encouraging anyone to find themselves an instant, “by force” companion à la “**Come And Meet Romance Overnight**”! What I am strongly advocating, is for each of us to make sure we each have someone in our lives who is **EQUIPPED, COMPETENT**, and “**AUTHORIZED**” to play the role **NATHAN THE PROPHET** played in **KING DAVID’s** life. I’m pretty sure we all know the story, but I’d rather not take any chances, so I’ll do a quick recap of the events that occurred, prior to NATHAN’s “August Visit” to the KING!

- In TATA DAVID’s Day & Time, the “policy” was for Kings to LEAD their men or army into battle but instead of going along with his men to war as policy demanded, GALANT BOBE “**dodged**” and stayed home! (No be so trouble dey take start??!!)
- Oga don dodge war finish; You would think he would at least spend the time at home reading the Torah, praying, and playing LUDO, nah?? For woosai!!!
- Having been absent from Kindergarten on the day the “MISS” taught the song “**OH BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES WHAT YOU SEE**”, (Clap, clap, clap), he, carried himself to the roof of his house and proceeded to “perambulate”, “banza” and “swag” around!
- As e dey cut dah malondo/mouvement so, na so e eye too dey pass-pass and BAM! He spied Bathsheba – koocha, chewing-stick, titi pail and all, taking her bath! There was still time to “**TEAR TRACK**”, do a gear back-back and beat the fastest retreat in history at this point but, “**Teh geh djom**”! Nahting! He decided “ohdahwise”. Result? Bathsheba carried belleh!
- Time to come clean and “fess up”, right?? **KEM**!! Instead he goes into “COVER UP” mode – which does not work since the ULTRA DEDICATED soldier that URIAH, Bathsheba’s husband is, cannot be cajoled and enticed into enjoying any marital comforts while his “fellow combatants” are away at war.
- Finally, what does Baba DAVID do? He orchestrates the poor man’s murder and marries his wife!

(Dina Bell be check say e see weti? Sotey e be dey cry-cry, dey lock man e ear wit:

“Ewand’a mi oh, na eh, na eh, na eh; Ma fiancée oh-oh, na eh”

Ebol’a mi oh, na eh, na eh, na eh; Mon travail oh-oh, na eh” ???!

In his case, na only e Fiancée and e Work wey dem “EH PACKAY” for e hand! He, at least LIVED to sing away his woes! Sango Uriah was not so fortunate; He was flat out “killed dead” and “sent to his grave”, à la “OLD ROGER”! (NDUTU!!)

Now, quite some time has elapsed; DAVID and BATHSHEBA are officially “an item”; De whole WAHALA is behind them right? SO THEY THOUGHT! But that is just when **NATHAN THE**

PROPHET lands! The man did not **chew-chew** him his mouth oh!; neither did he “**SWAH**” the Mighty King! He **CONFRONTED** and **REBUKED** David for each “piled up” sin: **LUST, COVETOUSNESS, THEFT, ADULTERY & MURDER!!** This was certainly NOT an easy thing to do, because the result could have been DEATH! (Just ask **John The Baptist** whose head wound up on a platter because he was bold enough to call Herod and his “njumba” Herodias out!! There is however **ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT** that, in **SPEAKING THE TRUTH**, he did DAVID a HUGE FAVOR! We only have to see the degree of David’s CONTRITION in **PSALM 51** whose “INTRO” reads,

“For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.”

to perceive how **SINCERE** he was. David **MAKES NO EXCUSES**, (à la ADAM, as in: “It is the eyes that THOU gavest me, that causeth me to sin”!!) He **TAKES FULL OWNERSHIP** as he cries out: **“Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior ...”**

How much more remorseful can a person be?

And by the way, this wasn’t exactly the first time **BRO NATHAN** had showed up on David’s verandah at Jehovah’s request, with “Unpleasant” news oh! Remember? David had already bought all the timber and nails in deh whole wide world, **READY** to build the Temple, when who came and said the task was to be his son Solomon’s, not his? Dis very **NATHAN**! And David heeded and obeyed that time too. Soooo many **LESSONS** to learn here, but I’ll stick to the 4 most obvious:

1. **WE ALL – WEHDA KING OR KPAH-KANDA, NEED OUR “PERSONAL NATHAN” oh!**
Someone who will be honest, willing and bold enough to **come to us** (NOT “go tell it on the Fako Mountain, Over Dibanda Hill and Every whe-re”) and **SPEAK THE TRUTH – IN LOVE**, even at the risk of falling out with us, **INSTEAD** of filling our ears with what makes us feel good!
Na so flatterer go tell you say you bad for sing, wey you no even know “Do re mi”, only for you to go Audition for a spot in American Idol, **LEFF MARK**, get chewed and spit out by **SIMON**, and wind up disgracing ya whole family, kwata, village, country and continent!!!
2. **TO BE ABLE TO NOT JUST “FIND” but “KEEP” a Worthwhile NATHAN, we must have the right attitude:** An attitude of humility, and a willingness to value a **RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD** above the worry of “losing points” and “looking small” before mere human beings. Looks to me like **NATHAN** is the kind of Prophet who would have done as God bid him do, regardless, but I bet his task was made much easier, by the fact that he was dealing with a man who – despite all his flaws, had a **HEART FOR GOD**! If that “**EMPEROR**” in the well known Fairy Tale “**THE EMPEROR’S NEW CLOTHES**” had not

been so pompous and uptight, someone may have been able to APPROACH him and give him the 411 that would have prevented him from parading his Royal Makandi all over the land!

Na so some person go comm'ot for WOLOA wit their whole skirt stuck inside their undahwear or between their "dicotyledons", and no one has the nerve to go to them and say "Sistah! Thy Mbondo (with the accompanying stretch marks and eczema), showeth!!"

3. **IF GOD CALLS YOU TO BE A NATHAN, YOUR "METHOD OF DELIVERY" & TACT, CAN BE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE MESSAGE ITSELF OH!**

NATHAN did NOT just come up to DAVID and say "You Shwine a Monkey! You Bombastic Idiot! You Beast of No Nation!!! He told a whoooooole long parable about a Rich Man & a Poor man first oh, just to "prepare the way"!

(2 SAMUEL 12: 1-4) The UNSUSPECTING David listened well-well and understood the wrong done by "The Rich Culprit" in the story well enough to condemn the man's actions with fiery righteous indignation, only for Nathan to tell him "YOU ARE THE MAN!". (Way no be day for David for change mot ahgain!!)

4. **IT ALSO HELPS, A WHOLE LOT, FOR "A NATHAN's" MOTIVES TO BE OBVIOUSLY & UNDISPUTEDLY PURE!** In fact, a PRE-EXISTING, SOLID & CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP PRIOR TO "CONFRONTATION TIME" definitely matters A LOT, as opposed to –

Ah nevah evah take mah eye see you no one day, or ALL I have ever heard from you is VICIOUS/UNCONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM, and then you just show up in my "parlor" for "san time" with a boisterous "AH SAY EH, MADAM!", and then dare be surprised when I come out "spitting fire", armed with "ZWA-ZWA"/"FUNGE" and a CUTLASS!! Here's a "personal" example of what I'm advocating:

When my sisters and I had the Thanksgiving Celebration for our parents last year, my Dad, (God Rest his soul), was so moved and touched that, after all the guests had left, he sat my 2 sisters and I down and WEPT as he thanked us and told us - together, and then "one by each", how PROUD he was of us. That is why, when he told us, THE VERY NEXT DAY, that ALL 3 of us – ESPECIALLY ME, have to "TRY & LOSE SOME WEIGHT", there was NO WAY what he said could be interpreted as a "cosh" or a "put down"!! How do you misinterpret or doubt the intentions of a man who, unable to drive his 40 year old daughter to Limbe from Douala, (where she was visiting him at the time), because his "ekehteh" would not start, sent his house help to "chattah" her a taxi from "QUATRE ÉTAGES" there in Bonaberi, and then, when it showed up, proceeded to copy down the Taxi's License Plate Number, and every single line in the Taxi Driver's "Carte d'Identité", before he would let her get in the cab??!! NO WAY, NO HOW!! I see this every blessed day with the High School "kids" I teach. I do "SCOLD" and "YELL" at them from time to time, and I may be wrong, but I want to believe that the reason none of them, (in 22

years), has ever deflated my tires, egged my car or just straight up given me a “duhty slap”, (as they have been known to do to others for much less), is because they do not question my motives – which are to make sure they sit up, do the work expected of them and GRADUATE!!

Make GOD Put han’ dassoh, and May He grant us the GRACE and HUMILITY to “Tolerate” if not “APPRECIATE” the “Nathans” he sends to us, as well as help us Be BOLD but HONEST & Loving Nathans to those He sends us out to!

BLESSINGS,

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo