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Sent: Thursday, September 02, 2010 1:41 AM
To: exsa_usa@yahoogroups.com
Cc: exssa_mal@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [exsa_usa] DIS WAKA ON TOP WATA PALAVA

“HERE COMES JESUS” was one of my favorite songs in Saker Baptist College; In fact, it still is! I love it because it chronicles four of the most familiar Events in Jesus’ Earthly Ministry, (His walking on water, His feeding of the hungry, His cleansing of the leper, and His ultimate sacrifice on Calvary), presenting His actions back then as a firm basis for FAITH & TRUST in His capacity to work the same miracles in His children’s lives TODAY!

For some reason, the song popped up like one of those VH1 “pop up video” bubbles in my head the other day. Its first verse, obviously, is centered on the riveting narratives recorded by the Apostle John in verses 16 to 21 of the 6th chapter of his book, by Mark (Mark 6:45-51), and also by Matthew (Matthew 14:22-33). The story is quite well known but, like with ANY scripture, it is simply AMAZING how much one can glean, squeeze and draw from even the stories and memory verses we think we are “tired of hearing”. I sat my behind down and read this “JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER” story again on Sunday and I am absolutely delighted that I did because, not only did I find the facts and LESSONS I remembered refreshing to go over, I found quite a few things that I had overlooked before, which had just simply skipped my attention in previous readings! Here are some of them:

1. DE DISCIPLES DEM SEE PEPPER OH!: To understand how much “suffer” these men went through, it is necessary to look at the events that happened just prior to this Boat Trip across the sea. Jesus had just fed the “5,000”! I put the “5,000” in quotes because, as even the cheapest Concordance Bible will tell you, this 5,000 number EXCLUDED women and children, as wey WOMEN’S LIB no be don be dat time, and na “Segregation by gender” be dey reign. In keeping with the Jewish customs of the day, man pikin dem no be dey chop wit woman dem for public any how, and pikin dem be dey chop wit deir Mammy dem so the actual total number of people fed that day is estimated at between 10 and fifteen thousand. If you re-read the story, you’ll notice that Jesus “looked up to Heaven, gave thanks and broke the loaves; Then **He gave them to the disciples and THEY (the disciples), gave them to the 15 thousand people!!!**

After this part of de tori sank into my brain well-well, I had to go on my knees and repent for all the grumbling I did in Saker each time I had to “serve” the other 9 people on my table! At least, I was inside a Dining Hall with fans; these people were out “undah (Middle East) burning sun”! According to my Walmart Calculator, (as wey ah no go fit do me long division wit chalk and slate dis evening time), 15,000 divided by 12 is 1,250, which means each disciple be “divide chop” for about 1,250 people, with NO DRIVE THROUGH OPTIONS! Even na TACO BELL or WENDY’S seff, no be so again!! No be all dat oh! According to St. Mark, dis very disciple dem waka gahda 12 big-big basket dem of “left overs” – surely after Mammy dem be don tie some for inside headtie for take go house, à la “Galilee Doggie Bag”!

So, na after all dis wahala wey Jesus tell dem say make dem entah de “Awara-wara” boat go befo’; say e go “catch dem later”!

Ah sure sey as dem shiddon inside de boat, they were thinking, “Finally! Some Peace and Quiet”! FOR WOOSAI!!!! As John says, “a strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough”. They rowed 3 ½ miles from the shore, it was dark, they were tired, their boat was buffeted – as in “na capsizе dis dey cam! This was no “row, row, row your boat **GENTLY** down the stream, and there was absolutely no “MERRILY, MERRILY, MERRILY, MERRILY” involved in de mattah! And before you attempt to downplay the gravity of the situation, remember that majority of this group of men were SEASONED & SKILLED FISHERMEN who were used to the water so when dem talk say e be bad, e be really bad!! Could it get any worse??!! CERTAINLY, because, dem only wan see, na some PAPA (not Mammy) WATA dat dey do “DE AQUATIC (not Electric) SLIDE” dey cam on top wata towards them!!!! Of course they assumed it was a GO-GO!! Just think about it:

In Saker, we had “OPTIONS” when GO-GOs were spotted. You see GO-GO for King House Annex, you run go enter GEBAUER or HENDERSON wehda na your dormitory dat or not! Some man halla “GO-GO” on de way back from an EFIK CHOIR spiced MIZPAH Evening Service, one half of de line run go back for church, de ohda half run through de field go for dormitory, (since GPS no be dey for tell we de exact location of de GO-GO)! Now, put yourself in the place of these disciples: dem dey for middle wata inside boat, and na Sango GO-GO dis dey cam; DEM FOR RUN GO FOR WOOSAI NOH???!!!

2. STEPPING OUT OF THE BOAT: I have always interpreted Peter’s stepping out of the boat to be just a display of the usual “FORWARTY” for which he is known. I have completely changed my mind about de whole mattah and here’s why:

- The “more comfortable” “wiser” or “safer” thing to do, from a human point of view, would have been to STAY in the boat, since there was a raging storm, and that is what the other 11 disciples chose to do. In my opinion now, Peter seems to be the only with enough Clairvoyance, Trust and Faith to realize that he was really safer and more secure on the rough waters WITH Jesus, than sitting inside a “somewhat more comfortable boat” WITHOUT Him. WHAT A LESSON!

- Peter didn’t just run out of the boat like a “stupid nyamfookah”; He realized this “Waka-Waka” thing would only work if Jesus GOT INVOLVED; which is why, BEFORE he ever ventured out of that boat he said to Jesus: “**COMMAND** me to come to you on the water”, and it is only after Jesus said “COME”, that he dared to step out! ANOTHER BIG LESSON for us, if you ask me!

3. LOSS OF FOCUS: Verses 29 & 30 of Matthew 14 caught my attention. Here’s the quote: “Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he **SAW** the wind, he was afraid ...” Based on my Primary School Poem “Who has seen the wind? Neither you nor I”, I am pretty certain Peter did not **SEE** the wind per se; What he saw and dreaded is the EFFECTS of the wind, and before he knew it, he began to sink! He was doing just GREAT until he committed the grave, yet common mistake of **taking his eyes off Jesus** which is why the popular hymn urges us to “Turn our eyes upon JESUS and Look FULL in His wonderful face”, so that earthly distractions will grow dim and we will be able to FOCUS ON THE GREATNESS OF OUR GOD, instead of on the magnitude or gravity of our problems.

... TO BE CONTINUED (Tori long, Time short!)

God Bless You ALL!

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo

From: exsa_usa@yahoogroups.com [mailto:exsa_usa@yahoogroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Egbe Monjimbo
Sent: Friday, September 03, 2010 1:59 AM
To: exsa_usa@yahoogroups.com
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Subject: [exsa_usa] DE "LOKO" ON TOP WATA TORI CONTINUED!

My dear Sisters,

I really do appreciate your kind comments and I cannot thank God enough for the Gift of His word that is, indeed, A LAMP UNTO OUR FEET and A LIGHT UNTO OUR PATH"! Here, as promised, are the rest of my thoughts on the "JESUS WALKS ON WATER" narrative recorded in the Gospels.

4. CRYING OUT TO GOD FOR HELP: It is no secret that Jesus and de Pharisees dem no be see eye to eye at all. One thing Jesus kept trying to point out to this "rigid" and RITUALISTIC group of people is that, having a TRUE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP with God, (who looks at our hearts and is NOT impressed by our outward appearance) , far outweighs a rote participation in rituals and blind adherence to rules, regulations and "protocols". We may criticize these Pharisees but many of us have the same mentality and exhibit the same tendencies. To me, no aspect of our Christian Walk is more adversely affected, stifled and even crippled by this "rigidity" than our PRAYER LIFE! I really have no problem with prayers like "BLESS US O LORD, AND THESE "DIE" (THY) GIFTS ..." & "BEFORE I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP ..."! Psalm 23 is an AWESOME psalm, and as for THE LORD'S PRAYER, Sango Himself taught His disciples and us that prayer. However, when these intrinsically GREAT prayers become RECITATIONS ("vain repetitions" as Jesus Himself put it) which we ROUTINELY say from memory like robots with absolutely NO THOUGHT given to the words we are uttering, we are quite missing the whole point of PRAYER, which is supposed to be COMMUNICATING, CONVERSING and COMMUNING with a GOD who ought to be REAL to us! Here's the point I am struggling to make:

- When you are riding in that ambulance with your husband or child barely hanging on to dear life, Saying "Hands toogehda! Eyes Closed!" and then launching into your best rendition of "INTO MY HEART; INTO MY HEART; COME INTO MY HEART, LORD JESUS ..." is so

NOT the way to go oh! and I don't think any "PRAYAH BOOK" written by SOMEONE ELSE will really suffice either!!!! In my opinion, TALKING – more like CRYING OUT TO YOUR PAPA GOD FROM YOUR VERY HEART AND SOUL – in your own kontri talk if you are so moved, is more like it!

That, my Sisters, is exactly what Peter did when he began to sink!! He did NOT recite The Lord's Prayer; He "CRIED OUT, **LORD, SAVE ME**"! 3 WORDS!!! Straight to the point; No time for frills and windy phrases like "Oh God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Hezekiah, Nehemiah, Obadiah, Isaiah, ZEBRUDIAH and all de ohda "-**IAH**" dem!!!! If Peter be waste time for dey list all these names dem, then he would have hit the sea bed by the time he was half done, and nah DIVE as in PLUNGE INTO DE WATA without scuba diving gear wey Jesus for get for go to rescue de poor man!! Think a 3 word prayer is too short to be effective? That cannot be further from the truth since Peter's 3 word prayer *was* answered **IMMEDIATELY**!! Here's the quote:

"... Beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord save me"! **IMMEDIATELY**, Jesus reached out His hand and caught him."

If you are still not sure about "From the depths of your very soul" prayer, all you need do is take a look at the tone and style of THE MASTER HIMSELF's Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, in the thick of His Passion and Agony!!! Matthew 26:39 says "He fell with His face to the ground" calling on His "ABBA", a word which conveys a close intimacy, and which is reserved for parents and children, comparable to the word "Daddy". For anyone who might think it is Jesus' reserved and exclusive right as God's Only Begotten Son to call God "Daddy", Galatians 4:6 unequivocally says: **And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father."**

I am certainly NOT "dissing" Ceremonial prayers; I believe there is a time and place for them but we do really need to get REAL and DIRECT with our Father in times of dire need and distress. In fact, it is more than likely that the "hymns" that Jesus and His disciples sang at The Last Supper were the traditional Passover Psalms which all Jews still sing to this day, BUT when "Jam pass die" time came, Jesus prayed from His Soul!

5. JESUS' INTERVENTION/RESPONSE TO OUR CRIES FOR HELP: Jesus' responses to our pleas are ALWAYS PLANNED ahead of time, and they are IMMEDIATE, even though the actual visible or physical manifestation of His "behind the scenes" work may not be evident till "THE 4th Watch". Here's why I think so:

Both Matthew and Mark state that Jesus "**MADE**" the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead of Him. Now, Jesus did give up certain aspects of His Supernatural nature while He was here on earth. For example, He gave up His OMNIPRESENCE, confining and restricting Himself to only being in one place at any given time. (E no be dey for Cana dey turn wata into wine, while also asking De woman of Samaria to give Him some wata at de same time!) However, one of the powers He did NOT give up is His OMNISCIENCE! He **KNEW** what people (the Pharisees,

Nicodemus, etc.) were thinking in their hearts; He **KNEW** Judas would betray Him; He **KNEW** that Peter would deny Him 3 times, etc. It is therefore obvious that He **KNEW** the disciples were going to encounter that raging storm YET He **MADE** them get into that boat and go on ahead **WITHOUT HIM**. He was definitely aware of their distress from the second it began, and knew they were struggling; He also certainly **KNEW** he would intervene, (just as He knew He would intervene in the lives of Mary and Martha when he “tarried” and “wasted time” until Lazarus actually died and had been buried 3 days!) We, just like the disciples and Mary & Martha, sometimes just have to cope and deal with our “NDON” and “NGEUH” till that “4th Watch”, (the equivalent of 3 a.m. Massa!), which is when Jesus “FINALLY” came “loko-ing” on the water to rescue the distressed disciples!

LESSON: JESUS DOES NOT PREVENT or ELIMINATE trials and hardship from our lives (why would He when they are the very things that build up our faith?); However, EVEN BEFORE the troubles hit, He has a clear Action/Rescue Plan that He is more than ready and able to execute – IN HIS OWN GOOD TIME, which is ALWAYS, the best for us as well! Our problem is that, we want to fill up a whole ledger with our requests and then give Jesus a fountain pen, asking Him to put His signature on the dotted line on the last page as a guarantee that He will deliver on all our wishes; WHEREAS, what we ought to do is sign our commitment on a **BLANK** ledger, hand it over to Him, and give Him COMPLETE/TOTAL CHARGE, CONTROL AND AUTHORITY to fill it up with what **HE** sees fit and knows is best for us!

6. STEAL AWAY AND PRAY: Matthew tells us that, after the disciples got in the boat and sailed away, “HE (Jesus) WENT UP ON A MOUNTAIN SIDE **BY HIMSELF TO PRAY.**” Jesus did this OFTEN, and even in the Garden of Gethsemane, He asked His disciples to “Sit here, while I go over there and pray”. Yes, the Bible does talk about “when 2 or 3 are gathered in my name” and we are admonished NOT to forsake “the assembling of ourselves together” but there is NO DOUBT that ONE-ON-ONE TIME with God is VITAL, not just recommended!

7. OUR WITNESS: As we dey sing dat “My name Christian, My name Christian, My name Christian for ever” so, make we know sey people deir eye dey look we oh! And you better believe that the “looking” (as in scrutiny) is more intense WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING WELL FOR US! “People” are interested in what comes or drips out of us when we are “SQUEEZED”! Remember Job? The fact that He and God were “finger and nail” close when he was wealthy, was NO SURPRISE! What Satan was interested in seeing is how he would react when God took away all that He had blessed him with, and there is absolutely NO DOUBT that our FAITHFULNESS in times of hardship when we are facing trials and tribulations is a FAR MORE COMPELING witness to all – especially to “unbelievers” than when all is well! Our “Waka on top wata” story as recorded in Matthew’s Gospel, ends with this powerful statement:

“And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. **Then those who were in the boat worshipped Him** saying, Truly you are the Son of God”

Those in the boat, (i.e. the other 11 disciples), worshipped Jesus because of a display of His power that came about BECAUSE OF PETER’S BOLDNESS. Peter’s “stepping out in faith” – both literally and figuratively, produced a set of events that gave the other 11 cause to worship

God, and that is something we also ought to be doing: Living our lives in a way that causes people to praise our God!

Well my sisters, I think it would only be appropriate for me to end this “tori” with the words of the song that “started it all” in the first place:

Have a WONDERFUL LABOR DAY WEEKEND!

God Bless You,

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo.

(Still safe and sound in Charlotte in spite of Hurricane Earl rumors. Thank God!)

Here Comes Jesus

1 Here comes Jesus, see Him walking on the water,
He'll lift you up and He'll help you to stand;
Oh, here comes Jesus,
He's the Master of the waves that roll.
Here comes Jesus, let him take your hand.

2 Here comes Jesus, see Him feed the hungry people,
He'll fill your life till you hunger no more;
Oh, here comes Jesus,
He's the answer to your every need.
Here comes Jesus, He will your life restore.

3 Here comes Jesus, see him cleanse the leper,
He'll heal your heart and will give you His aid;
Oh, here comes Jesus,
He's the great Physician;
Here come Jesus, don't be afraid.

4 Here comes Jesus, see Him walking up to Calvary,
He's going to die for you and me;
Oh, here comes Jesus,
He's the ransom for the guilty one;
Here comes Jesus, to set us free!