**THE “MAN KNOW MAN” BLESSING**

**(ASH WEDNESDAY - 03/01/2017 - Ash Wednesday)**

QUESTION #1: How did Carry Class, Lass Coco, IGNA(TIUS), who could never show “the working” of his sums and who copied all his answers from the back of the “LARCOMBE” find himself on the list of the few who passed the CONCOURS into ENAM?

ANSWER: “NA MAN KNOW MAN”!

QUESTION #2: How did full-fledged civil servant, Mammie JAKA(LINA) win the contract to supply bed sheets to the General Hospital when she doesn’t own a business at all? (Not even a FAKE or FICTITIOUS “Letterhead”?)

ANSWER: “NA MAN KNOW MAN”

We have all heard this “NA MAN KNOW MAN” statement pretty often and 99.9 percent of the time, it is uttered with bitterness, contempt, cynicism or outrage, because, invariably, someone feels that someone has benefited from a favor they did not inherently earn, merit or deserve. And, of course, if blame were to be apportioned, I guess both “MEN” – The “KNOWER” and the “KNOWEE”, would be GUILTY - even if to varying degrees!!!

BUT, WAIT A MINUTE: Is this “MAN KNOW MAN” thing ALWAYS or NECESSARILY a bad thing???

May be I should word the question a little differently: Is it categorically and unequivocally WRONG to use “MAN KNOW MAN to achieve one’s aims, goals or objectives?

An emphatic “NO”, is my answer to both questions but before any accusations about advocating or condoning CORRUPTION, NEPOTISM, FAVORITISM and any other “-ISMS”, are leveled, consider this simple situation:

It might make no sense at all to you who simply strolled into SANSUI, LIDO or SUMMER Club one bright “Tea Time” day back in ‘72, gazed into MADO’s eyes and she just “Fell without SLICING”, (as in, “TOMBER SANS GLISSER”), and the 2 of you have been inseparable since, and now have 8 Children, 40 Grandchildren and 3 Great grandchildren on the way, from your 45 year old marriage!! BUT, what about SHY, TIMID, STAMMERING, BARNA(BAS) who could never pluck up the courage to go “tune/brain” BEA(TRICE), the girl of his dreams who he knows is not at all likely to “pick his height” in a room full of other BOY ALINCOs and smooth-talking GALLANT BOBÉs”. What CRIME would he be committing if he chose to enlist the help of his roommate who is the brother of the girl who sits on the same bench as this BEA in Hygiene/Nature study class?? NONE whatsoever! (Call it “MAN KNOW WOMAN” if you want, but it’s the same principle jarré!)

Time to point out one OBVIOUS but VITAL part of this whole MAN KNOW MAN thing:

IT CERTAINLY MATTERS WHO “THE (WO)MAN YOU KNOW” IS!!!! They have to have the CLOUT, the INFLUENCE, the LEVERAGE for the SPECIFIC “mattah arising” oh!

Need to go back to THE GOOD BOOK to fetch examples:

You remember how JACOB ended up with 2 Wives: LEAH, the “HOW FOR DO”, “UNDER MUST”, “BY FORCE” “CROOKERY-BY-NIGHT” first wife that 419 LABAN tricked him into marrying after he "bolo-ed" 7 good years, expecting to marry his darling RACH(EL), for whom he had to work 7 ADDITIONAL YEARS. NOW, if you were a citizen of BETHEL or PADDAN ARAM in those days, and you needed a favor from OGA JACOB; Say you wanted to buy 5 sheep for the price of 2 and OGA J has said “NO WAY”;

BIKO, PLEASE: WHICH OF HIS 2 WIVES – LEAH OR RACHEL, would you approach to help you “put in a good werd” on your behalf????? If you answered “LEAH”, then only 2 things can help you: God Himself (pray to Him for Wisdom as the Apostle James instructs us to, – or a good reading of the part of the JACOB & ESAU STORY where, a very ANXIOUS and FEAR-FEAR JACOB is preparing to face his brother ESAU for the first time after he had CONNED him out of his birthright years before.

These 2 verses in Genesis 32 paint the background of the situation now that Jacob has heard the ESAU is coming to meet him:

7 In great fear and distress Jacob divided the people who were with him into two groups,[c] and the flocks and herds and camels as well. 8 He thought, “If Esau comes and attacks one group,[d] the group[e] that is left may escape.”

With this knowledge in mind, you seff-seff assess what these 2 verses in Chapter 33 imply, and then go back and “angsah” the “LEAH or RACHEL” question I asked earlier!!!

2 He put the female servants and their children in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph in the rear. 3 He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother.

CASE CLOSED!!!

​But Please, allow me open another case: That of QUEEN ESTHER!

You know how “wicket” HAMAN had plotted to get rid of the JEWS, and how ESTHER intervened and the “mbahlock” that Haman had plotted boomeranged and caused his own death at the gallows instead, right? NOW, TELL ME: Do you think the same result would have been achieved if MORDECAI, instead of appealing to his niece, the BEAUTIFUL Esther, (who stood out from amongst the King’s countless “NJUMBAs”), had instead carried his very own bearded face and TANGA BACK FOOT and tried to go speak to the King himself?????

If you answered “YES” then I can at least applaud you for having more confidence in MORDECAI than the Oga had in his own self because here’s what’s recorded in Esther 4:8 on the subject:

 Mordecai told Hathak to show the order to Esther. He wanted Hathak to explain it to her. Mordecai told him to tell her to go and beg the king for mercy. Mordecai wanted her to make an appeal to the king for her people.

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NEED I SAY MORE?

YES ooo, because even though it may not seem like it, I am going somewhere with this whole thing! I really have turn-turned and beat around the bush, trying to stress THE IMPORTANCE OF “MAN KNOW MAN”, when it comes down to LIFE; ETERNAL LIFE!!!!!

Johnny Cochrane got OJ Simpson off with a NOT GUILTY verdict, but even he wouldn’t be good enough for any of us when “THAT DAY” comes!

We would need to KNOW an INTERCESSOR, and not just any hong-hong-hong INTERCESSOR, but THE VERY BEST THERE IS OR EVER COULD BE!

Here are His credentials and if you can find better, holler back at me:

1. OMNISCIENCE: HE KNOWS YOU AND YOUR SHORTCOMINGS, FROM A to Z: You’ve watched “cinima” one million times, right? So you have surely seen several court scenes where an entire case just “pafookahs and quenches”, because deh defendant frrogot to tell or HID a certain pertinent fact from the defense team, and the prosecution just pounced in with exhibit “A” and ... end of story, kpata-kpata, as in, ONE WAY TO THE NGATTA!! THANKFULLY, This cannot happen with SANGO YESU, because he already knows all the DIRT on you, and has already paid the penalty for it all!

2. EMPATHY: It is, very naturally, hard for anyone who hasn’t gone through a certain experience to put themselves in the shoes of someone who has. If you have never suffered the ravages of abject poverty, it may not be easy for you to sympathize, much less empathize with someone who gets embroiled and entangled in prostitution, trying to use the proceeds to put herself and her siblings through school! Homeless, marginalized, misunderstood, insulted and crucified JESUS saw and lived it all, so when we cry out to Him, He understands and can plead adequately for us.

3. NO FEES, NO “PATCHA”, NO CASE OVERLOAD, NO “I DON’T CARE”: Who doesn’t know that, just as there are many who die because they cannot AFFORD adequate healthcare, there are also many innocent people languishing in prisons all over this world simply because they cannot afford a good lawyer's RETAINER FEE??? And even when "ya pocket correct", if the JUDGE and the Legal System are flawed and corrupt, your fate would still be sealed! Also, if you are assigned a competent lawyer who, however, is OVERWORKED, SLEEP DEPRIVED and just exhausted, what are your chances, if not slim? And then, you better know that “yours is not”, as in, “YA OWN NO DEY”, if you have a court-appointed lawyer who has him “better things” he’d rather be doing, and for whom you are just “An Inscription” on some Docket Sheet somewhere.

Thankfully, such is NOT the case with THE INTERCESSOR we are BLESSED to have, as believing Christians, irrespective of Race, Color, or Gender!

HE IS READY, WILLING, CAPABLE and ABLE, to intercede on our behalf at no cost to us, (as in “njo’oh”)!

But how do we know He cares?? I’ll answer that with another question: WHO WOULD LEAVE HEAVEN FOR THIS EARTH, SPEND 33 HARD, GRUELING YEARS IN IT AND THEN HANG STARK NAKED & BLEED TO DEATH ON A TREE FOR SOMEONE THEY DID NOT CARE FOR????

4. “GODASSE” (CLOUT; NAME RECOGNITION; COMPETENCY): This is not a PhD versus FSLC (First School Leaving Certificate), GRAY’S INN versus MUSOLE “IVINING” CLASSES, or NEW YORK BAR versus ESSOS BAR, matter at all! It is a matter of WHO, in GOD THE SUPREME & ULTIMATE JUDGE’S EYES, is COMPETENT, AUTHORIZED & CREDIBLE enough to plead our pitiful case! The BIBLE mentions only ONE BEING that is “SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY” and who has His undivided attention!

This is how 1 Timothy 2:5 and Acts 4:12 just sum up the whole matter, and I dare not add one word to the 2 assertions, for they could not be any clearer!

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

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So when it comes to “MAN KNOW MAN”, I know not any other man or woman for that matter, to trust with my Life beyond the grave . Na all dat!