

THE SERIOUS SIDE OF THE WHOLE “PA RUM PUM PUM PUM” DEAL!

Given that my “last pikin” has flourishing facial hair and that I am very much a JESUS, (not JOLLOF RICE), IS-THE-REASON-FOR-THE-SEASON sort of chick, I really am not very much into "Frosty The Snowman", "Rudolf The Red-Nosed Reindeer", or "Jingle Bells", when it comes to Christmas Carols. I have a distinct penchant for the "Conventional", Biblically accurate Christmas Songs & Hymns. (These days seff, man fit even want sing e "Don we now our **GAY** apparel", dem accuse e of "hate speech" before e even want try reach de "FA LA LA LA" part seff oh! Hmm!) That said, I don't think anyone would be surprised to learn that I had “The Carol of the Drum”, also known as “The Little Drummer Boy”, listed in my Christmas Songs to be listened to only “up-up” category. And why not eh??!! Na which kana song dat wey “rum pum pum pum” dey inside, 21 good times??!! What the heckity heck were Katherine K. Davis, Henry Onorati and Harry Simeone, (Sotey 3 people dem!!!), thinking when they composed the song eh? I still don't know me what they really had in mind, but after paying a little more attention to the song as I sat in road construction-induced traffic the other day, ah don UPGRADE de song, Big Time, to one of my Favorites! Why? Because the NON-“pa rum pum pum pum” parts of the lyrics actually do tell an amazingly touching story which, in my humble opinion, is as “didactic” as any parable ever expounded upon from even the most renowned and loftiest of pulpits, and the messages, lessons and implications are pretty clear and simple, yet SO PROFOUND! May be if I just shared with you, with as much EXACTITUDE as I can afford to, what my “Thought Process” was as I listened to the song, Line-by-Line, you might understand why my esteem for this “Little Drummer Boy” and his story has sky rocketed! Let's start from Line 1:

- “**Come THEY TOLD me, (pa rum pum pum pum)**”: Thank God Almighty for all the “**THEYs**” in the world who have been “**TOLD-ING**” - as in, SHARING & SPREADING The Glad Tidings, from time immemorial, starting with the original, “Kpa Kanda”, Mr. Nobody, Shepherds themselves! There was no “Aaron Ngoe” to interview HOLY MARIA and broadcast the news that “a bouncing baby boy” had been born to her on Radio Buea! There were no Helium “IT'S A BOY” balloons from PARTY CITY hanging outside the stable to signal the event, and there certainly were no FACE BOOK “likes” to greet the occurrence; YET those Shepherds “TWEETED” away by word of mouth, spurred on by sheer JOY and FAITH! And so it came to pass that, a bunch of people who were so looked down upon by society in that day and time that their testimony was NOT even acceptable in a court of law, TESTIFIED to what they had HEARD & SEEN, and de news waka de whole Bethlehem and beyond, sotey e don cam reach you and me!

- “**A NEW BORN KING to see, (pa rum pum pum pum)**”: For this me, as ah shiddon for here so, to have lifted mah one jiggah toe sey ah dey go look any ting, they would have had to remove the words “New Born” from deh whole equation oh! I might go see a FULL FLEDGED KING, complete with scepter and crown and flowing robes, but a “Little Baby In A Manger” wey dem wrap-wrap'am inside "pieces" wey dem just tear-tear, cut-cut'am? I DON'T THINK SO!!! Even in our day, dignitaries don't just up and go pay a State Visit to no "New Born King" oh! E go try “old”, take office first oh!

- **“Our FINEST GIFTS we bring, (pa rum pum pum pum)”**: If just agreeing to go "See Deh Baby, A-A-MEN" be be na PALAVA, why would I bother to take ANYTHING, - even OMO, along, to talk much less of anything that could be referred to as “FINEST”, ah beg??!!

- **“To lay before The KING, (pa rum pum pum pum) ... So to honor Him ...”**: Here we go again with this “contradiction in terms”! Since when is a BABY born KING? Not o dem go call’am “PRINCE” first, and then e go get to wait – sotey e old finish seff like Pa Prince Charles wey wrinkles dem don overtake e whole face at 60 somting, and na still PRINCE he be sotey today – along wit e 2 pikin dem??? It would certainly have made better sense if the visit were to be paid to the PARENTS of this Baby, who “normally”, would be more “IMPORTANT” than their offspring, (à la Queen Elizabeth), but na for dey tori spoil kwata-kwata, as wey, de Papa Pikin in question, na “JOE DEH KAPENTAH” and de Mammy Boy, na “COMMON MARIA” wey no man neva first understand woosai e go carry belleh from oh! Na ting for sigh: “MTWEEEEEECH”, tell people make dem leff you wit da nonsense!!

- **Little Baby, (pa rum pum pum pum)**

I am a poor boy too, (pa rum pum pum pum)

I have no gift to bring, (pa rum pum pum pum)

That's fit to give the King, (pa rum pum pum pum)” ...: De story dey just dey “worse” dey go e yah!! My remarks to the Drummer Boy would have been: “OKAY! FINE! You don decide you for yah heart say dis “Little Baby” wey you dey go see so, Na KING! Fine and Dandy! But you be sabi sey, as a “poor boy”, you no get you no nahting for give dis “KING”, so Wetin you carry yah 2 foot dey go for?”

- **“Shall I play for you, (pa rum pum pum pum), On my drum?”**: In this sweet, little question from The Little Drummer Boy lies the whole “CRUX OF DEH MATTAH”! Herein lies the reason for my “upgrade” of this Carol from “silly” to “PROFOUND” and “MEANINGFUL”! This Dear, UNPRETENTIOUS & SINCERE Little Fella, understood something many of us do not, namely that,

GOD EXPECTS US TO “CUT OUR OFFERINGS/DEVOTION ACCORDING TO OUR SIZE” oh!!! NO GIFT IS, (IN AND OF ITSELF/INTRINSICALLY), TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL, & NO ONE IS TOO POOR OR TOO RICH TO GIVE!!!

The MAGI (Wise Men) came to “salot” this same “Little Baby”, abi? Did they come talking about playing on a drum or xylophone? NOPE! They brought GOLD, FRANKINCENSE & MYRRH! They were KINGS! JESUS HIMSELF clearly “endorsed” this concept when he gladly accepted “Filthy” Rich Zacchaeus’ decision to give half his possessions to the poor, and pay back to anyone he had cheated 4 times the amount (Luke 19), and Mary of Magdala’s anointing of his feet with perfume that was so expensive that “Money Eye” Judas Iscariot wan choke wit vex at the "waste", and then, in Mark 12, we have this "flip side of the coin" narrative that is CRYSTAL CLEAR, and needs no explanation:

41Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.

42But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, *j* worth only a fraction of a penny.*k*

43Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. **44**They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

By the way, this is as good a time as any to note that the "Shall I play for you?" question asked by the Drummer Boy was answered by Mother Mary! The lyrics state: "**Mary nodded, (pa rum pum pum pum)**" ...

Na who give'am deh audacity eh? How could she have "ruled" that it would be a perfectly acceptable GIFT, OFFERING, & ACT OF WORSHIP for this Little Boy to "OFFER" his drum playing skills to the Baby-King? She KNEW firsthand, the HEART of God! She KNEW that A GOD who would "by pass" all the "bettah" girls in Nazareth and ALL of Israel, and choose her, a "Lowly Maiden", to bear His Son, was, is, and always will be a BEING who looks at the HEART and knows our motives and intentions - even in worship, even if the world perceives them differently.

- "**I played my best for Him, (pa rum pum pum pum)**": Nanu Koti, Dear Lad! That is ALL God requires of us!: That we do **OUR BEST** with whatever skill, talent, ability or gift He has BLESSED us with, BEARING IN MIND THAT WE DO NOT COME ENDOWED UNIFORMLY, BUT WE ARE ALL - WITHOUT EXCEPTION, ENDOWED NONETHELESS!!

And how can one forget to note here that, when it came to GOD's turn to give, He offered us **HIS VERY BEST**: HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON!!

No wonder the song concludes with a clear and distinct sign of "BABY YESU's" approval:

"Then He smiled at me, (pa rum pum pum pum), Me and my drum."

HE, - The Drummer Boy himself, *and* the Offering he brought in all HUMILITY & SINCERITY, were both accepted! WOW!

I have hardly made a "trip" to Ma Elizabeth Mbiwan's Memorial Website without stopping by the "LEGACY" page.

<http://elizabeth-mbiwan.last-memories.com/page/4729>

Why? Because the background music on that page is actually a recording of us, singing a Hymn from The Church Hymnary titled, "THE WISE MAY BRING THEIR LEARNING". No doubt, hearing that soprano voice of hers does wonders for me, but what is even more important is the MESSAGE in the song, which is one she never missed an opportunity to drive home.

Incidentally, it fully and convincingly backs the Message embedded in "THE CAROL OF THE DRUM", 100 percent. Here are the lyrics, and I hope they BLESS & GUIDE YOU this Christmas Season and well beyond!

**The wise may bring their learning, the rich may bring their wealth,
And some may bring their greatness, and some bring strength and health;**

We, too, would bring our treasures to offer to the King;
We have no wealth or learning; what shall we children bring?

We'll bring Him hearts that love Him; we'll bring Him thankful praise,
And young souls meekly striving to walk in holy ways;
And these shall be the treasures we offer to the King,
And these are gifts that even the poorest child may bring.

We'll bring the little duties we have to do each day;
We'll try our best to please Him, at home, at school, at play;
And better are these treasures to offer to our King;
Than richest gifts without them yet these a child may bring.

No wanda Jesus said we can't get into the Kingdom of Heaven if we do not have the heart of a child!!!

By the way, we all know the BIG TIME LEBBERS in the Christmas Story who are definitely NOT to be emulated:

- Envious HEROD THE GREAT who sought to kill Baby Jesus and ended up murdering countless innocent infants in the process. (Actually, A man who killed a large part of his own family and arrested large numbers of the most prominent citizens with orders for their execution when he died so there would be GUARANTEED mourning at his death ... e head no be surely correct for inside!!!)

- The Chief Priests & Scribes who glibly quoted Micah when questioned by Herod (on behalf of the Wise Men) as to where "The King of the Jews" was to be born, giving very accurate INTELLECTUAL information, but then, dem no even try shake skin say make dem go at least "investigate" de mattah, to talk much less of worshipping. Ironically, the Wise Men ACTED ON the "411" they got from these "I WAS"/"BALLADS", and found the MESSIAH!

- The Inn Keeper who is mentioned in practically every Christmas Play written or performed, in a very UNFLATTERING light, since he missed out on a GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY to "stand up and be counted"

May these Biblical Principles and truths abide with us this Christmas Season - and may God grant us the GRACE to ACT on them!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU & YOUR RESPECTIVE FAMILIES!

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo

Thanking The Almighty for "THE TWO "C"s: The **CRADLE** of Bethlehem, and The **CROSS** of Calvary which came along 33 years after, guaranteeing my salvation and my eventual reunion

with loved ones who will be spending their FIRST, or YET ANOTHER Christmas with Him in Heaven this year!!!