

WHEDA HE'S STILL THE KING OF KINGS OH?!

It may be just me and the way I perceive things but lately, - in the past year and months, I have had the distinct impression that our Saker Community, (both immediate and extended), has been flooded with Bad News. No sooner does one bombshell hit than the next two or three follow closely on its heels, leaving us with hardly any chance to come up from under the deluge for "French" air! Right now, as we speak, there are 2 Ex-Sakerettes who are yet to be buried, 2 whose husbands have just passed away, 2 whose mothers await burial, and 1 who just lost her daughter. If we go back a number of months, the list lengthens dramatically, especially if we add other mishaps like job loss, health issues and marital wahalas!!

Again, I may be that one odd person, but I have had to make a CONSCIOUS EFFORT lately, to dig deep into my FAITH RESERVOIR and to come up with Scriptures that remind me of a fact that is hard to come to terms with, but which is TRUE nonetheless:

THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH WE FIND OURSELVES ARE NOT A TRUE MEASURE OF HOW MUCH – OR HOW LITTLE, GOD LOVES OR CARES FOR US!!!

I can just imagine the number of people who've just read that and sighed one loooooong sigh ("Tswееееech") and said "leff man da talk", not to talk of those whose eyes have just rolled right out of their sockets! Can't say I blame you oh!

- You who, since Class 5 Primary School, have had visions of a future that included a devoted husband and enough children to name after each of the 12 Tribes of Israel - From Rueben & Simeon, passing through Naphtali and Zebulon, go reach sotey for Joseph and Benjamin, and here you are in your fifties with "none of the above", while Sistah Achaka (as in "achakasara"), who set up residence in LIDO Club, "moofed more bellehs" than anyone can keep track of, and "reigned" all over Fiango is happily married, with a complete Football team of children in tow!
- You who have eaten nothing but celery and carrot sticks since yo Mama borned you, as in, loooooong before Dr. Oz and Oprah came along preaching about a Healthy Diets. You who have never gone anywhere near "cigah" or "snuff" oh! Yet, your oncologist says you have lung cancer, while "AUNTY CHIMNEY" and "SISTAH HAMBURGERS & DOUGHNUTS" are strolling and parading up and down deh junction, with not a care in the world!
- You who showed up for work on time every day including Krismus and Superbowl Sunday, and yet were the first to be let go, while "BROHDA LATECOMER" and "PAPA SO-SO DODGE WORK" have not just kept their jobs, but have been promoted!!!

If I told you that I had an answer for why "bad things happen to good people", I would end up with a nose 5 times longer than Pinnochio's for lying through my teeth. Me seff-seff,

when I contemplate my mother's current struggles with Alzheimer's and think about her FAITHFULNESS and COMMITMENT to GOD all her life, I have to stop and WANDA!! Has God forsaken her, and by extension, all those who are facing challenges and trials too painful even to describe?? The BIBLE tells me "NO!!" – resoundingly, over and over again!

A GOD WHO

- States, in Jeremiah, 31:3 that "I have loved you with an **EVERLASTING** love" cannot love us any less in spite the circumstances we go through.
- Has numbered even the very hairs on our heads, (Luke 12:7), surely cares.
- Has engraved our names into the palm of His Hands (Isaiah 49:16) is definitely interested and concerned and involved in any and everything that goes on in our lives – Good or Bad!

He has promised NEVER to leave us nor forsake us, (Deut. 31:6; Hebrews 13:5) which is why "EVEN THOUGH WE WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH" we are to fear no evil, for HE will always provide COMFORT!! **Contrary to what some would have us believe, the life of a Christian is NOT a pain-free, heartache and wahala-free life. NOT AT ALL!!!** The CHRIST I read about in the Bible I have right in front of me here said to "Take up your **CROSS**" (not PAJERO and/or MANSION) and follow Him, on a road He Himself describes as "**STRAIT**" (as in tight-tight) and "**NARROW**"!! So am I saying He is not a Miracle-Working God who showers us with Blessings unnumbered? No me oh! He sure does that – according to His riches in Jesus, according to **HIS** own perfect will for our lives, BUT He makes it ABUNDANTLY CLEAR that HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT for us, which, in my humble interpretation, means that HIS GRACE is all we NEED, and everything else we get on top of that, na JARA, as in "dash" on top. Understanding and accepting this Fundamental "Bottom Line" is what

- Kept Paul and Silas singing even though they were in shackles;
- Enabled Job to keep praising God both when God "gave" and when He "took";
- Explains the attitude of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the face of imminent death in a fiery furnace;
- Allowed Stephen, the first martyr, to face sure death with such calm and serenity;

Our Father **does** ask us to make our requests known to Him; so we should! He **does** guarantee an answer, BUT it is NOT always the answer we expect or think we "deserve" to get, because there is this **VITAL** part of the whole equation which we tend to forget to take into consideration: **HIS WILL!!** No better explanation of this WILL palava, that JESUS, THE VERY SON OF GOD'S OWN EXPERIENCE IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE!!! SANGO saw amber in that garden oh! He knew what lay ahead, and "naturally" begged His Father to "LET THE BITTER CUP

PASS FROM HIM” and then ADDED these words which we tend to ignore: “NEVERTHELESS, NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE BE DONE”!!!! In this particular case, what was God’s will?? THAT JESUS SHOULD SUFFER & DIE OH!!!! And God Knows that I thank Him every day for not answering Jesus’ prayer (technically), because, if He had sent the 10,000 angels to destroy deh werld and set Him free, from whence would my salvation have come eh, Biko??!!!!

I also THANK GOD every day for those Sisters amongst us who have shown us BY PERSONAL EXAMPLE what a FAITH, ENDURANCE and PERSEVERANCE in a CHRISTIAN WOMAN look like “in Black and White”!! They have not wasted their “suffah”! Instead, they have used the pain they’ve been through, to encourage others who are going through the same difficult circumstances. They may not quite like it, but I am going to go right ahead and cite a couple of recent examples:

- When Sister Harriet lost her husband a couple of weeks back, we all did our best to reach out and sympathize but no email was as meaningful as Sister Rosa Befidi’s oh! I wept as I read it and thanked God that she CHOSE to reach out like she did, literally outlining – From personal experience, the kind of emotions Sister Harriet could expect to go through.
- When Sike lost her son, and now that Sister Doria has lost her daughter, Sister Ruth Bokwe Ayukesong’s efforts to console them both, having gone through the same experience, are certainly commendable.

I will not go into the many examples of Cancer Survivors and relatives of those who (temporarily) lost their battle with the dreaded disease in our midst who call to encourage those going though Cancer Treatments right now, and accompany them to the hospital for chemo, radiation or a mastectomy! Those who have gone through a failed marriage or relationship who reach out to those in similar circumstances and assure them that IT IS SOOOO NOT THE END OF THE WORLD, and that sitting in one corner inside dark, with the window blinds drawn, listening to Linda Rondstadt’s “POOR POOR PITIFUL ME” ovah and ovah ahgain, instead of going to deh L.A. CONVENTION is NOT THE WAY TO GO!!!

As far as I’m concerned, we can build golden Chapels, marble dormitories, a 28th Century library in SBC; Even transform Mbanga Bush into Disney World. That would be FANTASTIC! HOWEVER, if we do “ALL DAT” and yet, are unable to “walk beside”, encourage and strengthen the FAITH of an ailing sister, and uplift her when she is down – morally, spiritually, emotionally or financially, the Love, Unity and SISTERHOOD thing doesn’t make too much sense it oh!!

OH FOR THAT PEACE WHICH SURPASSETH ALL HUMAN UNDERSTANDING, AND GRACE TO KEEP TRUSTING & BELIEVING IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY – NO MATTER OUR CIRCUMSTANCES!!

Yes, E NO EASY, but then which part of Biblical Doctrine is “EASY”??

- TURNING DEH OHDAH CHEEK instead of “backing it back” wit yah own 5 fingah, duhty slap??
- BLESSING those who CURSE you???
- GIVING instead of RECEIVING???
- PRAYING for your enemies instead of dancing Mbaya and screaming “E SWEET OH!!” & “GOD DON’T LIKE UGLY” when misfortune strikes them???

E no easy no small joh, but No be na only for TRY dassoh – by GOD PAWA???

Blessings,

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo