

THE DESTRUCTIVE vs THE HUMANE:

The Ethiopia of Briskela, Kidus, Robel, Seinet, et cetera?

Tecola W Hagos, 13 April 2019

[DEDICATED TO THE BEAUTIFUL, TALENTED, LOVING, HARDWORKING, AND CHARMING CHILDREN OF ETHIOPIA]

Introduction

There is not much we can do about our individual origin. We are already dealt our life-cards and must play those life-cards the best we could. The monsters that lead the OLF with its savage armed thugs must be held accountable for the atrocities committed by them against absolutely innocent unarmed citizens of Ethiopia all over Ethiopia except in Tigray Kilil during the period of the leadership of Abiy Ahmed. There is no question that Abiy Ahmed made serious errors in allowing subversive political groups, such as the OLF into Ethiopia. We hear now the corrosive Jawar Mohammad clawing back from his genocidal rhetoric and instigation of ethnic cleansing to supporting Eskinder Nega. I hope he abandons his hateful anti-Ethiopia diatribe through his OMN. Believe me when I write that I am pained to see such a talented politician wasting himself on the altar of narrow and hateful ethnic politics when he could have dedicated his life to uplift us all, to carry us to lofty heights of moral standards. We, the people of great beauty, common history, and wonderful diversity demand better.

Many political commentators and serious scholars claim that Abiy Ahmed is a willing participant in the whole debacle to destroy Ethiopia and to build on its ashes and/or to give birth to an Oromo State. I do not believe he is part of the conspiracy to destroy Ethiopia as a necessary step in order to build/create an Oromo independent nation/state, but I understand his participation as an individual and a tragic figure at that blinded by his childhood aspirations to become a “king” of Ethiopia. In fact, I will not go that far in characterization of Abiy Ahmed as anti-Ethiopia in recognition of his too human shortcomings, for I see him as an industrious bee caught in the oozing amber of hate and ill will of the OLF. On the other hand, by keeping him in his present Premiership he can be useful as a rallying point for millions of enlightened patriotic Oromos who believe in their Ethiopian citizenship and who are supportive of Ethiopian territorial integrity—thus, my unique reason for supporting Abiy Ahmed to stay in his present leadership position.

After all, Abiy Ahmed is married to a beautiful Gondere, his fellow member of the EPRDF, and he is a father of three beautiful daughters who are three quarter (75%) Amhara Children with a quarter (25%) Oromo blood because Abiy himself is half Amhara. The same is true with the marriage of Lemma Megersa. Even Jawar is half Menz-Amhara. These forms of intermarriages throughout Oromos, Amaharas, Tigrains is a universal fact. One can find also similar cohabitations and intermarriages in between Afars, Somalis, Gurages, Hadyas et cetera. Thus, the ethnic based division of territories was a juvenile ignoramus and idiotic idea mainly promoted by Meles Zenawi’ an ersatz with totally deformed mind and personality. Why must rational human beings insist on following such idiotic concept and commit atrocities to fulfil such absurd goals?

A few days ago, I watched Ermias Legesse’s excellent documentary on the genocide of Tutsis carried out by Hutu majority in Rwanda that was compiled from reliable sources with narrative-interview by Dawit Woldegiorgis. I congratulate Ermias and Dawit for such timely constructive warning to us all about the danger of the current Ethiopian ethnic based politics. The ongoing slow-cooker ethnic based horrendous crimes in Ethiopia facing us all are our nightmarish reality. I deeply respect Dawit for having survived after witnessing the aftermath of such horrible event and still maintaining his humanity and transformed

by such an experience in to a transcendent individual willing to relive such horror in order to teach us all with first-hand account about the evil of Ethnic politics.

Eskender Nega has maintained his dignity and is still holding up the torch of freedom as a beacon for all Ethiopians. His dedication and love of his home-City of Addis Ababa is done with political savvy that I wish all aspirant politicians from every corner of Ethiopia should learn from. I support Eskinder Nega in his fight for the sovereignty of individual Ethiopians without distinction by ethnic identity, or social and economic status et cetera. Takele Uma after showing a degree of sensitivity to the demands of Baldras, he has now reverted back to his old self of ethnic cleansing and intimidation by not providing police protection to the Baldras prescheduled legitimate assembly this Saturday 12 April 2019. Instead had shipped in hooligan Querroos to the conference hall to disrupt the Baldras meeting that had been called off to avoid brutal violent attacks by Querroos. Addis Ababa is our Ethiopian capital and does not belong to any one ethnic group. The people who reside in Addis Ababa have the right to choose their own Mayor and administrators. Addis Ababians are our custodians of our great Capital City. They are our manifested symbols of national diversity and integrity.

Children of Ethiopia: Briskela, Kidus, Robel, Seinet, et cetera

I believe that several beautiful and gifted children of Ethiopia have lifted us up from the cesspool of ethnic-politics with hope of the great Ethiopia of the future already in divinely inspired blueprint countering our dismal and destructive ethnicization of our great Nation. It is beyond description how far the young gifted Ethiopian children have filed my life to overflowing with great hope with their incredible talent in the last couple of months. Let me start with my latest discovery, Seinet Gizatchew, the young girl who addressed us in the Millennium Hall marking the first anniversary of the election of Abiy Ahmed as Prime Minister.

Seinet Gizatchew: a gift from God - A few days later from that event at Millennium Hall, I watched Seinet Gizatchew's interview where she was decrying what some people were accusing her of being narrow "Oromo" promoter of ethnicism. I actually wept when she mentioned several times that she is only a little girl and if she made mistakes that she should be corrected and not be censored or condemned. She added also that she has health issues. What I want Seinet Gizatchew to know is that she is a truly talented beautiful girl and that she did absolutely no wrong in her oration. The content of her presentations should not be blamed to her by anybody. I want her to know also that if it were possible, I would give my life for her, so she gets healthy and grow up into her teens and young womanhood, and live through the excitement of falling in love, starting a family and experiencing all of being a human person to the full.

After I realized that the hope and trust I had in Team Lemma might be a misplaced faulty assumption on my part, I was hopelessly in deep depression and in great anguish losing all faith and believing that Ethiopia is being destroyed by Abiy Ahmed's policy of "medemer" by inviting in all kinds of terrorist organizations, such as OLF, Ginbot 7 et cetera and allowing TPLF, ODP, to continue their subversive political and economic tactics and strategies. Then I chanced upon the video depicting the stupendously incredible child-genius Robel Be'amlak. And a week later, I was stunned by the four-year-old math genius Briskila Yosef and her equally talented older brother Eyou Yosef. I realized that my anguish is premature, for Ethiopia is not a loser nation but a great nation with new generations of gifted Children. After all, Ethiopia has survived all forms of threatening situations in the past for thousands of years and survived. Who am I to lose faith on the abilities of Ethiopia to survive, a nation that had already overcome countless adverse circumstances not just for few centuries but for thousands of years?

Behold the young Ethiopians Briskela, Kidus, Robel, Seinet, et cetera. Aren't they worth preserving and fighting for? I often wonder how nature would bring about such talented children in a community that is self-destructive. May be life in its unfathomable processes is doing precisely just that: insuring the survival of a community through the agency of superbly gifted children growing up and saving a nation. These children are our Promethean Gods—the Gods who weep.

OLF and Terrorism

In several of my comments/articles, I did object against Abiy Ahmed's new government policy in allowing terrorist political organizations, criminal political leaders et cetera into Ethiopia in the guise of "forgiveness" and "medemer". The ongoing violent attacks, looting, raping, and murder of Ethiopians in West Wollega, around Addis Ababa, in North Shewa and Amhara Oromo Zone at Karaqori, Kemise, and in Efrata- Ataye North Shewa is absolutely unacceptable. The OLF armed thugs were identified by reliable officials responsible for the security of the towns mentioned above that have been attacked with heavy weapon and projectiles. Dawood Ibsa and the senior officials of OLF, who pretend to have lost control of the OLF subversive armed terrorists a few days prior to the attack, must be arrested right away and brought to justice. Do not for a second think that I am against Oromos just because I condemn terrorists who murder, loot, et cetera based on ethnic identity. The OLF is a terrorist organization that should be banned in Ethiopia and its active participants must be arrested and brought to justice.

Believe me when I say and write that I have great admiration for Oromos as I do with all the beautiful people of Ethiopia. I do have a very special place in my heart for one of the ex-Leaders of OLF, Taha Ali, who was my Senior in Law School and later my boss and close friend during my employment as an attorney for the Ethiopian Government in 1975 after I was released from *Alem Bekagn* maximum security prison where I was incarcerated for a year for political reasons. During that tumultuous period, when the OLF Leadership was going underground and leaving the Country, Taha Ali confined in me that I will be in great danger of losing my life since Mengistu was consolidating his power and would liquidate as his first target individuals like me who had challenged military rule, and offered to arrange for me to go underground with them (OLF Leaders) and leave the country. No one else had ever tried to save my life before or after as Taha Ali offered to do so, except some Family Members who saved me from execution along the sixty Government Officials. A year later I too left the country through Bole rather than Bale, choosing the "coward's way" than trekking out of Ethiopia as Taha did. Taha Ali is not in leadership position now, he was ousted long ago by the likes of Dawood Ibsa. I am not sure whether Jawar was even born then.

Abiy Ahmed is at great risk as long as he allows OLF leaders freely to conduct their subversive terrorism around Ethiopia including in the Capital City of Addis Abeba. The so called renegade OLF army is at large on purposefully constructed tactical attacks terrorizing the local non-Oromo Population and achieving their long-term strategy to ethnically cleansing the area of the indigenous non-Oromo population as their forefathers had done in the devastated Ethiopia after Gagn was killed. Abiy Ahmed is on borrowed time. If allowed without any checks and roaming the country as they please looting and murdering unarmed peaceful non-Oromo citizens and terrorizing the population, the renegade OLF terrorist thugs will gain more recruits and more power challenging the Federal Government and the Kilil Governments. No political activists can survive such assault, for sooner than later the OLF terrorists will start assassinating political activists in Addis Ababa and from Oromo Kilil followed by neighboring Kilil regions throughout Ethiopia.

Now, look how boldly in broad daylight OLF terrorists are looting, desecrating churches, murdering unarmed Amharas, and ethnic cleansing Amharas from their homes in Amhara Kilil itself! OLF's ambition is a bottomless pit. Now they are even thinking about annexing Bahir Dar and Lake Tana expanding their dominion. In fact, I have seen some recent postings that OLF's ambitious territorial claim will include all of Ethiopia except Afar and Somali Eastern regions, and Dinka Western region in South West border communities of the Country. If such is their goal to bring about the dominance and supremacy of Oromos throughout the old Empire, then, what is the point going through atrocities and creating numerous enemies?

Time is of the essence. The more time these OLF armed terrorists are freely conducting their raids and terror, as recent terroristic activities in Amhara Kilil Oromo Zone and in North Shewa in Efrata-Ataya et cetera manifest, they simply grow in size and power and weaken the Federal State of Ethiopia. Because of such shift of power structure, other Kilils, such as Somali Kilil will seek a drastic solution and my try to join Somaliland and Somalia; Afar Kilil might make some arrangement with Djibouti and form its own independent state; Tigray Kilil is already functioning as an independent state, and the escalation of the belligerency and unchecked terrorist activities of OLF will simply push such Kilils toward the formation of independent states.

Amharas as the great Horyu-ji Temple Pagoda

I often search for a good metaphor or analogy in order to understand and/or explain complex phenomenon to myself and others. Thus, I found my metaphor for the Amhara people in architectural structure to portray accurately what makes Amaharas as the pillar that held together Ethiopia from disintegration when almost all of its contemporaries are all gone. The Horyu-ij is over 1,500 years old Pagoda Temple found in Japan and has stood erect throughout the numerous Earthquakes that had leveled numerous structures all around it. The secret for its astounding structural integrity defying logic and our limited understanding of the laws of physics is the fact that its single central pillar is the only vertical pillar that is properly secured deep in the foundation all other pillars are floating pillars interwoven with horizontal beams anchoring a multilevel structure of six stories including the elaborate roof structure. Here is where I draw this eerie conclusion from the single pillar structural form as a metaphor to our longevity as a nation.

Ethiopia succeeded to survive this long because it was able to maintain a single power structure composed of the Orthodox Church and a myth of divinely chosen aristocratic succession of kings and emperors. If the Horyu-ji Pagoda had other anchored pillars the integrity of the building would have been compromised in case of Earthquakes because of the counter forces that may not be in synchronized movement with the central pillar and each other thereby disintegrating by counter build up f forces pulling and pushing by all anchored pillars. Thus, the idea of floating and supporting pillars to the single central pillar worked perfectly for over 1,500 years. What am I suggesting her, a return of the Monarchy?

I declare myself, as I have done throughout my life, a Wolloie – Amhara. My sentiments and sensibilities are all deeply ingrained in the life of a Wolloie from Dessie where I was born and grew up until I left for College at age seventeen. My friends and a great many Aunts and Uncles, Cousins, Grandparents, childhood friends et cetera are all from Dessie and our ancestral homes in Boru, Haike, Seyeo, Tita, Marie/Ambassel. My love and admiration for Wolloies is boundless and deep, and equally reciprocated, for in all my years of political writings there never was a single criticism based on my other half

ancestries from fellow Wolloies. In the eyes of such wonderful people, I have always been a Wolloie first and everything else second. Thus, I want no ambiguity where my dedication and loyalty is in being a Wolloie.

Victimization of a great people – The people in Amhara Kilil have been victimized by TPLF, ANDM, now with OLF, OPD. I supported Abiy Ahmed changing my long-standing position in opposing him because now I see him as the lesser evil of all the monsters now in power. I am very certain that the Amhara people are the pillar of Ethiopian State/Nation whose singular interest is to preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia. But they are dismally disorganized and do not have a power structure leading them to defend their own lives and the lives of all Ethiopians.

The real problem in Amahara Kilil is the acute absence of leadership and continuing failure to develop a farsighted and bold leadership. The previous leader Gedu Andargachew and the current Chairman and Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, along with their operatives, were busy hunting-down unarmed civilian Tigrians who have lived in the current Amhara Kilil, in some instances long before the fall of the Derg regime, rather than focusing on empowering the Amhara people. Because of such short sightedness due to hate and narrow ethnicism, they did not prepare the local population against the most dangerous terrorist groups such as the OLF. They created unnecessary antagonistic situation against the people of Tigrai instead of identifying the TPLF Leaders as the enemies of not only Amaharas but against all Ethiopians. They deployed special forces and forcefully evicted tens of thousands of Tigians and others, and also murdered unarmed Tigrians living in communities in Amhara Kilil. They used the same technique used now by OLF subversive thugs forcing tens of thousands of Amharas, Somalis, Southern People, and Tigrians who were living in settled communities in the Oromo Kilil.

I suggest that the first act is to organize an Amhara monolithic power structure based on the old Teklai Gizat system in the region now designated as Amhara Kilil. There need be a simple power structure by constituting elected leaders from each designated Gizat representatives forming the Kilil Leadership. Each Gizat will recruit and arm properly its defense forces and structure a military command unitary system. The power structure will be based on the following Gizates: 1. Gondar/Begemder, 2. Gojjam, 3. Shewa, 4. Wollo.

Arming the Population – It is reported by responsible local leaders and local victims that OLF is responsible for the atrocities. The social media is full of such explicit reports: “Heavily armed men kill at least 27 people over the weekend in Ataye, Majete and Kemise areas of North Shewa in #Amhara region. They also burned churches & damaged properties. Local officials in the region blame Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) for being behind the attack.” This recent lawlessness must be the last time OLF criminal thugs would commit such Crimes. Abiy Ahmed, what are you waiting for. Arest Dawood Ibsa and ban the OLF as a criminal terrorist organization. Defang this viper group by disarming the members post haste and destroy their bases wherever found in Ethiopia.

In addition to the formation of Kilil police forces and special Kilil defence volunteer forces, it is also absolutely mandatory and necessary to arm the population with defensive weapon at government cost wherever possible. I fully support the Amhara population to defend itself and to capture the political power that is being misused and is corrupted by subversive organizations like the OLF and its Leaders. The fact is that weakness and not being armed invite attacks by subversive political groups and common criminals. It should be a priority to all Kilil Governments to allow their citizens arm themselves and provide training and organizational structures.

The Responsibility of the Army

I believe that the correct reading of the 1995 Ethiopian Constitution might have a self-executing provision in Article 87 for defensive actions by the Ethiopian Defence Forces. The Army has a Constitutional duty to protect the Ethiopian population if under terroristic attacks by any armed group or individuals in the immediate vicinity of the army. It does not require higher-up authorization to do so. It is possible to read into the 1995 Constitution of Ethiopia in Article 87 (3)-(5) that the Military is duty bound to protect the civilian population in danger without formal prior authorization from the Defense Minister or the Commander-in-chief.

“Article 87 Principles for National Defence[:] 1. The composition of the national armed forces shall reflect the equitable representation of the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia. 2. The Minister of Defence shall be a civilian. 3. The armed forces shall protect the sovereignty of the country and carry out any responsibilities as may be assigned to them under any state of emergency declared in accordance with the Constitution. 4. The armed forces shall at all times obey and respect the Constitution. 5. The armed forces shall carry out their functions free of any partisanship to any political organization(s).” [emphasis added]

The Chief of Staff, General Se'are Mekonnen, seems to have walked a choreographed very narrow path in the protection of the civilian victims of ethnic cleansing. He should be careful in such timidity, for he may be held responsible for such violations of the human rights of Ethiopians victims of ethnic cleansing and ethnic violence. It is ascertainable that the Ethiopian Defence Forces failed in protecting the civilian population in several areas where ethnic cleaning had taken place even though the Chief of Staff had military forces in nearby garrisons. The protection of “sovereignty” includes protection of the Ethiopian population against all violent attacks whether by internally or externally based forces. I remember an incident from almost four decades ago, the 1982 Sabra and Chatila massacre wherein Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Minister of Defence and other field commanders were held responsible by three different commissions: a UN Commission, the MacBride commission, and by Kahan Commission (an Israeli internal inquiry) for not taking steps to protect Moslems (who were encamped a couple of hundred yards from the Israel military) who were butchered by militant Lebanese Christians who slipped through the occupying Israeli forces and murdered over a thousand Palestinian civilians comprising of families, women and children.

Conclusion

There are several stages of political involvement in a community. When I studied in graduate school political changes in several countries over the centuries, I did see ascertainable and distinct phases or stages of events in epochal time sequences. One reason for my perception of such distinct phases might have to do because of my research bases were neatly packaged categorical books. Events in reality in lived time in succession in Ethiopia do not reflect clear stages or phases, for changes in Ethiopia were enigmatic, sudden, and unpredictable even within family successions. At any rate, both TPLF and OPDO/ODP along with OLF have outsmarted the good Amhara population and Amhara political Organizations and leadership. But the Amhara as the unique social structure had anchored all other ethnic groups from flying apart to oblivion or at best become victims of colonialism. In terms of succession of power, the Amharas can be considered as the direct successors of the Axumites with less than half a century hiatus of the Gudit disruption.

The fact that the leaders of all the political organizations such as the OLF, Ginbot-7, TPLF et cetera are old and almost to a man on their last legs gives me great satisfaction in the certain knowledge that they will no longer be around for too long harming Ethiopia and Ethiopians. In few years, for sure, nature will

take its own course. I only hope they all die peaceful deaths and allow new enlightened leaders to blossom in their wake. In a few years we will have the likes of Briskela, Kidus, Robel, Seinet, et cetera who will be running an Ethiopia that will rightfully claim its place among great nations of the world.

I am not writing to suppress legitimate political aspirations of any individual within an already existing Ethiopian State. The Kilil structure simply is wrong, for it creates animosity and division in people who are diverse in their ethnic background. We need to work out our solutions to existential issues by talking to each other, and not by sending OLF brutal armed thugs into unarmed communities murdering, looting and desecrating Churches, and burning businesses and homes of non-Oromos as is happening right this moment in Amhara Kilil Oromo zone in Kemise and in Karakori, Amhara Kilil in Efrata-Ataye North Shewa region. Those terrorist criminals and those who organized the attacks and those political organizations connected to such terrorist acts must be swiftly be arrested or liquidated if they resist arrests. The Ethiopians that were victims of such savage attacks must be immediately fully compensated by the Federal Government. Long Live Ethiopia, the land of beautiful People.

Tecola w Hagos, 13 April 2019