

# IT IS TIME TO TALK ABOUT ETHIOPIAN and ERITREAN LEADERSHIP STYLE

By Obo Arada Aba Shawl

November 30, 2015

## Introduction

One of the few countries that have carried out a lasting successful Revolution is Ethiopia. It is called the Eway Ethiopian Revolution. It is comparable to the Bolshevik Russian Revolution, The Mao Zedong protracted Guerrilla Revolution and to the American Civil War Revolution. It was neither like the French Revolution of 1789 nor the Arab Spring contemporary Revolution. The Eway Ethiopian Revolution is the attempt to break the cycle of power heritage of the Ethiopian Monarchy, to modernize the bureaucratic government of the Habesha people and to defend the country of Eathioopia i.e. including Eritrea from all types of foreign domination also dubbed as Imperialism both of West and East.

The Eway Ethiopian Revolution was carried out successfully to accomplish the above mentioned set of objectives and goals. Loving people, setting purpose and planning for the future was the hallmark of the Eway Ethiopian Revolution (PPP).

What is the problem then, that we see dozens of opposition groups in both Ethiopia and Eritrea, if the Eway Ethiopian Revolution is successful? The answer lies in the leadership style, aka political leadership.

## Belief system of leadership in the Eway Ethiopian Revolution

Leadership in the Ethiopian context is based on the Ethiopian Philosophy of unity of Man-Nature-God (see Zera Yacob, the Axumite philosopher). On the one hand, the problem with Eritrean opposition leaders is not clear, it could be either for lack of acknowledgement from the benefits of philosophy or from the lack of historical knowledge about Zera Yacob, the philosopher, not the king.

While on the other hand, Ethiopian elites are so obsessed with philosophy that they all aspire to obtain legally or illegally a Ph.D. (a doctor of philosophy).

As a result, there is abundant problems and confusion emanating from the lack of leadership both in Eritrea and Ethiopia at the present time. Leading by example has blurred the forces of leadership.

Nevertheless, ordinary Eritreans (Ha'FaSH) and Ethiopians aka (Se'fiw H'ZB) are functioning, in their daily lives, under the belief and conscious philosophy of Zera Yacob.

Because of historical and religious circumstances the Eathioopians (both Eritreans and Ethiopians) have hinged their lives under the following conditions and beliefs:-

- An Eritrean is tuned to the poverty of philosophy and
- An Ethiopian is tuned to the philosophy of poverty

This type of reasoning and philosophizing is hurting the Eathioopian masses. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the surrender of the Derg, The Ethio-Eritreans have been exposed to the vagaries of chances and witcheries. There was no plans and no programs. The Tigray people did not know about Albania's history and suffocation. The TPLF only told them about their suffocation from the Amharic

language and not their own proud history of culture and philosophy. Nobody informed them that they are wealthy and healthy. Instead, they were abused by the northern neighbors for their lack of technical skills and by their southern neighbors as wretched of the earth. In other words, they were labelled as foster children in as much as the Albanians are called the orphans of Europe.

This type of indoctrination was picked by TPLF for their own fast lust for power by mentioning Enver Hoxha only and not the Albanian historical and cultural strategy. The Tigray people would have been spared from the blames and counter blames for hosting and following the footsteps of the TPLF leadership.

Based on the Ethiopian philosophy, leaders have to be born, or have to achieve or to be inspired. It is in these ideas and languages that embedded and blocked the passions of the individual, the compassion of the family and the power of the community. Practically all the leaders of the Eway Revolution have lost in this maze of leadership based on Ethiopian philosophy.

In the past, some revolutionaries such Menghistu Haile Mariam, ex-president of Ethiopia have been looking in Lenin's cloth, while others such as President Isaias Afewerki have been in the foot step of Mao Zedong of China and Prime Minister Melesse Zenawi who was guided by Albania's Enver Hoja.

Today, leaders such as Haile Mariam, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and "the would have been mayor of Addis Ababa," Berhanu Nega are searching for leadership guidance. This seems an unending struggle by the Eathioipian people to choose their leadership. Could there be one or many leaders, which is the proper question to ask. Let us try to answer it.

### [Search for leadership style in Eritrea](#)

According to the annals of Tesfai Temnewo (see interview on YouTube), the current leadership of Eritrea is not a collective leadership. It is an arrangement of one man with 12 others to lead all Eritreans.

According to Tesfai Temnewo, the arrangement is based on religions of Christianity and Muslim. The President is a Christian to be at the helm of politics and the Red Sea Muslims to head the diplomatic and economic sectors.

But what about the opposition groups aspiring leadership in Eritrean politics. Back in the 1960's a group of 12 students and one teacher met in Cairo, Egypt to form the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) and demanded the Eritrean people to take arms. I guess that was the leadership style that was implanted in the Awate psychic who shot the first bullet. Have they consummated their armed struggle or did they change forms of struggle or totally abandoned it? No one knows. The other opposition group were the 13 individuals who gathered in Berlin to warn Isaias to become either a "serious soul searcher" or else.

President Isaias has no soul and has no religion. He was born in February and he is qualified to be a leader. The leadership in Eritrea is an adaptation of the Chinese. Choose it or reject it. It is the system stupid. The opposition do not seem to understand this phenomenon. It is high time to live with it or search for other alternative leadership style for Eritrea.

Both Eritrean groups of opposition do not seem to understand the history of the Eway Ethiopian Revolution. The basis for conducting the Eway Ethiopian Revolution in Eritrea was incorporated into the program of "N'HNaN AA'LAMANAN" translated as 'Our Program and WE'. It is to be recalled that Professor Mesfin Araya has brought this Program from the field of Sahel to Washington and he called it the "TIME BOMB". Indeed, it is a time bomb for leadership style.

## Search of Leadership style in Ethiopia

In the Eway Ethiopian Revolution, there was no one who claims the one type of leadership fits all. All the so-called leadership do not have a clear style of leadership apart from copying and demagogue slogans after slogans such as collective leadership.

- The only authentic leadership style was the one adopted by the Eathioian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP). Although some groups claim that the leadership style was formed in Berlin, West Germany, the true leadership style was formed in Addis Ababa. This formation was unique in the entire history of Eathioia. It was meant to follow the Ethiopian Philosophy of Zera Yacob, a unity of purpose. On the

- 1. On political front: Should politics be treated as an Art or a Science in the Eway Ethiopian Revolution?**
- 2. On the economic issue: What about privatization and land use?**
- 3. On social and cultural issues: Will the Constitution incorporate Tabot/Koran?**

The collective leadership style of EPRP is/was to find the passion of each members in the leadership to work and participate, be it in educating members/supporters or act as role model in the ethics of the community they are serving, or be a disciplined fighter in the acts of revolution and war.

In other words, DEMOCRACIA, the mouth piece of EPRP, is the one that takes the responsibility of views and opinions of the political Party. All other publications do not necessarily reflect of the Party. Nevertheless EPRP always entertains the views and opinions of others, on print or verbal or other means of communication. For this reason, it seemed for a while that the Party was anarchic in style though not in content. EPRP, unlike people like Professor Mesfin W Mariam who writes about fear and failure, EPRP has conquered, literally and figuratively, DEATH. The idea of conquering FEAR was the hall mark of EPRP and it is called LIBERATING THE HEART AS WELL AS THE MIND. EPRP's Ethiopian Revolution was/is known for liberating primarily the political demography and then the physical geography. It is unlike Professor Mesfin W Mariam's physical geography only and when he loses it he changes gears, just as he did recently in Washington DC.

## CONCLUSION

Thanks to the philosophy of Zera Yacob, MWM, a geographer from Ethiopia and BHS, a lawyer from Eritrea have become naked. Though the actions, life styles or activities of both Professors, Mesfin and Bereket were in intolerant for thousands of Eritreans and Ethiopians, now I understand that it was not their fault, it is either in their Stars as Shakespeare taught them or they are lost in the fear of change. Let us respect their stars and move on. They may contribute something in the concept of AAGMELAGO project. Their academic talents and political experiences may help in the process of democratization. DEMOCRACIA as a revolutionary document should be supplied to them in exchange.

As to the leadership guidance from the Parliament of the European Union, or the Chinese Communist Party or the American government, it is not far-fetched to relate to the Russian advice to the DERG. All they care is their interest at the expense of the Eritreans and Ethiopians. The Ethio-Eritrean Community has gone through a lot of hardships and sufferings. The war of attrition has to stop.

What is the purpose of repeating the same style of struggle using ethnic groups of Tigray, Afar, Amara, etc. etc. supported by the EFDJ to be launched from Eritrea? That is not only ridiculous but disrespect to all Ethiopians and Eritreans. All Ethiopians do cherish to elect their leaders. That was the primary purpose of the Ewe Ethiopian Revolution. Let us continue with the real political process in both countries.

**TRUTH WILL PREVAIL**

*For questions and answers*

[oboaradashaw@gmail.com](mailto:oboaradashaw@gmail.com)