

Professor Al-Mariam: Don't Be Humble, You Aren't That Great!!

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Encouraged by recent talk of reconciliation with what they call “The Enemy”, God sent the angel Gabriel to appraise the opposition websites for a possible redemption. Included on the short list was Ethiomedia—a website known for its fabrication of lies and tones of them. The angel was greeted from a distance by Alemayehu G. Mariam who was about to post his most recent article entitled, “Fiction writing is great, you can make up almost anything.” Cognizant of Al-Mariam’s ulterior motive, the angel told him, “How clever you are, my dear! You never mean a single word you say. You need to have a change of heart and not a change of strategies by dicing the word “enemy” for cheap shots or earthly gains. You are your own worst enemy, and God wants you to come to terms with yourself before you point your finger at others.” Outraged with what he just heard, the good professor asked, “Are you a messenger of the Woyane, too?”

So goes the recent joke running among the Diaspora Ethiopians in regard to the latest conversation on “Who the enemy is” by born-again Christians such as Professor Al-mariam, Mr. Girma Kassa and the like. In the final analysis, both of them concluded that “Woyane” is no enemy. This is a step in the right direction, but do they really mean it? The answer was clear in the body of their respective articles, especially in Al-mariam’s rather lengthy piece, “We’ve met the enemy!”, where he desperately fooled himself and his followers by dwelling on the obvious—defining the word “enemy”---much like a first grade teacher would teach her students the English alphabet.

The professor’s confusion, it seems, was spurred by the recent speech of Professor Mesfin Woldemariam at a public meeting in Washington, D.C.. In his writing, he suffered to cater to two opposing views; that of Professor Mesfin Woldemariam’s peaceful struggle approach and Dr. Berhanu Nega’s military tactic of fighting the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). Professor Al-Mariam declared that inquiring “who is right?” is the wrong question to ask.” In other words, both approaches are right as prescribed by the good doctor. However, he sees something wrong in them. “Who is wrong?” is the right question to ask,” he added. Here is where the professor missed the boat—be it by design or by accident. With all due respect to the intelligence of the professor, may I say that if one of the above approaches is wrong, wouldn’t the opposing approach, or a hybrid of the two, become right?

If you cannot stand the heat that would come from your friends in the form of criticism, don’t make a fool professor out of yourself by writing nonsense articles on the internet just because you have easy access to it. Learn to stand up for what is right and oppose anything that is wrong—even if it comes from your friends such as Professor Mesfin Woldemariam. Have the courage to acknowledge the right things that are being done by the government in power, and stay away from spinning things out of proportion merely to suit your political karma. Until you adhere to such genuine writing etiquette, no one is going to accept your boring articles, devoid of basic truth and critical analysis of ideas.

In summary, I find your most recent piece full of hypocrisy. You advised your readers that abusing someone for his/her political belief is wrong, when, in fact, you have been acting as the ringleader in the very act you are condemning. For instance, to this day, you have never addressed the Prime Minister Meles Zenawi by his first name as is customary in our culture, and much less by his title. It is not that he needs your blessing, but it would have been appropriate to address him in the proper way because he is a legitimate leader of Ethiopia. So my advice to you, my friend, is; don’t be humble, because you aren’t that great.