

## Eritrea: A Thin Voice from Sanction Cage

አርትራ: ሐንቲ ሐልቃም ድሀይ ካብ ኢታ ጋብብያ ናይ ሳንዘዮነ (=ውስሳኔ)

On occasion of his national festival, that took place on 24.05.2014, the Eritrean dictator Iseayas Efewerqi opened his mouth from his Asmara sanction cage to say that he is still active. But as usual also this time he has failed to improve his nonsense speech. I wonder what is on his mind. How a man pollutes Eritrean political climate and literature for more than thirty years mercilessly. This proves that the closure of Asmara University brought more harm to him than to the Eritrean people.

The following broken Tigriyna paragraph is part of his long speech that is in his press. From this quoted passage many kinds of interpretations can be extracted, but not literal interpretation (an interpretation based on the exact wording) because the speech is not composed according to the rule of a grammar. From this we can safely say that not only his administration that doesn't know the rule of law but also his speeches and writings don't know the rule of grammar. Of these weaknesses of impact Eritrea will weigh for years. Now let us scrutinize Iseayas by reading passage quoted from his speech.

"ኣብ መቐን ናይ ሃገራዊ ህንጻት ዕማማትና፡ ፖለቲካዊ ህንጻት ከም መብጽሒ (ወሲላ) ኣገዳሲ እጃም ስለዘለዎ፡ ምስናይ'ቲ ጉዕዞና ንምስንኻል ኪካየድ ዝጸንሐን ዘሎን ተጻባኢ ግዳማዊ ሓንካሪ ህቀናታት፡ ብዙሕ ተማሂርናን ተመኰርናን ስለዘለና፡ ንመጻኢ መንግስታዊ ስርዓት መርሓ ፖለቲካዊ ጉዳይ ዝቐይሶ ቅዋም ምንዳፍ ክጅምር ምጅኑ፡ በዚ ኣጋጣሚ'ዚ ከፍልጥ እፈቱ" (ቃ፡ 267 ሓዳስ አርትራ 25 ግንቦት 2014, ገጽ 3) ::

In this case the words መቐን, (ወሲላ), ግዳማዊ, መርሓ, ቅዋም ... they appear that they have Tigriyna tongue roots but in reality all are part of his new and old strange and empty introduced words. By now they become Tigriyna tongue n. 2. It is true Tigriyna tongue n. 2 doesn't have words, phrases and meaning like native Tigriyna n. 1. Notwithstanding this Tigriyna n. 2 is the language of the propaganda machine. Both they don't have political terms, but native Tigriyna has a futurity thanks to its rich peasant terms.

Now as an example we will talk about the term ነደፈ. This peasant word has range of meanings but our focus will be on what matters the most.

ሀ) ነደፈ v.t. = to engrave → eg ነደፈ ልዕሊ ማርሞ = to engrave on marble. Synonymous ቀፈጸ; ቀረጸ; ፈንክሐ; በርቅሐ

ለ) ነደፈ v.t. = to prick, sting → eg ኣነ በርኩ ንዱፍ ብ ሞስቅቶ = I was stung by mosquito. Synonymous ወግኣ

In Tigriyna there are many abused terms that made to lose their true senses in favor of the dictator. One of these is the word ነደፈ with its forms like ምንዳፍ፣ ንድፊ፣ ንዱፍ ... The dictator deployed it since the day he started to teach us false. He is really very clever at misusing words in order to mislead our thoughts. So after years of false teachings it is now almost a taboo to shade light on the true meaning of the term because we became as stubborn as Eritrean mule. Owing to this for many of us ንድፊ = draft.

But the term **draft** in Tigriyna means ጽሕፈት ወይ ድራፍት; → eg መጀምመርያ ጽሕፈት ናይ ሐደ ሮማንዝ/ኻሽል first draft of a novel.

Also when we think about the term 'መርሓ', we must not confuse it with the word መራሒ (from መርሐ) = guide. → eg ንሰሉ ነበረ ናተይ መራሒ he was my guide.

What we are trying to show is that Iseyas words have no message to convey. Iseyas is always as good as his word. But this doesn't mean we don't try to read or interpret his intentions. This is always subject of our study.

So what is his intention when he says 'ቅዋም ምንጻፍ ከጅምር ምዃኑ'?

The first right move that connects Eritrea to the rule of law is:

- a) **to free thousands Eritrean prisoners of conscience,**
- b) **to stop practicing any form of slavery in Eritrea** and
- c) **ending of Eritreans press, speech, information violation.** These are the elements that have priority over draft of constitution.

But the dictator favored the opposite priority. Why? For a moment it seems very hard to catch the reason (s) that hit the nail on the head. But based on our past experiences we can make two strong hypotheses.

- a) It seems the phrase '**draft of constitution**' is placed first on his diplomatic agenda in order to rally nations that help him to break the renewal of cycle of sanctions. But this game made him out of ring more than twice. This is not because of USA or other countries as he narrates but his aggressive policy allowed him to get it. This is the fact on the ground. And this is what the international community wants to see changed. But the dictator drunk with power has no time to hear reality. Now helped with nation (s) that wants to see him out of sanction cage for their political games, he might try to be back in the ring for the last merciless final diplomatic kick.
- b) His bad health can also be a factor. As we know General Wcchu ወጥጤጤ knew before his death that his life was in danger. This can be also true with Iseyas Efewerqi a man who has the Eritrean fate in his hand. What will be Eritrea after him has national and international concern. Based on this there might be a talk on the table. But what is not on his table is a true plan for the draft of constitution.

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