

Ethiopia in Need of the Theologian, Philosopher, Historian, and Patriotic Debteras more than Ever!

By Belayneh Abate

It is regretful to see some anti-Ethiopian Orthodox Church agents trying to treat their inferiority complex by insulting the more than 2000 years old church, which was established on the rocks of the doctrines of the holy bible and the guidance of the apostles of Christos such as saint Matteos.

As the Bible and other Holly Scriptures teach, Ethiopia is one of the very few nations that started to follow monotheism belief while others were practicing polytheism and paganism. [1,2]

In the western world, monotheism belief replaced paganism and the polytheism beliefs through bloodsheds long after Ethiopia showed how to practice monotheism religions. During Europe's transition from polytheism and paganism to monotheism, the notable Socrates, Saint Paul and Saint Peter were crucified. [2-5] Unlike in Europe, the religious transitions from the Old Testament to Christianity in Ethiopia was peaceful because of the wise leadership style and ethical teachings of the Ethiopian Debteras.

The term Debtera has roots to the concept of *Debir*. *Debir* literally means a mountain, and Debtera has similar meaning when it is applied to things. When Debtera is applied to things, it describes higher up objects such as umbrellas or the tips of tents used to cover holly objects used in special church activities.

When Debtera is applied to people, it indicates a writer whose life is highly attached to writing on brana or debters. If you coin the two concepts, the word Debtera signifies that Debteras are the best of all writers. Because Debteras used to give high value for knowledge and writing, the Debtera intellectuals used to say **a Debtera with no writings is a raven with no wings**. [6] I wish this deep metaphor could apply to the pseudo intellectuals that held PhDs and MDs just to bake their breads and perform political prostitutions.



The Ethiopian Debteras as Theologians: The lives of the Ethiopian society and the archeological facts in the Ethiopian caves show that Ethiopia followed the Old Testament and humanly way of life thousands of years before Christianity while

most of the world's societies were worshipping trees and behaving like beasts. [2]

During the era of Muse, the theologian Debteras established the Debtera Aorits as a place of worship. Debtra Aorits were the tents where the old testament was practiced. Later, they transformed the Debtera Aorits to Bete Mekurabs, which means Mertule or the Halls of Worship. The Bete-Mekurabs served as place of worship for the Old Testament until they were transformed to Bete-Christians at the dawn of Christianity.

Through their dedicated services, the theologian Debteras have written piles of scriptures that have inundated the European and American libraries. .

The Ethiopian Debteras as Philosophers: In the minds of the former Ethiopian Debteras, it was unethical and immoral to write one's name at the end or beginning of his intellectual works. As a result, it is difficult to attribute each piece of philosophical work to an individual Debtera philosopher. However, no doubt that the works of the Ethiopian Debteras have enriched the metaphysical, epistemological, political, ethical and esthetical branches of philosophy.

The immense contribution of Debertas to philosophy has been undermined because Ethiopian Debertas did not seek recognition, and the West did not want that recognition. Although the Ethiopian religious practices and philosophical thoughts precede that of the Greeks, majority of the philosophical concepts are now traced from the philosophical works of ancient Greeks. I challenge the Ethiopian philosophy students to explore the works of Deberta philosophers further, but I have no doubt the Ethiopian Debertas were engaged in thorough philosophical debates way before the Greeks.

For example, the ancient Ethiopian Debertas have been debating about the creation of life thousands of years ago. They had asserted that life was composed of the flesh and the soul. Furthermore, they taught that the flesh was composed of soil, water, air, and fire. Similarly, they claimed the soul was composed of a thinking mind, a speaking intellect and everlasting spirit. [7,8] Unfortunately, Thales was credited for the water, Anaximander for the fire, Anaximenes for the air, and Empedocles for coining the four together. [9-12]

The teachings of the Ethiopian Debertas about life are now proven to be true by modern science. Modern science has confirmed that the human flesh is composed of 70% water and 30% soil ingredients such as proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and minerals. [13]

The former Ethiopian Debertas were not like the cadre popes and bishops the Tigre People Liberation Front installed to break the hips and spines of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Amaras. The real Ethiopian Debertas were highly dedicated to creativity including, creating scripts, symbols, brana, papers, inks, pens, lights and so on. The Deberta intellectuals crafted the Ethiopian Alphabet that coins the vowels into consonants. Unlike many other alphabets, these unique coining of vowels into consonants saves the writers' time, paper and inks.

Furthermore, the Ethiopian Debertas have defined truth, justice, love and beauty through their poems, gold and wax qines, dramas, essays and drawings as it can be seen in the world museums and libraries beyond the Ethiopian Monasteries and Churches.

The Ethiopian Debertas as Historians: The Ethiopian Debertas were not history fabricators as the victims of low self-esteem personality disorders shamefully claim. Most of the Deberta writers were working around the divine power, fulfilling the ethical and the moral duties that divine power required. The Ethiopian Debertas used to know what was going on in the world while they were praying and writing in the monasteries and caves let alone what was happening in their country and backyards.

The Ethiopian Debertas' writing process started from making brana from sheep skins and producing different types of inks from variety of plants. It is arrogant and obviously immoral to think the Ethiopian Debertas went through all these difficult processes just to document phony histories.

The event records of the hard-working Ethiopian Debertas have enriched the body of the Ethiopian and the world histories. The Ethiopian Debertas have compiled Kibre-Negest and the chronological accounts of events in Sink-Sar. Writing big books such as Sink-Sar, Tsome-Digua, Digua and Dawit takes more dedication, intellect and effort than writing the world encyclopedia at an era where there was no typing, copying, deleting, cutting and pasting.

It requires an Ethiopian Deberta to have surmountable dedication to complete enduring theological and historical work.

The Ethiopian Debertas as Professors: It would not be an exaggeration if one claims the best teachers, writers, journalists, scientists or other scholars of Ethiopia are the direct or indirect products of Debertas. In addition to the religious hut schools in the monasteries and neighborhoods, the Ethiopian Debertas established the western style schools known as *Askualas*. As their work in the Abinet Schools, mister of education, universities and colleges show, Debertas have been the pillars of the Ethiopian educational system for centuries. In fact, the education system of the country has been going downhill since Debertas were pushed out of their administrative and teaching roles.

The Ethiopian Debertas as Patriots: Unlike most of the patriarchs and bishops "ordained" within the last 30 years, the former Ethiopian Debertas never sit as spectators when their country was in danger, or their decrees were under attack and their churches get burnt. Melake Birhan Admassu Jembere is one of the best role models for standing for truth and justice. Besides his immense direct patriotic contribution during the second Ethio-Italian war, he defended

the historical ancient church through his excellent books such as Medlote Amin (the Scale of Faith) and Kokoha haymanote (the faith established on rock).

The Ethiopians victory against the Ottoman Empire, Egypt, Italy and other invaders could have been impossible without active participation of the patriot Debteras.

The resilient defense against Italy during the second invasion could have been impossible without the bold leadership style of martyrs such as Abune Petros and Abune Michael. [14] Similarly, the most effective victory of Belay Zeleke's army could have been impossible without the indispensable roles of the patriotic religious leaders such as Melak-Birhan Admassu Jemebere. [15]

In the absence of the decisive active roles of the patriotic Debteras, the Ethiopian history could have been the same as the rest of African history.

Those idiots who are insulting the church were saved from the chains of slavery by the patriotic Debteras. Unlike these idiots who bark on the stages supported by anti-Ethiopian Orthodox powers from inside and abroad, the Ethiopians Debteras received no stipend when they earned their postgraduate degrees from prestigious theological schools such as Washera, Qusquam of Gondar, Wadila Dillenta, Gonjii, Debre-Libanos, Dimma and so on. Their stipend as students was love of truth, knowledge, religion, moral and ethics. Debteras had no salaries when they worked as philosophers, historians, professors and patriots. They worked with no payments because their love affair was tied with searching for the truth, spreading knowledge, serving their God and protecting their people.

The Ethiopians Debteras never went to school to have a better live; they never wrote for money or recognition. They just dedicated their lives to serve God and their people. Despite their kudos deeds, their work and their churches are blackmailed by people who are suffering from inferiority complexes. The blackmailers think they can equalize themselves by pulling down the Ethiopian Orthodox church creeds and Debteras from the mountains down to their rift valleys. How can one treat inferiority complex by undermining the creeds of at least two thousand years old church and the works of Debtera philosophers?

It is time for the real debteras to stand firm and save their church and their country just like their debtera fathers. It is time for debteras to emulate their fathers such as Abune Petros, Abune Michael and Melake Birhan Admassu Jember. It is time for debteras not to focus on ephemeral earthly life and work for eternal life. It is time for debteras to realize that Ethiopia is in need of the theologian, philosopher, historian, and patriotic debteras more than ever! Thank you.

End Notes: All last accessed in August, 2019

1. ዘፍጥረት 2:13
2. ዳዊት ብርሃኑ፡- ነገረ ሃይማኖትና ሥልጣን መንግስት 19192 ዓ.ም.
3. Peter & Paul: Apostles, Saints, and Martyrs for the Christian Faith <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/peter-paul-martyrs-christian-faith-6083>
4. Saint Peter the Apostle <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Peter-the-Apostle>
5. Saint Paul the Apostle <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Paul-the-Apostle>
6. ደስታ ተከለወልድ፡-የግዕዝና የአማርኛ መዝገበ ቃላት ገጽ 335 እና 337
7. መላእክ ብርሃን አድማሱ ጀምበሬ፤ መድሎተ አጫን
8. መላእክ ብርሃን አድማሱ ጀምበሬ፤ ኩኩ-ሀ-ሃይማኖት
9. Reginald Allen, Thales to Aristotle, 1966 page 1-7
10. Antonio Rosmini, Opinions about human soul volume two 1989 edition, chapter 2
11. Stanford Encyclopedia of philosophy, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/empedocles/>
12. Will Durant, The story of philosophy, 1926
13. Guyton: Text book of Medical Physiology
14. Fisha Mekuria, Abune Petros A Martyr of the Millenium, http://www.ethiopians.com/abune_petros.htm
15. ቀሲስ አስተርጓፊ፡-አድማሱ ደረሰው የመላክ ብርሃን አድማሱ ጀምበሬ የአምስቱ ዘመን ተጋድሎ <https://welkait.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/%E1%88%98%E1%88%8B%E1%8A%A8-%E1%89%A5%E1%88%AD%E1%88%83%E1%8A%95-%E1%8A%A0%E1%8B%B5%E1%88%9B%E1%88%B1-%E1%8C%80%E1%88%9D%E1%89%A0%E1%88%AC-p3.pdf>

More Reads about the contribution of Ethiopian Debteras

1. ለመሆኑ ሰው ምንድን ነው? www.quatero.net/meta/sewmindinnew.pdf
2. ደግነትና ክፋት ምንድን ናቸው? <http://www.quatero.net/meta/GoodandEvil.pdf>
First it was published in August, 2019, again December, 2022

The writer can be reached at abatebelai@yahoo.com