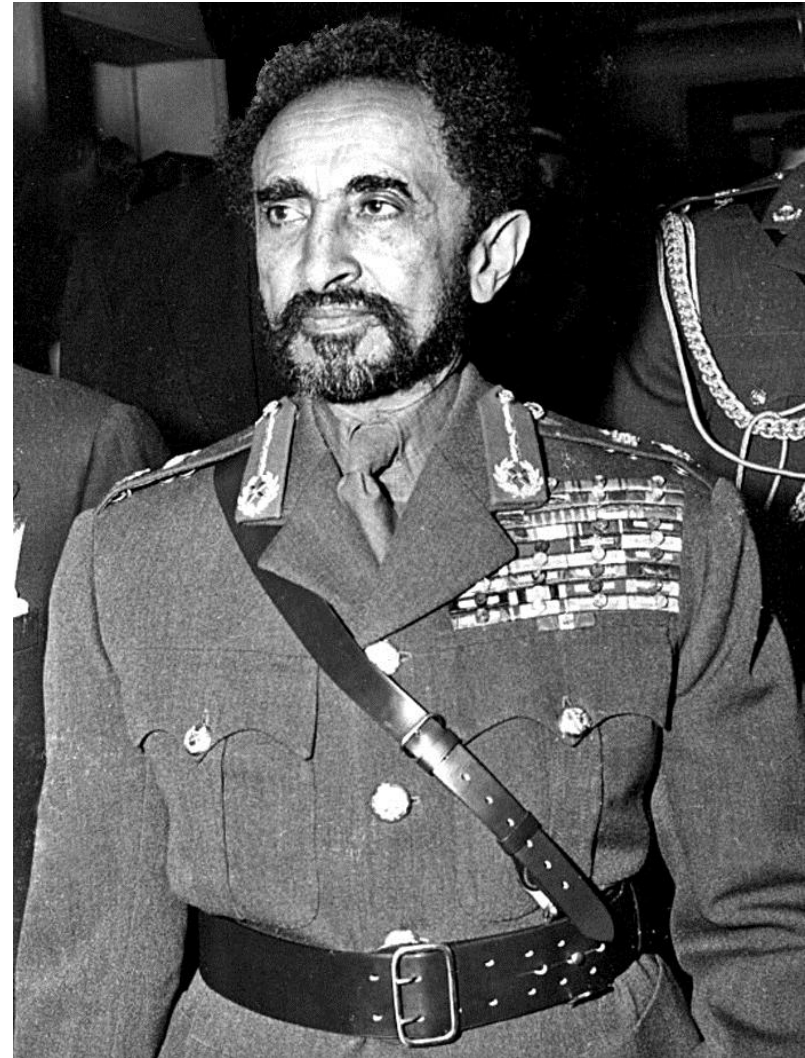


Rise of Dejazmatch Solomon Abraha Hagos

Shewa was the crown province of the Ethiopian empire during the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie I. Emperor Haile Selassie or Aba Tekl (አባ ጠቅላ) himself is an Shewan by origin. He is the son of the popular Shewan noble Ras Mekonnen Woldemichael or Aba Kagnew (አባ ቃኘው).² Ras Mekonnen is nephew of Emperor Menelik II, Negus of Shewa later Emperor of Ethiopia 1889 - 1913. And Haile is grandnephew of Menelik.

For Emperor Haile Selassie, Shewa was the foundation and the power seat of his kingdom. It was No. 1 favourite province for him. Eritrea was the 2nd favourite province, which he acquired it through treachery and conspiracy with the support of U.S.A.

² KAGNEW STATION, the former US Military Base in Asmara was named after Kagnew Battalion (ቃኘው ሻለቃ), the Ethiopian battalion that fought in the Korean War 1950-53.



#6 [Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia](#)

Wollo was the 3rd favourite province. The rest of the provinces were just ordinary imperial values. [See Page 7, #5 Map of old Ethiopia](#)

Wollo with its rich historical, cultural, agricultural values and its strategic location and vital transportation hub was the star province in the Emperor's eyes. Who ever one is appointed there means, he is the star to the Emperor. Wollo had been the most coveted land by all the feudal lords since the Ages of Princes (ዘመነ መሳፍንት). So many battles were fought, in the conquest for Wollo.

Thus it was awe and shock, when the No. 3 favourite Wollo was awarded by the Emperor to Dejezmatch Solomon Abraha Hagos in 1971, when Dejezmatch Solomon took Wollo from his predecessor Governor Mamo Seyoum. It might be considered an historical twist, an Tigrayan aristocrat positioning higher than many Amhara aristocrats, in the eyes of the Shewan King. Was the King acting irrational? The designated Governor of Wollo, Dejezmatch Solomon Abraha Hagos is the cousin of Isayas Afewerki. See the portraits of them on the next page.

[#7 Nephew Isayas Afewerki and uncle Governor Dejezmatch Solomon Abraha Hagos](#)



Rise of Dejezmatch Kahsay Mirach

Dejezmatch Kahsay Mirach (ደጅዝማች ካሕሳይ ምራጭ) was an prominent Lord from Tembien (ሹም ተምቤን) in Tigray who was the descendant of Ras of Rases Michael Suhul Hezqias (ራእሲ ርኡሳን ሚካኤል ስሐል ህዝቅያስ) the founding lord of the Mirachs Dynasty. [See Part - 1, Page 5, #4 The Mirachs Dynasty \(ስርወ ንግስነት እንዳ ምራጭ\)](#)

Kahsay Mirach was powerhouse most prominently in his home turf of Tembien as well in the general Tigray. This Lord, though prominent in his home turf of Tembien, was not galactic powerhouse who would match other powerful rulers in Ethiopia. Fortunately one day, this modest Tembien Lord was struck with big luck: Aste Tewodros II (አጼ ቴዎድሮስ ሁለተኛ) got into problem with Great Britain.

Aste Tewodros II, known as Aba Tateq (አባ ታጠቅ) of Ethiopia got into quarrel with Great Britain, complaining the Queen ignored him like an dog.

The furious and despotic Aba Tateq arrested all members of the diplomatic corps of Great Britain and other European diplomats to Ethiopia and kept them captives in his mighty fortress, Fort Maqdala, his power seat in Wollo.

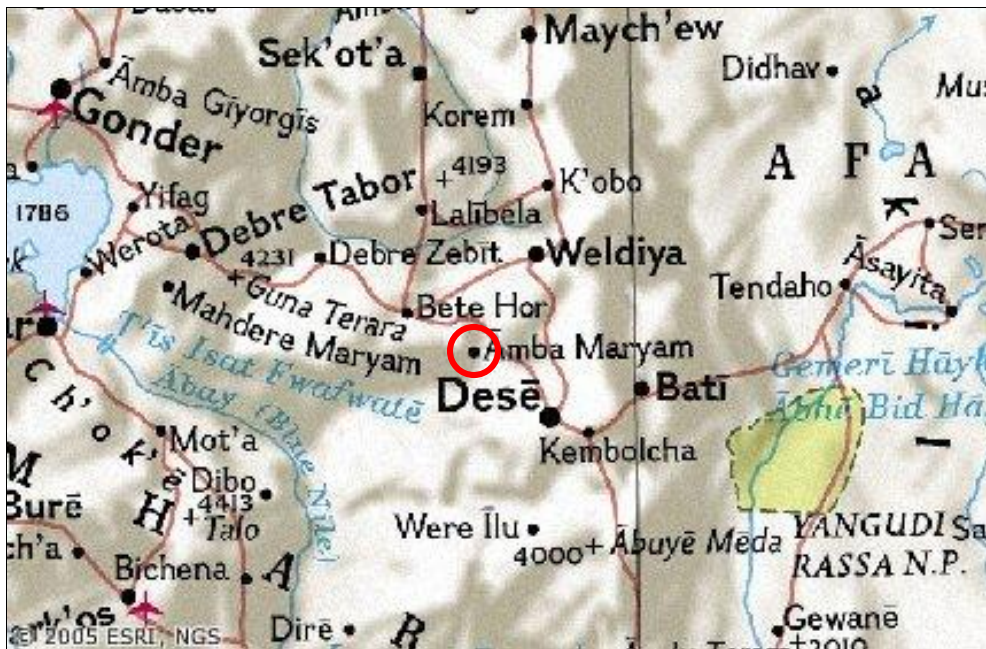


[#8 The mighty fortress, Fort Maqdala, Wollo](#)

To avenge the actions of Tewodros, Great Britain assembled huge Expeditionary Force from India to invade Ethiopia and attack Aba Tateq's army, under Field Marshal Robert Napier.

Kahsay Mirach cooperated fully with the British Expeditionary Force. He provided them topographic knowledge of the routes and passes to Fort Maqdala, locally known as Amba Mariam.

He assisted the British with the much-needed service of mulling heavy armaments and equipments through rough terrains and mountains of the Semien (northern Ethiopia). He also provided beef to the British soldiers. It was great opportunity for the British but most importantly for Kahsay.



#9 [Location of Fort Maqdala \(Amba Mariam\)](#)



[#10 In 1886 British Expeditionary Force posed to attack the army of Tewodros II \(አባ ታጠኝ\), King of Ethiopia.](#)

On April 1868, Field Marshal Robert Napier attacked Fort Maqdala. It was inevitable, the superior British Force easily routed Tewodros's mostly rag tag army. In the fight Tewedros quickly realized that defeat was imminent as his army was completely overwhelmed by the

British and he mortally shot himself with the precious handgun he owns, gifted to him by the Queen. Aba Tateq committed suicide and his commanding Fort Maqdala went into smoke after the British burnt down his headquarter.

It was pay day for Wedi Mirach after the British Expeditionary Force were done with their mission of capturing Fort Maqdala and freeing the British and the European diplomats.

After the mission was over, Field Marshal Robert concluded it was logistically inefficient to transport back to seaport all the heavy armaments and equipments, when he can donate big chunk of it to Wedi March who provided them essential help.



#11 [Dejazmatch Kahsay Mirach \(ደጅዝማች ካሕሳይ ምራጭ\)](#)

Later Aste Yohannes IV, Emperor of Ethiopia

Great grand-granduncle of Isayas Afewerki.

The British dumped over some of their armaments and munitions to Wedi Mirach as reward for his cooperation. They also rewarded him with superior types of rifles and military training for his army. In the aftermath of Tewodros's death, Kaysay Mirach became super power in the region.

Using the superior armaments he received from the British, Wedi Mirach easily defeated the contender to the throne, his brother-in-law Wagshum Gobeze (Atse Teklegiorghis II) ruler of Amahara, Wag and Lasta. Dejezmatch Kaysay Mirach secured the emperorship of Ethiopia.

On January 21, 1872, Dejezmatch Kaysay Mirach became Yohannes IV, Emperor of Ethiopia. He had colloquial Aba Bezbez (አባ በዙብዙ) or Aba Bezbez Kassa (አባ በዙብዙ ካሳ).

Tewodros's death in the hands of the British and Wedi Mirach's ascendancy to power with British armaments are the two early primal seeds of hatred which developed into deep feuds and antagonism which exist now between the Amhara and the Tigrayans. Perhaps, Tewodros's fate would haunt the final days of Aba Bezbez Kassa.

[Continues on Part - 3](#)

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