

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS!

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The following Christmas message (see below) is from Mother Camel. Please read it with great interest and sincerity for its full understanding.

Greetings to all Dear Members of the Human Race,

As a humble mother of the camel family, it is my pleasure to inform you that when Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of King Herod, three wise men ridding on the back of decorated Camels, guided by a bright light of the star from the sky, came to worship and honor the birth of Little Jesus, the son of God. Though Jesus didn't ride on a camel's back in his human life time on earth, those precious gifts delivered by the wise men to Little Jesus were brought from the Far East to Bethlehem on the back of humble camels, who happened to be my ancestors. Moreover, in recognition and tribute to the hard work and sacrifice of my family members during the struggle for independence, the portrait of a camel is embedded in the emblem of the State of Eritrea. We, humble camels, are still sincere and loyal in serving humans with great respect. We share with dignity and respect the same unbearable human burden and senseless treatment with our close cousins - horses, mules, donkeys, and cattle. We co-exist in peace and harmony even with our distant relatives and friends, the so-called wild animals. We don't have any grudge or animosity among ourselves in our animal kingdom. For the mere fact that most of our habitat is generally located in the deserts of the Middle East and North Africa, mainly called the Arab World where Islam is the most dominant religion, many human beings associate us



(camels) as Moslems. We, camels, are neither Moslems nor Christians; we are just ordinary camels, which are innocent members of the general animal kingdom.

Humans have plenty of opportunity to learn and appreciate decency and etiquette from the rest of us animals. Humans need to understand that beyond exchanging presents and feasting with family members and friends, Christmas is love in action and a state of mind to cherish peace and goodwill. It is an awareness to consider family tradition and social values and embrace the legacy of indigenous knowledge and wisdom. It is a reminder to preserve ethnic identity and cultural heritage and respect religious beliefs and diversity. It is the days of joy and happiness, the month of forgive and forget, and the season of remembrance and

reflections. We, camels, would like to encourage humans for your own benefit to make peace among yourselves, love one another and stop killing each other as it is manifested and disclosed in your mass media. By observing and considering the current merciless and senseless crimes committed by humans, it seems quite safe to be around fellow animals more than to be around fellow humans. It is essential that you humans throw your guns away and talk to each other for love and friendship and that is what your children and grand-children expect to inherit from you. As Archbishop Tutu said, *“If you want peace you don’t talk to your friends, you talk to your enemies.”* Your Holy Bible even says, *“If you forgive others for their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive your trespasses, but if you do not forgive others for their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses.”* Since humans blindly claim that they are smarter than the rest of us (animals), it may sound awkward to you to receive moral tips and divine wisdom from a humble Camel, but it is evident that the most important and precious thing in life is to learn how to give love to others and to let love come into you from others. Life has never been and never will be joyful and wonderful without receiving love from others and giving love to others. Life is simple and flows forward peacefully in its natural course, but humans insist on making it complicated and convert it into a tragedy by creating enmity and animosity among themselves. All you humans need in life is through your Christ to seek and find that missing love and peace within yourselves by trying very hard to find yourselves in the wilderness. In your search for love and peace, your Jesus Christ encourages you by saying, *“where two or three believers are gathered together and make peace among themselves, there am I in the midst of them.”* As the wisdom from your friends, the humble camels also say, *“Life is too short; it takes a minute to find special friends, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love and respect them, but an entire life to forget them.”* Since things will always go right if you do the right thing, it is essential to never forget your friends and relatives. Call them this Holiday season and tell them that you love them very much. You lose nothing by keeping in touch with your friends and relatives. In fact, you gain plenty of love and friendship in return. There is more than enough love and kindness in this world for everyone to share and to enjoy life in peace and harmony. It is important to remember that the best of all gifts around the Christmas tree is the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other and the gift of your friendship that you give to your fellow human friend. At the same time humans need to determine what kind of nurturing environment you can prepare or inherit to your children and grand-children so that they can enjoy life to its fullest level. Soon enough it will be their turn to spin the wheel of life and determine the kind of legacy they would like to pass on to their next generation. Thus, please rejoice the spirit of joyful Christmas with family members and dear friends. **Mother Camel wish you to have a Holiday Season full of joy and Happiness and a New Year of Peace and Prosperity. God Bless You!**

Sincerely.

*Your friend, Mother **Camel** from the Animal Kingdom*

HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2020!

New Year’s Day is everybody’s birthday. Every day is a new day and the best gift from the Almighty God. New Year is a new chapter for recording the memories and miracles of life history; a fresh start for soul-searching and self-discovery; another chance to embrace our differences and celebrate our diversity; and a wonderful opportunity to bring ourselves together and support each another as fellow Eritreans. The best and meaningful New Year’s Resolution to make and keep is to rise above the little and petty things and focus on great things that matters the future destiny of our children and grandchildren simply because the

future belongs more to them than it does to the old and cranky ones. Hope that in year 2020 and beyond, the divine power will take over our soul and little minds to bring us to our senses and enlighten us to join and nurture our ethnic communities and religious institutions so that we can stand tall and proud to become sensible and responsible role models of our young generation because the opportunities and possibilities are endless. All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them. Our success and happiness can also follow our footsteps, if we prepare ourselves and walk into the New Year with positive attitudes and humility. May the New Year fill our hearts and minds with new hope, aspiration, peace, and harmony! A glorious New Year is coming that rewards all our dreams and endeavors. It is a blessing and gives me great pleasure to wish you all to have a heartfelt, prosperous, promising, & fulfilling New Year. God bless us all.

Sincerely, *Dr. Tesfa G. Gebremedhin, West Virginia University*

