

***IS ETHIOPIA'S TROJAN HORSE EXECUTING THE FINAL  
PHASE OF HIS PLOT AGAINST ERITREA'S  
SOVERIENGTY?***

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“A nation can survive its fools, even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within....for the traitor appears not to be a traitor...he rots the soul of a nation...he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist.” (Roman statesman, Marcus Tullius Cicero, January 3, 106 BC-December 7, 43 BC)

Everyone is focussing these days on the inter-Ethiopian war in Tigrai, but the real story for us, as Eritreans, lies elsewhere. The underestimated cunning of the Ethiopian serpent (Trojan horse), Traitor Isias, seems to be ready to strike the final blow on the sovereignty of the country, overshadowed by the war in our southern neighbour. After almost three decades of post-independence Eritrea, whose sovereignty, following the policy of “Destroy it all”, was systematically eroded, its natural and human resources exsuastively depleted, misused and abused, its infrastructure and economy devastatingly ruined, its lionhearted heroes, patriotic intellectuals, and skilled workers unfailingly humiliated and demoralized, uprooted, physically liquidated, or thrown to jail to die a slow death, its average citizens irreparably impoverished and badly divided on religious, ethnic, regional, and cultural lines so that they would not unite and stand up for themselves, and its ambitious youth dangerously forced to leave the country in an endless exodus (forced to exile), escaping the indefinite or life-long national military service, rightfully characterized as modern slavery, we are amazed to discover that the story we have being hearing about Atse Isias being an Ethiopian plant or a hole dug in the Eritrean struggle has, at the end of the day, turned to be an uncontested reality.

Admittedly, some of us, including the author of this piece, until the endearment of Serpent Isias with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in 2018, and the notorious signing of the ominous “Peace Agreement”, took the story of Eritrea’s Atse being an Ethiopian plant, as a plain pettiness, unbelievable illusion (something wrongly perceived or interpreted) or crap (something repeated in a foolish or a boring manner) we got sick of hearing. Nonetheless, at this particular moment, reviewing things retrospectively and connecting all

dots from 1991 to the recent developments, including the amassing of Ethiopian troops in Asmara and Massawa, reportedly reaching 50,000 (the landing of Ethiopian troops is reported continuing), imposes a strong fear that there are nail-biting days ahead. Many Eritreans did express their fear of what the Ethiopian serpent is up to in different ways, loud and clear, but the candid presentation by Dr. Yohannes Haile, of the University of Alberta (Canada) as posted by KABNAB TV on November 16, 2020, is worth watching, in terms of the currency of the information it contains, its dangerous nature, and relevance to the predominant pattern we have been observing in the direction of things during the last few months. It is entitled “**ኢሳያስ አፈወርቁ ንጅነራላት አኪቡ፡ ደጊም ብዙይ ኢትዮጵያ ንቀይሕ ባሕሪ ክንቋጻጸር አይንኻእልን ኢና ኢሉ ሓቢሩዎም።**” (<https://youtu.be/QHYchumtZaE>).

Here it would be appropriate to mention some of the shocking things the Ethiopian serpent said in the Ambatkalla meeting of October 2020, as articulately and coherently reported by Dr. Yohannes, punctuated by some comments, just to give the bitter flavour of what would naturally arouse the anger of any Eritrean citizen, regardless of political affiliation (supporter of the regime or against it), except his cowardly enablers, who are his crime partners and associates:

- It is extremely baffling and infuriating to know that the rationale the treacherous Ethiopian agent had presented to the Ambatkalla meeting of high-ranking military and civilian leaderships about his contemplated surrender of Eritrea to Ethiopia, is that the Eritrean National Defence Forces cannot defend the Red Sea at the present time and that Eritrea cannot economically stand on its own but has to be a part of Ethiopia. ***What a heart-breaking moment?*** This is an idiotic way of denying that Ethiopia is a country, whose occupation of Eritrea was ended by a humiliating defeat of its army by Eritreans, culminating the 30-year war of liberation, which cost our people tens of thousands of its sons and daughters, and whose physical, mental, and psychological trauma still lingers. This has been bent up for decades, and he chose this particular moment to say it openly and explicitly, though he had been making some controversial statements, and showing bizarre or markedly unusual behaviours (entertaining for foreign observers but depressing for Eritreans) here and there, during the last two years, hinting at his hidden agenda, and telling us where his heart is. In few words, after systematically and purposefully laying the ground for about three

decades, by destroying everything and turning Eritrea into a hopeless place, finally, in a shameless tone, he confirmed to the Eritrean people and to all his comrades-in-arms that he is not what he has been pretending to be, since the first day he joined the armed struggle.

***What unpardonable insult is this to our martyrs and the lofty goals for which they had fallen, the incredible hardships and the sacrifices our people had to go through for 30 years, and the will of the people expressed in the 1993 Eritrean Independence Referendum at the watch and the support of the international community?*** We do know that Eritrea does not have a strong army and that his regime is at its last gasp or hanging by a thread, but the question is: ***Who is to blame for all that?*** If he realizes that things have reached a deadlock and that he is unable to run the country, he can resign, and by doing so, save his face and have a graceful exit. If he is scared as to what would happen to him if he steps down, the Eritrean people would be less harsh on him for all the 30-year crimes he has committed. ***Why does he need to surrender the country to Ethiopia unless that desire is the closest to his heart than any other consideration?*** This height of treason is too awful to defend and too explicit to deny. I wonder if his PFDJ cultists (PFDJ is a cult; not a party) could still be unable to see anything but his word.

- It is sad to hear that the majority of the audience was receptive and clapped their hands for the serpent in support of what he said, though we know that most of them could be worn out about the regime, but at the same time afraid of the cult leader, who we are aware has made each official and citizen, for that matter, report on another, while about 40-50 attendees left the meeting angry, as any of us would anticipate. It should be noted here that for most of those who clapped hands, divorce with Dictator Isias is down the road for sure, but not yet. However, as long as there is a single patriotic citizen in the meeting, let alone 40-50, the secrets of the meeting would leak out immediately. This is a factor adding to the merit of the report by Dr. Yohannes.
- As the issues he raised reflected the secret agenda he has been working for during the period of the armed struggle and since the day of our national independence, every Eritrean needs to ask: ***Is there any more important matter over which we need to lose sleep?*** Here it is deeply troubling that the serpent left the meeting unchallenged and that the

treacherous scheme he presented to the meeting was looked to as something normal, a matter he would definitely take as a green light given by the military and civilian leaderships. That makes the day of the Ambatkalla meeting one of the most awful days in the history of post-independence Eritrea: a day on which the Ethiopian plant declared that his wish over-rides the will of the people, though the will of the people was explicitly expressed by the 30-year armed struggle and subsequently rectified by the national independence referendum. To be precise, it is astounding that in the real time we were supposed to make the cancerous evil and his gang of tentacles pay for that, through our tacit consent, we proved to him that he is the unquestionable leader.

I feel he is like the emperors in the folktales we used to read in the Arabic reader series, “Kitab Al Mattalaa”, when we were in the elementary school. At the same time, his ministers, generals and senior officials are only there, as an entourage (“Hashyia” according to the Arabic reader series), eating from his table and given the green light to engage in widespread graft and corruption, only to pay with their souls. This is the Eritrean version of the madness of Gaddafi’s medieval regime.

- The open treason self-explained in the Ambatkalla meeting, which showed that all attendees were nothing but officials serving an individual, not a state, reminds us of the hero, Berhane Abrehe (always in our thoughts and prayers), whose voice is the missing ingredient at the real time, though it was supposed to be the example we need to live on. The hard truth here is then: high-ranking Eritrean officials, both military and civilian, were not really concerned about this madness, and did not give us a hope that they would have a leg to stand on to stop it. If they were, they would rise up and stand for the hard-earned sovereignty of the nation. I hope I am wrong, but time will tell.
- The Ethiopian Trojan horse and his cowardly associates may spin or possibly think, if they are really that much naive, that those who clapped their hands in the Ambatkalla meeting for the Ethiopian plant, are patriots. Here it is appropriate to bring to their attention (we are fully aware that they are not allowed to read anything beyond Hadas Eritrea and watch nothing except ERI-TV) that Theodore Roosevelt (October 27, 1858-January 6, 1919), the 26<sup>th</sup> US President, teaches what patriotism is, articulating that:

“Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president or any other public official, save exactly to the degree in which he himself stands by the country. It is patriotic to support him insofar as he efficiently serves the country. It is unpatriotic not to oppose him to the exact extent that by inefficiency or otherwise he fails in his duty to stand by the country. In either event, it is unpatriotic not to tell the truth, whether about the president or anyone else.”

The Ethiopian internal war in our closest neighbour, Tigray, is raging in full swing, and evidence show that the Eritrean regime has been taking side, actively participating at full capacity in the conflict, which Eritrea’s Atse himself has triggered to inflame the region, and implement his strategy of: “Trigger a war to use it to your advantage.” As the landing of the Ethiopian troops on the Eritrean soil, using the war as a pretext, has created havoc and anxiety among our people, who are keenly questioning the Ethiopian motive, not only in relation to the landing of the troops on the Eritrean soil but the war as well, we need to say few things about the war and its possible impact on our country and the direction of events there.

To begin with, as Eritreans, we should neither incriminate nor support any side because we know more than any other people that war does not serve the interest of any side. To that effect, we reflect the Eritrean national voice of reason, whose message, as we imagine it, is three-fold:

- It tells Atse Isias, loud and clear, “Hold your hands from Ethiopian affairs. What happens there is none of your business. Eritreans should no more be the cannon fodder for the wars you trigger here and there as a part of your blood feuds and personal ego.”
- It is sincerely hoped that the warring Ethiopian sides realize the importance of immediate cessation and detestation of hostilities and engage with each other in good faith and without any pre-condition, while stopping current intervention of any foreign actor, as an unappreciated driver of the conflict in Ethiopia, and blocking potential actors in future.
- We tend to ask: **Where is the constructive role (beyond statements) expected from the international community, including African Union?** It

is depressing that we do not see any serious shuttle diplomacy or sincere efforts to put out the fire before it expands to the whole region. ***Is there any side stonewalling diplomatic efforts we did not hear about?***

In principle, we acknowledge that Tigrai has the right to defend itself from any aggression, be it from the federal government, another region, or a neighbouring country. At the same time, we do not hide our wonder: ***Why could the holding of a local election in a region lead to a war? Aren't there democratic tools and institutions that could be employed to resolve contradictions? Hasn't Ethiopia suffered enough from wars with its neighbours, especially Somalia and Eritrea? Isn't Ethiopia the first African country that could come to anybody's mind when the issue of internal and external displacement of population is raised?*** I hope raising these questions and making these remarks would not be interpreted as taking a side in the conflict. Any observer from any part of the planet is morally obliged to say, at least, so much.

Nonetheless, we need to warn all warring Ethiopian sides and the Eritrean regime, as well, that it is common for any political system that experiences an internal or external warfare, in one form or another, to be a victim of a violent collapse of the government in power, though chances for that are more when the conflict ends in the defeat of this or that side. In other words, history repeatedly showed that national military defeats could be decisive in prompting revolutions. There are many examples of violent revolutions and resurrections caused by internal or external wars that could be cited, but we will limit ourselves to the following few:

- The Paris Commune of 1871 (an insurrection against the French government occurred in the wake of France's defeat in the Franco-German War).
- Russian revolutions of 1905 and 1917.
- Hitler's overthrow of the Weimar Constitution in Germany.
- The revolutions in China.

To illustrate this possible scenario, we need to raise the question: ***Why?*** The following factors could create an atmosphere in which radical political change and violent mass actions would be acceptable to a large number of the population:

- The cheapening of human life.

- The dislocation of people.
- The ready availability of arms.
- The disintegration of authority.
- The discreditation of the national leadership.
- National sacrifices.
- A sense of wounded national pride.

Focussing on Eritrea, one would argue that the defeat of the Eritrean regime in the 1998-2000 Badume War did not lead to a major violent collapse of the regime. This is clearly true, but this does not mean that the current war could not cause insurrections. If we watch things carefully and connect all related threads, we would tend towards thinking that it could. The reason is obvious: it is happening under different set of conditions and regional alignment of forces. In fact, the G15 movement could have led to the collapse of the regime had things been planned more meticulously and in a direction that could bring more key players on board. However, there are additional factors this time that, if combined with a military defeat or the protraction of the conflict, the war could lead to the collapse of the Eritrean regime. These include the following:

- The economic crisis in Eritrea has worsened the conditions of the people, who mostly go to bed with an empty stomach, as we hear it from informed sources. Further, the flow of tens of thousands of Ethiopian troops to Eritrea (reports speak of 50, 000 or more) under the pretext of the war in Tigray, has definitely become an additional burden on the hopelessly meager resources. Precisely, nobody could deny that this would definitely produce obvious pressures of material scarcity and deprivations. The American writer, John Thompson of the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, who wrote a commentary, entitled, "***Revolution on Empty Stomach***", warns ruling gangs like that in Eritrea saying:

"Every day we are inundated with news of revolution and unrest around the world. From Algeria to Yemen, it's not necessarily corruption that is causing all the trouble. Throughout history fear of hunger has been a catalyst for revolution."  
(<https://www.macdonaldlaurier.ca/revolution-on-an-empty-stomach/>)

- People feel a sense of insecurity and uncertainty as to the future, with the flow of Ethiopian troops on the Eritrean soil and the treacherous policies and behaviours people have been observing in the leadership of the Atse. The questions begging for answers are: ***What does the return of the Ethiopian army to Eritrea mean to the people, who remember it as a colonial army, with all what the adjective “colonial” means? Is the landing of the troops on Eritrean soil truly because of the war in Tigray or the war itself is a pretext for a hidden agenda connected to Eritrea? Haven’t the Eritrean people the right to know why the Ethiopian army is on the Eritrean soil?*** These conditions and skepticism, that could turn the people to an active role against the regime, did not exist in 1998-2000 Badume War.
  
- The changes that occurred in the Sudan and Ethiopia, the closest neighbours, could have repercussions or the tendency to spread to Eritrea. That impact was not seen in earlier years, but the feeling working underneath could come to the surface because of the new reality now. We saw this happen in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, let alone now with Internet and Social Network, no matter how limited that could be in present Eritrea. We can give some examples:
  - The Spanish Revolution of 1820 had impact on Naples, Portugal, and Piedmont (a region in north-west Italy).
  - The French Revolution of 1917 was followed by a dozen of other revolutions.
  - The colonial liberation movements in Africa, South-East Asia, and elsewhere in the post-WII era, influenced a similar chain reaction.

We have discussed the objective fears, anxiety, and accumulated anger and bitterness of our people, who have been watching the Atse, with a suspicious eye, for three decades, finally to conclude from his policies, actions, observable behaviours, and verbal expressions that his rule was not only a fiasco or a foolish failure but his motive is pure and simple: destroy the whole country, its people, economy, independence, and anything of value (culture, history, family, community, social values, unity...etc), and kill its future, through a systematically implemented plan so that the people would be forced to look towards Ethiopia. In few words, I would call what has been happening, “The decomposing of Eritrea in front of our eyes. “



As explained above, the Devil and his crew put the Eritrean people in a strait jacket so that they could see no other alternative but to accept being a part of Ethiopia. All what he has done during the three decades constitute a tireless effort to bend everyone to the narrative he presented in the Ambatkalla meeting, by reducing Eritrea to ashes and making the people face an inescapable reality. We never rule out the possibility that he has been working on this plot with Ethiopians. In fact, there is an overwhelming evidence to support that, with the best coming from the Ethiopians themselves, especially those who have been involved with the Atse for years. This suggests that his endearment with Abiy Ahmed was not for peace, as the world has wrongly understood, but to execute the final phase of the plot to integrate Eritrea with Ethiopia. Accordingly, everything that happened from that date to the eruption of the war in Tigray and the landing of the Ethiopian troops on the Eritrean soil, using the war as a pretext, are connected events leading to one goal, which is what Eritreans fear: the restoration of Ethiopian occupation. Our greatest fear is becoming, God forbid, our greatest reality. As a result, anger and fear have been suffocating our people, who live in a country with an open wound.

In summary, the Atse has lost the public trust to be given the benefit of the doubt. He has never operated in the best interest of the country, but of its adversary, Ethiopia, turning the country into a nation of pain and grief, piling up on top of grief, to the extent that he has become persona non-grata. These are not normal times, but we are in a national emergency. In few words, we should not let history repeat itself because Eritrea deserves much better. Put differently, we need to realize that none of us can turn away, or be silent, or do nothing. As we do not have the luxury to stand on the sidelines, we should have the moral courage to do something: fight tooth and nail to foil the plot.

The discussions above could show that a dark ominous cloud hovers over Eritrea. This will lead us to the concluding question: ***Is Ethiopia's Trojan horse stoppable?*** It is a cliché, but I have to say it: "Believe in yourself and anything is possible." I do not think, Eritreans who fought the longest war in Africa and won national independence, starting from a scratch, would be unable to defend that independence. However, there is one critical issue we have to address. To put it bluntly, we have to stop fighting the war of two fronts: against the regime and among ourselves. Pray to the Lord to deliver the country from the devil called Isias, remembering that God only helps those who help themselves.