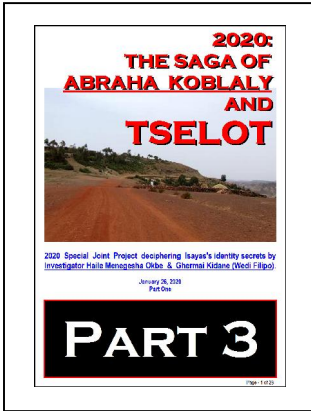


# Arrivederci Sweet Tembien



Abraha Koblaly cleverly played a game on the Government of Italy's national vendetta of high priority to kill Ras Alula Aba Nega.

Upon arrival at the border checkpoint of Colonia Italiana Di Eritrea, the super smart Koblaly sought an political asylum from the Italians citing, "His late father had already accomplished Italy's vendetta to Kill Ras Alula Aba Nega".

The Italian authorities reviewed "Dejezmatch Abraha Hagos's request for an asylum". Dejezmatch Abraha had a major issue with his background, because he belonged to the family of the deceased Emperor Yohannes IV of Ethiopia, who was the ultimate master of Ras Alula Aba Nega. Despite that problem, the Italian authorities congratulated Abraha with "Ba Biene!" It was on the basis of national vendetta of high priority and Abraha was welcomed to the domino.

The Italian authorities tossed Abraha Koblaly into a wagon destined to Asmara and ferried him to the capital. In Asmara, the Italians welcomed Abraha as a new "Coprale" (ኩብራሪዮ) or manual labourer and showed him the road to "villaggio indigena" for a stay.

Abraha Koblaly began to train himself how to forget life as Dejezmatch and start to live in the ghettos of Aba Ashawl and survive by selling his cheap labour for the Italians.



Image #9



Image #10

**ABA SHAWL, ASMARA: Destination and final resting place of Abraha Koblaly, who immigrated in 1889 from Tembien, Tigray to Colonia Italiana Di Eritrea.**

**Image #9: 1930, Villaggio Indigena in Asmara, Colonia Italiana Di Eritrea.**

**Image #10: 1998, Former Villaggio Indigena now Aba Shawl, Asmera.**

Rookie Abarha Koblaly was inserted in the job of the Coprale system that doesn't stop demanding muscles of a mule. The Coprale system built roads, railways, bridges, tunnels . . . etc. After few years of hard work, he got a small break. He was promoted to "Capo Coprale" or leader of an indigenous labour squad (ካቦ ኩብራሪዮ ወይም መራሒ መስርዕ ናይ ኩብራሪዮታት), his first and last title in the domino.

### ENDLESS AGONIES OF ABRAHA

Born to loose Abraha Koblaly faced numerous obstacles inside or outside the domino: poverty, exhaustion, loneliness, insecurity, alienation, spouseless-ness, discrimination, shame and humiliation. For him, the worst of all was the "untouchable Attenash".

On 10th of July 1896, Dejezmatch Abraha, son of Ras Hagos Mirach Woldekidan married Lelt (Princess) Attenash, daughter of Ras Mengesha Kahasy Mirach Woldekidan (ልእልት አጠናሽ ንሎም ንራእሲ መንገሻ ካሕሳይ ምራጭ ወልደኪዳን). From the beginning it was a disastrous marriage of inbreeding, of a royal cousin to a royal niece.

Seven months after Abraha and Attenash tied a knot in a royal wedding, Abraha abandoned his brand new princess in Tembien and immigrated to the domino.

### SOMEDAY MY PRINCE WILL COME

Years passed since the lost prince failed to show up and kiss his princess, in a similar fashion like the classic Snow White: Someday My Prince Will Come.

After many years of disappearance in the domino and splitting with his princess, one day Abraha returned to Tembien to see his princess he left back in his native home.

Unlike the classic Disney movie, the prince was not welcomed in his hometown. His father-in-law and uncle, Ras Mengesha Kahasy Mirach Woldekidan shamefully turned him down, for his son-in-law and nephew had betrayed him and had deserted his daughter.

With father-in-law in fury, it was clear to Abraha that he was forbidden to take his princess from Tembien to any place he desired in the domino. Already Lelt Attenash had become "untouchable" to a classless Koblaly from the domino. The only chance left for Abraha was to bind with Attenash in a long distance love. The agonies of Abraha were endless.

Lelt Attenash and Abraha counted four children after Abraha made a series of travels from the domino to Tembien. Lij Solomon, Lij Afewerki, Lij Mekonen and Lij Hagos were born in Tembien during the series hassle-filled hook-ups. Lij Afewerki is the future Kegnezmatch Afewerki and also the father of Isayas Afewerki.

## **Arrivederci Attenash**

After Abraha Koblaly's kids bloomed to teenage boys, he decided to bring some of his boys to Aba Shawl to cure his loneliness. He applied to the immigration of Colonia Italiana Di Eritrea to allow him to bring two of his boys. He was permitted by the immigration of Colonia due to the excellent job resume he had as Capo Cobrale.

He returned to Tembien and brought Lij Afewerki and Lij Mekonen to Aba Shawl. It was the final trip to Tembien. He never returned to Attenash and was anchored for good in Aba Shawl with the amateur boys from Tembien.

After carting his boys from Tembien to Aba Shawl, the restless ex-Dejezmatch began to hatch an egoistic scheme that was only practical in a fantasy world.

## DURFOVILLE



Image #11

After many years of hard work as Coprale with no result and rotting for ever in the ghettos of Aba shawl and now with two additional boys from Tembien looking for more space, the illusionist Abraha Koblaly went to the outskirts of Durfo, vicinity of Asmara and illicitly constructed his first "homestead in Eritrea" (ደምበ ኣብ ምድረ ኤርትራ), perhaps as future Durfoville for his boys Lij Afewerki and Lij Mekonen, their offsprings and grandoffsprings.

## **DURFOVILLE**

In his first scheme, the illusionist ex-Dejezmatch went to the outskirts of Durfo, in the vicinity of Asmara and illicitly constructed "homestead" (ደምበ) in a no man's land in the escarpments of Durfo, perhaps as future Durfoville for his offsprings.

Though his scheme was illuminating in its own imagination, soon it went into steam, after Abraha Koblaly noticed major flaws with it. The uninhabitable geography, the extremely rugged features, the hot temperatures, the baffling escarpments and the troupes of monkeys made Durfoville to crumble in the eyes of Koblaly.

He quit from the scheme and surrendered his homestead to the monkeys and returned to Aba Shawl.

## **ABRAHAVILLE**

After few years, the never stop dreaming Abraha Koblaly once again pulled a much bolder scheme, this time in a known man's land. He went to the woodlands of Tselot and marked a piece of land for his dream. He curved out a patch in the woodland and constructed a homestead (ደምበ) without any permission from Tselot.

Abarah Koblaly's second Patch of Heaven was not constructed inside or adjacent or in the plain view of the village of Tselot. It was built in the far away woodlands of Tselot. However for the Tselotians nothing would be hidden when an alien constructs an illegal post in their woodlands.

# ABRAHAVILLE



After Durfoville crumbled, Abraha Koblaly constructed for a second time a Patch of Heaven in the woodlands of Tselot. The Patch was not constructed inside or adjacent or in the plain view of the village of Tselot. It was built in the far away woodlands of Tselot but for the Tselotians nothing would be hidden when an alien constructs an illegal post in their woodlands. The illegal post survived some years, protected by the decree of the Italians. Tselotians demolished the post in 1941 after the Italian decree was lifted, due to the defeat of the Italian forces by the British during WW2. Abrahaville collapsed forever and Abraha Koblaly finally succumbed to his shack in Aba Shawl until his death in 1962.

**The Tselotians confronted the alien and advised him to quit immediately from their woodland. However, the bold alien refused to fold and leave.**

**Abraha Koblaly went back to Asmara and pleaded with his Italian masters. His excellent job resume of Capo Cobrale made a miracle. The Italian authorities fully cooperated with**

their dedicated slave and dispatched an order to the village Chiqa (ቄቃ) or chieftain. They informed the Chiqa not to touch the post of the person of interest. Abraha Koblaly was able to secure his own safety and Abrahaville seemed live at least for now.

During WW2, the British forces uprooted Italian colonial administration in Eritrea on April 1941. Eritrea was liberated. The occupied patch in the woodlands of Tselot was also liberated. At last, Tselotians got chance and demolished the alien's post and liberated their woodland from the Tembenian occupier. Abraha Koblaly fled back to Aba Shawl and never returned.

### **FINAL REST**

Abraha Koblaly, the sorrowful old man with endless failures in life, was moored to his shack in Aba Shawl with poverty until his death in 1962.

Dejazamtch Abraha Hagos Mirach Woldekidan was laid to rest in Kidisti Mariam Church Cemetery in Asmara with full state funeral and honour. Among the dignitaries present were: his sons, Dejezmatch Solomon Abraha, Governor of Wollo province, Kegnezmatch Afewerki Abraha, Ethiopian Navy Captain Mekonen Abraha and other respected family members.

Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia ordered the state funeral for Abraha. The Emperor's granddaughter Princess Aida



**Ras Desta Damtew was married to Ras Mengesha Seyoum. (Junior). Aida's mother was Princess Tenagnework Haile Selassie, the oldest daughter of the Emperor.**

**The entire life of Abraha Koblaly was desperation and pains except this one, at his death. The winding saga of Abraha Koblaly is laid to rest here.**

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**Inputs, comments, questions, corrections, opposition are kindly welcome. Please submit them to us. Thank you.**

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**Shall continue on Part Four**