

BEGIN DEY SLEEP FINE – “DEH NGILA” IS WIDE AWAKE!!

Which one do you want to hear first: The GOOD NEWS or The BAD NEWS? The GOOD NEWS first, you say? Here it is then:

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE!!!!

So what’s the BAD NEWS nah? Well, here it is:

SATAN GET E OWN PLAN FOR YAH LIFE TOO OH!

I know this whole Satan and Evil palava is one nobody really wants to dwell on because it is rather scary and intimidating, but running away from it, ducking from it, pretending it doesn’t exist or flat out denying its existence, in no way changes the fact that it is real. In fact, there is no one who would just LOVE for us to be in DENIAL about the existence of Evil than the perpetrator of the evil himself. It is this simple: If you don’t even acknowledge or recognize the existence of an enemy who IS armed to the teeth and very determined to get you, how can you expect to escape or survive his attack? On the other hand if you “KNOW THY ENEMY” – who he is, the strategies he uses, when and where he is like to strike and particularly, THE MOST EFFECTIVE AMMUNITION TO USE AGAINST HIM, then you are bound to come out VICTORIOUS, winning THE WAR, even if you lose a battle or two along the way, and carry the scars to show for it.

Before I go any further, I think I should address the Christian wey e balance for some corner dey tink say na play Satan dey play:

SISTAH! BRODA!

As you dey sing dat yah “GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN ME” so, you dey check yah own say na who be de “**HE** THAT IS IN THE WORLD” eh? The first verse of that song makes it VERY CLEAR who the “he” is:

“**SATAN**’s like a roaring lion, roaming to and fro, Seeking whom he may devour”!

And where did the author of the song get such a “crazy”, “ludicrous”, “absurd” idea from? He says “The Bible tells me so”! Na lie e dey lie? NO-OH! No be for Kumba market e hear’am oh! Na for St. Peter e mop seff-seff:

° Be alert and of sober mind. **Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** (1 Peter 5:8)

You be Christian you, but you no really trust you St. Peter? How about we see what JESUS Himself said, talking to this very Peter:

“Simon, Simon, **Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.** ³² **But I have prayed for you,** Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 2:31-32)

Some Christians say they are into the New Testament, and (erroneously), don't care too much for the Old Testament. Hopefully you're not one of those so let me just give you one more marrow-chilling example, from Job 1, of how our adversary operates:

‘ One day the angels^[a] came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan^[b] also came with them. ’ The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

Satan answered the LORD, “**From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.**”

So what do we do about this state of affairs? Hide for banda make Satan no see you? Impossible! Crawl into a corner and “CRY NGEUH”? That would not help the least bit! In fact, it could only make matters significantly worse. What we definitely need to do is follow our MASTER's example and **PRAY** like our very lives depended on it – because they do!! We cannot afford to NOT pray both for ourselves and FOR OTHERS!

Earlier, I mentioned the importance of knowing your enemy's strategy or technique. Well, since our enemy has been likened to a NGILA, it might do us some good to look at a documentary or two on ANIMAL PLANET, to give us an idea of how a lion hunts and captures its prey. I have; and here's what I came away with, as far as “NGILA TACTICS” are concerned. If hungry dey really do lion, e go attack any beef, but then, to limit or prevent unnecessary “nack skin”, what does he do? He goes after **THE YOUNG** and **THE INJURED!** Are you really asking why? Of course, because they are **THE MOST VULNERABLE!**

Translation: We should be praying for ourselves and others since we are ALL susceptible to attack, but **we need to pray with heightened fervor and fervency for our CHILDREN and for those who are WOUNDED and AFFLICTED** simply because the temptations and adversity they face make them so much more vulnerable. I hate to put it this way but I believe the devil does have his “koh-kohs” and “bobilongos”!

Specific prayers where we lift up people, calling them by name are GREAT, but THANK GOD, we do NOT even need to know what specific Sister is going through what specific NDON, to pray! Just within ExSSA-USA, I know of sisters RIGHT NOW

- Whose husbands are battling Cancer,
- Who are battling Cancer themselves,
- Who are walking around with heart pacers,
- Whose marriages are on the rocks or already in shambles,
- Who are plagued by depression and other psychiatric and psychological issues (with themselves or with their children)
- Who have children in jail,
- Who are jobless, car-less, facing eviction and headed for the shelter

- Who have lost someone – tragically or otherwise, or are in danger of losing a loved one to a chronic disease, etc.

The list, unfortunately, is long! Sure, some of us can and should help with anything from cold hard “nchou” (as in cash), to Pepper Soup in a food flask but something **ALL** of us **CAN** afford to do, is PRAY to HE WHO IS GREATER THAN that other he THAT IS IN THE WORLD, so that HE can unleash His limitless power in our favor, especially since many afflicted are often too weary, too discouraged, too downcast, or downright JUST TOO SICK to pray for themselves. One thing that seems apparent to me about our God is that even though He is OMNIPOTENT, ALMIGHTY, and ALL POWERFUL, He tends not to like Him “OPEN EYE”. He desires that WE CALL ON/TO HIM FOR HELP, before He acts. Elijah no just stand for one corner like stick dey look place. Neither did God just get up and rain down fire from Heaven like dat. Elijah called out to God AND THEN God RESPONDED, in the MIGHTY WAY in which He did! Here’s the crux of how things went down that day on Mount Carmel:

³⁶ At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah **stepped forward and prayed**: “LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷ **Answer me, LORD, answer me**, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

³⁸ **Then** the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. (1 Kings 18:36-38)

One more thing! Do you believe in “LUCK”? I sure as heck DON’T! I have every reason to believe that “EVERYTHING by HIM IS PLANNED”! E-V-E-R-Y-T-H-I-N-G, down to the minutest detail, and with or without the knowledge – or consent of the participants. Just 2 Examples:

- Caesar Augustus be check e own say e dey pass decree say make any man go for e kontri for Census, so dat make e collect e taxes; little did he know (or even suspect) that he was just a tool in God’s hands, to guarantee His Son’s birth in Bethlehem as had been foretold by the prophets!
- Time wey Gideon be dey fear-fear for go attack de Midianites, what did God do? (Judges 7) To encourage him, He asked him to take his servant Purah, and go “kunya-kunya” into the enemy’s camp and eavesdrop. No be dem carry their backfoot go? Here’s exactly what happened:

¹³ Gideon arrived **just as** a man was telling a friend his dream. “I had a dream,” he was saying. “A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.”

¹⁴ His friend responded, "This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands."

Call this a coincidence? M'MBA OH!! I CAN'T! What are the odds that, of ALL the HUGE army of the Midianites which the Bible says covered the entire valley like "ngaw" after rain don fall finish, or sand-sand on a seashore, Gideon would "sneak up" on just these particular 2 dudes – one who had had this particular dream, and the other who gave this particular interpretation to the dream????!!!!

The reason I bring this up is to make us aware or remind us that, even though we might have an enemy that doesn't sleep, we have a more Powerful God on our side who "neither slumbers nor sleeps"! A lot of what He does, we do not even notice or see, because we take it for granted and also because spiritual warfare is just not visible to the naked eye. Just so you know who to thank for making it safely from day to day, having escaped dangers, snares and traps you didn't even know existed, let me leave you with this story which has calmed my fears and been responsible for a lot of PEACEFUL and WORRY-FREE SLEEP over the years. It is recorded in 2 Kings 6:15-18

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.

¹⁶ "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. **"Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."**

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." **Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

¹⁸ As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Strike this army with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

Looks to me like we have a SOLID, INVINCIBLE , "MERCINE MAN" on our side, and we do not need to have "4 EYE" to know He is at work. If that doesn't give us the confidence to cry out to Him for ourselves and for each other, I don't know what else will! Remember: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"! (James 5:16)

So then:

AT THE CLOSE OF THE DAY, WHEN I KNEEL TO PRAY, I WILL REMEMBER YOU!

YOU NEED HELP EVERYDAY, THIS IS WHY I PRAY, I WILL REMEMBER YOU!

WHEN I PRAY, I WILL PRAY FOR YOU, FOR YOU NEED HIS LOVE AND HIS CARE!

WHEN I PRAY, I WILL PRAY FOR YOU, I WILL WHISPER YOUR NAME IN MY PRAYER!

SHALOM!

EGBE MBIWAN MONJIMBO

(Trying to "Watch, Pray & Stand In The Gap" over here in Charlotte, NC)

p.s. Here's a powerful and insightful Gospel Song - **GOD BLOCKED IT** by Kurt Carr, which does an AMAZING job of reinforcing in song, what I have tried to put in words.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLLUIYSu_H4