

DIS PRAISE PALAVA DEY SO ...

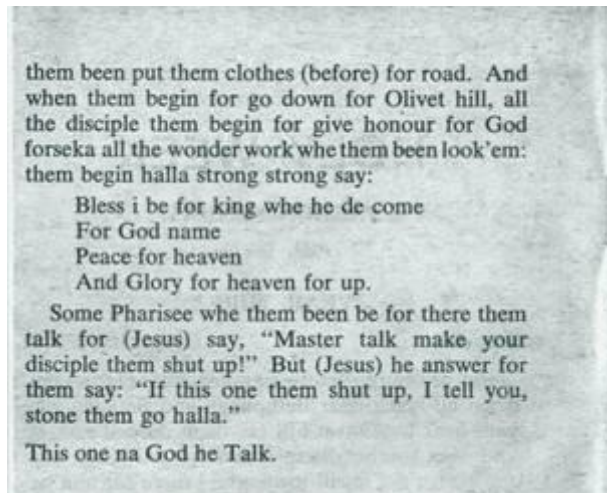
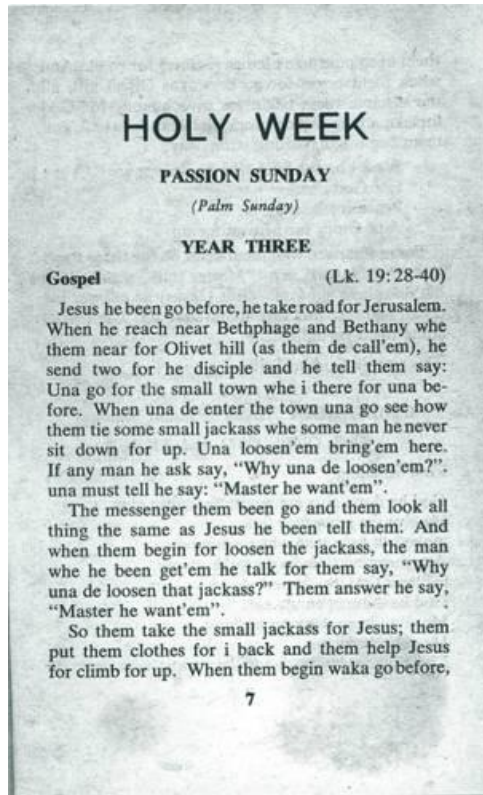
“SPRING HAS SPRUNG!” This is a “Pronouncement” or Declaration one is used to hearing around this time of year. It is often made, JUBILANTLY, by many a WINTER-WEARY person as the flowers and grass begin to bloom. However, the statement is definitely NOT received with the same excitement by those who suffer from pollen, tree or weed ALLERGIES, some of which can be quite severe, crippling, or even fatal, should they trigger an asthmatic attack!

Many of us are either allergic to **SOMETHING** ourselves, (not **SOMEONE**, I hope), or know someone who is. Some cannot afford to as much as “hear the smell” of njanga, much less taste it, without it causing them “major havoc”. Others break into a severe, bordering-on-koro-koro, RASH if they were certain kinds of fabric, or jewelry with certain elements in it. All of this is quite familiar but then there is this “sneaky” and “dangerous” allergy that many of us have which we may not even realize we are “flirting” with or already have well ensconced in the core of our being: it is THE PRAISE ALLERGY oh!

There are 2 “strains” of it: One is quite BENIGN while the other is certainly MALIGNANT.

Some people CRAVE praise, and jump at any and every opportunity to soak it up and bask in it. In fact, if e bad, they would not mind “Manufacturing & Fabricating” situations that catapult them into the spotlight, thereby triggering a shower – or torrential downpour of praise. Others, however, are “ALLERGIC” to Praise, most often because they are humble or modest, but also because they interpret it – rightly or erroneously, as FLATTERY. This is the BENIGN type of “Praise Allergy” that really doesn’t hurt anyone. By the way, May I just mention right here that I believe that the litmus test for differentiating between PRAISE & FLATTERY is INTENTION or MOTIVE? Sycophantic “Praise” that is proffered with “DE MA BOLA” undertones while nursing hopes of a promotion or appointment in return, no be genuine praise in my opinion oh! Why don’t I brazenly push this a little further: If I sing my very esophagus out, shake 12 tambourines at a time till I have blisters in my palms, and leap higher than Michael Jordan and LeBron James combined in the name of “PRAISING GOD”, and my INTENTION or MOTIVE na sey make E try shake skin give me TWINS, VOLVO & MAN/KWAKU, then ...

So, what is this MALIGNANT PRAISE ALLERGY then? It is THE ALLERGY TO GIVING PRAISE WHERE & WHEN IT IS DUE! In fact, chronic sufferers take it a serious step further: not only would they not be caught dead praising anyone else oh! Dem fit vex die – or entah bottle, if someone else does offer the praise. HABA!! No be PALM SUNDAY dis? (Clap for yourself if, at the mention of those 2 words, you know where I’m going!!) If you don’t, instead of clapping, read this Palm Sunday Narrative – IN PIDGIN, ah beg, as “extracted” from “THE HOLY WEEK LECTONARY” (Cycle 3), translated by Catholic Information Service, Buea, printed in March 1974 by the Catholic Printing Press, Buea, under the auspices of “PIUS S. AWA, BISHOP of BUEA”!!!



Still don't see who and what I am referring to? Then let me break it down:

De population of Jerusalem, dem dey praise King Jesus; The ticked off Pharisees are not content to just "Grumble on Sunday" and leff'am so; they have the nerve to ask Poor Jesus on His Jackass to ask the people to stop doing what they should have been doing themselves in the first place!

If you think that is the only glaring example of the malignant kind of PRAISE ALLERGY, then you don surely fRoget King Saul oh! Chochoro David don kill Goliath! All de Nyango and Ngondedi dem for de whole Israel dem don form song! Dem dey scattah méringué for road dey sing say:

"Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

Oh lo lo oh! As Saul hear so; what did he do? Did he join in the well-deserved praise of this little Shepherd Boy who, with a rubber gun & FAITH IN THE LIVING GOD had taken down this 9 foot, 9 inch (close to 3 meters), forget-Yao-Ming, tall GIANT who had TERRORIZED the nation of Israel with taunting & threats EVERY SINGLE DAY for 40 SOLID DAYS???! For where? Here's his reaction:

*Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" * And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.

Don't we all know what ensued? Years of "chasing & stalking with intent to kill!!" Interestingly, I do not see any sign that King Saul was unhappy when David actually killed Goliath oh! What triggered his anger was ... The women's PRAISE!

Another PRAISE-ALLERGIC dude? Oga CAIN, brother of ABEL! Here's their story:

*Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. **The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.***

⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?"

Again, instead of being happy for his brother and then "doing what is right" as God advised him to do, E tie face like one bundle koki and chose the "premeditated murder" option!

Before I conclude, I think I do have to point out that there is this "SUBSET" within the Malignant Allergy-To-Praise "patients" who are also afflicted by the "NA BECAUSE SAY" virus! These are the ones who, once PRAISE or ACCOLADES are given, deem it crucially and vitally necessary, to EXPLAIN away the reasons why someone has achieved whatever they are being praised for!!! Try talk make e hear say Vero sabi cook fiiiiine! The response is: "How e no go know how for cook? Woman dull sotey, e no fit pass even First School! Na only cook e sabi cook!" CHEE-EE-YAY! As if there aren't millions of women who are NOT book smart AND also aren't good cooks! Someone opts for the convent or dedicates their life to mission work, and all "someone" can find to say is: "Na because no man no be want marrey e!"

I have never thought this kind of behavior tolerable, but I don't think it dawned on me how SERIOUS, EGREGIOUS & SCARY this tendency is, till I re-read the beginning of the Book of Job again recently, and noticed that the behavior matches SATAN's to a "T"!!! Just see how things went down:

⁶One day the angels^(a) came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan^(a) also came with them. ⁷The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

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

*⁸Then the LORD said to Satan, **"Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."***

And what was Satan's reply? The BIGGEST "NA BECAUSE SAY" statement in de whole wide werld oh!:

*⁹**"Does Job fear God for nothing?"** Satan replied. ¹⁰**"Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.** ¹¹But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."*

Thank God that De Ovah Sabi Devil was flat out wrong, and Job "disgraced" him well-well and remained faithful to God even when EVERYTHING was taken from him!

Still think this whole malignant strand of "PRAISE ALLERGY" is no big deal? Then maybe you'd change your mind if I added the 2 scripture verses that followed the Quotes about Cain and Saul already cited above. Here they are:

For Cain:

*⁷If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? **But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.***

Did Cain heed this warning? NOPE! Bettah be follow e? NOPE!

For Saul:

⁹And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.

*¹⁰**The next day an evil^[a] spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. ... Saul had a spear in his hand ¹¹and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall."***

Was Saul's fate any better? NO – OH!!!

Need I say more??!!!

BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!!!!

HAPPY PALM SUNDAY!!