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**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 6:34 AM  
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**Subject:** [SakerClassof81] IS IT REALLY ALL ABOUT THE "NGOWAS"??

There is this very interesting story recorded in the 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter of LUKE's Gospel which I am sure most, if not all of us remember. However, the one thing we tend to remember about the entire narrative is only the "SHWINE" part, and that is a real pity, given the wealth of INSIGHTFUL & SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE embedded in the 13 verses that tell the story. If you don't mind, I'd like to share with you what I get out of the story from a very "NON-NGOWA POINT OF VIEW"!

**1. LUCIFER E SEFF-SEFF KNOW SEY E NO FIT TRY JESUS E HOW FAR OH!:** Just before this "ngowa" story starts, Jesus calmed a storm of Tsunami proportions, causing HIS OWN DISCIPLES to wonder and ask:

"**Who is this?** He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

That is verse 25. Here are verses 26, 27 & 28, which provide a very CLEAR & UNAMBIGUOUS ANSWER to that question, FROM A VERY UNLIKELY SOURCE

<sup>27</sup> When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a **demon-possessed man** from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, **Jesus, Son of the Most High God?** I beg you, don't torture me!"

And that is just the irony! Very often, the Devil takes a look at us, sees WHO our PROTECTOR and DEFENDER is, and is scared out of his mind to mess with us! However, *we* FORGET – or underestimate His power, and spend valuable time quaking and sweating in our boots!

**2. THE COMPLETENESS OF A REAL CHRIST-ORCHESTRATED TRANSFORMATION:** Here is the description of the troubled man **before** JESUS came to his rescue:

**ADDRESS:** "BURYING GROUND" & SOLITARY PLACES

**STATE:** WILD, VIOLENT, CRAZY, RAVING LUNATIC

**DRESS / CLOTHING:** NOT A STITCH – as in "EMPTY LASS" – For a LONG time.

**JEWELRY / "BLING":** CHAINS ON HANDS & FEET – to restrain him, in addition to assigned guards.

Here is the description of the same individual **after** his encounter with JESUS:

When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, **sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind.**

Talk about a night and day difference! This man, by his own admission, had been possessed not by 1 demon, or even Mary Magdalene's 7 demons (Luke 8:2; Mark 16:9), but by a LEGION, which is the Roman Army term for as many as 6,000!!! JESUS got rid of every single one of them, and restored him to sanity - which means our "demons", whatever they might be, are no match for Him either!!

**3. STRANGE, UNEXPECTED REACTION:** May be I am just "a type" but I would have thought that the TOWNSFOLK would be overjoyed that their "Countryman" - whose violent and crazed condition must have been a safety and security hazard – was healed! Here, however, is what happened instead:

<sup>37</sup> **Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear.**

No aso-ebis and "one-kind"s were sewn; no Thanksgiving services were organized; NO NAHTING – only "SAH! Ah beg, carry yah badluck go oh"! And did Jesus make an exception this time and insist on staying in a place where he was clearly NOT welcome? NO! The story says:

"He got into the boat and left".

How ironic, especially since I am convinced that, prior to this incident, most of the people in that town would have expressed the wish to see the troubled man cured. Unfortunately, when their wish was granted, they somehow could not wrap their brains around it! Interestingly, that reaction is not all that uncommon! We *do* have a tendency, sometimes, to get used to an unhealthy, unhappy and uncomfortable situation – especially in someone else, to the point that when that situation improves or changes completely – EVEN THOUGH FOR THE BETTER, we have the strangest reaction. Think about it carefully and you'll have to admit that some of us LOVE and get so comfortable in our "SHOULDER TO CRY/LEAN ON" positions, or our "FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE" rush-to-your-hospital room-with pepper soup-and-nkap posts that when you recover mentally, physically and financially, we just CANNOT relate with the NEW & IMPROVED YOU! And we prayed earnestly for your situation to improve oh!! Now wey God don answer de prayah, anohda palava don start! MANYAKA!!

**4. GOD E HOMEWORK SABI HARD EH!:** Alright then! The people of the town told JESUS to leave. E no argue e; E entah inside e canoe go e! Now, what about the healed man eh? If the people were scared and upset enough at JESUS to ask him to leave, do you think they, (especially the pig owners), would have been delighted to have this man in their midst? HECK NO! That is why I find nothing funny or strange about the next segment of the story:

<sup>38</sup> The man from whom the demons had gone out **begged** to go with him"

You fit blame de poor man? If na you??!! What I find “shocking” though, is JESUS’ response to the distressed man’s request:

“but Jesus sent him away”!

NA WELI MAWONGO!! AH YESU! You dey go leff me for back – for inside “hostile/enemy territory” sey make ah do how nah, OGA?? Here’s JESUS’ answer not just to this man but to US as well:

<sup>39</sup> “Return home and tell how much God has done for you.”

Very often, GOD chooses to leave us in our uncomfortable “Work Places”, “Relationships”, “Neighborhoods” and “Situations” just so we can STAY & TELL!

If this man had responded with a: “NA YOU SABI DAT ONE, TARRA!!” and proceeded to swim after JESUS’ retreating boat, ah no for blame de man me yah! He did NOT though! Here’s what he did instead, which is what I can only hope I would have the courage to do when next I am tempted to bail out and jump ship:

“So the man went away and told **all over town** how much Jesus had done for him.”

Now that’s what real witnessing looks like!

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo