

## MY MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER!

(May 12 2013)

**Morning oh, Dear SANGO YESU!**

It is almost 8 p.m. here but as wey plenti song dem talk say “there is No Night there”, in the land of “Endless Day”, na de ting make ah salute you say “Morning”, instead of “Goot ivining”.

You know that one of the MAJOR aspects I like about your BOOK – is how FLAWED & REAL the characters in it are! You know why nah? Because some of us – with all our imperfections, can actually relate!! Yes, there are some really flat out ROTTEN COCOs in its pages whose stories tempt and lure me into “knacking ma ches(t)” and saying: “At least, ah bettah pass dis one 10 times yah!” (Don’t care what my students, children or anyone else thinks or says; ah know me ma own say, ma own “wiketness” no even near HERODIAS and JEZEBEL their own!!) Even more “comforting” and “consoling” though, is the fact that even the EXCELLENT COCOs to whom You Yourself have ascribed “A” ratings with such “titles” as “FRIEND OF GOD”, “MY SERVANT” and “MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART”, are far from perfect! Let us not even discuss the character of some of the people you “hung out with” when you walked this “grong”, like Maria Magdalena de Ashawo, and Zacchaeus & Matthew de Bribey-Bribey customs (officer) dem! One is therefore able to look at the life of practically ANYONE in the BIBLE and learn both HOW to behave in any given situation, as well as HOW NOT to act. So thiafore, with MOTHER’S DAY just around deh corner, I decided to go in search of both GOOD and BAD examples of MOTHERHOOD in your book. My “perusal” morphed into this specific MOTHER’S prayer:

- May I learn from **MAMMY EVE** to take any changes in my status IN STRIDE, even if, like her, I plummet from PARADISIACAL, EDEN-LIKE BLISS to PURE NDON! Help me learn to handle unspeakable tragedy like she assumedly did, when her son, CAIN, killed his brother ABEL!

- PAPA! Your BOOK does not make it clear whether or not **MAMMY SARAH** knew what was going on the day her MUMI, ABRAHAM gahdah-ed firewood and carried her ONLY son that she had borned at age 90, to go and sacrifice him up deh Mountain! Hum! If she was WELL AWARE and simply TRUSTED along with her husband that “THE LORD WOULD PROVIDE”, then, PAPA, AH BEG, you have to help me with that kind of FAITH oh! You know I would have “DISPLAYED” – cutlass, stretching comb, broom, charcoal iron, mortar pestle, burning red oyel wit alligator pepper inside and all, if it had been me, as in: “YOU SAY WETIN’??? WHO E PIKIN??? DIS MA ONE EYE PIKIN??? YA HEAD NO CORRECK!! WONA HOL’ ME BEFORE AH FINISH DIS OL’ MAN KPATA-KPATA!!!” Dem for hear ma news de whole Kwata, town and kontri seff.

- Please grant me the COMMON SENSE, INGENUITY, DETERMINATION, DARING NATURE and IMPLICIT TRUST in your power that **MAMMY JOCHEBED** displayed when, instead of adopting a resigned “how (wo)man go do?” attitude in the face of the (Hebrew) child murders going on all around her, made that floating basket wit col tar for her son Moses, and set him afloat in deh Nile, thereby enabling him to be rescued by Pharaoh’s daughter.

- PLEASE do NOT let me adopt **MAMMY RACHEL’S** “PATCHAH”-ridden parenting skills whose dire and grim consequences are visible and perceptible all across the Middle East to this day! Help me NOT to so blatantly FAVOR one child over the other, or “aid and abet” – in fact, PUSH any of my children into tricking their father. True, I am guilty of NOT telling Oga Monjimbo “de whole truth and nothing but deh truth” regarding the “spoiling” of his 1,000 inch screen TV. I just thought blaming deh whole “catastrophe” on LIGHTNING and TUNDAH was far better than exposing my pikin wey ah carry for belleh 9 months, to some form of punishment I couldn’t predict! But dis one for TIFF A WHOLE BIRTHRIGHT? No me oh!

- Instead, PAPA, please give me the PERSISTENCE, RESILIENCE, ENDURANCE and THE ABILITY TO KEEP PROMISES that **MAMMY HANNAH** showed! Her stoopit “Mbanyi”, Penninah, mocked her for being barren and she did not retaliate! E no even cough! (Wehdah deh rubber gun was not yet invented by that time, wey e for take'am fling some bettah seven-seven stone loss de woman e eye wit'am oh! Ah no know!!) Instead, MAMMY just kept quietly going her to the Temple, YEAR IN, YEAR OUT, praying fervently for God to give her a child! Even that year when ELI deh Priest saw her lips moving and accused her of being drunk, she did not “CUSS HIM OUT” like some of us would, or even ask him wetin’ consign e for okro soup”, as in “Mind yah own business”. She took the TIME & PATIENCE – instead of getting offended and irritated, to EXPLAIN her situation. Yeah, Yeah, Yeah! I know she made a promise to God that she would give Him back the child, if God should choose to bless her with one. But, if na me, once the child did actually land, I would have gone straight back to the “Negotiating Table”, and at least tried to say, “Massa! Make we re-discuss deh parameters of we previous ‘greement oh! At least try wait make ah born numbah 2 before ah take dis ma ONE & ONLEY dash you dey!!”

- SANGO! Before you begin to think I never read the NEW TESTAMENT, let me quickly single out dear **MAMMY ELISA** who, like your own Earthly Mother, let her son, John The Baptist be exactly who He was designed by his Creator to be. Ah sure say Ma no be too like de whole Camel’s hair attire, and de jaggah-jaggah Nazarite Vow bia-bia on top e pikin e head, but e no talk e notin oh! She nurtured and allowed him to fulfill his God-ordained mission.

- Hum! Should the time come, as I pray it does, when I become A MOTHER-IN-LAW, ah beg, make ah try be like **SAINT PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW** oh! Her background story is not told explicitly but all I know is that, she must have been a BETTAH, CORRECK, MOHDAH-IN-LAW to have been staying in her son-in-law's house like that oh! I don't think she is mentioned anywhere else in the Bible outside of Matthew 18:14-15, but that little bit speaks VOLUMES:

***14 Jesus went to Peter's house. He saw that Peter's mother-in-law was in bed with a high fever. 15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her. Then she stood up and began to serve him.***

Man no fit know for sure, but I just don't think this "SERVING" is something she just suddenly got up and started doing only after You cured her from this particular fever oh! De serving be surely be de woman e fashion abi??!!! In fact, who knows? As e son-in-law be don leff e fishing business go follow You so, sometime na de ting make e cam be for house dey, e dey helep Mrs. Peter!!

- Finally PAPA! Make ah try be like **MAMMY EUNICE** yah! All de Scripture wey e own Mammy LOIS be teach e, E take'am, teach'am back for e pikin TIMOTHY! You seff-seff know say Ma MBIWAN be try e best for teach e pikin dem, ting way e own MAMMY, SOPHIE NAMONDO be teach e, PLUS PLENTI DASH ON TOP!!! PAPA, no 'gree make ah shiddon dey look place like pussy, instead for me for teach de pikin dem, (biological and ohdahwise), wey you don take yah time dash me dey!!

- PA! Ah know sey you no go vex if ah mention some ohdah EXEMPLARY MAMMY, wey e no dey e for inside Bible: **MAMMY SUSANNAH WESLEY**, Mammy for de famous preacher and song writer dem, CHARLES & JOHN WESLEY! She was deh lass born of 25 children, and e seff-seff born 19, even though 9 of them died in infancy! (Some of we don raise 2, and we check say we don kill'am!!!)

Of course, YOU know her REMARKABLE story, but the "pock-nosers" who stumble upon this my "private" Prayer to YOU might not, so let me educate them, using this online excerpt which is a LOUD AND CLEAR MESSAGE TO ALL MOTHERS, SINGLE OR MARRIED:

Susannah and Samuel Wesley were married on 11 November **1688**. Samuel was 26 and Susannah was 19.

Susannah and Samuel Wesley had 19 children. Nine of her children died as infants. Four of the children who died were twins. A maid accidentally smothered one child. At her death, only eight of her children were still alive.

Susannah experienced many hardships throughout her life. Her husband left her and the children for over a year because of a minor dispute.

To her absent husband, Susannah Wesley wrote:

***I am a woman, but I am also the mistress of a large family. And though the superior charge of the souls contained in it lies upon you, yet in your long absence I cannot but look upon every soul you leave under my charge as a talent committed to me under a trust. I am not a man nor a minister, yet as a mother and a mistress I felt I ought to do more than I had yet done. I resolved to begin with my own children; in which I observe the following method: I take such a proportion of time as I can spare every night to discourse with each child apart. On Monday I talk with Molly, on Tuesday with Hetty, Wednesday with Nancy, Thursday with Jacky, Friday with Patty, Saturday with Charles.***

Samuel Wesley spent time in jail twice due to his poor financial abilities, and the lack of money was a continual struggle for Susannah. Their house was burned down twice; during one of the fires, her son, John, nearly died and had to be rescued from the second story window. She was the primary source of her children's education.

And here, are her famous **16 HOUSE RULES** which worked splendidly in her time, and which are sure to work today, if we would only be CONSCIENTIOUS enough and have the GUTS to apply them. Sadly, in our "POLITICALLY CORRECT" and "ULTRA LIBERAL" WORLD, some of them, (SEE #16), might earn you at least a visit from CPS (Child Protective Services), if not an actual brief trip to deh Ngatta and back!! Any wonder why some of us see HÉLÉLÉ in the schools we teach at on a DAILY basis, where MAJORITY of the parents leave it up to us and the State to raise their offspring?????!!!

### **1. Eating between meals not allowed.**

(Even if na for McDonalds de "Meal" comm'ot, ah wanda? LOL! Talk about INSTANT ERADICATION of Childhood Obesity, No Mayor Bloomberg or Michelle Obama "initiatives" necessary!!)

### **2. As children, they are to be in bed by 8 p.m.**

(Sey wetin wrong wit pikin e cell phone, iPod, Lap top or XBOX? And, no be dem dey show Deh Real Housewives & Deh Khardashians na from 10 p.m. up??)

### **3. They are required to take medicine without complaining.**

(Even cod liver oye! And even da after Siesta “Malaria Treatment” for Saker?)

**4. Subdue self-will in a child, and those working together with God to save the child's soul.**

(“Subdue”? Which kind “primitive” word dat? No be pikin – and deh pet snake too, get rights pass deh parents, including slapping rights if Papa or Mammy vex you?)

**5. To teach a child to pray as soon as he can speak.**

(When eh? Wey Mammy & Papa dey work round deh clock, NOT EVEN to just put bread on the table but to keep the BMWs and Swimming pools running??!! Where eh? At school where prayer has been banished, and Bibles are NOT allowed, only for the same Bibles to be heartily welcome IN JAIL HOUSES – as in selling way after Nkoulouloun Market???)

**6. Require all to be still during Family Worship.**

(Say Family worship first dey, before na palava “be still”?? Make ah laff!!)

**7. Give them nothing that they cry for, and only that when asked for politely.**

(Make ah laff ahgain 2 times!!! Entah any store for dis kontri; you no need to count from 1 to 5 before you see 100 instances of a TOTAL disregard of this rule, which is why, when some of us dare tell our students “NO” they are GENUINELY shocked, having NEVER heard the word before!)

**8. To prevent lying, punish no fault which is first confessed and repented of.**

(Then, wetin be my cane – as in Dr. DO GOOD, e work??!!)

**9. Never allow a sinful act to go unpunished.**

(And wetin be de punishment biko? TIME OUT?? Make ah laff for deh 3rd time!!)

**10. Never punish a child twice for a single offense.**

(Who's counting??!! If na CPS, then how you for manage "punish" de pikin de FIRST time to start with, sotey you wan even mention "twice"??!! Ah for laff de fourth time but na only sey ma jaw don start hurt, and too much of a ting is a disease!!)

**11. Comment and reward good behavior.**

(Wit "mbong-mbong" or wit Cadillac and a trip to Monaco??)

**12. Any attempt to please, even if poorly performed, should be commended.**

(So, if pikin cook you burn-burn chop on Mother's Day, HUG de Precious Pikin, swallow de ting dassoh!! No start wit "Na which kind mal chance diss? Some man go marrey you so??)

**13. Preserve property rights, even in smallest matters.**

(Junior e bolo-bolo na Junior e bolo-bolo! If Small Mammie want play wit'am, make e kuku ask Junior NICELY, for pArmission oh!)

**14. Strictly observe all promises.**

(No go promise pikin say you go attend e School Play, then when de day cam reach, you start talk how wey you no fit go again as you ovah get work, wey de real deal na sey that day coincide wit de lass day for MACY's 50% Off Sale!!)

**15. Require no daughter to work before she can read well.**

(Before how manage almost half de whole 12th grade – boys and girls included, dem dey read ENGLISH at Middle School level and dem all dey work??!!)

**16. Teach children to fear the rod.**

(What rod? Dem neva first fear gun; na rod dem go come fiah??!!)

ON DISCIPLINE

Susannah Wesley believed that for a child to grow into a self-disciplined adult, he/she must first be a parent-disciplined child.

AH GWE RAISON OH, Mammy SUE!!!

**HAVE A HAPPY & PENSIVE MOTHER'S DAY!!**

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo



**I THANK GOD FOR MY "BABIES" THIS MOTHER'S DAY, & BEG HIM FOR THE GRACE & STRENGTH TO RAISE THEM EVEN HALF AS WELL AS THEIR GRAND MA RAISED MY SISTERS & !!!! MUMMY, YOU WERE AS GOOD A "SUSANNAH WESLEY" AS EVER THERE WAS, TO ALL YOUR CHILDREN - Biological and otherwise.**

**WE SURE MISS YOU! HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**