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Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 6:00 AM
To: exssa_mal@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [exssa_mal] GO UP, CAM DOWN, SHING DASSOH OH!!!

Most of us are bilingual, (English - Pidgin at the very least), so we are quite aware of the fact that certain words or expressions in one language do not really have an EXACT equivalent in another, and that, there is a certain nuance, flavor, implication or undertone that is “LOST IN TRANSLATION”. I think the verb “**SHING**” is one such word oh! Translating that word from its “natural pidgin habitat” into the Queen’s English has proven to be quite a task, because I can hardly find one word that **COVERS** the entire range of meaning behind it. Instead, to my greatest amusement, the closest thing I could think of, was YET ANOTHER PIDGIN expression, namely “**TO SIGN DIE**”, which translated – or explained in English would be something along the lines of “To hold fast to”, “to be adamant/steadfast about”, or “to be persistent” – **to dig one’s heels in**, shah! By the way, the online dictionary I am looking at here defines this idiomatic expression as: “**to refuse to alter one’s course of action or opinions; to be obstinate or determined**”.

Interestingly, however, WE, HUMAN BEINGS, are just the **DIRECT OPPOSITE!!** We are, by nature, extremely “**SHING-LESS**” and prone to give up or fold upon the onset of even the slightest adversity or smallest challenge!!! Our favorite words are “NOW”, “FAST”, and “INSTANT”, as in, “**INSTANT GRATIFICATION**”! Na “1 MINUTE RICE” we dey wack, and na “1 MINUTE SERMON” we want hear on Sunday, as we dey hurry - **to get to our graves faster**, I suppose!!! Just put me behind a driver who is being a good, law-abiding citizen and observing the speed limit, and my blood pressure shoots up instantly! Put me in an airport security line behind someone who fails to move forward the instant the person ahead of him moves one fiftieth of an inch, and I am ready to unleash every Kenyang, Mokpwe or Ewondo insult I know on top de poor person e head oh! Truth is, in our speed-of-lightning/microwave world, one of the major things that have become a totally FOREIGN CONCEPT to us is **WAITING!!**

Sadly, the obvious problem with this set up or State of Affairs is that, de OGA who manages and is in charge of this whole “affair” we call “LIFE” is a “NAYÔ-NAYÔ”/“MOLO-MOLO”/“COOLEH-COOLEH” type Being. Our OBASE no get E no Grand PA, so E no get E no “Grand Father Clock” wit de big swinging pendulum to keep time, and wit de little “inoni” (as in “bird”) inside, wey e go comm’ot halla “**CUCKOO!! CUCKOO!! CUCKOO!!**” for tell’am say, e dey so, na 3 O’clock dis don reach! We are talking about a **TIMELESS, AGELESS, UNCHANGING BEING, WHO WAS, WHO IS, AND WHO IS TO COME** Oh! Someone who calls Himself “**I AM**” in deh “for revah and revah” PRESENT TENSE!; not “I WAS” or “I WILL” – or “PERHAPS I MIGHT”, for that matter. DE OGA JUST DEY E oh!!! To HIM, 1 day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like 1 day, so woosai E dey hurry-hurry dey nack skin dey go??!! Moreover, “**HIS WAYS ARE (SOOOO) NOT OUR WAYS**, and very often, what makes PERFECT SENSE TO US, as in, **SYLVANUS** is deh perfect Bôbô for me: E fine time no dey; e get money pass Fotso, Soppo Priso and Sohaing combined; e Mammy be don already die siiiince, so ah no go get me no impossible modah-in-law wey go hambock me like jiggah from morning till night, **MAY JUST NOT BE WHAT OUR ALL-KNOWING, ALL-WISE FATHER HAS PLANNED** for us oh!! For all we know, it may be “Woh-Woh”,

penniless, **ICHABOD** whose Mammy is very much alive and well that Tat'Iwonde has decided is just the perfect match for us!!!

The more I take a look at the way HE operates as recorded time after time in the Bible, the more I realize that me and E no go comm'ot fine and ah no go see bettah, if I don't learn to **WAIT**, **"SHING"** & **"SIGN DIE"** FOR E BACK DASSOH, GO UP, CAM DOWN!!!!

- **CREATION:** NYIKOB took Him a good 6 days to create deh werld oh!; and me ah sure me say, no be because e be pass e for create'am in an instant! He **CHOSE** NOT to!!

- **FAHDA ABRAHAM:** God told him he would have descendants as many as deh stars in the sky and the sands on deh sea shore and then ... days turned into weeks; weeks into months and months into .. sotey Sarah don nack 89; still zero pikin!! She had to hit 90 before Isaac came along. If God was capable of giving her Isaac at 90, He sure could have done so when she was a "nyong" girl oh! He **CHOSE** NOT to!!

- **MOSES:** After his flight from Egypt at 40, Moses worked for his Fahda-in-Law Jethro as a "gahnakoh" soteeeeey, e reach a serious 80! That's when deh Burning Bush incident happened oh! Is it that GOD was practicing or perfecting the art of how to control deh fire make e burn without consuming deh bush - for 40 years?? NOPE!!

- **DEH ISRAELITES 40 YEAR SOJOURN IN DEH WILDERNESS:** A simple look at your map would tell you that there are many "cut-shorts" that God could have led His people through, so they would get to Canaan sooner; But did He?? NIET!!

- **JOSEPH:** He had him his dreams of his brothers and parents bowing down to him siiiiiince!! But what happened between those dreams and the Ultimate Premiership in Egypt? Several changes of "Address" oh! From: "THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL, to POTIPHAR'S HOUSE, to THE NGATTA!!

- **DEH WALLS OF JERICHO:** How many times did God tell His people to march around the city? 7 times; Could he have gotten those walls to come a-tumbling down after 1 and three kwata rounds? Sure! Could He have done it with NO "tramp, tramp, tramp" at all? YOU BET! BUT HE **CHOSE** NOT TO!!!

- **NAAMAN:** Dis man too be see e own suffah, courtesy of Elijah. Naaman no for fit get de same healing by washing under some "pump" inside e own house or e own Kwata? I would think so, BUT per Elijah's "orders", he had to travel faaaaaar and dip himself 7 times in the River of Jordan – some correck DUHTY wata so, to be cured of his leprosy!!!

- **YOUNG DAVID:** This poor boy was minding him his business, looking after his father's "mbolis" in peace oh! Na Pa Samuel dat don cam find e sotey for inside bush, troway olive oil on top de pikin e head, thereby anointing him King of Israel. BUT what a twisted path God took him through before he finally acceded to The Throne years after! A jealous and demented King Saul used him to practice his javelin throw wey OLYMPIC GAMES no be don even start by then oh! The he chased this poor boy from cave to cave ... Suffah oh!

Before we think that this is all an OLD TESTAMENT thing, why don't we look at how different Jesus' healing methods were:

- **THE WOMAN WIT DE EVERLASTING "KONGO":** **Instant** Healing, as soon as she touched the hem of his garment.
- **DE MAN BORN BLIND:** Yesu first spit on top ground, make pôtô-pôtô, rub'am for de man e eye, den e send de man make e go wash e eye for deh pool of Siloam! AH KIÉ!! Whatever happened to "LET THERE BE LIGHT", and BAM! There *was* light????
- **THE CALMING OF THE STORM:** **Instant!** "PEACE BE STILL", end of story!
- **HIS VERY OWN "BOH" LAZARUS:** Dem send'am news say Lazarus dey sick; e no shake! And even after Lazarus meng, he only arrived 3 days after!

What all this says to me is, I cannot and should not try to predict or predetermine HOW or WHEN God is going to answer my prayers. I will just have to TRUST that HE KNOWS BEST WHAT'S NOT JUST GOOD, BUT BEST FOR ME – WAY BETTER THAN I DO OR EVER COULD!!! What I believe God expects from us, (hard as it is), is for us to have the **PATIENCE** of Mammy HANNAH, who just kept going to the Temple, year after year, to pray for a child WHILE she waited; and

An **UNQUESTIONING, OBEDIENT & YIELDED** attitude like that displayed by Bro HOSEA, who went right ahead and married Gomer de ASHAWO as God requested of him oh!! (MANYAKA MA LAMBO!!!!)

I know none of us wants to be compared to a child and we always say "AH NO BE SMALL PIKIN" with all the indignation and VEX in the world when we think we have been treated "like say we no get sense", or in an insensitive, condescending manner but, the next time your 4 year old walks up to you and asks if he can have his own MUFASA or SIMBA – as in PET "NGILA" (LION), and then pouts, sulks and throws a fit when you say "NO", force yourself to think that, that is probably how we look in GOD's eyes when we ask Him for things WE think are best for us, but which HE knows will only HARM us and/or disrupt our walk with him!

So, what does one do even when things do NOT seem to be going the way we'd like them to go? **SHING!!!** With all our might, believing that those who **WAIT** on the Lord shall, in fact, renew their strength!! As Isaiah goes on to promise, "They shall mount up with wings as Eagles; They shall run and not grow weary; They shall walk and not faint"!!

God Bless,

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo