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Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2010 10:00 AM
To: exsa_usa@yahoogroups.com; EX-SakerUSA@yahoogroups.com
Cc: exssa_mal@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [exsa_usa] THANKSGIVING - EVEN WIT HANDKERCHIEF FOR HAND!!

In just 2 short weeks from today, quite a few of us will gather around a table laden with a stuffed turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, etc., (or wata fufu n'eru for some of us whose diet years of living in "Whiteman Country" have not succeeded in altering), and before we "start swallow", we will follow the tradition of recalling what it is that we are THANKFUL for. Given the kind of year many of us have had, de Giving of Thanks fit turn-turn get K FOOT, as in, WHAT EXACTLY AM I SUPPOSED TO BE THANKING GOD FOR,

- Wey ah no even get work, *OR*, Work dey cam kill me!
- Wey ma Mammy just die so wey e no even sick, *OR*, Before ma Mammy wan die, na so e sick (suffer) sotey!
- Wey na kongo dis don cam again, which means the bassinet will still be empty in 9 month's time, *OR* Na onley dis ma pikin dem go kill me wit their trong head!
- Mr. RIGHT no dey 'gree show up, *OR*, Mr. RIGHT of 25 years don turn Mr. Wrong

Man dey sleep hospital everyday because pikin dem dey so-so sick-sick; Ma cancer don cam back –with a vengeance; Moto don vamoose, as in repossessed; House no dey again, as in foreclosure; House dey, but Massa no dey, as in Wayo or Deportation ... and the litany of woes goes on and on and on – like the ABBA song!!

Do all these trials and tribulations then earn us a God-given dispensation or exemption from Giving Thanks this season or at any other time? NOT BY A LONG SHOT, if we look at our Bibles closely.

Granted,

- When the 10th Leper came back to thank Jesus, he had every reason to do so! He had been cleansed, and it is the other ungrateful 9 who just went on their merry way who deserve to be berated.
- The Lame man whom Peter and John met on their way to the Temple was "walking and leaping and praising God" with good reason; He had just been healed.

But then,

Paul was afflicted with this “thorn in his flesh” which he begged God to relieve him of, but God would not. Yet, Paul never stopped being extremely GRATEFUL for God’s transforming power and Grace toward him.

Here’s what he himself says in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

So that I would not become too proud of the wonderful things that were shown to me, **a painful physical problem^[a] was given to me.** This problem was a messenger from Satan, **sent to beat me and keep me from being too proud.**⁸ **I begged the Lord three times to take this problem away from me.**⁹ **But he said to me, "My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, my power is made perfect in you."** So I am very happy to brag about my weaknesses. Then Christ's power can live in me.¹⁰ **For this reason I am happy when I have weaknesses, insults, hard times, sufferings, and all kinds of troubles for Christ. Because when I am weak, then I am truly strong.**

- Job experienced misfortune after misfortune which would have turned even a person with rock solid faith into a militant atheist, but we are all familiar with this extraordinary statement of faith he made:

¹⁵ Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.

Furthermore, I believe there has to be a very good reason why the words “**SACRIFICE**” and “**THANKSGIVING**” show up quite often in close proximity of each other in several Bible verses. Here are 2 such verses:

[Leviticus 7:13](#)

Besides the cakes, he shall offer for his offering leavened bread with the **sacrifice of thanksgiving** of his peace offerings.

[Psalm 107:22](#)

And let them **sacrifice** the **sacrifices** of **thanksgiving**, and declare his works with rejoicing.

Because I know that a (worthy) sacrifice is something which comes at a GREAT COST or PRICE to the person who offers it, when I read verses like the 2 above, the impression I get is that, this THANKSGIVING “TING” dey 2 kind:

- 1. De one wey, before BA ATANA (as in ATANASIUS), Mungaka Choir Choirmaster, wan even tune offertory song, you don “GE’RRUP” start somersault you for middle aisle in your (Wax Hollandais) 2 wrapper, as wey your grand pikin pass GCE “O” Level wit 13 papers, your daughter-in-law for ‘MERICA just born twins, and time for de latest landslide, wata and pô-tô-pô be carry all neighbor their house go, leff only yah own!!!
- 2. De one wey, bettah no dey no small, as wey na 6 years straight dis wey you dey wear black, - after 3 years of wearing Mokusa blue, but you still know you sey no man neva moof God for FON CHAIR as de KAPO of all KAPOs, and e know fine-fine weti wey e dey do, so HALLELUJAH anyhow (as in, **no matter what**)! On top of it all, He sacrificed so much by

offering His Only Son to give us access to Eternal Life at NO COST to us. For that alone, we ought to be grateful, whether or not we decide to add a JAGUAR and 2 “Upstairs” (1 for dis ‘MERICA and 1 for Kontri) on top!

I just finished looking up the term “**FAIR WEATHER FRIEND**” in the Online Urban Dictionary. Here’s the definition:

“A friend who is only a friend when circumstances are pleasant, or profitable. At the first sign of trouble, these capricious, disloyal friends will drop their relationship with you.”

Sometime you like you dis kana friend you; For me, it’s a huge, emphatic, Ibo “**M’MBAH**”!!, as in NO ME OH!!!! Don Williams did not like these Fair Weather Friends either! (Remember his Country song with that title?) Now, if we, “mere mortals”, are quite disgusted with and even abhor people who only “hang around” when the going is good, why would a God who has given us His ALL not resent it, if we act like FAIR WEATHER CHRISTIANS, and treat him:

- Like a **TALISMAN** whose job it is to ward off all impending “MBALUCK”, block any “THUNDER” that might be directed at us, and prevent us from “MASHING POISON” when we go to “Kontri”??!! OR,
- Like a **GOOD LUCK CHARM** who is only there to make sure that we pass that exam, find the right Galant Bobe, get the promotion, the country house and the right number and gender of perfectly healthy children.

Something goes wrong and we’re like “SEE YA! I’M OUT OF HERE! FORGET THIS PRAISE & THANKSGIVING THING”! Not that it is easy ONE BIT to stand firm and not waver or flinch in the face of heart-wrenching devastation and adversity oh! It’s just that GIVING THANKS *is* the RIGHT & FITTING thing to do! Truth is, ALL we are and have belong to GOD to begin with, (pikin, house, money, health, etc., na only “truss” OBASE “borrow” we oh, as in “beg and bluff”) and HE has the right and authority to deal with us as He sees fit. Fortunately, He is NOT a whimsical, capricious, uncaring God who just does things “anyhow and for no reason”. EVERYTHING He allows to happen to us is for our own ULTIMATE, EVENTUAL GOOD, even if our limited understanding and vision prevent us from seeing it that way, just the same way that, as a 4 year old, I completely failed to see how in the world bitter NIVAQUINE, nasty COD LIVER OIL, the Doctor’s “INJECTION”, or a SPANKING of all things, could EVER be for my good!!!

I doubt that any one of us would boldly stand up and declare that she does NOT wish to follow God’s will. However, that is exactly what we would be doing, if we cease our Thanksgiving or withhold our gratitude because of our trials and tribulations. What gives me the audacity (the “*Narve*”) to say so? The following command given to us by God through Paul (in Thessalonians 5:18), which demands that we:

“Give thanks in all circumstances”; why? “for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

So, SISTAH DEAR, when dat THANKSGIVING DAY reach (or even today-today seff), try and find it in your heart, EVEN WITH THE TEARS & CATTARRH FLOWING MINGLED DOWN YOUR FACE, to still GIVE GOD THANKS for the fact that you at least still have your breath, that you have eyes to read this email and all the others on our forum, (which means you also possess or at least have access to a computer, Black Berry or other electronic device), and if for NOTHING ELSE, for the fact that you HAVE A GOD WHO LOVES YOU ENOUGH TO NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU; AND WHO HAS EVERY INTENTION AS WELL AS THE ABILITY TO “MAKE ALL THINGS RIGHT”, if not in this world, then in the next!!!

HAPPY THANKS GIVING!!!

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we're here, we should dance.
— *Unknown*

Here's a very SOOTHING song entitled “**THERE HE IS**” by TRIN-I-TEE 5:7 (THE “BABES” SO ROCK!!), to put us all in the right frame of mind:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyXWvFqTz5A>