

Thanks for the “pontification”, my dear! You have brought up so much in just this one paragraph of a response that I feel a whole new “sermon” coming, starting with just line 1 which got me laughing out loud as you referenced what I have personally dubbed the “ELBOW” or the “CLEARING THROAT” Phenomenon! Sango Pastor preaches on “**CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS**”, and the parents reproachfully “Clear their Throats” and accusingly “elbow” their kids sitting next to them and say: “You don’t hear noh”! The next Sunday, Sango Pastor switches gears to “**PARENTS, DO NOT PROVOKE YOUR CHILDREN TO WRATH**”, and it is the children’s turn to pierce their parents’ “banjas” with their elbows! The 3rd Sunday comes along, and Sango P, (who is clearly on a mission), announces that the title of his sermon is “**WIVES, BE SUBMISSIVE TO YOUR HUSBANDS**”, and every Oga in the Congregation is “cutting his trong head wife eye”, while Madam, who has done her best to get by with “**THE EVERLASTING HEADACHE**” excuse every night since her last “C” Section 3 years ago, is sitting there praying silently that the sermon should NOT include 1 Corinthians 7:4 which states:

4“The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband....”

Of course, by the time the Pastor not only “goes there” but has the audacity to include verse 5 which says:

5“Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer”,

Mammy Junior is so ready to leave the Presbyterian Church completely, (wey e no even look back), and convert to Buddhism, Hinduism, Atheism or any other available “-ism”!!!!

Needless to say, Oga would **not** have been standing up every 5 minutes to give the Pastor a standing ovation if he had known that next Sunday’s sermon would be based on Ephesians 5:25 which says:

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

I say all of this to show that the Bible does not “discriminate” when it chastises and admonishes; NO ONE IS EXEMPT FROM REPROOF, since we are ALL sinful by nature. So, it really isn’t a matter of a **permanent** camp of “DEM” versus “THE REST OF THE PURE, PERFECT, SINLESS & FAULTLESS”. Here is the part of my posting where I did address this aspect of the whole “equation”:

“I have to say that, while for some of us “**DEM-ness**” has become second nature, (practically a way of life), **there is a certain amount of it “latent” in each one of us, or at least lurking or crouching at the doors of our hearts, just waiting to emerge and pounce if we allow it to.**

That said, (and as this same excerpt indicates), there is NO DENYING THE FACT that there are just some traits in each person that are **PREVALENT** or **DOMINANT**, and it is these traits that naturally, **FRAME** and **DEFINE** that individual!!!! Let me explain this in the most “simplistic” way I can:

I am pretty sure Hitler and Idi Amin *did* do some good deeds here and there, and I am sure they too loved someone – a child, a wife, a neighbor, a dog? But who, in their right mind would describe them as “**COMPASSIONATE**”?

Conversely, Martin Luther King Jr., Ghandi and Mother Teresa are all recognized and even revered as “GOOD” people; but does that mean they did not lie, cheat, curse or ENVY someone else EVER? OF COURSE NOT!

Translation: Realistically, No one is guilty of any given vice 24/7 all 365 days of the year, and no one is “Vice-free” 24/7 all 365 days of the year; **YET** there have been, and there always will be “unanimous” (as in 99.99% agreed) characterizations of people! You mention a name and everyone goes “**MAMMY NYANGA**”! You mention another name and people go “**MAMMY CONGOSSA**”! Call one more and they go “**KONTO FOR E NA WAH**”, while someone else is known to have “**GOOD HEART**”. Now, does Mammy Nyanga wear miss-matched colors or commit some other “fashion faux pas” once in a while? Most Probably! Does Pa Kontoh “sponsor a round of beer” at the local bar once in a blue moon? I bet he does, but the **RARITY** of such an action on the part of these two individuals is precisely why that action, when it does occur, would be greeted with a surprised – even shocked “**NA WETI HAPPEN TODAY EH**”?! That’s how come one person can raise their voice, make a scene, throw a tantrum, get furious – livid even, at a CWF meeting, and no one as much as bats an eyelid because “all man don be used to e plenty halla & drama”. In fact, when newly joined (as in PENYA) member “ROSE” be wan wake’up go beg de vexing “AUNTY” make e leff’am so, all the others told her to “**SHIDDON YOU, YAH! NO WASTE YOUR TIME. NA SO MAMMY DEY E.**” Completely - as in radically different story when naturally poised, calm, cool and collected Mammy Vero “loses it” one day in another CWF meeting! EVERYBODY stops dead in their tracks to listen, and you hear them say: “Dis one wey Mammy Vero don vex so, no be small ting”!! So, as I pointed out, while there are elements of “DEM-ness” in every single one of us, some of us have “DEM-ness” as our **DEFINING** characteristic, due, very simply, to how often we are involved or indulge in “DEM-nish” actions!!!!!! Our efforts as individuals therefore, should be to do just what Lady Kate said: (she sure read my mind)

“Whether you are a victim of DEM, or you are one of DEM or both, there are lessons for everyone. We must strive to be void of those shortcomings and realize that as God's children we are here for a purpose and we are all unique, all gifted and must learn to appreciate, encourage others and also count our blessings. In short - just show some love.”

And this, I believe, is just the right time to bring up another “matter arising” from your email: The **FACT** versus **FICTION**, or better still, **PERCEPTION versus REALITY factor**. In a world where the demarcation between **GOOD** and **BAD** is getting increasingly blurred (and debatable), where “**RELATIVISM**” is fashionable and **STANDARDS** that were once “sacrosanct” are increasingly disputed, this can be a difficult “issue” to handle. How many times have we heard **SIMON COWELL** (with **ALL** the professional experience he does have) tell some wannabe American Idol whose performance was nothing short of an **ASSAULT** to the ear that his performance was “atrocious”, only for the deluded fellow or chick to retort: “That’s *your* opinion, Simon. I **KNOW** I can sing”!!! This kind of “head-in-the-sand” person who “just doesn’t

get it” and is really not competent to do what he professes to do, is CERTAINLY NOT the kind of person my write up was seeking to support and encourage. That kind of person, is in deed, a “SCAPEGOAT”, (I am trying hard not to say “loser”!); The kind of person who didn’t have much to offer to begin with, and who is only too happy to play the victim, and flippantly blame everyone, (“DEM” included), *BUT* himself, for his failures!!! This is the person who always smells a plot somewhere, and believes the entire universe is “out to get them.” That is sooooo NOT who my email was seeking to encourage. It was meant for people who **DO** have a HECK OF A LOT to offer! People whose potential and talent is GLARINGLY OBVIOUS, and who clearly have a NOBLE MISSION to accomplish, and “DEM” just keep doing all they can to thwart their aspirations and dreams. The difference between these 2 kinds of people is hardly ever difficult to spot though: While ONE KIND IS ONLY ***TEMPORARILY HINDERED*** BY “DEM”, the other kind is ***PERMANENTLY HALTED*** (as in stopped dead in their tracks), by DEM!! That is precisely why I used NOAH and NEHEMIAH as my examples or role models; Noah ***did*** build his ark oh jahrré, and Nehemiah ***sure*** re-built his wall **DESPITE all the “DEM”**!! That, my dear Sister, is why the statement:

“YOU CAN TELL A GREAT MAN BY WHAT IT TAKES TO DISCOURAGE HIM”

rings so true!!!!

Take a Woman like JOAN OF ARC; She was no scapegoat! The “DEM” in her short life were NOT AT ALL imaginary or just perceived; they were REAL, and she had to fight them tooth and nail every darn inch of the way to achieve the success she ***did*** achieve!!! And who was responsible for her ending up burned at the stake? DEM! The Cameroon or African societies most of us grew up in are quite notorious for mind-boggling acts of “DEM-ness”, to the point that we even try to meddle with or erase whole chunks of history! A person is appointed to a post in “FINANCE” and he cannot even bring himself to acknowledge the extraordinary work done by his predecessor, because he is convinced that it would in some way diminish his own worth. Crisis com’ot for office one day; You wey you don work for dat office since before Independence, you know sey de former Patron know how for solve’am, so you carry your big head go ask de new Patron sey: “Oga sah! How you no pick telephone call Mr. PIUS ask e noh”? And what is the Donald Trump response you get? **YOU’RE FIRED!!** And what happens to the problem? It remains a topic for LIFETIME MOVIE NETWORK’s ***UNSOLVED*** MYSTERIES, and kontri dey spoil dey go!!!!

To conclude, why don’t we take a look at THE OGA OF OGAS, Jesus Christ Himself. His “DEM” (as in the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes) were no figment of His imagination. They tried “kind by kind way” to set “Malambi” for Him; They criticized, accused, plotted, defamed! You name it; they tried it, including bribing people to lie against Him, and in the end, He was condemned in a trial which anyone with half a legal mind would not hesitate to call a TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE! So when Jesus lashed out at them calling them a “brood of vipers” and “white washed sepulchers” I would hardly write it off as one “DEM” calling another “DEM” out! Neither would I discount the “rail-roading” attempts of other “DEM” over the years to thwart the likes of M.L.K. Jr., Nelson Mandela, or MS. KAH WALLA now so! GO FIGURE!!!!

Best regards!

Sis Egbe.

From: EX-SakerUSA@yahoogroups.com [mailto:EX-SakerUSA@yahoogroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Joyce Ashuntantang
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2010 11:20 AM
To: EX-SakerUSA@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [EX-SakerUSA] LESSONS FROM THE "N" MEN

Hi Sis Egbe,

I can see this sermon being delivered in church in Cameroon or any African community and every body present is finally happy that the pastor is finally addressing that "Ballock person" who always "calls' their name. But the big question is, since EVERYBODY complains of a DEM, who is DEM? Are we not projecting our own insecurities when we frame our lives vis a vis a "Dem"? Can "Dem" also be our inner voice? The one that challenges us, that little voice that tells us the truth we don't want to hear? The human race certainly thrives on the principle of scapegoating. from ancient civilizations through Christian mythology, the ritual of selecting someone for blame so we can be absolved is not new. Can we also see this theology of "DEM" as another attempt by humans to create a scape goat because at the end of the day "DEM" becomes everyone since the people who are angry with "DEM are "DEM' to others. I could not help myself. I just had to "pontificate" on this one. Thanks again for picking my(our) brains!

Regards,
Dr. J