

የሎሬት ጸጋዬን ከፍተኛ የህክምና ወጭ ለመሸፈን እንዲቻል የበኩሎዎን አስተዋጽኦ ለማድረግ ቼኩን ለጸጋዬ ገብረመድህን (Tsegaye G/Medhin) ብለው በመጻፍ ከዚህ በታች ባለው አድራሻ መላክ እንደሚችሉ በአክብሮት እየገለጽን ይህንኑ አድራሻ አባዝተው ለሚያውቋቸው ኢትዮጵያ ውያኖችና ኢትዮጵያን ለሚወዱ ማለሰቦች እንዲሰጡ ስንጠይቅ ለኚህ ታላቅ ኢትዮጵያዊ ለሚያደርጉላቸው ትብብር አስቀድመን እናመስማናለን።

Make check payable to *Tsegaye G/Medhin* and send to the following address:

Tsegaye G/Medhin, 812 West 181St. Street, Apt. No. 55A, New York, NY 10033

ምስ,2ና

ለተደናቂው የብዕር ሰው አጋዬ ገብረመድጎን ድጋፍና አድናቆታችንን ለመግለፅ ባደረግ ነው ጥረት ዝግጅቱ የተሳካና ውጤታማ እንዲሆን የተባበራ ችሁንን ሁሉ ከልብ እናመሰ ግናለን።



ኅዳር ፲፱፻፹ ዓ.ም. - ዋሺንግቶን ዲሲ

ዋ.ኃው። \$5.00

<u> அமு வ</u> ூ	<u>18</u>
ብծሬን ወደ ትራጀዷ	2
113,2% 2012 aux 23	
ከአዘጋጆች	3
ሰውየውና የኢትዮጵያ ስነፃቀም.	‡
hacer also	
አርግማኔን መልስልኝ	10
1120 d. 4004	
ለዋቤል ትሚቴ	14
11831411 946 400	
አድባር	17
118, 44, 447,000,0073	
ከበቀለ፣ ማጽደው	18
115-115 401-133	
ብላቴን ጌታ	22
TEKAC TIO BEA	
ቅኔን በቅኔ አወድሱት	29
Bar S. AMS A	

ማሳሰቢያ

የመጽሄቱ ሽፋንና አርማ በአርቲስት ከበደች ተክለአብ ተሥርቶ ለሰቀራት ጸጋዬ ገብረመድጎን የተበረከተ ስለሆነ ያለደራሲው ፌቃድ ለምንም አገልማለቀት አንዳይውል በአክብሮት እንሐይቃለን። ·· . የኢተዮጵያ ህዝብ መከራ ተሸካማ ካው።በተደጋጋሚ የጠርነት RAN BRING TAR BEAR BAR BANAS አስተያየት የተሰያዩ ምክንያዎች አስት።ልቡ መደህ በን ለጠንንን ነጻነት የሚላትን እሳት ለራሱ ለማስቀራት ውርነት ውስጥ ንብጽ ይቀጠላል።አንንቱን ቀና አድር<u>ን</u> १९७ मे नेनेनेनेने हिंस १८११ क्षेत्र १९०० होते हैं। PORTE ANTENNA ANDRY OR AME PORTER TO CALL mor amount for horizing his son son son son HAAD. PASA:: who are the past, when the White Edon Ville Edon Ville በአፍሪካው ምን ዘንድ በትረቤቶች በአረበች ዘንድ ድስከበረው BLO MCSO JOSHAN UNIT SO MCSO VELARO P. J. MAA: No. P. AA N. S. A. ሁልጊዜም ይከሰትቤታል።

በውስጥ ለራሳቸው ዋቅም አርስ በርሱ ያፋውን አል። በውጨውም ለነጻነቱ ቀናት ስለሆነ አሉን ለሞት ኢንፍጠው አንደነና አናቱ ላይ ፊዮ ይላሉ።በዚህም አዋንቱን ይለ

भेर अने महामार जात अहर विषय के ወታደር ከንዲት የወታደር 14.5A: an ar many yourners your ሚስት ከአንድ ቁስ ከአንድ

ሁለማ እንደበታናቸው አንባ አዘል ነው።አድሮ ይራልታል Addition the hot houself to durant PATER TX 2 "AND OR TO XX POLITIONS PRO Lang-Viller ነው።...

> X.76 78640 9.73 444 mak Ky. 1419 1684 mant the graph proprince

"የተወለድኩት በ1929 ዓ ም የፋሽስት ወረራ በተጀመረ በስድስተኛው ወር ነው።የልደቴ ቦታ ቦዓ አቦ ትባሳለች። ከአምቦ 30 ኪሎሜትር ያህል ርቃ የምትገኝ የጅባትና ሜጫ ገጠር።ቦዓ ደረባ ተራራ ግርጌ የሚገኘው ያአባባ ቤት ሲቃጠል፥ እናቴና እህቴ ከባንዳ ተታኩሰው በአርበኛ እርዓታ የእኔንና የራሳቸውን ነፍስ ከአዓኑ በኋላ፥ እናቴ እኔን ይዛ ወደ አያት፥ ቅድመ አያቶች ቀዩ ተሰደደች……"



计为此为第二

ማንኛዉንም አይነት መጽሄት ለማዘጋጀት መነሳት ከባድ ነገር ነዉ ፣የመጽሄቱ ዋነኛ ይዘት በኢትዮጵያ የሥነጥበብ ዓስም ዉስጥ ክቡር፣ክፍተኛና የተሰየ ቦታ የሚሰጠዉ ሰዉ ከሆነ ደግሞ የዝግጅቱ ሃሳብ ከባድ ብቻ ሳይ ሆን አሰፊሪም ጭምር ነዉ ፡፡ለአንባቢዉ ምን ይዘን ነዉ የምንቀርበዉ? መልኩ ምን ይምሰል? ይዘቱስ ምን ይሁን?

ብዙ ካወጣንና ካወረድን በኋላ፣ረጅም ርቀት ያስዉ መንገድ ሁሉ በእንድ እርምጃ ይጀመራል እንዲሉ፣ሁሉም ነገር ምናልባት ኋላ ሳይ የራሱን መልካም ገጽታ እየያዘ መምጣቱ አይቀርምና በርዕሱ ተሰማምተን ሥራ ጀመርን። የመጽሄቱን ርዕሰም ጸጋዬ ብስን ልንጠራዉ ተስማማን።አዎን:- በዘመናችን ከተፈጠሩና እንደ አጥቢያ ኮከብ ደመቀዉ፣በርተዉና ፌክተዉ የእዉቀት ብረሃን ከፊነጠቀልን ታላላቅ ጸጋዎቻችን መሃል ባስቅኔ ሎሬት ጸጋዬ ገብረ መድህን አንዱ ነዉና መጽሄቱን "ጸጋዬ" ብሎ መጥራቱ አግባብ እንደሆነ አመነበት።

የሚቀዋስዉ እርምጃችን ምሁራንን ማግኘትና ሳሰበነዉ ጉዳይ መሳካት ጽሁፍ በማበርከት እንዲተባበሩን መጠየቅ ነበር «አሳሳፊሩንም »"ጠይቃችሁ ነዉ እንዲ‼ያዉም ስጸ*ጋ*ዬ"አሉን «ኢትዮጵያዊ መሆን ከሚያስደቱት ብዙ ነገሮች አንዱ ይኼ ነዉ »

ከሎስ አንጀስስ፣ዶክተር ፍቅሬ <mark>ቶሎሳ ጸጋዬ </mark>ገብረ መድህን የኖቤል ሽልማት ይሰጠዉ ዘንድ ስኖቤል ኮሚቴ በእን ግሊዝኛ ያዘጋጁትን ጽሁፍ ሳኩልን*፡፡ስጽሁት ይዘት ም*ስጋናዉ ሁሉ ስዶክተር ፍቅሬ ሲሄድ፣እንግሊዘኛውን ወደ አማርኛ በመመስስ አቶ ፋሲል ይትባረክ ያደረ**ጉልን ትብብ**ር ከፍተኛ ነው።

ፕሮፌሰር ንጉሴ አየስ፣"ብላቴን ጌታ - Poet Laureate – Tsegaye Gebre Medhin of Ethiopia" በሚል ርአስ፣ታላቁ ባለቅኔ ከወጣትነት ጊዜዉ አንስቶ እስከ አሁን ሰዓት ድረስ በሥንግፕም፣በቴያትር፣በምርምርና ጥናት መስክ ያበረከታቸዉን ስራዎቹን ይመረምራሉ ፡፡የፕሮፌሰር ንጉሴ አየስ ጽሁፍ **ጳንጳ**ችንን አንብበው መረዳት ስማይችሉ ወገኖች ስስ ፀ*ን*ዬ ማን ነት አስረጃ ይሆንልናል ፡፡

ሌላው "ሰውየውና የኢትዮጵያ ስን-ግጥም" በሚል ርእስ ከአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ብርሃኦ ገበየሁ የላኩልን ጽሁፍ በሎሬት ጸ*ጋ*ዬ ድርሰቶች ሳይ ትንታኔ ያቀርባል።

በመጽሄቱ ይዘት ውስጥ ከተካተቱት ዓብይ ጉዳዮች ሌሎቹ በተለያዩ ፀሐፍት ስለ ፀጋዬ የቀረቡ ግጥምች ናቸው ፡፡ፀጋዬ የወስዳቸው ገጣሚያን ናቸው እና "ልጅ ለአባቱ" እንዲሉ ውዳሴ ፀጋዬ ግጥምቻቸውን ደርድረዋል ፡፡ንቢይ መኮንን ደግሞ ስየት ባለ መልኩ ስለ ህይወት ያለውን አመለካከት ያጋራናል ፡፡በሃገራችን የተወሰድን ከመከራዋ ተጋርተን በውል አድገን እንድንፀድቅ ይጠይቀናል ፡፡ምርምሩ ጥልትና ምሉዕ ነው ፡፡አሳቱ ተሰማ ባንድ ወቅት የረገመውን የፀጋዬን ብዕር በይቅርታ ያወድሰዋል ፡፡ይህም በራሱ በኛ ትውልድ መስመድ ያለበት አኩሪ ባህል ነው ፡፡

የመጽሄቱ ዋና ዓሳማ ባለቅኔውንና ድንቁን የብዕር ሰው ሎሬት ፀጋዬን መዘከር በመሆኑ አትኩሮታችንም በዚሁ ተወሰኗል።ዛሬ ከትሳንት ዉሏችን ልንማር ይገባል።ስሃገርና ሰወገን የሚበጁ አዉቅ መያተኞችን ክሃሳብ አልፌን በተጨባጭ የሚረዱበትን መንገድ በማመቻቸት ፍቅራችንን፣አክብሮታችንንና ድጋፋችንን ልንቸራቸዉ ይገባል።ታዋቂ የዋበብ ሰዎች የሀገር ዋርካዎች ናቸዉና ከመዉደቃቸዉ በፊት ፊዉሱን መፌስግ ብሔራዊ ቅርባችንን ከአደጋ የመከላከልን ያህል ግዙፍ ተግባር እንደማከናወን ይቆጠራል።ጸጋዬም የሀገር ሃብትና የስንዋበብ አድባር ናቸዉ።

1

ስሙዬሙና የኢትዮጵያ ስ ነግጥም

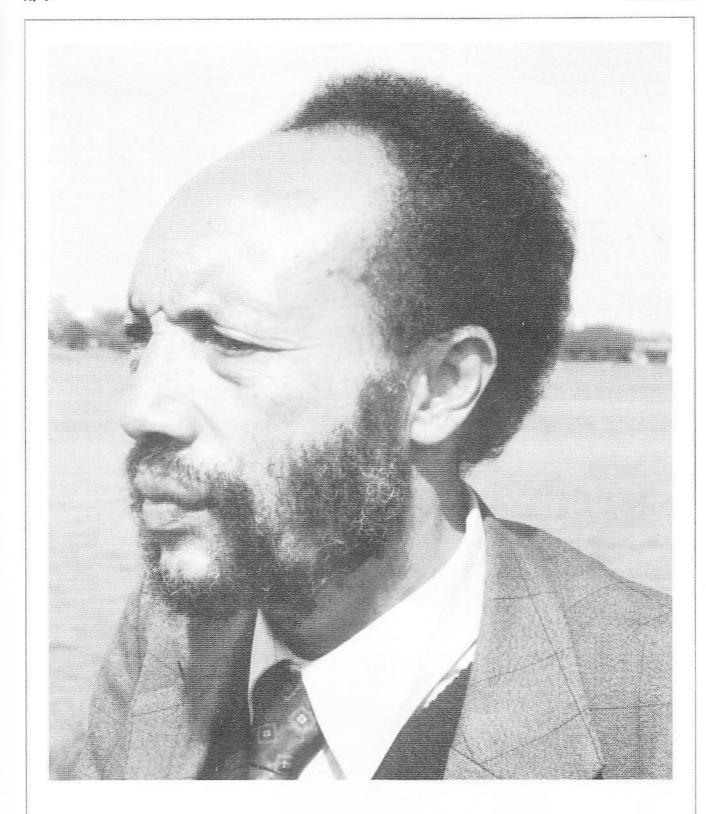
ብርሃኑ ገበየሁ ኢትዮጵያ ቋንቋዎችና ሥንጽሁፍ ክፍል አዴስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ

ክሎሬት ጸጋዬ ገብረ መድህን ጋር የተዛመጹ ሀሳቦች ሲመጡብኝ ነፍሴን ጭንቅ ተብብ ይላታል። መጨነቅና መጠበቡዋ አንድም የምትይዝና የምትጨብ ጠውን ስለምታጣ፣ አንድም ስለ ሰውየው ደፍሮ አስተያየት መስንዘሩ ፌታኝ ስለሆነባት ነው።

ጸጋዬ ብዙ ገፅታ፣ብዙ መከሰቻ ያለው ሰው ነው (አንተ ማለቴ ማቅረቤ ነው፤መዘርጠሔ ሳይሆን)።እና ስለየት ኛው ጸጋዬ ልናገር?!ስለ ፀሀፌ ተውኔቱ ጸጋዬ፣ስለ መሪ ተውኔቱ ጸጋዬ፣ስለ ተርዓሚው ጸጋዬ፣ስለ ኢትዮጵያንስቱ ጅስቱ ጸጋዬ፣ስለ ኢትዮጵያንስቱ ጸጋዬ፣ስለ ሥጋ ለባሹ ጸጋዬ ወይስ ስለ ባለቅኔው ጸጋዬ?ሰውየው እንዚሀን ሁሉና ከንዚህም ሁሉ በላይ ነው።ስለዚህም ስለጸጋዬ ገብረመድጎን ለመናገር የንዚህ ሁሉ ተብቦች ባለሙያ መሆንን ይጠይቃል፤ወይም፣ራሱን ጸጋዬን ሆኖ መወለድን።እኔ ለሁለቱም ብቁ አለመሆኔ ይሰማኛል።ስለዚህ መናገር አስካስፈለገኝ ድረስ በተቂቱም በ.ሆን መናገር የምችለው ስለባለትኔው ጸጋዬ፣እንዲ ያውም ስለግጥሞቹ ብቻ ነው።ብቻ ግጥሞቹ የሁሉም ገፅታ ዎቹ መከሰቻ ጨመቅ (essence) በመሆናቸው ተረቴ "አልሸዥም ዘወር አሉ" ቢጤ ነው። "ያለውን የወረወረ…" ይባሳልና ገብስ ገብሱን ሸክ ሸክ አድርጌ ቀራውን የፍል ስፍና ጣጣ አውቀቱና ዕስቡ ሳሳቸው አተወዋለሁ።

የሎሬት ጸ*ጋ*ዬ ማዋሞች የአማርኛ ሥነጽሁፍ በምዕተ ዐመታት ቀርፋፋ ጉዞው የደረባቸው አንድ አብይ ምአራፍ ናቸው።የጸጋዬ ግጥሞች የማህበራችን ሥርዓት፣ቁሳዊና መንፈሳዊ ባህ ሎች፣ የአምንትና የሀሳብ መዋቅሮች፣ የሥነልሳንና የስነልቦና ነፀብ ራቆች የተካተቱባቸው "አድ ባር" ናቸው። አድባር የዱሮና የዛሬ መጣክያና መታረቂያ፣የልዩ ልዩ እምነት ስርዓቶች መገናኛ፣የልጁም የአዋቂውም፣ የከብቱም የሰፊሩም ጠባቂ መንፌስ የሀይወት ኡደት መነሻና ማረፊያ ምሀዋር እንደም ትሆን፣እንዲሁም የባለቅኔው ቅኔዎች ከታሪካችን፣ከባህ ሎቻችን፣ከእምነቶቻችን ተጨምቀው

ህያውነት ያገኙ የሞዛይክ ተምሳሌቶች ናቸው።እንዚህ ተምሳሌቶች የአያሌ ማህበራዊ እና መንፈሳዊ ሥርዓቶች በመሆናቸው ባሀል፣ከአንድ እምነት፣ከአንድ ቋንቋ ይበልተ ውስብስብና ረቂቅ ባህርይ አሳቸው። በዚህም ሳቢያ በሆሳብ ሳልዳበረ አእምሮ፣ስለራሱ ብዙ ለማያውቅ ትውልድ ወይም የራሱን ለማያደንቅና ከበቀለበት ምድር በመንよስ ለተነቀለ ትውልድ፣አባቶቹ እሀልና ውሃ እንጂ የመንፌስ ፀጋቸውን መግበው ሳሳሳ ደጉት ትውልድ ግተሞቹ ይጠናሉ። መጥነናቸው ባህሪያቸው ሆኖ ሳይሆን ማሰብን፣ *መመርመርን* ወደራስ ባሀል መመለስን፣የራስ የሆነውን መውደ ድን፣ለጉዞ ትናንትን ስንቅ መቋጠርን ከመጠየቃቸው የሚነቃ ነው። ስለዚህም ይመስለኛል የጸጋዬ ማዋሞች "ከባድ ናቸው" በሚል ሰበብ ከመድረክና <u>ከአካዳሚያ የተገፉት፣ብቻ ይህ የኔ</u> *ግ*ምት ደ*ገ*ኛ ነው እንጂ ሌሎች ሌሎች ምክንያቶች አይታጡም፡ስውየው እንደ ፖለቲካ ሰው በሞጋቾቹ ዐይን ሲታይ እንዲሁም ገናና ስም *ያ*ሳቸው *ሞም*ሀ ራን የነርሱ አንደበት የሆኑ "ዳቃቀ መዘምራን" የተከሉት የድብትርና



ባለቅኔ ሎሬት ጸጋዬ ንብረመድጎን

ዘልማድ፣እርሱም ሞጋቾ ቺን የሚሞግትበት መራራ መንፌስ ከአቅማቸው በሳይ እየተለጠሙና እንደሐረግ በትውልድ ሀሳብ ውስጥ እየተልፈሰፈሱ ያለአግባብ በተበቡ ሳይ ሳያጠሉበት አልቀሩም።

የተጠበቡና የጠበቡ ምሁራን ሥነግጥምን ከአንድ ቋንቋ፣ከአንድ ባሀልና ከአንድ ዘመን አጋብተው ይፈርጁታል።እርግጥ ነው ጥበቡ የሚከሰተው የአንድ ንናና ባህልና ዘመን ንናና ልሳን በሆነ ቋንቋ የዚ*ያ*ኑ የዘ*ሙኑን* ሕይወት ሲሔስና ሲስል ነው።እናም መብቀያው የገጣሚው ዘመን፣ ጣንፀ ሪያው ዘመነኛው ባሀልና እሴት ይሁን እንጂ የባለቅኔው ምናብ ተትናንት በስቲያን ዛሬና ተነገወዲያን-ዘሳለምን ይኖር ዘንድ ይቻለዋል።ለዚህ ምሰሎ ማዕረግ ለበቃ ባለቅኔ ጊዜ እንደሳስቲክ የሚሳብለት እና የሚኮማተርለት ነቢይ የምቶሎጂ ነው። ግጥሞቹም (Mythology) የታሪክ እና የትንቢት (prophecy) መማከደጀየትዝታ፣የናፍ ቆት፣የፖለቲካ፣የማህበራዊ ሂሰ፣ የምኞት፣የተስፋና የራዕይ ፍንጣሪ ናቸው።በአንድ ቋንቋና በተወሰኑ አውዶች (ጊዜ፣ቦታ፣ድርጊት፣አድራጊ ዎችና ተደራጊዎች) ኪናዊ ቅርፅ ይዘ**ው** ይገኙ እንጅ ሰብዓዊ ፋይዳቸው የማይ መጠን፣ አንድምታቸው ኩለንታዊ (universal) ነው። የዮፍታሂ ንጉሴ፣ የከበደ ሚካኤል፣የመንግሥቱ ለግ፣ የዮሀንስ አድማሱ፣የኃይሉ ገብረ ዮሐንስ (ጥቂቶቹን ለመዘከር) እና የሌሎቹ |



ኢትዮጵያውያን ባለቅኔዎች ሥራዎች ከፍ ሲል የተገለጸ፡ትን ባህሪያት ይዘዋል።የሎሬት ጸጋዬ ሥራዎች ግን በእኔ ንምት የተለየ ሥፍራ ሲሰጣቸው የሚገቡ ናቸው።

የአጋዬ ግጥሞች ልዩ የሚያደር ጓቸው ተበባዊና ባሀሳዊ ይዞታቸው አያል ናቸው።የአጋዬ ግጥሞች፣ በተለይም "<u>አሳት ወይ አበባ</u> (1966) ውስጥ ያሉ አንጻንድ ግጥሞቹ፣ ለምሳሌ፣ "በረን (የሃዩ ሮካሌ ሊበን ቀረርቶ)"፣ "በረን (የሙርቲ ፀሎት ጥሪ)" ኢጋዬ የኦሮሞን ባሀልና ግጥም እስከ ሀሳቡና ቅርፃዊ ትጥንብሩ (artistic pattern) ይግዘል ባቸው ጥበቦች ናቸው። ግጥምን ካንድ ቋንቋ ወደሌላ ቋንቋ መተርጎም አጅግ ሊታኝ ቢሆንም ይሞክራል። ሲሞክ ርም የመገኛው ቋንቋውን ሀሳብና **መን**ፌስ ለመተለፍ ቢቻል እንኳ ተበባዊና ቅርፃዊ <u>ገጽ</u> ታዎችን መሰዋት አይቀ*ሬ* ነው።ጸ.ንዬ ግን ሀሳብን፣ *መን*ፌስን እና ቅ**ጥንብ**ርን በተለይ አሰንኛንትን (versification) ካንድ ባሀል ወደ ሴ4 በማዛወር የማይሞ ከሬውን ሞክሮ የማይቻለው ተች ሎታል።ድም**ፅት እና ስልት የ**ጸጋዬ የራሱ ይሁኑ እንጂ በሌሎቹ በርካታ ማዋሞቹም፣ለምሳሌ፣ "አቴቴ ዱብራ አሮሞ"፣"አጼ አዳዮ"፣"እውንት አሁን አንቺ አሷ ሃሽ"፣ቋንቋ የራሱን የባህል ኩልኩል ተሶ ወደ *ሞስ*ረቱ በ<mark>መመ</mark>ለስ ብለ-የ-ምስሉ-ን (its prototype) መልሰ ለመፍጠር የቢቃባቸው ዋበባዊ *ሥራዎች* ናቸው።እኔ እስከማውቀው ድረስ በሥነግጥጣችን ታሪክ ቋንቋ ከራሱ ባህል ውጭ ክሌላ ቋንቋና ባህል *ጋ*ር ለሥጋዎደሙ የበቃባቸው ሌሎች ሥራዎች የሰሎሞን ደሬሳ ማዋሞች ናቸው።

የጸጋዬ ግጥሞች እንደ ኢትዮጵያ ሙያን መልክ (complexion) አይነ ታቸው ብዙና ለመለየተ የሚያዳግት ነው።ያዳጋችነታቸውን ምክንያት በ"አድባር" ወይም በቀስተ ዳመና ማንጸር ይቻላል።አድባር ለአያሌ ሥርዓተ አምልኮዎች ውክልና ቁሳዊ ተምሳሌት (material symbol) ስትሆን፣በአንድ ጊዜ ለመገንዘብ የሚቻለው ከውክልናዋ አንዱን እንጂ ሁሉንም አይደለም።በአንዱ ውስተ ግን ሌሎቹ ተዛንቀው የሞገስና የግርጣ መጎናጸፊያ ይሆኑታል።እንደዚሁ



ሌሎቹም በየራሳቸው አውዶች ውክልናቸውን በሌሎች አያገዘፉ፣ የማይመጠንና ከሰው ልጅ ግንዛቤ የላቀ መንፈሳዊ ክብርና ግርማ ያበጃሉ።ቀስተ ደመናውም አንዲሁ የልዩልዩ ቀለማት ጎብር ነው።በአንድ ህላዌው ውስጥ ብዙ ልዩነቶች አሉ።ልዩነቶቹን መገንዘብ የሚቻለው ትኩር ብሎ ከመመርመር ቢሆንም፣ የአንዱን ቀለም መነሻ ከሌላው ቀለም መድረሻ መደንበር፣ የሚቻል ነገር አይደለም።የጸጋዬን ግጥሞችም አንደዚሁ በርዕስ ጉዳይ፣በቅርጽ ወይም በድምፀት (tone) ለመከፋፈል አይቻልም።ስለ አያንዳንዳቸውም የሚሰማባቸው እንጉርጉሮዎች (lyric) ይሆናሉ።ከርዕዮተ ዓለም አንፃር ብንፌክራቸው (interpret) እንዚሁ ግጥሞች ከማንንቱ የተገንጠለ ትውልድ ግለሒስ፣በተራዛሚውም በራስና በህብረተሰብ ላይ የተሰንዘሩ ትቾቶች ናቸው ማለት እንችሳለን።እንዚህ ንጥቦች በሌሎች ምሳሌዎች መመልከት ይቻላል።

እኔ አስከማውቀው ድረስ ጸጋዬ በስነግተማችን ታሪክ ውስጥ "የገፀ ምድር ስነግተምን" ያስተዋወቀ የመጀመሪያው ገጣሚ ነው፡፡ የገፀምድር ግጥም (Topographical ሥራዎች ናቸው።"አምበ?"፣"አንክ በር"፣ "ከፋ"፣ "ሐረር"፣ "ድሬ-ጸዋ"፣የተሳሉት ከሕይወታቸው፣ ከባሀሳቸውና ከወጋቸው ተጋብተው አንጂ ስለቦታነት፣ስለከተማነታቸው አይደለም።ስለከተማነት ብዙም ባሀሳዊና ህይወታዊ ቀለም ሳትቀባ የተሳለች ከተማ አሥመራ ናት። "ሊማሊሞ" የሲኦል ገፅታ ይዞ ወርድና ቀመቱ በአስፈሪ ቃላዊ ስዕል በ.ገለጽም፣የግዋሙ ድምፅት ገፅ ምድርን ማድነቅ ሳይሆን በሰው ልጅ ታላቅነትና አይበገሬነት የመደመም ነው።

"...ስነጽሁፍ ደርጃው ወር ል።የቅኔና የሰነጽሁፍ ወራሽ ሕዝብ ነው ያለን።የሱን የጣእም ደረጃ የሚመጥን ብእር ግን የሰም። አልተሞከሪም ማለት አይደለም።የሚሞክሩ የሚጥሩ አሉ።የሚጮሁም ይበዛሉ።እንዲያውም አንጋፋ ነን ብለው የሚጮሁም አሉ።አንጋፋ ነን የሚል ጩኸት በዝቷል።ታዲያ አንጋፋነቱ የሚታየው በብእሩ ሳይሆን በመገናኛ ብዙሃን ነው።ብእር ሳይወልድ አንጋፋ ይሆናል።መጻፍ አባባል ሆነ።ልቦለድ ይላል።ቅኔውም እንዲሁ።አንጻንድ ደሀና የሞከሩ አሉ።ጥቂቶች ናቸው።ሁለት ውይም ሶስት።እነሱም ቢሆኑ በርቱ የሚሰኙ እንጂ በአፍሪካ ደርጃ እንኳ የሚያኮሩ አይደሉም።..."

ጸጋ<mark>፦ ገብርመድጎን 1984</mark> ከስዛ ምጽሄት የተወሰደ

እንዲህ ናቸው ብሎ ደፍሮ መናገር አይቻልም።ይህ የሆነበት ምክንያት እያንዳንዱ ግተም፣የባህል፣የታሪክ፣ የገጣሚው ስሜትና ርዕዮተ ዓለም ዝንቅ ስለሆ ይመስለኛል።ስለዚህም የጸጋየ ግጥሞች ቁርጥ ያለ ፍች (meaning) የሳቸውም።እያንዳንዳቸው ተደጋ ግመው በተነበቡ ቁጥር አንደ ቀይ ሽንኩርት የሚላጡ አያሉ የፍች ደረጃዎችና ትርጓሜዎች አሉዋቸው።

ክፍ ብለን የገለጽናቸው "አቴቴ ዱብራ ኦሮሞ"፣ "አዴ አዳዮ"፣ "አውነት አሁን አንቺ እሷ ነሽ" በማህ በረሰባዊ ገጽታቸው ሲታዩ ሥነሳባዊ (anthropological) ግጥሞች ናቸው። በድምፀታቸው አንፃር ስናነዋራቸው ደግሞ ትዝታ እና ናፍቆት ገንኖ poetry) በከተሞች፣በወ3ዞች፣ በተራሮች፣በ**ንፀምድ**ር **ሳ**ይ የሚመ ሰሬት የስነ**ግተም ዝርያ** ነው።የጸጋዬ "ምነው አምቦ?"፣"አዋሽ"፣ "አንኪ በር"፣ "ሊማለ, ሞ"፣ "አባይ"፣ "ዶ.ኃሊ"፣"ከፋ"፣"ሐረር"፣"ድሬ *ጻዋ"፣"አስውራ"፣"አዘቦን ዳግ*ም አየሁዋት"፣በሌጣው ከተመለ ክትናቸው ብዙዎቹ የገፀምድር **ግጥሞች ናቸው፤ተራሮችን፣ወን**ዞ ችን ወይም ከተሞችን በቃላት የሚስሉ፣የሚገልጹ ወይም የሚያ ወድሱ።በኔ አስተያየት ግን ግጥሞቹ ተራ ቃላዊ ሥዕሎች (Verbal picture) ብቻ ሳይሆኑ ከዚያም ክፍ ያለ ታሪካዊ ባህሳዊና ስንስባዊ (anthropological) ፋይዳ ያሳቸው

"ዶ*ጋ*ሊ"ና "አንኮበር" እንዶዚሁ ስለ,ታሪካዊ ምክንያት የተነሱ ግጥሞች ናቸው::ባለቅኔው "አንኮበርን" የሚያ **ነሳው ስለታሪካዊ ሁኔቶችና ክንዋኔዎች** በጊዜ ሰረንሳ የሁዋሊቱን ለዛሬ በማምባት ነው:"ዶጋሊንም" ለተመ ሳሳይ ታሪካዊ ምክንያት አንጂ ለቦታነቱ ብቻ አይደለም።በሁለቱም *ግ*ዯሞቹ ገጣሚው *ታሪክን* በ**መ**ከለስ ለማስተማር አልዳዳም።ይልቁንም ታሪካዊ ጥቁምታዎችን (Historical allusions) በማምጣት (በታሪክ የታወቁ ጀፃኖችንና ነገሥታትን ስም ጣል በማድረግ፣ወይም ታሪካዊ ሁኔቶችን በመጠቆም) አንባቢው በራሱ አስፋፍቶ እንዲያስብ፣ *ያነበበውን እንዲያስታ*ውስ *ያ*ሳስባል። "መተ*ጣን* በህልም" የተሰኘው

ውስብስብ ማን ድንቅ ቅኔውም በተመሳሳይ ተበባዊ ብልሃት የቀረበ ነው፡፡ይህን መስሉ አቀራረብ አንባቢያን ከገማሚው የሚጋፍት የጋራ አውቀት አስከሌለ ድረስ አስቸጋሪ ነው።የራሳችንን ታሪክ በወኑ ተምረንና አጥንተን አለማደ ጋችን፣ የጸጋየ ግጥሞች ለብዙ አንባብያን አስቸጋሪና ፈታኝ የሚሆኑብን አንዱ ምክንያት እንደሆነ እንምታለለሁ።

ጸጋዬ ታሪክን ብቻ ሳይሆን አፌታሪክን (legend) እና ምትን (Myth) አዘውትሮ ያጣቅሳል። "አባይ" የተሰኘ ግተሙም ለዚህ አብነት ሆኖ ሊመቀስ ይችሳል።ይህ ግተም ስለ ምናውቀው ቦታ (በወሬም በአካልም) አባይ ቢያወራም ብዙ አንባቢያን አኔን ራሴን ጨምሮ (ከተቂት ወራት በፌት የነበረውን እኔ) ከግተሙ የምናዘምረው ፍች እና ኪናዊ እርካታ በጣም ጥቂት ነው።

ቋንቋውም የአማርኛ ችሎታችንን ይከዳል።ዳሩ ማን በጸጋዬ ማተሞች የሚያስቸግረን ቋንቋው ወይም ቃሳቱ ሳይሆን ቃላቱ የሚገልጿቸውን አሳቤዎችና ነገሮች አለማወቃችን ነው።ባለቅኔው አባይን ሲጽፍ ስለቅድመ ታሪክ የአባይ ስልጣኔ ያደረገውን ንባብና ምርምር፣ እንዲሁም በግብጽ ምቶሎጂ ያለውን እውቀት ወደ ግተሙ አምተቶታል። በአርግተም አባይ (አሁን አንደሚገባኝ) የብዙ ሥርዓተ አምልኮች እንዲሁም የሰው ልጅ ሥለጣኔ ማህፀን ነው።አባይ ዘለዓለም የሚፈስ ወንዝ ሳይሆን ራሱን ዘለዓለምን ነው።አባይ የውሃ ጅሬት ሳይሆን የታሪክ ፈለግ ነው።አባይ ተራ ወንዝ ሳይሆን ታላቅ መንፌሳዊ ሀይል ነው::ይህንን ለመረዳት ግን እንደራሱ እንደ ተቁር አባይ ተማሀል ጣቢያ ተነስቶ ብዙ መውጣትና መውረድ፣ እንደ ሳሃ*ራ ንጻድ* ነፍሱን በሚያደርቅ ንባብና ሀሳብ ውስጥ ማለፍን ይጠይቃል።

ለእኔ እንደሚመስለኝ የባለቅኔው ሀሳብና ፍልስፍና፣ ከዚህ ከአባይ ምንቄ፣ ከአባይ መንፌስና ምቶሎጂ የሚጨለፍ ነው።ለብዙ አንባቢዎቹ የሚጠንኑን፣ ተውኔቶቹ፣ ግዋሞቹ፣ እንዲሁም ባለፉት ጥቂት አመታት የሚሰጣቸው መግለጫዎችና የሚጽፋ ቸው መጣጥፎች ሁሉ ከዚህ ኢትዮጵ ያን የምድር አምብርትና የሥልጣኔ ምንጭ አድርሳ ከሚገልፀው "አባይ" ይመዘዛል፡፡የግጥሙን መክፌቻ ጥቂት ስንኞች ነጥቁ ባመጣቸው÷ አባይ የምድር ዓለም ሲሳይ የቅድመ ጠቢባን አዋይ አባይ የጥቀር ዘር ብስራት የኢትዮጵያ ደም ኩሽ አናት፣ የዓለም ሥልጣኔ ምስማክ (አሳት ወይ አብባ፣1966፣153)

"...ኢ ትዮጵያ የቃል
ሀይልና የልሳን ውበት
አገር ነች። የሕዝቦች
ስነቃል የሕዝቦች ተረት
የመጠቀባት አገር ነች።ደራሳ
, ነን ተርጓሚ ነን ባዮች
ግን ቁንጽሱች ናቸው።ይህም
በዝቶ ደግሞ አርስ በርስ
መባሳት ሆኗል ወጉ።..."

ጸ*ጋ*ጭ ገብረመድ ነን ከቤዛ መጽሄት 1984

በማለት ይነበባሉ። እንደሚመ ስለኝ፣ኢጋዬ በሁዋሳ በሁዋሳ ይህንን እምንቱ ንና ፍልስፍናውን ሥርዓታዊ (Systematic) አድርጎ ጀውም ሀሳብ・ን ቢያደራ በ**ማ**ምንጨት ረገድ ግጥሙ በ**ሙ** ታሰቢያነት የተሰጣቸው የኔሰው አስተዋጽኦ አስረስ ሳይኖርበት አይቀርም። እኚህ ታሳት ሊቅ 1948 ዓ.ም. <u>የካም</u> የሚል ምታሲቢያ የተወሳሰቡ ምስጢሮችንና ፍልስ ፍናዊ አርቅቆቶችን (philosophical abstractions) ያስተነተነ መጽሃፍ አሳት*መዋል። የ*ጸ.**ን**ዬ ፍልስፍና እና ሀሳብ ከ1920-1960 በአፍሪካ ምሁራንና ገጣሚዎች በሲዎፖልድ ሴዳር ሴንጎር እና አሚሲዛርን በመሳሰሎት ገንኖ ይሰማ ከንበረው የኔግሪቲዩድ አስተሳሰብ ጋር *መ*ሰረታዊ ዝምድና አለው። ጸ*ጋ*ዬን አንዳንድ የእንግሊዘኛ ግጥሞች በተለይ ለምሳሌ፣ Home-Coming Son እና RAINBOW ከኔግሪቲዩድ ግጥሞች (Negrotude Poetry) ሬጋ የሚፈርጁ ምሁራንም ዋቂት አይደሎም፡፡እኔ ደግሞ እስካሁን *መርምሮ ያሳየን* ተናት ባይኖርም *ግ*ጥሞችና የጸ.ጋዬ የአማርኛ ተውኔቶች ከኔማሪቲዩድ ሥንማዋም የሚጋሩዋቸው በርካታ መሠረታዊ ባህርያት አሉዋቸው፤ጸጋዬም የዚህ ስ<mark>ንልሁፋው ፌ</mark>ለማ ዋንኛ አቀንቃኝ ነው ባይ ነኝ።አድባር፣ ሔናአዳም፣ዳማ ከሴ፣አቴቴ፣የአባቶች መንፈስ፣የቀስ **ተጸመና መንፅ**ባርቅ፣ጥቁር አፈር፣ ደመራ፣ እና ሌሎችም በሥራዎቹ የሚመሳለሱ ምስሳዎች (Imageries) መሞገቻየም መመጎቻየም ዋበ. ናቸው።

ከዚህ ጉዳይ ሳልወጣ ከጿጋዬ አቢይ ሥራዎች (Master piece) "ይድረስ ለወንድሜ ለማሳውቅህ"ን መዘከር ንድ ይሆንብኛል።ይህ ግተም ድምፀቱ ከማለሰባዊ ፀፀት ይመንጭ እንጂ ሥነሰብዓዊ ይዘቱ ዲካው የትየለሌ እንደሆነና የገጣሚውንም ምናብ ምጥቀት ማን ይከዳል?

ወደ ታሪክ እንመለስ።ጸጋዬ ታሪክን የሥራዎቹ እምብርት ያደረገባቸው ግጥሞች ጥቂት አይደ ለ-ም፡፡"ዋ!..... ያቺ አድዋ"ና "ማይጨው" ዋና ዋናዎቹ ናቸው። እንዚህ ግጥሞች አንዲታሪካዊ ግጥሞች ከታሪክ ይጣቀሱ እንጂ እንደ ታሪክ ያኔያዊ ሳይሆኑ አሁናዊ ናቸው። ሁለ*ቱንም ስና*ንብ፣*ታሪክን የምንሰማ* ወይም የምናኑብ ሳይሆን በቦታውና በጊዜው በአካል የተገኘን የታሪክ አካል እንሆናለን።ለዚህም የሚያበቃን *ገጣሚው* በታሳቅ ምናቡ *ያረቀቃ*ቸው ኪናዊ ብልሃቶች ናቸው።"ዋ!.... ያቺ አድዋ" ከሚለው ማቀሙ የመክፌቻ **ዎቹን ስንኞች ልቆን**ዋር።

<u>ዋ!... ያቺ እድዋ</u> ዋ!.... አድዋ ሩትዋ የአለት ምስሶ አድማስ ተማዋ ሰማ*ይ* መቀስ ጭ*ጋግ ዓ*ስዋ ዓድዋ.....

(አሳት ወይ አበባ፣1966፣54)

በእንዚሀ 6 ስንኞች ውስጥ "ዋ!" የሚለው ድምፅ እያረፉ አያረፉ ያስተ*ጋ*ባል።ድምፅ-ከጫፍ እስከጫፍ በግተሙ ውስተ አንደ ወለለት (የገደል ማሚቶ) እያረፈ ይነሳል።ድምፅ ንረትና ስሳለውም ጥልቀት ስሜትን ያርዳል።በእዝንሀሊናችንም ከቅርብ ርቀት የሚሰማ የዋይታና የሽብር ድምፅ እያስረፀ ያሽብረናል።በአድዋ *ውር*ንት፣ በአፍላው ውጊያ የተሳተፍን አስከሚ መስለን ድረስም ቀልባችንን ያስተናል። በእርግተም ግተሙ የጊዜንና የቦታን ርህቀት አጥፎ በዚያ ጊዜና ቦታ በምናብ እንኖር ዘንድ እድል **ይሰጠናል**።

| በላይ ናት።አንድም ሳትሆን ሁሳች | *ንንም ናት።ለዚህም ይመ*ስለኛል "ሰቆቃወ ጴጥሮስን" ባለቅኔው ሲደርስ፣የሰማዕቱ ጴዋሮስ ነፍስ ሥጋዋን ያዘዘችባትን፣"የቴድሮስ ስንብት ከመቅደሳ"ን ሲደርስ የታሳቁ **ቋረኛ ንጉሥ ነፍስ በአ**ዱኛ ሳይ ያየለችባትን ቅጽበት ፍንትው አድርጎ መጨበጥ የቻለው።እነዚያ አፍታዎች ሕሊናዊ እንጂ አካሳዊ ስሳልነበሩ፣እንዲሀ ሆንን እንጂ እንዲሀ ታስበን ሟች የሆነ ሊያየውም ሊገልፀውም አይቻለውም። "ረሀብ ስንት ቀን ይፈጃል?" በአቀራረቡ ስልት ለየት ቢልም በመንፈስና በርቀት | ከእነዚህ የሚደ**ሙር** ይመስለኛል:: | የመነጨ የሚመስል *ንግግር* (እውነት

ባለቅኔ ነው። ሆኖም ክራሱ ሌላ በአደባባይ ይህን እውነት ያስረገጠለት *ተመራጣሪ አ*ሳየሁም።በቡና ወሬ እና በቢራ ቁውውት አንጋፋዎቹም ሆኑ ጀጣሪዎች የሥነጽሁፍ ተማሪዎች የጸጋዬን ባለ ልዩ ስልት ገጣሚነት እናውቃታለን።ይቺን አውነት ግን ደፍረን ወደ ፀሃይ ለማውጣት በአካዳሚያ ጥናት ለማስሪ ገጥና ለመትከል አልደፈርንም። ምክን ያቱ ምን እንደሆን በርግሐኝነት ለም ናገር አልደፍርም።ብቻ የራሳችን የሆነው ስለማይቀሙን? እንደ አፌታሪክ የሚናፈሰው የባለቅኔው ዘመንኞች ያልታረመ እና ከተቀናቃኝነት ስሜት

> ተብሎ ከነበረ) ጣዕረ ስለሚያ መንፌስ ጠሳብን?የባለቅኔው "አድባር ትቀበ ሳችሁ" ያሳደረው የዘመናት 09 B ያሳሞቀው የአንድ ትውልድ ቅሬታ?እኔ እንጃ አቦ!ያም ሆነ ይህ *ግን* የባለቅኔው የስንኝ ሥልት በደበበ ሰይፉ የብርሃን <u>ፍቅር</u>፣በወንድዬ አሊ

ግዋም አስተማ ሪንቴና ተማሪንቴ P 77.76

እንደ ሥነ

"...ቅኔ ቲያትር የ**ቱሌ**ሺዝን ድራማ ይለዋል። የሚታየው ግን አሳዛኝ ነው።በዲስፒሊን ታንጾ ያልወባ ክቡርነት የግስን ውበት ተክኖ አእምሮ የቅኔን ያልወጣ አእምሮ እንዴት የዚህን የረቂቅ ህዝብ ኪናዊ ጥማት ሲያረካ ይችሳል?! እንዴት ብሎ እሴትና የዚህን ባለቅኔ ሕዝብ ሕይወት ይተረጉማል?!..."

ጸጋዬ ገብረሙድህን ከቤዛ ምጽሂት 1984

አንድ መኝ ጉዳይ አለ። ይህም በእንስት አንደበት (voices) የቀረቡት የጸጋዬ ማዋሞች ሁኔታ ነው።በሥነግጥ ማችን ታሪክ ሳቅ ያለ ቦታ ከሚይ

ዙት **ተ**ቂት ተው ኔታዊ መነባንቦች ማንው "ምንትስ"፣ እ አንዱ ንዲሁም፣ተወኝ" እና "ትዝታ"፣ ከተመሳሳዮቻቸው ሌሎች ግጥሞች በእጅጉ የሚለዩ ናቸው።ለመለየ ታቸው ምክንያቱ ገጣሚው ተባፅ ታይ ሆኖ ባለ አንደበቶቹ "እን ስት" መሆናቸው ታሪክ ነው።:በሥነ ግጥጣችን በአነስታይ አንደበት የሚነገር ግተም የፃፈ ሴላ ተባዕታይ ገጣሚ አሳውቅም። እነዚህን ግጥሞች አንብበው የተሰማ ቸውን ይነግሩኝ ዘንድ አያሌ ልጃገረድ ተማሪዎችን እና ንዋደኞቼን ጠይቄ ያለሁ።ሁሉም ስሜቱም፣አተያዩም እንስታዊ (Feminine) በመሆኑ ይስግ ማሉ። ግጥሞቹ ከነፍስ የፌለቁ፣ለራስ የሚነገሩ የነጠሩ እውነቶች ይዘዋል፤ በአምባ የተለወሱም ናቸው።ታዲያ እኔ እንደ ተ*መራጣሪ* ሳይሆን እንደ **አንባ**ቢ እውን ነፍስ *የታ* የሳትምን?እሳለሁ።

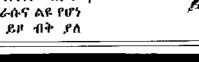
የእውነተኛ ባለቅኔ ነፍስ ፆታ የሳትም።በጊዜና በቦታ የታሰረች ሳትሆን *ከለዓለማ*ዊ እና **ጎዋሪ** (Omnipresent) ናት።ከዘር፣ከቋንቋ

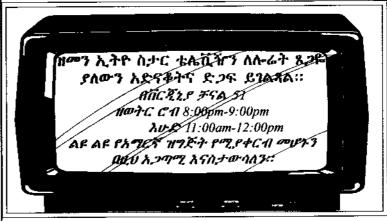
ደግሞስ ማነው በአንዲት አፍታው፣ በቀን ሕልም የተጉዋዘውን እንደ ጸጋዬ "እከካም *ተጣሪ*"አፈንትዎ (ፍንትው አድርሳ) ማሳየት የሚችል።ሌሳም ሌሳም ብዙ ማለት ይቻሳል።

ጽሁፌን ከመቋጠሬ በፊት አንዲት **ነ**ዋብ ሳንሳ።አለ**ም**ታደል ሆነና ነብይ ባንሩ አይከበርም አንጅ ጸ*ጋ*ዬ | በአማርኛ *ሥነ*ግተም የራሱና ልዩ የሆነ የአሰነኛኘት ሥልት ይዞ ብቅ ያለ

ወፈ ቆጮች፣በንቢዩ መኮንን ማተሞች እንዲሁም በሌሎች ወጣት ገጣሚያን ሥራዎች ውስተ መታየት ከጀመረ ሰንብቷል።በሌሎችም የተበቡ ንፅታ ዎች ረገድ ሎሬት ጸ*ጋ*ዬ በአማርኛ ሥነግተም ዘልማድ ላቅ ያለ ቦታ ይዞ እንደሚዘልቅ አያጠራጥሩም።

ደህና ሁኔ!





ACTTY TANAT

ከአሳቱ ተሰማ

ከአቻምና በፊት አቻምና...
የዛሬን አያርገዉና፤
ያኔ በልጅንቴ...
በአፍላ ደሜ፣በፍላቴ፤
አስድግ አስመቀንት... እየሮጠኩኝ የታጠቁት፣
ይጠልፍና ይጥለኛል...
አስልክ አስሥፍሮቴ... እያወጋሁ የጎረስኩት፣
ማንቁርቴ ላይ ይጣበቃል...
...ብዬ በማልሸበር በማልዳዳበት ስዓት፤
በየካቲት ዋናተኞች... በዘራፌዎቹ...
ተከብቤ በንበር ወቅት፤
ባላቅማማ ባልገደር፣
ጸጋዬ ብዕርህ "ይሙት"... ብዬ ረግሜህ ንበር፣
... ወይ ጣጣዬ... የአኔ ንገር!

ጸጋዬ በስን-ተበብ፣በስን-ግጥም ዓለም፤ ምበለኝ አንጂ... አልመበልህም እወቀኝ እንጂ... አላዉቅህም... ይሄ ይዉደም፣ያ ይስምልም... ...ብሎ ፌሊጥ ነዉር አይደለም? አሳምረህ ታዉቀዋለህ ይቅር በለኝ፣አልንግርህም።

> "…የቃለ-ልሳን ቅመም የባስቅኔ ቀስም ንጠበ አንጂ ፌሰስ አንበል፣ቢዘንበል እንኳ ደም ስከን አንጂ ከሰስ አንበል፣ቢከስከስ እንኳን አፅም.. የቃስ አባት ንበልባሉ የድምጸ ብርሃን ፀዳሉ የኅብረ ቀለማት ኃይሉ አልባከንምና ዉሉ

የዘር-ንድፉ የፊደሉ ቢሞት እንኳ ሞተ አትበሉ" ከሰዉ በፊት ያልከዉ አንተ፣ አቦ ተወኝ! ... ተለመነኝ፤ ዓይን ስዓይን እንተያይ፣ እርግማኔን መልበልኝ...

ለሁ. ሁህ፣

ስአቡ ጊዳህ...

ስአዋሽ-ስገዱ ዱታህ፤ ምስለኝህን አምበ, ብል፣ብከፋብህ... ባመርብህ፤ በበልግህ...

> በአ*ቸህ አክሌል*ሁ... በአቴሎህ... በማከቤዝፀ፤

ጸጋዬ በአበባ አሳትህ...

የለም፣ በአሳት አበባህ... ...እማረክ አማስላስሁ፤

በስነ-ግጥም ጥጣቴ...

የጸጋዬ ቤት ቤቴ፣... በሆነ እያልኩ አመኛለሁ! ብዕርህን ላይ ነዉ አምዓዓዉ፤ ልጠጋህ ነዉ አምንፏቀቀዉ...

የቃላት ህብረ-ቀለምህን

የሀይወት ስንክሳርህን... ጸጋዬ፣የጸጋ ዳስክን፤

ፊደል አጣጣልህን ድምጽ አወራረድህን

የቲያትር የምርምር የፌጠራ ተመህቦህን..

እንደ ማከማከባ ምርቲ፣ እንደ አምባሰል... እንደ ባቲ. እንደ በገና አሮሮ እንደ መሾ እንጉርጉሮ... ...እንደ ሰንጎ መገን ጉም እንደ የወል ቤት እመም... ...እንደ ዳዊት ቀያይ ቤቶች እንደ ያሬድ ዝማሬዎች...

ወርሰን የምናወርሰዉ
ዘግንን አምንስግሰዉ...
የጸጋዬ የብዕር ልጅ፣የጸጋዬ የግጥም ምት፤
ይደግ ይመንደግ እንጂ፣ እንዴት ይባላል ይሙት?!...
...ምን ቆርጦኝ ነዉ እንዲያ ያልኩት?
በረከትህን የረገምኩት...
ወንድሜ... ነዉሬን ተዉልኝ፤
አባክህ ተባረክልኝ...
አግዜር ይስሔን ዉስድና...
አርግማኔን መልስልኝ፥፥

ከአንግዲህ እኔ በምንም...
ምሰለኝ አንጂ... አልመሰልህም፤
አወቀኝ አንጂ... አላዉቅህም...
ምንም ቢሆን፣አልልህም።
ጽጌረዳ ቀለሚ ቀይ፣ብቻ ንዉ ብሎ ዘበት፤
ያንት ጎዳና ወደ ሲአል፣የእኔይቱ ወደ ገንት፤...
...ብሎ ፍጥም፣ዝግት ግርግም፣
ፍካሬ-አቡይ ዛሬ የለም።...
መብ ያለሽ በዳቦን አልፌን
ተቸንሬ.ን... አሸንሬን፤አቸንሬን... ተሸንሬን...
አቦ ተወኝ! አባክህን፤...
ባንኳኳን ልንኳኳን መከራ ነዉ የመከረን።



ዶክተር <u>ፍቅሬ ቶሎሳ</u>





በተ.ም. ኤማዚቢሽን አጻራሽ ስለ አፍሪካ ሀተናት እጣ ፌንታ ስጋዜጠኞች መግለጫ ሲሰጡ።(**ኒዮርክ** እ.ኤ.አ. 1991)

5

ይሆንን ደብዳቤ ለመጻፍ የተነሳሁት የኢትዮጵያ የቅኔ ሱፌት **ጸ**ጋ<mark>ት</mark> ንብረመድጎን ለ1999 እ.ኤ.አ. የኖቤል ሽልማት ዕጩ ይሆን ዘንድ ለመጠየቅ ነው።

እኔ ኢትዮጵያዊ ባለትኔ፣ምሁርና የቲያትር ዓራሲ ነኝ።ባለፉት ነያ ዓመታት በጀርመንና በዩናይትድ ስቴትስ ዩኒቨ ርሲቲዎች ውስጥ በፌጠራ ድርሱት መምህርነት ሰርቻለሁ።አሁን ደግሞ ቀድሞ የፋክልቲ ረዳት ዲን ሆኔ ይገለገልከብት፣ ግን ራፋኤል በሚኸው የኮሎምቢያ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ሜንተር ነኝ።የኢትዮጵያንና የሩሲያን ስነፅሁፍ አዋንቼ የዶክትሬት ዲግሪ ስቀበል "ሪያሊዝምና የአማርኛ ጠፅሁኛ በሚል ርዕስ ያቀረብኩት የመመ ረቂያ ሥራዩ በ1982 እ.ኤ.አ. ጀርመን ከሚኸው የብሬመን ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለ"ማግና ኩም ላውደ" ማዕረግ አብቅቶኛል። አንድ ኢትዮጵያዊ ደራሲ በጥር 1999 የኢትዮጵያ የቅኔ ሎፌት ጸንዶ ገብረምድጎን የኖቤል ሽልማት የሚገባው ይመስልሃል ወይ ብሎ ሲጠይቀኝ በዝምታ ጥቂት አስብኩና "እንዴታ!" ብዶ መልስኩለት።እሱም ወዲያው አባክህ ለኖቤል ሽልማት ኮሚቴ ይህንን ገልፀህ ጻፍላቸው ሲል አሳሰበኝ።

ሃሳፊነቱን ከተቀበልኩ በኋሳ ነበር የቀን ገደቡ አጭርነት የታወቀኝ።ይህን መሳይ አቢይ ተግባር በሚገባ ለመፈፀም አንድችል ሰፋ ያለ ጊዜ ባገኝ እንዴት መልካም ነበር የታሳቁን ደራሲ የጸጋፍ ገብረመድጎንን ሥራዎች እንዲህ እጅጉን በተወሰነ የጊዜ ገደብ በአግባቡ አጥንቶ ለመዘገብ ያስቸግራልና።

ድርስቱና ጥናታዊ ፅሁፎቹ በርካታ፣ዋልቅና የረቀቁ በመሆናቸው ምክንያት በጥድፊያ ሊተነተኑ ያጻግታሉ።ሆኖም ግን ይህ ታሳቅ ኢትዮጵያዊ ለምን የሥነ ፅሁፍ የኖቤል ሽልማት እንደሚገባው ለክበር ኮሚቴው

A

77

ለማስረዳት የምችለውን ያህል እምክራላሁ።

ጸ*ጋ*ዬ ገብረመድጎን ለኢትዮጵያና እንዲሁም ለዓለም ሥነፅሁፍ ያበረከተው ቅርስ ከፍተኛ በመሆኑ ያለፉትን አምሳ ዓመታት የኢትዮጵያን ሥነፅሁፍና ቱያትር ከእሱ ነዋሎ ማየት አይቻልም።

ያተኮረው በቅኔና በድራማ ላይ ሲሆን፣በርካታ ቴ ያትሮቹ ራሱ የደረሳቸው፣ሌሎቹ ደግሞ የተረሳማቸው ናቸው።በለንነቱ "የደም አዝመራ" የተሠና ድራማ ያርስ ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ በኢትዮጵያ የሥነ ፅሀፍ ትዕይንት ብቅ ሲል የአገሪቱ የቴያትር ኢድገት ደረጃው ገና ኢምቡጥ ነበርና ሲመለከተውና ሲማርበት የሚበቃ ደራሲ አልነበረም።ክዚያ ጀምሮ ለተከተሎት አምሳ ዓመታት የአገሩን የቴያትር መድረክ ዕውብ ድንቅ በሆኑ ተውኔቶች አሸብርቆ በተመልካች ተወዳጅነትን አትርፏል።

ቀደምት ተውኔቶቹ በአገሪቱ ነባር ሁኔታዎች ላይ የተመረከዙ ሲሆኑ፣ ከዚህም አልፎ ከታላቁ ቼክስፔር ሕያው ሥራዎች፣ሐምሌትን፣ማክቤዝን፣ አቴሎንና ንጉስ ሊርን አዳቅሎ ለኢትዮጵያውያን አቅርቧል።

ጸ*ጋ*ቶ *ገብረመድኅ*ን ከደረሳቸው መካከል የሚከተሉትን አጠቅሳለሁ:-በአስራ አምስት ዓመት ዕድሜው ደርሶ ለተመልካች ያበቃቸው "ሌላው አዳም" እና "የደም አዝመራ" በ1951 እ.ኤ.አ.፣ "በልግ" በ1957፣"የአሾህ አክሊል" በ1959፣ "እስቀ*ያሚ* ልጃ ገረድ" በ1959፣ **"ሊ**ስትሮ " በ1960**፣"ሬውሎ"፣በ**1961**፣ "የእ***ጣጣ* ዝጠኝ መልክ" በ1961፣ "የከርሞ ሰው" በ1966፣"ህሁ በስድስት ወር" በ1973**፣"**አ**ፅም** "አቡጊዳ ቀይሶ" በያ**ነው"** በ1973፣ OHRC' በ1976፣"መልዕክተ በ1979፣"መቅድም" በ1980፣ "**ጋሞ**" በ1981፣"ምኒልክ" በ1989፣"ህሁ ወዶም ፕፑ" በ1993 **እና** "ቲያትረኞች" በ1998።በእንዚህና በሌሎች ተያትሮች አማካይነት የኢትዮጵ*ያን የግ*ጣሽ ምዕተ ዓመት መልኳን ቀርጾ፣በእነዚህ ዓመታት በተፈራረቁት በአፄ ሐይለ ስላሴ፣ በኩሎኒል መንግሥቱና አሁን በስልጣን ሳይ በሚኙት በጠቅላይ ሚኒስትር *መ*ለስ ዝናዊ *መንግ*ስት የነበረውን ሕብረሰባዊና ፖለቲካዊ ይዘት ለማሳየት ችሷል። *ሥራዎ*ቹ ኢትዮጵያ ከባሳቢታዊና ከወን |

ዘመናዊ አቀፍ ሥርዓት ወደ የካፒታሲስትና የኮሙኒስት ሥርዓት ለመሲጋገር ያደረገችውን መክራና ይህም በስድሳ ሚሊዮን ሕዝቧ ላያ ያስከተለውን **ማ**ጣ፣ከዚያም በኋላ የተከሰተውን የጎሳዊነት *ነፅታ ያንፅባርቃ*ሉ። በተጨማሪም፣በባዥና በተገዥ፣ ብጫቋኝና በተጨቋኝ፣በአሮ ጌውና በአዲሱ፣ ብ**ነዒሩ**ና በዘመናዊው፣ በገጠሩና በከተ**ግው መሰል** የተፈጠሩትን ቅራኔዎች ይመለከታ<u>ሱ።የእን</u>ግሊዘኛ ድራማዎቹ ያተኮሩት ደግሞ በኢትዮጵያ <u>የጥንት ሐይማኖታዊ ስንክሳሮች፣እምነትና</u> አምልኮ በሰው ሕይ**ወ**ት ሳይ ባሳቸው ተፅዕኖ ላይ ነው።

ራሱ የደረሳቸው ቲያትሮች የሚያነቀትን ያህል፣የልክስፒር፣ የሞሴርና የብሬሽት ሥራዎች ድተሳ የሚያስገርም ሥነጥበባዊ ተስጥእው ምሥክሮች ናቸው።ከባዕድ ባህል የበተሉትን እነዚህን እውቅ ስራዎች ከሃገሩ ወገና ልጣድ ጋር አጣዋሞ በጣገሃድ ሲያተርብ እኒህ ታላጎቅ የአውሮፓ ደራሲያን የተረጃናውን ገፀባህርያት ኢትዮጵያውያን በመነከላቸው ከሚገኙት ጋር አመሳሰለው ለመረዳት እንዲችሱ በጣድረጉ የኤች ተብረመድግን ፍሬ ኢትዮጵያን ከውጭ ዓለም ጋር የሚያነገኝ የሥነጥበብ ድልድይ ዘርግቷል ቢባል ማጋጎን አይሆንም=

ቅኔዎቹ**ም ከቲያትሮ**ቹ አንሰው አይታ**ዩም።እንደ ድራማዎ**ቹ ሰብአዊነት የተሞሳባቸ**ው፤በተንቋ ው**በት የታነፁ፤

አልፎ አልፎ ምፀት ያረገዙ የስሜት ነበልባል ሲሆኑ፣ጊዜን፣እርጅናን፣ ድኅነትን፣ሞትን፣ንደኝነትን፣የፍትህ አመትን፣ፍርሃትን፣ተስፋን፣ሰላምንና ፍትርን የሚመለከቱ ማኅበረሰባዊና ፖለቲካዊ በረከቶች ናቸው።

በጽሁፎቹ ባስመስከረው የቋንቋ ሲቅነቱና በቃላት ሃብቱ በማንም ኢትዮጵያዊ ደራሲ ያልተቀደመ መሆኑን እንግነዘባለን።በድራማዎቹና በቅኔዎቹ ቋንቋችን ያዘለውን ቃላትና ውበት አብጠርጥሮ፣ያሻውን አስተካከሉና አሳምሮ ለመግለፅ ችሏል።

በበርካታ ሴሚናሮችና በአለም አቀፍ የደራሲያን ማህበር ስለ አፍሪቃ ባህልና ስነጥበብ፣ሶሲዮሎጂ፣ አንትሮፓሎጂ፣ አርኪዮሎጂና አምልኮ ያቀረ ባቸው ዋናታዊ ፅሁፎች በእነዚህ ጉዳዮች ሳይ ያለውን ጥልቅ አመለካከት አረጋግ ጠዋል።ታላቁ አፍሪቃዊ ባላቅኔ፣ የቀድሞው የሴኔጋል ፕሬዚዴንት ሲዎፖልድ ሴዳር ሴንጎር ያደነቁት በዝግጅት ሳይ ያለው የፅንዶ ገብረመድግን መጽሐፍ አፍሪቃ የስልጣኔ ምንጭና የሰው ዘር መብቀያ መሆኗን ለማሳኛት ይሞክራል።

ጸጋዶ ጉብረመድኅን በአለም ዙሪያ በሚገባ ሳስመታወቁ ዋነኛው ምክንያት ብዙ ስራዎቹ ፌረንጆች በማያውቁት የአፍሪቃ ቋንቋ በመነፋቸው ነው።ሌሎች ኢትዮጵያዊ



በአፍሪካውያንና በአውሮፓውያን ደራሲያን ዓለም አቀፍ ጉባኡ ወቅት ከብቃፅ አቡን ጳውሎስ አምስተኛ *ጋር።(1969 ዓ.ም.*)

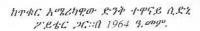


የግርማዊ ቀዳማዊ ኃይለ ሥላሴን ብሂራዊ የስነ ጽሁፍ ሽልማት ሲሸለም 16 29 ዓመቱ ነበር።

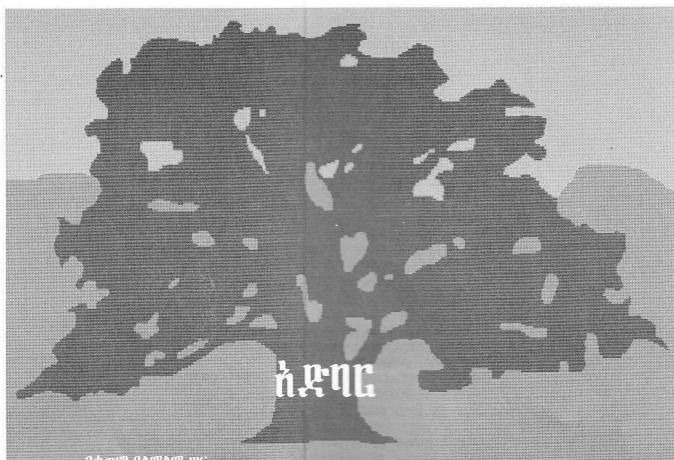
ደራሲያንም የዚሁ ግዕዝ በሚባል አፍሪካ በቀል ፊደል የሚ¶ፍ ቋንቋ ተጠቃሚ በመሆናቸው ተመሳሳይ ችግር ገዮሟቸዋል።የዚህን ታላቅ ደራሲ ሥራዎች ምንነታቸውን ተገንዝቦ ለጣድነቅ የሚሻ ማንም ሰው በተፃፉበት ቋንቋ፣ደራሲው በተካነው አጣርኛ እንዲያነባቸው ይገጻጻል።

ጸጋዬ ገብረመድኅን ስለ አልራቸው ድንቅ ሥራዎቹ፣እንዲሁም ለኢትዮጵያና ስዓ ስም ስነፅሁፍ፣ቴያ ትርና ባህል ስለአ በረከተው አስተዋ ፅኦ በእርግጥም የኖቤል ሽልማት ይገባዋል።

. 49768 767.98 4.0.0 E7-96h:







በቁጠማ በስምስም ሣር አትባራ አደባር በጤና ዓዳም በተሞና የዋርካ አደባር የጀበና። ከታአካ አስከ ልደታ ከአስተርዮ አስከ ባዕታ አደባር አትሆር፣አደባር አታ። በግንቦት አስት በዓልሽ ደጃፍሽን ተማዕንናል ዛፍ ጽሳትሽን ቀብተናል ጠበልሽን ጠዋተናል ጽዋሽን ግምጃ አልብስናል። የአማልክቶች አናት አርማ የማጀመሪያ ከተማ

ልጆችሽ በስረሳንሽ፣አንቺም መልበሽ ረሳሽን እኛ በስራቅንሽ ራቅሽን ስሰረንምንሽ ረንምሽን። እማማ አድባር ማን ያስታርቀን? ከተሰቀልንበት ዕብሪት በትህትና ማ ያዉርዶን ርቀታችንን በድልድይ ፕንብቶ ማን ያቀራርበን?

> በአብራተኝንት አደ*ጋ* የምንክፍለዉ የደም ዋ*ጋ* ናሪ ከትዉልድ ትዉልድ በዉዳችን ሆነ በግድ። ከዘመን ዘመን መናብን፣ መናብን

በባዕዳን አምልኳችን በወገን ጠልነታችን በአድባር አመ*ጋ*ር ንቀታችን በመንፈስ ክፋታችን። አኛን በኛ አስጨክኖናል አኛን በኛ አጨልሞናል። ዕብሪት ናረብን፣ደራብን አንደ ዋሬ ዋዋ ተባዝተን አርስ በርስ ተጠያየፍን ተጨፋጨፍን ደከመን ስስቸን፣አስቅን።

አመ-በርሃን አማማ አድባር በቁጠማሽ በስምስም ሣር በጤና ዓዳም በተምናሽ የዋርካ አድባር በጀበናሽ፤ ልጆችሽ በስሪባንሽ፣ አንቺ መልበሽ አትርሺን በስራቅንሽ አትራቂን በስናቅንሽ አትርተሚን አሚያጣሳ አንጂ አሚያስታርቅ አሳገኝንም ታሪቂን ከተበቀልንበት አብሪት፣ በትህትናሽ አበርጨን ርቀታችንን በድልድይ ገንብተሽ አንቺ አቀራርቢን።

> ባስቅኔ ሎሬት ጸ*ጋዬ 1/መደነነን* 1984 ዓ.ም



ከበቀሉ መጽደቅ

ነቢይ *መ*ኰንን

[ሥን-ፌጠራ፣ በልፍ ፓርትሬት፣ ሳያደጉ መወሰደ] {(Triplets) ሦስትዮሽ}

§ <u>ሥነ-</u>ፌጠራ

ሁላችን ሀሳብ እኮ ነን ካለተቋጠርን የምንተን ካልተባበርን አቅም የሌሰን ፡፡ ሁላችን ሀሳብ እኮ ነን ጅምር ሀሳብ የሰው ውጥን፣

> ከበአሲ ቀስም አኩል ከፀሀፊ ጭረት እኩል በጠበታ ተጀምረን፣ጎርፍ ስመሆን የምንችል፣ ቢቃል በሆሄ ተነጥበን፣ህይወት አክለን የምንውል።

ሁሳችን ሀሳብ እኮ ነን! እንደወፍ ነፃ ነብስ ያለን

> ይስፍ-ይረፍ አማንባል፣አጋጅ ክልካይ የሌስብን ከሰአሲ ተስም አኩል፣መፍሰስ መድረቅ የታደልን፣ ታል-ውዳሴ አማያበራን ውግዘት አማያጨልመን ትእዛዝ አማያጎድፌን ከንፈ-ዝና አማያከንፊን

> > ጅምር የሀሳብ ተክል ነን በተበብ ማሳ የበቀልን = ግና መወለድ ብቻውን፣መብቀልም ወንዝ አያሻግር

ግና መወስድ ብቻውን፣መብቀልም ወንዝ አያባግር ማደግ እንጂ <mark>ማስፌ</mark>ያው በር መጽደቅ እንጂ መድረሻው ዳር!

እንደዋበብ ሰው ፈጠራ፣በየዋህ ድንግል ልቡና የመጣውን ትኩስ ሰሜት፣አፌንድተን ያስጫና በብትን፥ውስጥ ስብስብ በስብስቡ ውስጥ ብትን ሆነን የምንኖር ነብሳት ነን

ሁላችን የመኖር መላ፣የየህልማችን ፍቺ ነን!

"በጥላ በጣዩ ረክቶ በጥሞና ስሚኖረው አያነዳንዱ ማታና ቀን፣የየራሱ ዘላስም ነው ይህን የየእስት ዘላስም፣ያወቀበት ሲያድር ሲውል ተኝቶ በነቃ ቁጥር፣የችናየትን ያልፈዋል። ያኔ ፈጠራን ራሱን፣… ይኖረዋል… ይሆነዋል! ታፍኖ ታምቆ ከርሞ፣ጠቢብ ፍንዳታው አንዴ ነው

ያኔ መመስሻም የስዉ! የዘመን ቀን ልውጫ ዛር ነው ህብረሰብም አይገድበው ብሩሹ የእሳት በትር እጅ

እርሳቡ የንምራ ንዳድ ከቶ አንዴ ከፊላም አይበርድ ፡፡

ያልፋል የልማድን ኬላ ይተሳል የባሀልን አተር ያኔ አብድ ነው ቀስም የወፊፌ ነው ትርጉም የንክንት ነዉ አለሙ ። ሆኖም ማደጉ ነው እሱ የወገን ካብ መናዱ፣ አጠርን ያልነውን መጣሱ አቆምን ያልነውን ማፍረሱ ማደጉ እኮ ነው ስሱ መፅደቁ እኮ ነው እሱ!

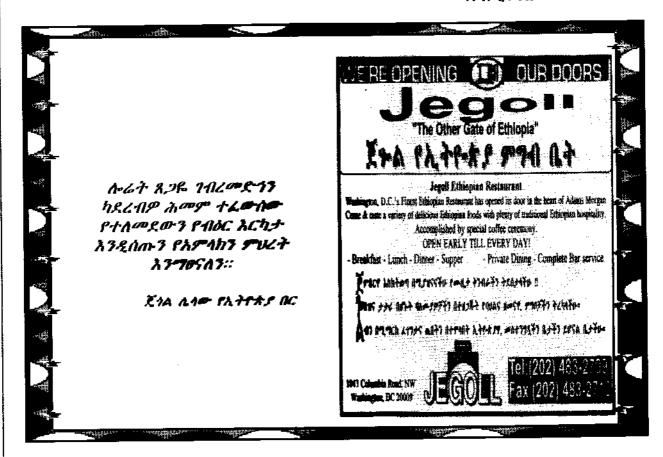
> **ምወለድ ወንዝ አያሻግር ግደግ እንጂ ግ**ለፊያዉ ብር!

የጠቢብ ሰው ግና **ምቱ፣ምጠየት** ያቆመ አለት ነዉ ያኔ ስእሱ መንገድ **ዝግ ነዉ** መብቀል እንጂ **መፅደት በታው!!**

ምስስ-አራስ/Self Portrait/ ስጥበብ ተከል ስጥበብ በው እራሱ ነዉ መጀ**መሪያዉ** መፅደቅ ማደ**ግም ከቻል፣ ልጅ ል**ጁ ዉስጥ ነዉ መብቂያዉ!

ያ በአሲ የኛ**ዉ ምስል** ስዉን አር*ታንክ*ን **ቀምና ነዘና**ህን ልሳል ይሳል እስብ ራሱ **ስራሱ፣ባዶ አርታኑን ቅ**ም ያቃል? እሱ ስእሱ "ፖ**ፐ" ያረጋል**?

ወደ አሚቀተለው ገጽ ዞሯል



እራቡ ለእራሱ ይቅማል? ራሱን አስቦ መሳል፣"ፖዝ" ማረግ ሲያቅተዉ ከቶ ምስስ-እራሴ ይስዋል፣በመስተዋት ራሱን ሰርቶ በነፀብራቅ ራሱን አይቶ*።*

መቼም ጥሳዬን ሳልኩ አይል
የራስ ጨስማ ያስፈራል፣
አንዳንዱ ጥሳ ይከብዳል
አንዳንዱ ጥሳ ይቀሳል
ደሞም እንደወቅቱ ፀሀይ፣ወይ ይረዝማል አሲያም ያጥራል።
ስስዚህም አራስ ሲሳል
መሰልኩ እንጂ ሆንኩ አይባል።
እኔ እኔን መሰልኩኝ ማለት
አይገቤ ነው ግራ ተረት።
ጡር ተናገርክ አትበሱ እንጂ፣አራሱን መላል ካልቻስ
ስራሱ መቆም ካልቻስ
እንደስአሲም ጅል የለ
ምን ቢዋጥ ባሳር ባበሳ
ስዉ ራሱን ከቶ አይረሳ!!

ስስዚህም ገበናዉን፣የራሱን መዝዝ አባዜ ቢያሳይ ነዉ ሚብጅ ሁስጊዜ፤ ምንም አልዋጥ ቢል ስሰዉ፣ፍራዉ ቢመር ቢጎመዝዝ የማናየዉ ሲቀርብ ነዉ፣ኤ/ዚቢሽን አይን የሚይዝ። ምክንያቱም አደባባይ ይመስልናል እንጂ አሚያሳይ

ጅምሩ ይደግ ካላልን፣መወጠን ተረት ነዉ ግና። ወግ በወግ ብቻ ብንቀምር ሳንበቃ ስፍራ ግብር

> እንደሳምና አረፋ ነን ተኩረፍርፈን ዉሃ አምንሆን።

ሁሳችን ሀሳብ እኮ ነን ካልተቋጠርን የምንተን ካልተሳበርን አ**ትም** የሌስን የሰዉ ጅምር **የሰዉ ዉ**ጥን*=*

ታዲያ የጅምሩ አልባት፣ንዉና በራስ ተማምና ዉል መቋጨት ባጭር አንጂ፣እንደድማሚት መጥና ግንን በሱኝ ዘራፍ ማስት፣ያንድ አፍታን ሰሜት ተግና ኋላ ጭንቁ መቶ አምሳ ነዉ፣ቃል ሁሉ ቢጠፋ ተና ባየር የገንቡት ህንፃ፣ፊራሽ የጅልነት መቅና ፊሳሽ የልጅነት መስና!

እናም ሁሳችን ሀሳብ ነን በእድሜ በልምድ ያልተቋጠርን ያልተሸመን የሀሳብ ድር ያልከረርን የተስፋ ክር ፡፡ ትሳንትን ስነን እያጨን፣ባዘን ትንቢት ከተኩራራን ያሳንዳች ርቱኢ-ተስፋ፣ስሞበብ እንጠበብ ካልን ያሳንዳች ርቱኢ-ኢትም፣ሁሉንም ካልጨብዮን ካልን በስምም በዯቅምም ግርዶሽ፣ ሀልማችንን ዳር ካልንፋን

> ጤዛ እኮ ነን ተን እኮ ነን።

ሳያድግ የሚወስድ ሀሳብ፣ማማጥ ብቻ እኮ ነዉ ትርፉ ሳይጨርሱ መጀመሩ፣መጨንገፍ መርገፍ ነዉ ፅንፉነ ከበቀሱ መጽደቅ አንጂ፣መጠዉስግ መገርጣት ስምን ዘር ማልሚያዉ ነፃነት ባለ፣ሸለ-ምቅ የጥበብ ማጎፀን።

ሁላችን ሀሳብ እኮ ነን ጅምር ሀሳብ የሰዉ ዉዋን ግን ተወልደን አናድግ ካልን ደመና ነን የሚበተን እርግማን ነን የምዋ ዘመን።

ስንወጠን ፍምና አቶን ስንፌጸም ጤዛና ተን ከበቀልን እንጽደቅ እንጂ፣እንደግ እንታናማ ካልን ጌጥ የበዛዉ ምንዶኛ፣ያሳብ ፌረስ ብቻ ሆነን ንፋስ ነዉ የሚጋልበን። ሁሳችን ሀሳብ እኮ ነን ዋበብ አይተን ነብስ አምናቅ አንዴ ከብተልን እንጽደቅ

K



ብሳቴን ጌታ፡ Blaten Geta POET LAUREATE TSEGAYE GABRE-MEDHIN OF ETHIOPIA

A Short Walk Through His Literary Park

By Negussay Ayele

ብሳቴን ጌታ Poet Laureate—Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin, is Ethiopia's premier versatile and prolific man of letters. For a half a century now he has been continuously productive as poet, playwright, essayist, social critic, philologist, historiographer, dramatist, synthesist, peace activist artistic director...on matters national, continental and global. Even if he has yet to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, he has often been more appreciated and duly honoured abroad than in his own land. Perhaps this is in keeping with that old Ethiopian saying to the effect that 'a prophet is often not esteemed in his own country.' In this day and age, when most of us have been preoccupied and indeed consumed by wars and rumors of wars in Ethiopia-Eritrea and elsewhere in the Horn of Africa, it seems as though there is nothing else of positive value or of grave concern that deserves or commands the attention of Ethiopians. Today we shall take time out from violence and war and reflect on the life and works of Poet Laureate Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin who is a living legend, a literary hero, and as one observer described him recently, Ethiopia's "biblical sage".

A Glimpse At Poet Laureate Tsegaye's Literary Journey Poet Laureate Tsegaye is of the generation numbering a dozen or so who are ex-

tant-of Ethiopian men of letters who were born during the crucible of the Fascist invasion of Ethiopia in the 1930's. As such his early childhood gestation period was moulded by the trauma of that war of aggression against which his patriot father fought. Born in the vicinity of Ambo and the environs of the source of Awash River in Shewa region, the young Tsegaye was also influenced and shaped by the subcultures, languages and the blending of his Oromo and Amhara heritages. Indeed, as he was to relate later on, he considers himself as one who represented an Ethiopian amalgam or bridge between the two cultures. And it did not take long for this child prodigy not only to absorb Oromifa and traditional Zema and Qine in Ethiopic (Ge'ez) as well as Amharic in the traditional neighborhood church school but also to rapidly learn English in the contemporary modern school or Asquala. Indeed, the young genius, Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin, was barely a teen when in 1942, he wrote his first play, The Story of King Dionysus and of the Two Brothers, and saw it staged in Ambo Elementary School. It was watched by, among others, Emperor Haile Sellassie himself.

Young Tsegaye's educational itinerary then takes him to formal higher schooling at home (Wingate and Commercial School) and abroad (Blackstone School of Law) in Chicago where he took his Bar Exam. But his precocious self-reading of his inner needs, moods and proclivities pointed towards pastures for artistic and literary expression. And so he pursued



Tsegaye at twenty two years of age Listening to Emperor Haile Selassie I on the reading of his play "Crown of Thorns"
(1951 Ethiopian Calendar)

opportunities to visit and apprentice at experimental theater and drama establishments in Britain, France and Italy in the late 1950's. In addition to writing and producing Amharic plays including Yedem Azmera, (Blood Harvest), Yeshoh Aklil, (Crown of Thorns) and Joro Degef (Mumps) during this period, playwright Tsegaye also wrote scores of short poems in English some of which are reproduced in Ethiopia Observer, (1965). And he wrote a prize winning essay for Fullbright Fellowship competition on What Does World Brotherhood Mean To Me, in 1959.

The 1960's were among the most productive years for Poet, Playwright, Essayist, Art Director'... Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin. During this decade playwright Tsegaye adapted some of Shakespeare's plays including King Lear (which was banned), Othelo and Macbeth as well as Moliere's Tartouffe and Doctor In Spite of Himself. All told, five of his Amharic plays were banned in the 1960's. He also made presentations of his research on such topics as "Art in the Life of the Ethiopian People" at the First World Black Arts Festival Colloquium organized by UNESCO in Dakar, Senegal, and on "Kamit of Black Egyptian Theatre" for the Pan African Cultural Festival organized by the OAU in Algiers. Poet Laureate Tsegaye was also at his most peripatetic mode during this decade as he criss-crossed countries and continents interpreting Ethiopia and Africa to the world and back again to relating the art and literature of the world to his own people in the continent and in his motherland. And so, poet Tsegaye sojourned in more than thirty countries—often repeatedly— in Europe, the Americas and the Middle East. For esample, one of his plays, Oda Oak Oracle, was staged not only in Addis ababa but also in Britain, Denmark, Italy, Rumania, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania and the United States in 1964. He often led national delegations to international literary, cultural and peace gatherings and was invited



Tsegaye at thirteen years of age. Ambo Elementary school. The age at which he presented the English play "The History of King Dionysus and The Two Brothers" to Emperor Haile Selassie together with his sixth grade classmates.

to be resident writer, researcher, lecturer or external examiner at many institutions of higher learning as well as writer's unions the world over. This was also the decade when Poet Laureate Tsegaye nursed and nurtured a nascent Ethiopian National Theatre from 1961 to 1971. In 1966 Poet Tsegaye became the youngest (age twentynine) receipient of the Haile Sellassie I Prize for Amharic Literature. Poet Tsegaye also writes in Oromifa and is conversant in French as well. And in 1969 he won a Gold Merit Award as Outstanding Alumnus from his Alma Mater, the Commercial School, now College.

The prodiguous Poet Laureate continued his productivity unabated in the turbulent revolutionary cum military rule period of the 1970's..He spent 1971-72 in Senegal as a Fellow of what is now named Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, to do research on African Culture, Literature, and Black Egyptian Studies. Poet Laureate Tsegaye was awarded the Commander of the National Order of the Republic of Senegal at that time by President Leopold Sedar-Senghor. At numerous points in his career Poet Tsegaye has also been Fulbright Fellow and lectured in several U.S. institutions. In the mid-seventies, he was briefly appointed Vice Minister of the Ethiopian Ministry of Culture and Sports and in 1977-78 he was Assistant Professor

and founder/ director of the Department of Theater Arts at Addis Ababa University. With all this activity (and being thrown in jail in 1975 added to the mix). Poet Tsegaye perscvered in his labour of love and continued

to churn out plays that depicted and critiqued the onset of the 1974 Ethiopian Revolution. Of the five Amharic plays produced by Poet Laureate Tsegaye between 1974 and 1979, three of them —Ha Hu Besedst Wer (ABC in Six Months), Inat Alem Tenu (adapted from Bertold Brecht's Mother Courage) and Melekte Wez Ader (Message of the Worker) were banned. He published Collision of Altars-a play on religious feuds and intolerance-in 1977. He also presented numerous research papers including" Africa as the Origin of the Early Greek Theatre Culture" and "Ikher of Nagada: The First Actor in the First City of Humankind" at international Africanist and Black Arts Congresses. A selection of his Amharic poems were published in 1973 under the title:Issat wey Abeba (Fire or Flower). He has also served as Secretary General (1978-79) of Ethiopian Peace, Solidarity and Friendship House.

Poet Laurcate Tsegaye's literary fecundity continued unabated in the 1980's. He produced historical plays based on the lives of Menelik (Banned), Tewodros (Banned), and on Zeray Deres as well as Gammo, a play on the Ethiopian Revolution which was also banned. He adapted Shakespeare's Hamlet for the stage (banned) and subsequently staged some of these plays and published them abroad. In 1984 Poet Laureate

Tsegaye wrote a powerful long essay, Footprint of Time, delineating Ethiopia's place in world culture and history especially in light of paleoanthropological "Lucy" finds (1974) that marks Hadar area in Afarland of Ethiopia to be the nascence of humankind. During this period also Poet Laureate Tsegaye received Gold Mercury International Ad Persona Award for Ethiopian Literature (1982); he was Fulbright Senior Resident Fellow at Columbia University (1985); he was Co-winner (for the lyrics) of OAU African Unity Anthem Prize (1986) and winner of Ethiopia's Golden Red Star Award (1987).

Even if advancing age, health problems and the toll of the decades past were weighing on him, Poet Laureate continued to write, research, travel, lecture and produce dramaas for the stage in the 1990's. In 1993, Poet Laureate Tsegaye's Play with an accent on peace titled Ha Hu Weyem Pe Pu (ABCor XYZ)—to create life or to snuff out life-was banned. In 1994, a reproduction of one of his earlier plays, Petros, depicting the Ethiopian Patriarch butchered by the Italian Fascists, was banned. In the past few years Poet Laureate Tsegaye Gebre-Medhin has been gracing the pages of the Ethiopian monthly, Tobia and other publications at home and abroad with a series of powerful poetic essays entitled 34Å[e H" (Addressed To Us) and on Adwa as well as others in English. Since 1993 he has been concentrating on his on-going research project-Kabara Afraka--a study of Pre-Classical African Culture and African Origins of Religion. One can get glympses of this study in progress in some of his recent poetic renditions in "Addressed To Us." In 1991, Poet Laureate Tsegaye also served as Ethiopia's Red Cross and Red Crescent Goodwill Ambassador. His outstanding literary contributions as well as his advocacy of peace and human rights causes have been recognized and honoured by peer groups and Human Rights

bodies. Accordingly, in 1994 the New York based Human Rights Watch Organization awarded Poet Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin its prestigious Free Expression Award. Poet Laureate Tsegaye also published two of his poems in English entitled ESOP and NILE in Ethiopian Register in 1997. The Congress of World Poets and United Poets Laureate International, meeting in Buckinghamshire, England in 1997, honoured him with the prestigeous Gold Laurel Award with the title of Honourable Poet Laureate. And he is a member of the United Poets Laureate International.

The foregoing summary presentation of Poet Laureate Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin's major literary works and related activities should give one an appreciation of the scope and versatility of his works. And this does not include untold numbers of his poems, plays and papers that have been drafted/assembled but not yet published or staged. It should also be noted that Poet Laureate Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin has been a member of OAU's Forum 2000 Think Tank, Ethiopian Writers Association, African Writers Union and Afro-Asian Writers Union. He is listed in International Who's Who editions and also specifically on Poetry and on Dramatists as well as in Who's Who in Africa, in the Middle East and in the World's Who is Who of Authors reference volumes.

Comments on and Responses to the Poet/Playwright's Works One way of guaging and determining what kind of reaction Poet Laureate Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin has had is to summarize and highlight salient points from the foregoing profile of the man and his works. In doing so we find that reaction to his works has run the gamut from positive responses and commensurate accolades, especially in the international arena, all the way to official censorship and banning of his work in his home country coupled with

imprisonment. With the exception of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Poet Laureate Tsegaye has been duly honoured by peer groups and audiences abroad. In Silence Is Not Golden (1995), a compendium on Ethiopian literature, Ali J. Ahmed noted that "Like his fellow playwright and compatriot, Mengistu Lemma, Gabre-Medhin's works have a healthy "obsession" with the past—the past as a powerful competitor with the present." And analyzing two of Poet Laureate Tsegaye's plays in English-Oda Oak Oracle (1965) and Collision of Altars (1977)-Biodun Jeyifo argued that these two plays are "exemplary in their passionate advocacy of the liberation of human consciousness from obscurantist, virulent and anti-human myths and modes of thought, especially those dressed in the garb of religion." A nonspecialist cursory perusal of another famous poet/playwright Aime Cesaire's plays, "And The Dogs Were Silent" in (Lyric and Dramatic Plays:1946-1982), and "A Season In The Congo" in (Theater and Politics:), suggests a strong comparison of style and content with that of Poet Laureate Tsegaye. It is apropos to cite here Aime Cesaire's characterization of the poet in general in his "Poetry and Knowledge" because it is fitting to Tsegaye's pen.

"The poet is that very ancient yet new being at once very complex and very simple...who at the limit of dream and reality, of day and night, between absence and presence, scarches for and receives in the sudden triggering of inner cataclysms the password of connivance and power."

While on the one hand Poet Laureate Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin has recieved what might be called 'good press' abroad he has not fared as well at home especially as far as those on the saddles of power. Despite the fact of being awarded the Haile Scllasie I Prize for Amharic Writing (1966) it did not take him long to fall out of favour

5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | የተሟላ አንዲሆን በመመኘት ያለንን ፍቅርና አድናቆት በኩራት እንገልጻለን። **We Carry A Large Selection Of Ethionian Foods & Spices** We have everything you need to prepare an Ethiopian Feast! Berbere Name Miten Shiro Address Ais Mitmita City Awaze ... State Tel (). **Butter Maker** Tef **WE DO MAIL ORDER** Mekelesha Please Include \$5.50 For Kik Shipping And Make Your Bakela. Check Or Money Order Miser Payable To: Kinche ADDISU GEBEYA Telba.....etc. (202)986-60We Have Prepared Food. 202) 986-6023(Call to Order our 202) 986-11900 ትኩስ የተሬ ስጋ እንዲሁም 1) Alcha 2) Keywot 3) Kitto, Tibs ምሳስና ሰንፀር አለን። Vidi a Conversion & Duplication Telephone Cards Available Money Order Good Rate Morry Transfee From/to Ethiopia Through Coffin Micit in Union Available Ethiopian Arts Different Magazines & News Papers (from Ethiopian Dress and Ethropia and here) Musik Bill Pay 2202 18th Street, NW. Washington, DC.

with the Emperor. In his wide ranging interview in Ethiopian Review in 1993 with veteran journalist Teklu Tabor, Poet Laureatte Tsegaye relates how the Emperor referred to him as ,¢ (stubborn) and gave him cold shoulders when he would not agree to court nudgings to be a palace scribe. And sure enough, down came the censor's guillotines on his works which continued right through the Derg period and the current TPLF regime. In a recent Amharic interview in Tobia (Vol. 6 # 1) Poet Laureate Tsegaye notes that thirty-six of his forty-nine literary works have been censored in whole or in part since he began his career in the 1950's. In 1976 he was arrested right on the set as he was directing his play on the Ethiopian Revolution, Abugida Qeyiso. He notes that all the regimes he has survived in have been equal opportunity hackers as far as his works were concerned. With a sense of irony he relates that in 1994 Ethiopian Television in Addis Ababa was showing clips of how, in an earlier period, armed Derg operatives were beating and shooting at stage performers and even audiences to disrupt one of his plays from being performed while at that very moment in Awasa town armed gendarines of TPLF were actively disrupting the perormance of his new play entitled Ha Hu Weyem Pe Pu (ABC or XYZ)-a clarion call for peace—by beating and harassing both performers and viewers. He added that when one compares the Derg and TPLF in this regard, one cannot help but be shocked by their psychological closeness rather than their contrast. Of thirty-three plays Poet Laureate Tsegaye has produced between 1951 and 1997 more than half of them (eighteen) have been banned. Donald N. Levine, author of Wax and Gold and Greater Ethiopia, had said at one time-speaking especially of the 1960's and earlier-that books about Ethiopia were either banned or boring. It is evident that the very high count of bannings and censorships meted out to Tsegaye's plays and other writ-

ings indicates how the powers that be from the 1950's through the 1990's felt threatened by the potency, popularity and impact of his pen. If such was the reaction of officialdom to his plays and other writings what about the people at large about whom and for whom Tsegaye wrote his plays? Tsegaye's plays have been extremely popular as far as rank and file audiences are concerned, and when allowed by the authorities to run their courses some of them have been on stage longer than any other plays in Ethiopian theatre. His use of highly sophisticated language has often made his writing sometimes enigmatic and brain twister for many. One may surmise that a good number of theater audiences at Tsegaye's plays are repeat participants who follow up the challenge of the plays that stimulate and beckon cerebral understanding and emotional satiation. Reidulf K. Molvaer says he had a rough time interviewing Tsegaye for his impressive profiles of Ethiopian writers entitled Black Lions (1997) because, among other things, Tsegaye "preferred to talk about Ibsen rather than about himself." Nevertheless, Molvaer asserts that "the plays by Tseggaye that I have seen on the stage are performed with great brilliance: the acting, the decorations, the music-everything has been well done." Although no serious critical follow-up is yet to emerge in Ethiopia on the subject, there is a muted recognition that poet Tsegaye has in fact generated an Amharic poetic form or genre called ስምንትዮሽ ቅኔ/የፀጋዬ ቤት (Sementyosh Qine or Yetsegaye Bet). We await experts in the field to decipher, elaborate and interpret this subject to interested but lay readers. And perhaps a school of thought may develop around his literary legacies. In her July, 1997, interview in Addis Ababa with poet Tsegaye that appeared in Ethiopian Review (Oct. 1998), Ms. Wendy Belcher cited professor Jane Plastow, formerly of the Department of Theater Arts of Addis Ababa University, who stated that

Tsegaye initiated "a new, serious, highly poetic style for Ethiopian drama, but most importantly, a style no longer concerned with Church and morality and the exploits of the aristocracy, but with the evils of life as experienced by the poor."

Poet/Playwright Tsegaye is at this time on dialysis treatment regimen in New York and awaiting kidney transplant. Partly due to a belated awareness of his condition healthwise, a number of "Friends of Tsegaye" solidarity and fund-raising groups have mushroomed both within Ethiopia and in the diaspora. As a result, there is currently increasing visible interest about him and his works including a renewed literary appreciation—albeit too little, too late-in poetry recital sessions የግተም ድግስ, in interviews and articles in Amharic papers (for example, Kebrit, Genanaw, Ethio Time, Maebel) as well as in English media including Addis Tribune and in other Internet sites as well on what Tsegaye has meant to Ethiopian theatre and literature and indeed to Ethiopian history and integrity-not to mention also to African liberation, peace and unity. To this day his life has been a half century of giving, toiling and struggling and yet not demanding, not expecting and not waiting for anything in return. Currently, Tsegaye is being lauded as a "national treasure," a "patriot of the pen," "Ethiopia's "Oak Tree," etc. at home. One of the most potent and influential columns of the Ethiopian Amharic monthly, Tobia, is enscribed by one who on purpose adopted Poet/ Playwright Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin's name as his pen name appending only (Ar'aya) i.e. 'model', to it. This is the highest form of compliment to his literary stature and makes him a living legend. The Poet/Playwright's pen also graces the pages of Tobia periodically.

One hears detracting murmurings through the grapevine vaguely about Tsegaye's writings but more pointedly



Tsegaye with African American Actor/musician Harry Belafonte. UNICEF. New York 1994

about allegations on some decision or action he took that was deleterious to someone when he had official status in the government at various times. After all, as Wendy Belcher put it succinctly, "Tsegaye has not always been praised. Foreign journalists have sometimes found him hard to interview; his public has sometimes found him hard to read, and his colleagues have sometimes found him hard to work with." It is par for the course for any person who does anything, let alone so much writing and involvement in public affairs for so long as Tsegaye had done, to be criticized, faulted and questioned by somebody in some way, and some criticisms may have grains of truth. Nevertheless, with regard to the authenticity, quality, content, form and/or artistic value of a written work, the proper and professional way of evaluating or criticizing literary output made public in print is via public print media—especially among academics. In this regard, we have yet to see sustained substantive (not snippets or potshots) critique in writing positive, negative or the balance of the two-by Poet Laureate Tscgaye's Ethiopian peers on his literary works. One does, however, get oblique references to some lingering issues and perceptions in certain quarters with regard to Tsegaye and his works through interviewers who keep asking him about them. We shall deal with some questions focusing on his

'predilection for tragedy' in his plays, his 'attachments' to certain regimes being too close for comfort, his use of 'abstruse language' in his writings... and a sampling of Tsegaye's responses to them in the following segment of this article.

Tsegaye On Tsegaye: Autobiographical Vignettes

Of late, one is graced with increasing numbers of interviews of Poet Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin in print or should one say that increasingly his interviews have had better visibility. Subsequently, we get better glimpses into the recesses of his complex persona and to try to decipher what the mindset of this genius is like and how he responds to queries concerning his works. When asked recently in a Tobia interview what he likes most and what he does not, Poet Laureate said,

I crave for knowledge.
I envy tolerant, peaceful folks.
I am frightened by ignorance.
I loathe violence.

ተበብ ይናፍቀኛል ተቻችሎ የሚኖር ህዝብ ያስቀናኛል ድንቁርና ያስፌራኛል ጦርነት ያስጠሳኛል።

In his conversation with Teklu Tabor in 1993 he responded to critics' charges or perceptions about his "close attachment" to the past Ethiopian governments and through his works, in the following straightforward manner:

Not that I lack in due humilty, but I am often accused more of being a litle too candid, too direct, too choosy and even too "stuck up" both in customary standing and in my work, that I have always been at odds with authorities..... I was imprisoned by the past governments, in connection with my creative works; and now I am "discreetely" pensioned away by the present government and abused publicly by its official and semi-official media again in connection with my literary works. At the end of my imprisonment, Mengistu's regime threw me out of my job for five and a half years, for not conforming my writings to its "ideological" wills. I may have a lion's share in taking the risk and in influencing the past governments to establish some of the existing cultural institutions like the National Theater, the Addis Abeba Art School, the University Creative Arts Center, the University Department of Theater, the City Municipality Theater and Arts Gallery, the Ministry of Culture and Sports Affairs, the National Theater Apprentice Actors Group, etc. and I have still not failed to try to do the same to strengthen and widen these institutions by the present government as well. But no, I did not and do not have personal "close special attachments" with any of these governments.

In a recent (January, 1999) issue of the Amharic paper, Kebrit, Tsegaye was asked why most of his plays were tragedies. Playwright Tsegaye replied that he is only reflecting the predominant conditions of the Ethiopian people whom he portrays in his dramas. He elaborated on the point by saying (translation from the Amharic is personal and unofficial):

Manifold wars and violence have been visited upon the common people relentlessly to snuff out freedom from the Ethiopian soul—the one distinguishing charactristic that makes the Ethiopian what he is and that enables him to walk with his chin up no matter what his material condition may be. So, the Ethiopian continues to sustain war and suffering in order to preserve his freedom. Ruling elites have been exploiting his willingness to sacrifice all for freedom. Feudal lords set the people to fight one another internally even as they fight against external enemies. Because of his extraordinary love of freedom, the Ethiopian bears any burden and go to any length without food, without shoes or enough clothes and supplies to fight and die for his freedom. This is what has won the Ethiopian respect among fellow Africans and many others. Even as we speak it is this uncompromising love of freedom that makes him vulnerable to vultures within; he has yet to relax. It seems that succeeding regimes devise new ways to divide, exploit and consume him/her for their own selfish ends and to build their power on his shoulders. I like to go out and communicate with the common folks of Ethiopia-the peasant, the patriot, the soldier, the traitor, the housewife, the priest, the sheikh etc...It is from them that I learn about my country and people. And generally their comments are accompanied by near tears; their stories are mostly melancholy; their memories are bitter and tragic. It is that which I reflect in my writings. That is why my plays dwell on tragedy.

This is an eloquent statement on the meaning of art mirroring, amplifying and clarifying life.

Molvaer relates in his book that in the course of one of his lectures at Addis Ababa University, students asked Tsegaye why he wrote such "difficult" language, to which he replied that "he considered it as one of the duties and responsibilities of an author to help expand and enrich the language, and—as it were—to create a literary language suited for modern times and appropriate for modern lit-

erature." It is all the more remarkable that the Amharic of Tsegaye—a product of Oromo and Amharic bilingual background—is so lofty, sometimes abstruse and even esoteric for most readers. He has explained that it is precisely because he started out as a child absorbing simultaneously Amharic, Oromifa and Geez that he has acquired the kind of language skills and proficiency. Tsegaye was also asked questions related to his background and his Ethiopian identity. He expressed his strongly felt belief in Ethiopian unity in 1993 thusly:

On the other hand, I have also made it clear, and time and again express in my works, that I stand for and support the cultural, lingual, political, historical, and social identity and autonomy of the "nationalities," but that "secessionism" is my nightmare and not my dream. The word "diversity" should not be narrowly interpreted to mean "secessionism," as the present government seems to advocate and practice, but the equal and independent enrichment of our national culture by rich and potent cultural re-



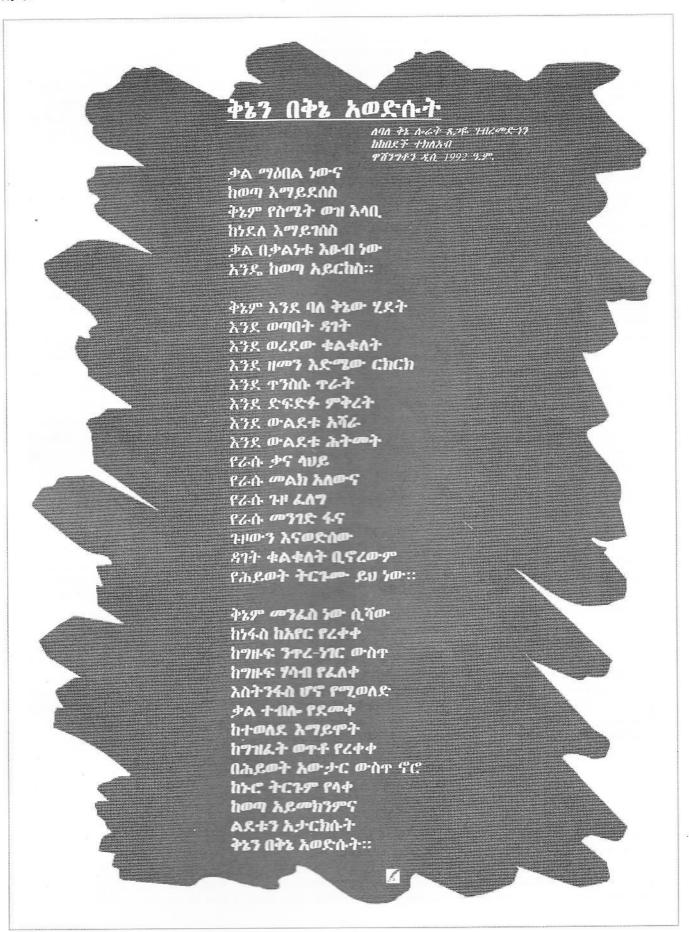
Tsegaye at Union Square with the people of Addis Ababa on the Anniversary Celebration of the Victory at the Battle of Adwa. 1967 (Ethiopian Calendar)

sources of all the "nationalities." If you put "secession" first, you have put the cart before the horse. ... I often have the sad experience, particularly in these days of over-tribalized frigid politics, of being even by my close and intellectually "liberated" Amhara-Tigrai-Eritrean friends, only as someone all too Oromo, and by my close Oromo and "minority" friends only as someone all too Amhara, but by the grace of God I have known from early boyhood I am only an Ethiopian, only an African and only a simple human being.

Tsegaye related a traumatic event that occured when he moved from Ambo to Addis Ababa in the early 1950's and was filling a form to attend high school. A Ministry of Education functionary shouted at him rudely that he should fill "Galla" (Oromo), not "Ethiopian," in the slot for "Gossa" or tribe as he had done, because his paternal grandfather's name was Qawasa, and therefore he was a "Galla." Having gone through, outgrown and outlasted such rude experiences, Tsegaye says that he feels

"most provoked when some cockeyed, crudely politicized upstart tries to preach me on what it is like to love and respect my own people, be it Tigreans, Eritreans, Oromo, Amharas or other "nationalities." I have proved this both by my public standing and by culture, the history, the heritage, the humanity and the uncompromising love for freedom exudes and explodes through much of his writing. But it would be a grave mistake if by this one were to conclude that Tsegaye's writings about Ethiopia and his sense of patriotism represents uncritical acceptance of things as they are or glibly whitewashing the negative side of Ethiopian culture. Quite the contrary; n

Continues on page 30



my works, and have paid prices for it, even before their present political organizations and fronts ever came to be born." He added that "Vive la difference" does not necessarily mean "kill the Unity."

Thoughts on Tsegaye's Contributions and Legacies: A Summation

The variety, scope, depth and volume of Poet Laureate Tsegaye's productions are such that one approaches the subject ever so gingerly and diffidently. Still, one can begin to indicate in what ways Poet Tsegaye stands out among his peers in Ethiopia and a few of his major contributions. One of the unique qualities or gifts of Tsegaye is his uncanny ability to succesfully juggle so many activities and involvements simultaneously as no other Ethiopian artist or public figure has done. He has an encyclopedic mind, a universal heart and a Herculean energy. In the 1993 Ethiopian Review interview, Tsegaye was asked if his work as poet, playwright, director, Shakespeare translator, Egyptologist and historiographer of Africa's classical cultures (and one might add, philologist) would not confuse him and even bog down his efforts. His crisp cogent reply was, "No. On the contrary, the one field enlightens the other, the one even lights up the path that has not been too clear in the other instance. One field of work or study only throws light on the hidden secrets of the other." The culmination of his life's work is no doubt expected to be reflected in his forthcoming magnum opus, KABARA AFRAKA which, he says, has claimed over thirty years of research. It is of note that Tsegaye has been working on African Origins of Civilization and African/Ethiopian roots of Theatre, Languages, Religions...in world history long before the publication of Martin Bernal's Black Athena and the emergence of 'Afrocentricity' in black academic circles in the United States. This theme and dimension of Tsegaye's work has so far been wrapped in his poetic renditions in Amharic and in English.

Another unique feature of Tsegaye's life and work, as yet not recognized or fully appreciated, is his personal role of introducing, interpreting and popularizing Ethiopia and Ethiopian culture to the world, especially in academic, literary, artistic, liberationist global fora for the past five decades. It is safe to say that no other individual has done so much consistently for so long to lift and hold high Ethiopian culture far and wide. He has explicated the legitimate place and value of mythology in the development of history. Many of his plays are Ethiopian adaptations of classical European playwrights including Shakespeare, Brecht, Moliere because to Tsegaye intercultural communication and dialogue is a two way road. And so, he has done his best to make his fellow Ethiopians understand and appreciate foreign wirters and dramatists. In theintroduction to her 1997 interview, Ms. Wendy Belcher has advanced perhaps the best profile to date of the poet/playwright when she said that "Tsegaye is devoted to an African reading of the West and an Ethiopian reading of Ethiopia."

Yet another distinguishing characteristic about Tsegaye is his perseverance in the face of continued harassment, imprisonment, censorship, intmidation, blacklisting, etc. As noted earlier Tsegaye's plays have been systematically censored and banned since 1951 through the Haile Selassic era, the Derg era and the current TPLF period and yet he has remained undaunted as he continued to produce plays and potent and trenchant poetry for posterity. While we are aware of what has seen some daylight in his works, we still do not know what is in store in his unpublished 'submarine' writings. Tsegaye's perseverance is in keeping with characteristic Ethiopian trait serenaded by corollaries like consistency, predictability, reliability, hope, faith and sense of duty. Tsegaye has no illusions about the nature of the cultural environment with regard to creative, artistic and products of independent thinking prevalent in Ethiopia within which literary personalities like himself operate. He noted in Kebrit (cited earlier) that his travails as a man of letters started in 1966 when he won the HSI Prize. At that moment someone said to him somewhat prophetically, "Tsegaye, I won't say congratulations to you. Now, you are really in deep trouble; may God help you." He adds that Addis Ababa does not say, 'More Power To You...' Elsewhere in the world writers are at least encouraged to go on, even if they are not always materially rewarded as they should be, at least they are encouraged. But, in our land (in Ethiopia) the distinguished work of an author is only recognized and hailed after he has been ruined. Witness the cases of Yoftahe Negussie, Abe Gubegnaw or Bealu Girma. We have to do something about such negative aspects of our culture."

One final point to touch on with respect to Tsegaye and his legacies has to do with his quintessential Ethiopian patriotism. Among his distinct qualities, are Tsegayc's respect for history and his positive appreciation of culture at large and Ethiopian culture in particular. Tsegaye's father raised the sword to fight for freedom against the Italian Fascists in the 1930's; Tsegaye, as it were, continued the struggle in the form of the word and has carried it high and aloft to this day. His has been not just patriotism but heroism of the pen-for a change-in a country and culture wherein generally heroism issued from the gun. And Tsegaye's pen or theword has been an effective and potent medium for his patriotic expression. In one of his recent interviews in Tobia, he stated that "Culture is 'Life' whereas censorship (by the state or anyone else) is a 'sickle.' One is creative and the other is destructive. His love for his country, the people, the

negative side of Ethiopian culture. Quite the contrary, Tscgaye has kept boring through the distatsteful and disdainful aspects of Ethiopian life without letup. Hence, his popularity among the common people and his subjection to harassment and censorship by the ruling regimes for nearly half a century.

Likewise, it should also be noted that the present article is neither meant to be an exhaustive literary criticism in the professional or academic sense nor a deification of Tsegaye, the fallible human being. This undertaking is only a modest, non-specialist and personal portrait of Tsegaye's literary contributions to posterity-not only what he says but how beautifully he says it. It is done with commensurate awareness that he has yet to be studied properly by his own peers, in his own country and in his own language which, one hopes, will take place in the not too distant future. If the endeavour here whets appetites to read and know more about this extraordinary Ethiopian intellectual giant, something worthwhile will have been achieved. The regretable fact that Poet Laureate Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin has not yet been nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature so far is, in large part, due to the fact-ironic as it may sound-that he has been writing mostly in his native language Amharic (used only in Ethiopia), and most of his works have not been translated into other widely used lingua franca. At least in part a contributory factor is the failure by his compatriots to translate or otherwise familiarize the wider reading and studying public with his works and their intrinsic edifying value in the first place. It is still not too late to do that. What is equally unfair and unfortunate not only for Tsegaye but for several others who deserve the same recognition is that the traditional system placed within Ethiopia for many decades whereby a properly constituted body of elderly literati and wise persons that would have been normally empowered to screen, evaluatc and then bestow the prestigious traditional literary title of nat? 27 (Blatengeta) which roughly stands for Laureate of the Word/pen, has not functioned now for at least the last twenty-five years. So, outstanding literary artists like Tsegaye are losing out at both ends—nationally and internationally. It is earnestly hoped by this writer that either or both situations will be rectified while Tsegaye is still around with us.

Let us conclude our sojourn at Tscgaye's literary park with a few samples of his description of Ethiopia and Ethiopians as well as where he is at. In his superb 1984 essay, Footprint of Time, he painted Ethiopia this way, "Here is the land where the first harmony in the rainbow was born. We walk on the bed rock of our planet's first continent. Here is the root of the Genesis of Life; the human family was first planted here by the evolutionary hand of Time We walk on the footprints of the evolutionary ancestors of Man." In the 1997 Ethiopian Review interview, Peoet Laureate Tsegaye was asked what it meant for him to be an Ethiopian and what would he tell an American visitor about it. His response, in part, was: A simple human being, conscious of African civilization. African culture. Conscious of world civilization, world culture, of equality, of world brotherhood. I think that has been what the ancient his-

tory of Africa, the ancient history of Ethiopia has meant and means to us. So, as we go to America to learn, the Americans must also come here to learn. To humble themselves before the ancestors, not to be arrogant, that's what Ethiopia means.. You don't begin knowing yourself halfway. You don't start from Europe, because Europe started from Africa. It started in Ethiopia and Egypt.....I would tell an American friend to go to Washington for the July 4 celebrations, and see Americans whorshiping the temple of the sun at the Washington Monument (which is a facsimile of Aksum obelisks)...lt is my stone, my temple of the sun...and you are still worshiping my temple of the sun—a mutual heritage.

In a telling poetic self-portrait 114-63 25: Poet Laureate Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin recently had this to say about his persona (Ttranslation from the Amharic is personal):

Having dawnless dreams
Treating unhealable wounds
Nursing stunted plants
Straightening other folks' lives
Never have I lied for myself
የማይትን ሕልም ሳልም
የማይድን በሽታ ሳክም
የማያድግ ችግኝ ሳርም
የሰው ሕይወት ስከረክም
ኢኔ ለሬ ኖሬ አላውቅም።

Professor Nigussay Ayele is a political scientist

የሱሬት ኢንዱን ከፍተኛ የህክምና ወጭ ለመሸፈን እንዲቻል የበኩሉዎን አስተ **ተጽኦ ቼኩን ለ**ኢንዱ ገብረ መድህን (Tsegaye G/Medhin) ብለው በመጻፍ ከዚህ በታ**ች ባለው አድ**ራሻ መሳክ እንደሚችሉ በአከብሮት እየገለጽን ይህንት አድራሻ **አባዙተው ለሚያ**ውቋቸው ኢትዮጵያው ያኖችና ኢትዮጵያን ለሚወዱ ግለሰቦች **እንዲሰ**ጡ ስንጠይቅ ለኚህ ታላቅ ኢትዮጵያዊ ለሚያደርጉላቸው ትብብር **አስተድምን እና**መሰግናለን።

Please make check payable to *Tsegaye G/Medhin* and send to the following address:

Tsegaye G/Medhin, 812 West 181St. Street, Apt. No. 55A, New York, NY 10033

