

There is a wave that has been sweeping throughout AL-NIA, from the late sixties. It started as a ripple that critics and opponents gave a less than three months existence. It has lived till now and forever shall live, only and only if you, then, me and I get committed to it. I believe you were committed but that has been so far orally. It not what we say that makes us committed but what we do that counts.

This wave is none other than the BLACK GOSPEL. This gospel needs no introduction especially to you and me. I, with due apology, as no logician hence I, needless to say, have no respect for logic. My message is therefore given logically illogically.

GOSPEL is good tidings, news of great joy, happiness, faith, redemption and hope. What news can bring joy to you my Black Brother, what news can make you happy my beautiful Black sister, what news can give you hope my affectionate father; hope that we the rightful sons and daughters of this soil shall overcome the evil and what news can give you faith my loving mother in that we shall stand by what is rightfully ours?

What tidings of redemption are awaited by us Black Azonians? Deep down in your heart and in the depth of my heart the answer is "REDEMPTION THAT WILL RENDER US TRULY LIBERATED". May I pose and pose these questions: WHO needs liberation? The one who is in bondage needs liberation. WHO needs redemption? The one who is oppressed by evil has to have his soul redeemed. Look at yourself and look at me, say what you and I need. How now shall we be liberated if not by living the gospel of life, pursue it, stand by it if need be, be assassinated in it, be banned in it and be jailed in it. Even when we get pushed onto rails and be crushed by trains, yes even when we get bombed and blown sky-high we have to preach the gospel of our destiny.

Call the sons of this ash who hearkened unto the call to be prophets, to be preachers, to be disciples, to be ministers, to be bishops and to be deacons of the Black Messiah who is father of this gospel.

History will be incomplete without the mention of:-

SATES COOPER: he traversed AZANIA proclaiming the liberation of the Blacks. A faithful disciple he was to the Black Messiah. He chose to serve Black and suffer than serving self. Like a true disciple he was maimed by the oppressor but he still limps on. His crutches are the people's pillars. His commitment has not dwindled.

RANWEDI NENOWEXHULU: a bleedied prophet of the Black Messiah who predicted happenings and accordingly gave direction to the Black masses. His pipe, like MOSES' rod, was a miracle performer. A pull and a steady puff would result in shrewdness that threw more light on our gospel. He has maimed him, yes, but not his heart.

KGALUSHI KOKA: the bishop of all Black congregations. His words like holy communion would be swallowed unquestioned by the Black community. From the sleeves of his outstretched Afro-shirt blessings would fall like manna onto the needy Blacks. Him they have destroyed but not his soul.

ONKOOPOTSE TIEO: the bishop who brought the evil forces to a standpoint and forced them to reason with the Black congregation. Humanity was his ~~his~~ virtue. Humility earned him respect amongst the Black masses. His they wanted to murder but still he is with us and gives direction. He shall forever be with us.

NYANFO PITIAYE: a pre-natal ordained Black evangelist who the call to change the Black destiny. The good news he spread made sad hearts happy. Against odds he would evangelize even when sneered at. Peer soul, he is long dead and his bones have softened, funny he still converts the masses.

The afore-gone passage cannot give us more light without a further mention of other dedicated and committed servants of the Black Messiah who amongst others are <sup>Henry Isacs</sup> MATHE DISKO, HENRY ISAACS, WELILE NELAPHO, DON MATTERA, <sup>Freills Nelapho</sup> FREILLS NELAPHO, and <sup>Benj Langa</sup> BENJ LANGA and <sup>Josie Herwin</sup> JOSIE HERWIN. In all honesty, it was because of you that the handsome sons of African ash, Black soil and Liberatory air ~~has~~ have been banned, imprisoned and murdered. They loved not themselves but you and me. Their suffering shall be short-lived if you and I get more committed to the struggle for Black Liberation.

AT THIS STAGE: It would be wise to point out that freedom comes after liberation. You and I do not want freedom that is, exemption from certain strings but we want liberation from the evil bandages of racism. We shall liberate ourselves and then get freedom.

EN: We are at a time that calls for dedication and commitment to the fight against evil forces from all angles. Let us come together as a Black nation. We are BLACKS because we have seen the need to unite and stand together for the realization of our aspirations, goals and objectives. We have realised that whether AFRICAN, COLOURED or INDIAN, our enemy is one. Our enemy is EVIL that has since relegated us to sub-human beings. It is the EVIL that has given birth to racism that we must fight.

LIBERTY: It is what you fight for and attain on your own Black man and NO one will give it to you. The steps to follow are:

SOLIDARITY IN UNITY WHERE EVERY LINK IN THE CHAIN SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED.

BROTHERHOOD IN SOLIDARITY WHERE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WILL DETERMINE THE DIRECTION OF POWER.

POWER IN BROTHERHOOD WHERE CONCERTED EFFORTS WILL YIELD A POWER-PACKED OUTPUT; COORDINATION IF NEED BE.

BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS NEEDLESS TO SAY, SHALL BE THE PRIMARY PHASE.

It is an evidence of normal capacity that the so-called "bantustans" system lacks all the ingredients of a successful liberatory recipe. Instead of Black Consciousness there is bantu separateness, which will no doubt result in internal feuding. They are bickering about mere land instead of striving for POWER because land will be better utilised by powerful people. Not even a <sup>single</sup> one of them has power to protect the land they want because there is not even a single soldier in all the "bantustans" combined. Weak people have no energy to till and work the land.

SIPHO MUYHELENI: a loyal minister who shared ungrudgingly with his flock. The congregation had no murmur because he imparted the gospel and all its benefits and with ~~withholding~~ withheld nothing. From his beard, actually from his goats' hooves oil to heal the wounded. Life was in his bearded face. You want to know? They have castrated him but he still has babies born to him daily.

SRINI MOOLEY: he would stand amidst multitudes and preach the good news because a Black preacher he was. He would cry his lungs out, get his lockable face ~~rust~~ curtained by his hair. Shaking his hair would reveal a sweat riddled face. He preached the gospel of the Black Kingdom which is at hand. Now he has no ~~ruin~~ threat but strange he has a voice.

MADIBING MUKODITOA: the bespectacled Black evangelist. He would go about preaching the existence of Black liberation. Unflinchingly he would convert cast-aways to Blacks. He would address revival meetings and earn the listeners respect. To us he was an encouragement. He is buried at Chiassie cemetery but is a guest by day.

STEVE PIKO: a prominent prophet who foretold the night of the Black gospel when there was hardly evidence of its existence. A rare prophet who led the way and fought the enemy. He led through the infantile stage of our gospel till they imprisoned him in King Williamstown maximum security prison but spirits do communicate with him.

BONWE KAPPA: the disciple who was a sore to the sight but a healing balm to the wounds of the strugglers, a reassuring note to the ear. There was determination in his involvement. The peer austin mini he drove was a hotel for Black bishops, disciples, ministers, preachers, evangelists, servants and deacons. Babe he's been bewitched by ~~annals~~ somebody's pen, he ain't normal again but his mind is very sane in directing the forces of the the Black Messiah.

KHELI SEKI: the bespectacled Black minister whose hair feared a comb but used to be effective antennae for Black gospel reception and transmission. Like a witch-doctor he walked the dirty streets of Asanian gutters with bag in hand. Sure, but ain't they could not destroy for here he is with us and forever shall be.

MOSIBUDI KANGINA: he preferred to be called fox-eyed or rather four-eyed. Like a true prophet he predicted the doom of white dominance. He foretold the destruction of ~~white~~ supremacy. In no uncertain terms he condemned the fascist and racist regime. His quiet manner of speech left an indelible mark on the listener. They say he is a terrorist but strange they terrify him but never his determination to see the Blacks liberated.

JERRY MODISANE: who like a true minister shepherded his flock when critics and opponents were just about writing BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS off. He herded the flock when the leader had deflected and the enemy was blissful. Unity was the theme he preached because without it babe, we are sunk. They have blown him to pieces with banning but his guidance is still with the Black masses.



How can the bantu leaders preach Black brotherhood and tribalism at the same time? They are bent on spreading tribalism which has proved dangerous by splitting further into clans that engage in inter-clan warfare as evidenced by the Ndinga faction fights. For as long as the bantu leaders are boys and puppets of this evil system they cannot confront their "boss" because they will lose benefits such as cars and fat salaries (since they will have proved to be 'cheeky' bad boys) They sell the ignorant Black masses<sup>o'no</sup> that they can be made tools for use in the mines. Summit talks are held from which the Black masses gain nothing. Bantustan leaders are traitors to the Black cause of the just struggle for LIBERATION.

In the early sixties Black leaders (NOW BANISHED, IMPRISONED, EXILED and BANNED) made the stand known and were set to liberate the Black man. These leaders are none other than Nelson Mandela, the Black prince of Azania who fought for your liberation and mine. It aches his heart to see traitors leading the Black masses to destruction, it chokes him to see his beloved country divided into bantustans when the whole of Azania is the Black man's home. It hurts him to see bantu leaders befriending the enemy. How painful it is to see your brother eating from the hand of your enemy. A photograph of a bantu next and alongside the Black son of Azania, Mangaliso Sobukwe, did the Black son were hurt because he was linked with a collaborator of his enemy. Mangaliso Sobukwe fought for the liberation of the Black people and he did not fight for the recognition of the Zulu tribal group. He stood for Black right and dignity. Are we going to be party to the murder of these Black sons who fought for by taking the bantustan line?? Nay, never! OURS is a just struggle for Black emancipation. Our goal shall be realized only in SOLIDARITY.

See unto a Black man who seeks not his liberty -like an infant in a house aflame. He is. When the tongues of fire lick his skin then shall he know the folly of his dream.

POWER IS SOLIDARITY

POWER AND LIBERATION

POWER TO BLACK PEOPLE

I DO BREAK THE CHAINS

  
Mervyn Dabane

(National Organizer)

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