

13.9.2017

MOTHER MNAT FREZGI, FROM THE HAMLET OF KIL-LAW-

TA, DIES AT THE AGE OF 105

Elegiac poetry for her honour አለግያሽ ፖአትርይ ምእንቲ እታ ናታ ክብሪ

Elegiac Poetry regarding the life of Mother Mnat Frezgi from the hamlet of Killeewta¹. She lived for 105 years, died in Asmara on 22.08.2017 and buried in the village of Endadeqqo, 12-15 km east of Killeewta.

In her life she had seen many non-democratic governments come and go, many swarms of locusts, bad weather, wars, ... which were only producing disasters. Naturally, she had also seen many positive results especially on the results of her children.

All along she had an extraordinary (መስደመም) country (በረኻ ሞሮር) life that everyone wants to have it.

1)

ፍትውቲ ምናት ፍረዝጊ, ናትና መዝገብ እውን ክብሪ
ሰማዕ ካብ እታ ወረ ዝ ንስሰኺ ኢኺ ሕያው በይኑ ኣብ ዝኸሪ
እየ ሕዙን ናይ አይነበረኩን ኣብኡ ምእንቲ በለ ድሓንዎላ
ግን እለእኽ እቲ ናተይ ገጽበረኸት ምስ ፍቕሪ

Our dear Mnat Frezgi, our treasure and honour
I heard from the news that you are only living in memory
I'm very sorry I was not there to say goodbye
But I send my tribute with love

2)

ነቢርኪ ኣብ ሕይወት ምእንቲ 105 ዓመት
ከመይ ንስሰኺ ክኣል ናብ ገበረ እዙ ይተርፍ ከም ሓደ ቶፕ ሰክረት (ምስጢር)
ግን እዚኣ ይግብበኣ ነበረት ፍትሕቲ
ምእንቲ መለሰ rendere እታ ሕይወት ሓደ ሓደጊት ጥዕምቲ

You've been alive for 105 years
how you managed to do this remains as a top secret
But it must be free
to make life a little sweet

3)

Mnat Frezgi

ኣብ ኩልሎም ገራሁ, ነበርኪ ባዕሊኣኹል
እታ ናታኪ መኣዲ ነበረት ምልኣቲ ናይ እንጌራ, ስጋ እውን ጸብሒአቡን
ኣውን ከዓ እቲ አገልግልኪ ምሉእ ናይ ጡፕ እውን ቀሓን?
ኩልሉ እዙይ ነበረ ጽብቡቕ ስንኩይ ምስ እቶም ሊትሪ ናይ ጥሉል

In all fields, you were self-sufficient
Your dining table was full of bread, meat, and tomatoes



And your basket too was full of cotton and spindles
All this was well accompanied with liters of dairy products

4)

ኣብ እቲ ተማ ናይ መዓልቲ፣ እታ ናትኪ ዘረባ ነበረት ሐጻር፣ ግልጺ እውን ነባር
እውን ነበረት ትጥምምት በይኑ ናብ እታ ኣትቲቪታ ናይ ሓደ ገብባር
እተን ቃላት "ፍቕሪ" ሰላም"፣ ሺሻይ"፣ እውን "ብሐባር" ነበራ እተን መርሖቃላት ናይ እታ ናትኪ ወግዲ
ግን እተን ቃላት "መግት"፣ "ሓጢአት"፣ "ሓይሊ" እውን "ሐሳር" ነበራ ትሓዛት ውሽጢ ሓደ ከረጢት ናይ ጽልኢ

In the theme of the day, your speech was short, clear, and fixed
This was aimed at the activity of a taxpayer
The words "love", "peace", "daily food", and "together" were the keywords of your conversion
But the words "disaster", "sin", "violence", and "misery" were kept inside a bag of hate

5)

ኣነ እነክክር ሐንቲ ናይ እተን ናታ ጥይያቕ
ዝ ነበረት ትብል "ኣልሎካ ርኡይ እቲ ናትካ ኣኸዓየ
እንተ ንስሰኻ ትርእዮ እንደገና፣ በጅጃኻ ንገሮ ናይ (or ናብ) ተመልሰ ቶሎ
ምእንቲ በልዕ እታ ናቱ ጠወም"
I remember one of her questions
That was saying, "Have you seen your 'sir'?"
If you see him again, please tell him to come back immediately
Because it's time to eat a snack

6)

እነክክር እንክ ንስሰ ነበረት ትገብይይ ናብ ፈጽጸመ ሓደ ውራይ
ሐንቲ ሳዕ ቅድሚኣ፣ እታ ካልእ ድሕሪ እታ ጭራ ናይ ሓደ ብዕራይ
ናብ እቲ እተን ናይ ፈረዩ ዳገላ እውን ስርናይ
ብዘይ ገበረ እዙ፣ ሓደክኳ ነበረ ኣብ መዓርግ ናይ ሰተየ ጽራይ *Prima di farlo, nessuno era in grado di bere birra filtrata*

I remember when she was running to make a commitment
Once forward, and the other behind the oxtail
In order to produce daguèsa and wheat
Before doing this, no one was able to drink filtered beer

7)

እነክክር ጽብቡቕ እንክ ንስሰ ነበረት ትኩብኩብ እታ ክብርቲ በረኻ-ታክሲ (ማለት ኣድጊ)
ምእንቲ ቁረጸ እቶም በልላሕቲ ፕሮብለም ናይ ሓደ መዓልቲ
ምእንቲ እዙይ ስራሕ ኣይነበረትን በይና እታ ኣድጊ ግን ንስሰ ነበረት ጥቕልልቲ
ብዘይ ገበረ እዙ ነበረ (ወይ እዩ ንቡር) ብዙሕ ጸገም ምእንቲ እታ ሕይወት ከደ ቅድሚኣ

I remember well when she led the respected country-taxi (that is the donkey)
To solve the pinned problems of a day
For this work was not only an ass but she herself was involved
Without doing this it was very difficult for life to go on

8)

ክምዙይ፣ ግን ብዙሕ ሳዕ፣ እንክ ነበረት ትምለስ ካብ እቲ ርሑቕ ዕዳጋ
ምስ እታ ስፕሳ ናይ ሓደ ዓኻይ ልዕሊ እቲ ናታ ዳንጋ garretto
ኩልሉ በይና ምስ እቶም ዕሩቓት ኣእጋር ብዘይካ ማንም ብጻይ
ኣብ ሓደ ህምት ክምዙይ ስፕሳል speciale፣ ነበረት ወትሩ ትተርፍ ብዘይ ማንም ድሀይ

so, but many times, when she was returning from the distant market
with the expense of a farmer over the hock
all alone with bare feet and without a partner
In such a special moment, she always remained breathless

9)

ከም ሐንቲ ግልጺ ጸልላም ጻጸ
እውን ምስ እታ መልክዕ ናይ ሐንቲ በልላሕ መላጸ
ኣብ እቲ ኣክከበ እውን ዘርእ እቲ ጸገ
ነበረት ወትሩ ምስ እታ ስብስብቲ ኣጅጅጎ

Like a clear black ant
And with the shape of a sharp blade
In collecting and sowing pollen
she was always with rolled-up shirts

10)

ውሽጢ ባዕላ ነበረት ምእልቲ ናይ እታ ዕርቂ
እዙይ ነበረ የገልግል ከም ሓደ ሕብስቲ ናብ እቶም ናታ ደቅቂ
ብዘይካ እዙ ምናልባት ምክክላ ኩልሉ ከደ ጸይይቺ
ንምንታይ ነቢራ ክብብቲ ብ ሓንቲ ሕማቕ ትሕድርቲ

Inside herself she was full of peace
This served as a host to her children
Without this perhaps everything could go wrong
Because she was surrounded by a bad condition

11)

እታ ትግዕግስቲ ነበረት እታ ናታ አውራ አርማ /arma
ምስ እዚኣ ነበረት ትሰርዕ ሓደ ደበና
ትሐርስ እውን ተልምዕ ሓደ ገደና
ምስጋና ናብ እዙ ንስሳ ነበረት ወትሩ ምስ እታ ውልልዕቲ ፋና

Patience was her main weapon
With this she was ordering the cloud
And cultivating and thriving the field
Thanks to this, she was always with a lighted torch

12)

ነቢራ ሓንቲ ኡነት ተዋጋኢት
ኮንትሮ እታ ሓሳር እውን እታ ስእነት
እውን ከዓ ኮንትሮ እታ ድርቂ እውን እታ ጥሜት
እዙይ አልለዎ አልሉው ብዙሕ ዘይድብቲር (ወይ ዘይጽሑፍ) ስዕረት

She was a real fighter
Against the misery and lack
And also against drought and famine
This has had many unregistered wins

13)

እታ ትራድዝዮን ትሕዝ ዝ እቲ ሕሉፍ (ትዕዘርቲ) ናይ ሓደ ሽማግልለ እውን እታ ውድቀት ናይ ሓደ አም, ከም ዓቢይ ክስራን
አነ እገድፎ እዙ ናብ እቶም ዓብበይቲ መምህራን
ግን እዙ ዝ አነ ምክክልኩ በለ እዩ ዝ ክለትቲአም እዮም ፑንቲ (ነቕጥጢ) ናይ ንግረት
ብዘይ ጥርጥር እታ ፎንተ fonte (ምንጨ) ናይ እታ ፍልጠት

Tradition claims that the past of an elder and the fall of a large tree, like a great loss
I leave this to the great masters
But what I could say is that both are points of reference
Without doubt a source of knowledge

14)

ማምማ ምናት አልለዎ ጽምቡል ኩልላ እታ ናታ ሕይወት ናብ እቶም 5 ውሉዳ
እዚአም ዕምባባታት ነበሩ ትሩፋት አብ እቲ ናቶም ልምሉም ዕድመ ብዘይ አብቦ ናይ ስድራ
ግን ምስጋና ናብ እቶም ክዑዋት ዋጋታት ከም ፍቕሪ, ሓልዮት እውን ፋዕራ
እታ መርከብ ነበረት ወትሩ ብልሽው-ሓራ

Mamma Mnat has devoted her life to her 5 children
These flowers had remained in the tender age without the father of the family
But thanks to values poured out like love, concern and care
The ship was always out of trouble

15)

እታ ሕይወታ ነበረት ትኸክክል ናብ እዛ ናይ ጩሩገበላ
እታ ለይቲ ናብ ሰፈር, እቲ መዓልቲ ናብ ገደና
ግን ናይ ለይቲ እቲ ጭሩገበላ እዩ ትራንቀሩልሎ (= ህዳህ)
አይአልለዎን ገለመለ ናብ እንታይ ገበረ ምስ እታ መጥሐን, እቲ እቶን እውን ፎርነልሎ

Her life was the same as that of a sparrow
By night at nest, and by day at camp
But at night, the sparrow is quiet
It has nothing to do with the grinder, oven and stove

16)

እታ ታሪኻ ሕይወት ናይ ምናት ፍረዝጊ እውን mother India እየን ማዕረ
ንምንታይ ክልትተኣን እየን እታ ቃልሲ ምእንቲ ህልላወ
መኣስ ንስሰኻ ትጅምምር ናብ ተመህረ እተን አዕምዲ፡ ኩሉትራ፣ ምዝውታር እውን ጽንዓት ናይ ናተን ሕይወት
ትተርፍ ኣብኡ ብዘይ ረኽበ እታ መንገድዲ ናይ ውጽኣት

Mnat Frezgi's life story and mother of India are the same
Because both are the struggle for existence
When you come to study the columns: culture, perseverance and firmness of their lives
You stay there without finding the way out

17)

ነበረት ትፈልጥ ከመይ ጓሳየ እተን ከብቲ፣ ኣጣል ... ኣብ እቲ በረኻ
ነበረት ከዓ ትፈልጥ ከመይ ኣክከበ ዊልድ ቃንጥሻ፣ ፍሬታት፣ ኣሕምልቲ፣ ... ካብ እቲ ዱር እውን ዋላኻ
ኣብ እቲ ገበረ እዙ ነበረት ትደርፍ እታ ናታ ሕዝባዊ ደርፊ ናብ በርራኽ ድህይ
ከምዙይ እቲ ሰፍራ ይፈልጥ እታ ናታ ህረርታ፣ ሐጎስ እውን ስቓይ

She knew how to graze livestock, goats ... in the countryside
she also knew how to pick mushrooms, wild vegetables and fruits from the forest and
the black soil
In doing this she sang out her popular songs loudly
So, the place knows her desires, sorrows and satisfaction

18)

ብዘይ ጥርጠር፣ ነበረት ሐንቲ ሰበይቲ ብቐዕቲ ናብ እታ ናታ ትሕድርቲ
ምእንቲ ገበረ ዐበየ እተን ነገራት ኣብ እቲ ሰውሒ
እዝክራ እንከ ንስሳ ነበረት ትከይድ ምስ ሐደ ሰኽሚ ናይ ድኹዒ
ሐንቲ ሳዕ ምስ ስጉርፍኦ እታ ካልእ ሳዕ ምስ ሐደ ሰፍኢ

Without a doubt, she was a woman fit for her circumstance
To make things grow in the meadow
I remember her as she went with the load of dung
Once with the big and the other with the small basket

19)

ምናት ፍረዝጊ ነበረት ሐንቲ ሰበይቲ ናይ ዓቢይ ክብረት
እታ ሕይወታ ኢያ ውድድእቲ ብዘይ ፈለጠ ማንም ስዕረት
ምናልባት ንሕና ንክእል ቁዝዘመ ናይ እታ ናታ እምበዛ ዐወት
ግን ኩልሊ እዙ እዩ ፍርርያት ናይ እታ ናታ ሞራል ጉልበት

Mnat Frezgi was a woman of great honour
Her life ended without knowing any defeat
Perhaps we can complain of her too much success
But all this is the product of her moral structure

20)

ሰንበት ነበረት እቲ መዓልቲ ናይ እቲ ናታ ዕረፍቲ
ኣብ እየን ነበረት ወትሩ ጽብቡቕ ክድንቲ
ልዕሊ እታ ናታ መንገድዲ ናይ እታ ምኻድ እውን ናይ እቲ ምልልስ
ነበረት ትሸይጥ እውን ትዕድግ ሐደ ሰላምታ እውን ሐደ ክምስ

Sunday was the day of her rest
In which she was always well dressed
on its way back and forth
she never failed to sell and buy a greeting and a smile

21)

ምናት ፍረዝጊ ነበረት ሐንቲ ኮንተስሳ contessa (እታ ሓይያም ናይ ሐደ ንጉስስ the wife or widow of a count or earl)

ምስጋና ናብ እተን ናታ ክልትተ ኢንዱስትሪ እኽሊ እውን እንሰሳ
ምስ እታ ዕድድል ናይ ነበረ ኣብ ኪልሊወውታ
ነበረት ርግግጽ (ኣረግግጽ) ሐንቲ ንግስቲ ብዘይ ወትተሃድደር እውን ዋልታ

Mnat Freygi was a countess
Thanks to her two agricultural and breeding industries
With the good fortune of being in Killeewta
She was just a queen without a soldier and a shield

Mnat Freygi era una contessa
Grazie alle sue due industrie agricole e di allevamento
Con la fortuna di essere in Killeewta
Era proprio una padrona di eccellenza
22)

ከዓ እንተ ኢያ ብዙሕ መሕዘነት ናብ ቦላ
ናትና ፍትውቲ ወይዘሮ ምናት ፍረዝኒ ድሓንወዐላ.

Although it is very painful to say it
Our dear Mrs. Mnat Frezgi goodbye.

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Word building

Elegiac poetry = ጓሂ | ሕዙን | ትኩኩዝ ፖኦትሪ ወይ ቅኔ ወይ ደርፊ

.....

Killeewta¹

Killeewta is a small and young village located south of Robra, around 12-14 km south of the city of Decamara. It is made up of settlers transferred from Robra and Eggelahomaes (both sup-provinces of Ekkeleguzai). More or less, it can be said that the Mnat Frezgi family is one of the bases. My father and my grandmother belong to this group. There is a reason to believe that Killeewta appeared as a small hamlet, made up of less than ten families, between the First and Second World Wars.

Seventy years ago, it had less than twenty families. But the number increased at great speed until the beginning of the Eritrean war of independence which was in 1961-1991. In this long war, Killeewta like many nearby hamlets and villages, it paid a lot. This was a great set-back. Of this, it is enough if we remember the three young sons of my uncle Alemseged Zge who lost their lives in battles as fighters for independence.

After independence, Killeewta saw two historical pheromones. The first is the Saho community, around ten families, have abandoned the old nomadic lifestyle and began to build their fixed houses in the hamlet. This was a big boost for the killeewta that was hoping to become a village. But this did not happen because many left Killeewta for their original villages. So that's why the remains of our dear mother Mnat Frezgi finally let rest in Endadeqo instead of Killeewta. But the dead bodies of her friends, like my father, are in Killeewta. This means that Killeewta is not only good for living, but also for being buried.

Of course, they are bewildered because there is no better place than killeewta for the peasants. Above all, seeing the long life of mother Mnat Frezghi, killeewta makes life live

long. In short, there is a lack of expert advice in that area. As a result, it is no wonder that peasants make mistakes in the decisive decisions concerning their lives.

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