

Ambassador for the Poor Abba Marino Haile Died



QUICK FACTS

NAME: Padre Marino

OCCUPATION: Father

BIRTH DATE: 21 March 1942

DEATH DATE: 3 September 2013

EDUCATION: In Eritrea and UK

PLACE OF BIRTH: Addi-finié

PLACE OF DEATH: Piancogno

Abba Marino Teklemariam, child of eyte Haile Tefay and wezero Lettemariam Berhane, after his thirty five years of service for mans' material and spiritual need as ambassador for the poor died in Italy on 3 September, 2013. He was born in Addi-finié, Zen-a-degle, Ekkeleguzai, Eritrea on 21 March 1942. After 18 years of studies, philosophy 1960-63, and theology 1963-68, he has finished in 1968 with a great success. In addition to this, he was in United Kingdom, 1977-1979, for English language course.

In his long years of service as ambassador for the poor he has made the world better place to live than it was before him. As result he has improved lives of thousands of poor children, women and men by driving them to get access into Italian schools, colleges, universities, works, health and social cares, shelters, ... etc., not to mention (or without mentioning) his church, marriage, burial, etc. that were non-stop services.

Office Abba Marino was for the benefit of all human being, but the Eritrean community in Europe in general, and in Italia in particular benefited more than the other communities that were frequenting. This is because Eritreans were from area very badly hit by war, their number was great and they had no other option where to go. In front of this Abba Marino become Eritrean Diaspora history icon.

But this is when we speak about Eritrean history that was before Iseyas Efewerqi's dictatorship in Eritrea. Now we might be interested to know the relationship that was between Abba Marino and the Eritrean Dictatorship. I believe that Abba Marino was one of the most formidable antagonists Iseyas Efewerqi ever encountered. This was highlighted in Malta resistance. In that resistance Abba Marino as usual stood up and spoke for the justice. With this his voices become the voice of those who were voice less. To make it short the young generation calls Abba Marino: 'Angel of the Sea'

I know Abba Marino since the last of 1979. At that time we were both in Milan he for religious service and I for national. At the beginning of our meetings I had no clue of his secret previous Eritrean patriotic backgrounds and after I knew it, I had showed him no sign that I knew something about it.

I remember our first meeting that took place at his office that was near *viale Piave*. Topic of that day was how to teach Eritrean Identity to the immigrant children of the Eritrean community in Milan. From this our acquaintance started to blossom. On the process his humbleness, sincerity, availability, dedication and majesty started to conquer me step by step. Finally I bowed low before his remarkable achievements.

During that time the late Andemichael Kahsai was one of the staffs of EPLF representatives at Rome. One day he asked me about the trends of my meetings with Abba Marino. And I told him the admiration that I had. After that he asked me if I know something about Abba's past secret underground Eritrean patriotic backgrounds. My answer was: no, I don't.

In that occasion Andemichael told me that Abba Marino Haile is one of our Eritrean great national heroes, of course from patriotic point of view, but the front (EPLF) has chosen not to talk about this heroic deed until 'independence' comes. Why this? I believe that it was for security reasons and it had the capacity to produce huge back-lashes against Abba Marino because according to the tradition of the Eritrean church a priest is not allowed to be involved in such things.

To my understanding these guys were both in Eritrea, Andemichael as liberation fighter and Abba Marino Haile as cell, both of EPLF, before their being in Italy. This was before early 1976. Then Andemichael's direct and indirect involvement in the EPLF's operations that were finding places in Asmara was great. I believe that in that time Abba Marino was cell and operation leader.

In addition to this it seems that Andemichael was one of the few men who were between EPLF and Abba Marino. Of these men Andemichael was the only man who had capacity to write it as history, before or after the 'independence', but he didn't. So the story lived in the memoirs of its makers for more than thirty years. And now it seems that it is closed without being written with the death of the last history maker survival Abba Marino.

I can safely say that Abba Marino died without learning to tell stories about himself. I believe that all his heroic deeds are left in the memories of the people that he was serving them day and night. These memories of him are his **legacy**. Now the question is how to transfer them from unwritten to **written legacy**. With this plan we can make live Abba Marino forever. I strongly believe that Abba Marino Haile deserves this.

I must not confuse readers of this article by saying heroic deeds. It doesn't mean only national but also it means that Abba Marino was a moral, religious and humanitarian hero of our time. He served all this as an ambassador for the poor. This saying is left open to be more confirmed by testimonies not of hundredth but by thousands of people that are still living thanks to the services of Abba Marino Haile.

I would like to return to the idea that wants to realize a **written legacy**. As it is mentioned the **legacy** of Abba Marino is in the memory of those who can testify about it. Most these people are those who passed series of dark days with help of Abba Marino. And most of them belong to old generation, that is those who have lived more comparing with what is left and they don't have good learning skills because they didn't find chance to go or continue their school for different valid reasons. This puts the **legacy** of Abba Marino in a vulnerable position. If we do not collect and preserve their memories, then one day they will disappear.

Therefore, the only solution to the above mentioned problem is to found or to establish **Abba Marino Haile Foundation** that takes responsibility and tackles to save his entire legacy. As mentioned above keeping his **legacy** is meant to make our world breath fresh air.

I believe that it is not very difficult to found **Abba Marino Haile Foundation**, because there are many Abba Marino left examples to be followed. For example he has recruited poor men and women to be his warriors against poverty, ignorance and desperation. After series of battles he won the war. Today there are thousands veteran winners not only in Milan city but also in other European cities. This can serve as capital of the Foundation.

But we must not forget when we have a great and good men like Abba Marino who fight against poverty, ignorance, etc. unfortunately we have also bad men who pollute the world by increasing the number of poor, refugee, etc. In fact the Eritrean Diaspora in the world needs men like Abba Marino more than any other time in history. I hope that **Abba Musie** and **Elsa Chirom** become legacy

continuing characters. Also we must not forget to do our duty for those who have served us. Thank you.

Ambassador for the poor
Abba Marino Haile
Goodbye!!

•አምባሰላጋር ምእንቲ እቲ ድኻ ኣብባ ማሪኖ ሃይለ መዊቱ

ነበረ ሐደ ኣመና ቅድዱም ሰብ
ኣብ እቲ ሐሳብ, ሕልሊና እውን ጥበብ
ምስ እዙ ነበረ ይበርህ መዓልቲ እውን ለይቲ
ምእንቲ ገበረ ዓለም ብዙሕ ርግጽቲ እውን ጽርይቲ
He was very advanced man
In thought, consciousness and wisdom
With this he was growing brighter day and night
In order to make the world more safe and clean

ነበረ ይግዝእ እቲ መዓልቲ ምስ እታ ጸሎት
እቲ ሺሻይ ምስ እቲ ናቱ ሐልዮት
እታ ሰላም ምስ እታ ኩልላ ውርዝንነት
እታ ፍቕሪ ምስ እታ ናቱ ገርህንነት
He was conquering the day with prayers
The daily bread with his preoccupation
The peace with all seriousness
And the love with his sincerity

ነበረ ሐደ መእተዊ
ናብ እታ ፍልጠት እውን ናብ እቲ ክብሪ
ምስ እዙ ነቢርና ምእንቲ 35 ዓመት
ምስጋና ናብ እዙ ተረስቲይና መዓርግ እውን ሺመት
He was an access
To knowledge and honor
With this we were for 35 years
Thanks to this we have inherited grade and title

እቲ ናቱ ዓለም ናብ ሰምዐ እታ ኬርንነት
ዝ ነበረት ብዘይ ማንም ዶብ እውን ሻርንነት
ከዓ እንተ እዩ ጸገም ናብ ሐዘ እውን ሰምዐ
ምናልባት ነቢራ ኣብዙ ተጋዲማ እታ ናቱ ብርታዕ
His world to feel pity
That was put without boundary and siding
Even if it is difficult to grasp and understand
Perhaps it was here laying his strength

ነበረ እቲ ናትና መምህር ናይ እታ ጹረት እውን ዓቕሊ
ከዓ ናይ እታ ምዝውታር እውን እምነት ኣብ ባዕሊ
ምስ ዓቢይ ክምስ እውን ፍቕሪ
ናብ ምኽንያት ናይ እዙ ነበርና ንበርህ ኣብ እታ ውግዲ
He was our teacher of tolerance and patience
Also of perseverance and self-confidence
All this with a great smile and love
Owing to this we were shining on conversations

ነበረ ይኸትበና እታ ጭውንነት እውን በጉንነት
ተጻይ ናይ እታ ስድንነት
እታ ቅድዲ, ስርዓት እውን ስብቅቅልንነት
ተጻይ ናይ እታ ዳንደንነት

He was vaccinating us nobility and goodness
 Against wickedness
 Fashion, precept and elegance
 Against roughness

ሰብ እዩ መዋቲ ኣብባ ማሪኖ ሃይለ እዩ ሓደ ሰብ
 ድሓን ወወል ሰብ ናይ ዓቢይ ክብሪ
 ኩልላ እያ ሕብብንቲ ናይ ነበረ ናትካ ተማሀሪ
 ንስላኻ ኢኻ ወትሩ ሓንቲ ውልዕቲ ፋኑስ መንነ ገብበርቲ
 Man is mortal Abba Marino is a man
 Goodbye a man of great honor
 Everybody is proud of being you student
 Your are always a lighted lamp among taxpayers

Eyob Ghebreziabhier Gizie-lewTi.com Swiss 12 September, 2013.