

የ ኢትዮጵያ ሰምና ክብር

By: Gedamu Woldegiorgis

Published in 1946, የ ኢትዮጵያ ሰምና ክብር is a fascinating text that addresses the Ethiopian identity from the prospective of her geographic, governmental and religious history.

Geographically the text gives the linguistic roots of names and rivers such as "Shire" and "Hamasen". He outlines the ancient geographic delineations between Eritria and Tigray, which, he explains, flows along the Mereb River North of the much contested Bademe.

Mapping all of the Nile River tributaries, this text was instrumental to providing insight in to the works of Atse Dawit and his plan to redirect the Nile river for the purpose irrigating the south eastern regions of Ethiopia, And his plan to impose a tax on Egypt for its use of the Nile waters.

Governmentally, Aboy Gedamu defines Ethiopia's role in the geo-political evolution of the Horn of Africa and the Middle East by tracing the footsteps of pivotal Kings and Queens of Ethiopia, starting with Ham and Shem, to the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon, through to the modern era. His historic account includes a detailed timeline of Ethiopian accomplishments that date back to the Zemene Mesafint.

Religiously, the text explains the national and religious significance of the Ethiopian fasting seasons & holidays. He projects the dates on which these holidays and seasons will fall for approximately 64 years.

# Abreha "Gedamu" Woldegiorgis

*A Shirean Scholar's Dedication to His People*

Endearingly called "Aboy Gedamu" by the Shirean people, Gedamu Woldegiorgis is one of Ethiopia's esteemed scholars who studied at Gedam Debre Abay. At birth, his name was Abreha, but after many years of study at Gedam Debre Abay his name was changed from Abreha to Gedamu. Gedam Debre Abay is located about 40 kilometers south of Inda-Selassie and is one of Ethiopia's central monastic institutions, dating back to the time of Emperor Amda Seyom (1314-44). It is also celebrated as amongst the 56 most prominent monastic scholastic centers in the world. Many of Ethiopia's leading Popes as well as the Emperor Zera Yakob are graduates of this famous institution.<sup>1</sup> Upon completing his studies there, he was considered a scholar in the areas of Bilu Kidan, Addis Kidan, Numerology, Fetha Negest, Kibre Negest, and Geez to name a few.

After obtaining a wealth of knowledge from his monastic studies, Aboy Gedamu paid homage to the faith by building Medehanialem Church in Adi-Dairo and restoring Mere Eyesus Monastery in Dejen. His knowledge of religious jurisprudence gave way to his nomination as one of the first framers of Ethiopia's constitution and his appointment as the first teacher of civics and the history behind Ethiopian law. Upon the opening of Lycee Gebremariam, he was not only entrusted by the King to mold the next generation of Ethiopian leaders. Additionally, he was elected into the office of parliament as representative of Shire where he was entrusted by the people to openly advocate for his country's interests. One of his major scholastic contributions to Ethiopia is his book, "የ ኢትዮጵያ ሰምና ክብር" which depicts the key geographic, governmental and religious history of contemporary hottopics like the Badme boarder, Nile River and much more.

Aboy Gedamu is a recipient of the Distinguished Medal of Honor from His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Haile Selassie I, for his intellectually riveting religious, political, scholastic and literary contributions to the country. Through it all he has shown himself to be a true Shirean patriot.



Figure 1: Aboy Gedamu receiving the Medal of Honor from H.I.M. Emperor Haile Selassie I & Empress Mennen.

<sup>1</sup> Paul B. Henze, "The Monastery of Däbrä Abbay: Enda Abunä Samu'el", in *Proceedings of the XVth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Hamburg, July 20-25, 2003*(Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2006), pp. 663-9