

***George Weah's Vice-Presidential Pick Is a Recipe for Renewed War in Liberia: It's a "Samson and Delilah Death Trap!"***



I had a terrible dream this morning, the likes of which I have never seen or had. In my dream I saw several Liberian Patriarchs and Matriarchs that were troubled by George Weah's Vice-Presidential pick. They expressed serious concern and stated that his move, despite his popularity with the ordinary people and youth of Liberia, was a "recipe for renewed war in Liberia." They termed it as a "Samson and Delilah death trap" that will indulge Liberians in a chaotic atmosphere that may once again destabilize the West African sub region if the Executives of CDC do not speedily grab the bull by the horn to stop this devilish marriage from taking place in Liberia! In this light, I am calling on all CDCians, particularly my good friend McGill with whom I had the opportunity to chat several years ago, to please heed my advice to avoid another round of suffering and bloodshed in Liberia.

***What the Council of Elders Mandated Me to Tell You***

Some of the elders I saw in my dream included the following: Edward Wilmot Blyden, Chief Juah Nimely of Sass Town, former Chief Justice Nete-Sie Brownell, Vice-President Henry Too Wesley, Ambassador Henry Boimah Fahnbulleh, Sr., Robert Kennedy, Gabriel Farngalo, Jackson F. Doe, James Y. Gbarbea, Sr., Dr. Stephen Yekeson, Stephen Daniels, Gabriel Kpolleh, Bacchus Matthews, King Zangar of Grand Bassa, Qui-Siah of Rivercess, Ambassador Eugenia Wordsworth Stevenson, Angie Brooks-Randolph, Bellah-Beh of Grand Gedeh, Chief Buzzzi of Lofa County, Madam Suacoco and Chief Kpangbai of Bong County, Old Man Kuyon, and Old Man Paye of Bong County, King Sao Boso, D. Twe, Dr. P.G. Wolo, and even my own mother, Princess Martha Gbeh-Nyennonh Gaye. They all begged me to deliver their message, and as the saying goes in Liberia, "message dat nat kinjah"!

The elders listed above were nervous that their son George Weah would not heed the advice of his inner circle in the CDC Party, but would connive with perpetrators of heinous crimes against the people of Liberia, his support base, to select the wife of a murderous warlord as his running mate. This begs the question, “What happened to members of the hierarchy of CDC?” What happened to McGill, Acarius Gray, and many others who stood by his side through thick and thin over the decades? Did George Weah forsake his die-hard supporters to go for the big bucks?

Why suddenly those who only regarded Weah as a ‘mere football player’ and would not recognize or respect him because of his poor background and ethnicity, are coming out of the woods from their Payne Avenue mansions to claim loyalty to George Weah, the ‘footballer’ on Facebook and social media and various news outlets in and out of Liberia?

Where were the Henry Dennis and the Ellen Sirleaf when all along the only people we knew that supported George Weah were the grass rooters from West Point, Bishop Brooks, Claratown, New Kru Town, PHP, and Soniwen? Who is behind this devilish game plan and what do they hope to achieve from their usual ‘divide and rule’ tactic? Have they seen their “tutu” they can use to keep the Liberian people in perpetual slavery? God forbids!

Consequently, it is fair to liken George Weah’s Vice-Presidential pick to the Biblical story of Samson and Delilah. Here is why I term it this way and I am advising all Liberians to take note because if you do not heed this advice, the consequences will be devastating in the short or long run.

### ***The Biblical Story of Samson and Delilah***



***Georgie, henn you see Delilah putting Samson to sleep? If you don’t listen that how Ellen, Charlie, and Jewel will do your business!***

Back in the day in Liberia, the Holy Bible was taught in public schools. We had the opportunity to learn about God and the wonderful stories of wisdom and truths that were taught during Bible study class. Some of the stories resembled real life events we were experiencing and so that gave us an opportunity to reflect on the mistakes of our predecessors to correct the wrongs that were carried out by them. One of the biblical stories that readily comes to mind is that of Samson and Delilah.

Samson was a very popular and strong young man in the Bible. He was so popular and strong that his enemies particularly those who were in power wanted to get rid of him. They feared that if they did not get rid of Samson, their chances of remaining in power would be slim. One day the leaders of the land got together to work out a strategy how they would use Samson's popularity to maintain themselves in power. Some proposed that if they bribed Samson with money he would give in and not fight against them in time of battle. Others suggested that to find out Samson's secret, it would be best to hook him up with a beautiful lady to trick him to tell his secrets. In this way, they could capture Samson and kill him later to remain in power to plunder the wealth of the nation. Below is a summary of the story from the Holy Bible about Samson and Delilah:

The lords of the Philistines approached Delilah to discover the secret of Samson's strength, "and we will give thee, every one of us, eleven hundred pieces of silver." Three times she asked Samson for the secret of his strength, and all three times he gave her a false answer. The first time, he told her, "If they bind me with seven green withes that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man." Then he told her, "If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man." The third time, he told her, "If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web....On the fourth occasion, he gave her the true reason: that he did not cut his hair in fulfillment of a vow to God; and Delilah, when Samson was asleep on her knees, called up her man to shave off the seven locks from his head, then betrayed him to his enemies: "The Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house."

### ***To Acarius Gray, McGill, and All Supporters of CDC***

Acarius Gray, McGill, and supporters of CDC the end of my story. We do not want any more war in Liberia. We have suffered too much to want to go through another round of violence. The writings are clearly written on the wall. We have but a few minutes to set things right. Please do not let us down. Step up to the plate and help us avoid another bloodshed in Liberia and in the West African sub region. Those who perpetrated the war and killed up our people should not use the good law-abiding partisans and George Weah as innocent scapegoats to achieve their hidden agenda. They must have their day in court.

### ***My Admiration for George Weah and the CDC Still Stands but We Have to Settle Our Disagreement!***

My admiration for George Weah and the CDC still stands; but, we must settle our disagreement over the selection of Jewel Taylor as his running mate. In addition, I personally do not have malice against George Weah but genuine love for him. As an elder, my duty is to show him and all CDCians the light and the right path to follow. Over the years the CDC has represented our aspirations with respect to advocating for justice for the poor and down trodden of the Liberian society. Therefore, the CDC must continue to do so without compromising their stance to pursue justice and freedom on behalf of the Liberian people. Hence, the decision to

select Jewel Taylor from the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) to be the second in command, is a big blow to all of us. You caught most of us who admire you from the blind side!

***What I Did for CDC in the Past and Will Do in the Future***

In the past when George Weah ran with Counselor Winston Tubman I supported that move because he chose an honorable man—a statesman with impeccable professional record of accomplishment. Also, Siezie Siefa and Mr. McGill, you and I spoke several years ago and I expressed my desire to help the CDC implement rehabilitation programs through Dehkontee Artists Theatre, for the youth of Liberia who were conscripted by the same Charles Taylor and Jewel but were left in the cold.

As a follow up to our conversation, we made an announcement during DATI's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 16<sup>th</sup>, that we would be coming to Liberia in 2018 to jumpstart the National Peace and Reconciliation Campaign through the performing and visual arts, along with Liberian artists on the ground. But as things stand now, it appears we must stop that plan until we can settle our disagreement. So, while I do not doubt Jewel's ability to lead, her husband's profile is too much of a monkey wrench in her desire to be the second in command in Liberia, a nation and people who are still bleeding from the fatal blow Jewel's husband, Charles Taylor, dealt us.

In this light, I request on behalf of all Liberians that the Executives of the CDC go back to the drawing board to select a new Vice-Presidential candidate. This is the advice the old folks I saw in my dream gave me to deliver to partisans of CDC and the Liberian people. May God bless Liberia and save us all! Amen!

Rabbi Prince Joseph Tomoonh-Garlodeyh Gbaba, Sr., Ed. D.

Liberian Playwright & CDC Supporter

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