

A synopsis reflection on professor GebruTareke`s interview with Dire Tube (Helena Azez) :22Feb 2015

Tatek Menji (16 March 2015)

Via this media and this journalist, Pro/Gebru talked: about his short auto-biography, books,the Ethiopian students movement, how he joined the EPRP, recent Ethiopian history writers that he appreciated, Ethiopian state leaders that he would nuance/distinct, on whether or not the Ethiopian students movement and the EPRP offer remorse for the so said their wrong doing etc

- Pro/ Gebru`s intellectual attribution: he is one of very capable Ethiopian historians. He is a relentless reader and a critic of various post-modern Ethiopian history, in particular books written on EPRP and on the reign of Derg.His writing and reading ambition seems unquenched yet – envisaging for a further literary work.
- His political outlook : he has an egalitarian, progressive and democratic thoughts. He is longing and highly values the Ethiopian Students movement of his epoch(the 60th -). He is saying those students political activism and the Ethiopian People Revolutionary Party (EPRP`S) struggle were for noble causes.It was for “love of our country,love of our people, was to transform , empower and make Ethiopia visible in the world ...”.

He accentuated that the Ethiopian students movement days, there were other worldwide political movements. He contextualised it with : the anti-colonial, the pro- democracy,the civil rights etc. movements in : Africa, Asia, Latin America, Vietnam, Middle East, North America etc. (In character, strength, quality etc.he contrasted and equated, that the Ethiopian students movement to/with the Iranian students movement

- On the question of an apology: ‘some people from the Ethiopian public view that those students movement and the EPRP strife weaken Ethiopia and the Ethiopian way of life -for that an apology is needed, what do you think of this?’ asked, the interviewer.

"Why apology! what for! Striving and advocating for: justice/rights, equality, development, enrichment?" Gebru replied. Pro/Gebru highlighted that the "Ethiopian students movement laid ground for our protracted struggle. He defied that we are not defeated, to mean that generation`s battle or encounter hasn`t been lost, it`s well alive" he said. "If time would be reversible or recycleable,I could have joined that students movement without hesitation" he affirmed

- On the question of who he admires among the Ethiopian Nation State leaders : he mentioned the six leaders in their subsequent order,he said their merit have to be judged according to their time and said they all did good and bad-including Mengistu and Melese. He has chosen Atse Theodros as real Nationalist,meta-thinker and model leader.Pro/Gebru uncovered and explained about Theodros`s written note to (General Napier) that his 'defeat and inadequacy were caused by his people`s ignorance' which I haven`t heard of before, I am very happy to know the agony and the pain of that great leader, thank you dear Gebru.

Yet, I would be more happier if had Helena asked pro/Gebru,the positive aspects of Mengistu and Melese. For that pro/Gebru had been abroad in Mengistu`s era and the last 23 years of Woyane in power,I assume pro/Gebru didn`t know, how ruthless Mengistu and Melese led Woyane have had been. The outsiders do not know and feel as much as the insiders, most often, the outsider/s is/are minimalists. To me, they both were 'Sociopaths' and Mengistu still is ."The sociopath is that truly self-absorbed individual with no 'conscience or feeling' for others and for whom social rules have no meaning"(Wendy Konigsmann).They both were the bulldozers and the destroyers of Ethiopians and Ethiopia

- For their qualitative writing –Gebru`s most admired post Mengistu regime writers of war are : first rank captain Negatu Bogale (Twilled Yanawetse) and General WubetuTsegaye (Hulumneger wode Torginbar)
- As I have perceived him from the interview, Professor Gebru Tareke is empowered with knowledge- he is multi-dimensional, analytical,

rationale, discursive, persuasive, etc.. Has an immense knowledge power and likeable person. Cheers for professor Gebru !

- Just for curiosity: What makes Pro/Gebru - such an adequate, adept and monumental person ? (God, gods,luck, inborn intelligent quotient, the privilege that the Ethiopian students had during his schooling and higher education, his solely commitment to learning,his upbringing conditions or all of the above)? Referring to ‘upbringing conditions’-“ by seeing someone’s achievement, social class or life style- leads to know he/she came from : family status or family background” (Karl Marx).