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The Epic Adventures of Mekonnen

An Introductory Guide to the Characters, Creatures and Places

Created, Written and Illustrated by

Jerome M. Griffith

'Matiyas'

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This book is dedicated to

Almaz and Enqw
my cousins from Addis Ababa

To the people of
Ethiopia and Eritrea

To all believers and followers of
The Way
and those who gave up
their lives for it through the ages.

Special thanks to

Iyesus Krestos, the Elect One
who is Son of the Most High
Agziabeher Amlak,
The Almighty Creator

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Kamau Sennaar

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Emmanuel Evangelical Ethiopian Church,

Baltimore, MD

Cornerstone Church, Columbia, MD

who have all contributed and inspired me to make this project possible.



“You must continue living in ‘the Upright Way’, Young Lion.”

Abba Shiloh speaks to the warrior Mekonnen

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I am also greatly indebted to the works of the late Stuart Munro-Hay for being one of the lead historians and archeologist of the 20th century to unearth and publish the riches amount of material about the ancient Ethiopian Empire of Aksum. My studies have lead me to learn of many other cultures and kingdoms that have coincided with the Ethiopians for thousands of years, including the Shebans/Sabaeans, Hebrews/Jews, Arabs, Nabataeans, Nubians, Kushites, Egyptians, Persians, Byzantines, Chinese, Greeks, Romans, Goths, Vandals and other Germanic tribes, Scythians and much more.

Also bare in mind that although most of the locales are based on some real historical places, people and settings, this story is intended to be a work of fiction and not an exact historial account. Nevertheless, I encourage readers young and mature to research the fascinating history of these nations yourself.

I have included footnotes of references to books, sacred writings, and web sites from which I studied and gathered most of the information on historical figures, events, kingdoms, ancient languages and various legends, myths and lores. I also included a glossary of words in the back of the book (page 67) of certain foriegn and ancient words in the story with brief descriptions of their origins and meanings. To give you a hint, the treat is to pay attention to the characters, the meaning of there names, the creators, symbols, and patterns as they have deeper meanings and messages in the story as they relate to the real world.

With the revival of the epic fantasy genre that seems to have been sparked by the success of the ingenious *Lord of the Rings* trilogy (2001-2004) as directed by the talented Peter Jackson, I was impressed and encouraged to make Mekonnen to the best standards and highest quality, whether in book or film medium. When C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* (2006) was made into a very likable movie for a general audience with its subtle Christian symbolisms and morals without being preachy I started to understand a bit more clearer as to how to bring out the positive message in my book. It is interesting to note that C. S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkein, the author of *Lord of the Rings*, were friends, both professors at Oxford University and encouraged each other in their stories and in their faith.

Therefore, to avoid the risk of seeming to push a religious belief on readers I have the protagonists in my story defending the rites of a more ancient and universal principle of living the *Upright Way*. The principle of living *Uprightly* (Hebrew: Yashar) in the presence of the Almighty Creator and our fellow man can be found through out the holy scriptures and practices of Judism, Christianity and other faiths. Since the ancient days of Enoch, Noah and Abraham before labels were given to belief systems, righteous men and women endured to live the upright way of love, peace, justice and whorship of the one true God.

I hope you enjoy this *Introductory Guide to the Characters, Creatures and Places* of the *Epic of Mekonnen*, and I hope it sparks your interest for the actual novels to come. I also hope you would be able to relate personally to at least one of the characters, apply a certain situation or scenario to some aspect of your life or learn something knew about a particular character, culture, belief system or kingdom that you never knew about or simply took for granted. Or, perhaps this is not your cup of tea and you are not interested in fantasy, spiritual allegory or ancient cultures, then that is okay. Maybe you disagree or do not understand something stated about a topic, country or demographic, then you can contact me by leaving a comment in my web blog or guest book or email me at pinevergreenstudio@gmail.com.

Thank you and enjoy.

J. 'Matiyas' Griffith
June 2008
www.pinevergreen.com
click "Mekonnen" logo



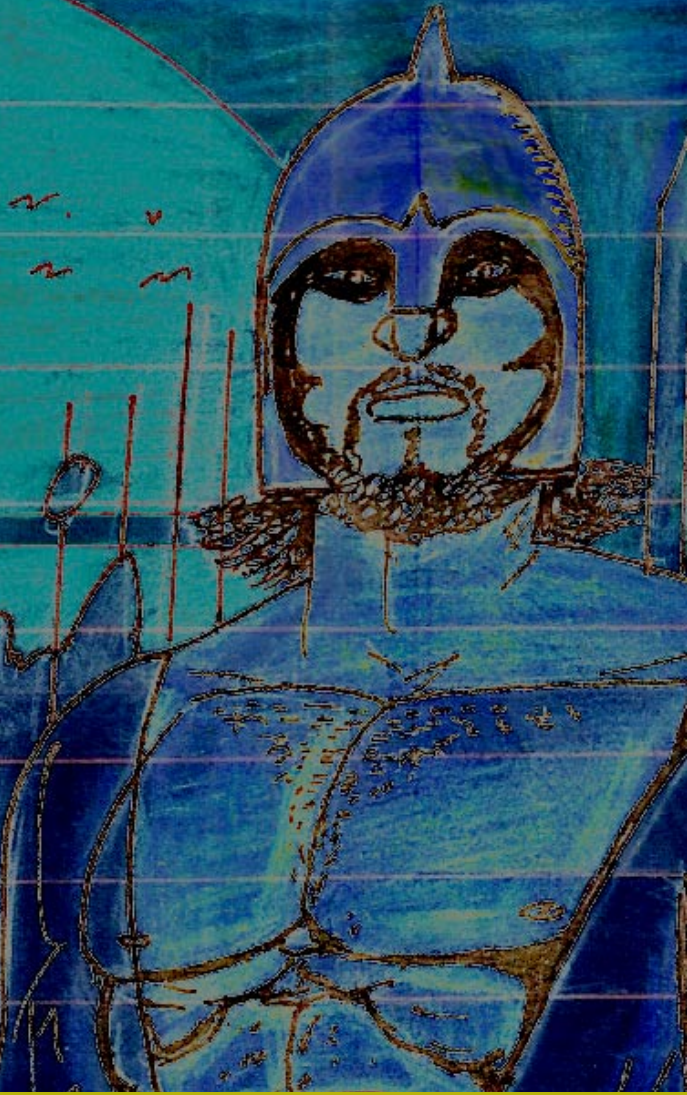


As the Armies of Light clash with the Mysteries of Darkness, the Kingdoms of Earth are caught in the midst and the fate of all creation hangs in the balance.

Mekonnen, a warrior from the great Kingdom of Aksum in the 6th century AD, is caught in the midst of this ancient conflict between good and evil as his life is changed forever when his kingdom is attacked by malevolent agents from the dominions of the nefarious Prince Mastemo.

Entrusted with the mysterious yet powerful Armour of Agziabeher to fight these forces, Mekonnen embarks on a grand adventure, joining forces with other Warriors of Light, combating the strategies of the enemy as the battle takes them on journeys through the outer Realms of Semayat, Meder and Siol—Heaven, Earth and Hell.

It is an epic battle that will unveil the true rulers of Light and Darkness, determine the fate of all creation and the moral state of Mekonnen's own soul.



Map of the World in Mekonnen's time, 6th century AD.



Mekonnen Sofaniyas

Aksumite Warrior

Name Meaning: *Mokennen (Gz)* = Elite, Respected, Noble, Governor;

Sofaniyas(Heb) = Secret Treasure of Yah[weh]

Other Names: Mokennen Gebre Tsiyon, Mekonine

Languages: Geez, Greek, Hebrew, Sabaeen.

Ethnicity: Habesha

Major Group: (Hamito-Semitic)

Kerubel/Symbol: Iron Lion Zion – YaTzion Bratu Anbessa

Height: 6' 2"

Weapons: Swords, Sword of Spirit, Shield, Breastplate, Spears

(*ZeAgziabeher ZeTor Mesariya* = The Armour of The Almighty One)

Special Abilities: Special calling to battle principalities in the Spiritual Realm with Armour forged in Semay (Heaven) by Mel'akt (Angels) of Agziabeher. Swordsman, Horse back rider. Fighting techniques of ancient Kemet, Kush and Sheba.

Mekonnen, son of Sofaniyas, is a warrior from the Kingdom of Aksum, in the land of Abyssinia in the Horn of Africa. As a loyal and skillful warrior Mekonnen serves in the King's court which at this time is ruled by the Emperor Negus Gebre Meskel. It is the sixth century AD when Aksum is a prosperous, thriving and powerful Empire, ruling from the mountains of Tigray, with territory stretching from as far north as the northern Nubian province of Nobatia, going southward past the Simien Mountains to the region of Somaliland, and from the Blue Nile River in the west to across the Red Sea in Sabaea (Sheba) and other South Arabian kingdoms to the east. Trading of frankincense, myrrh, gold and ivory with countries in the Byzantine Empire, Middle Asia and as far as Hindustan and Khitai of far East Asia has made Aksum a prosperous entity.

When his fellow warrior and cousin Afeworki is killed while defending Aksum and the Emperor Gebre Meskel from mysterious attackers they call the Hooded Ones during the annual *Timkat* festival, Mekonnen begins to think more seriously of his purpose in life, and why evil exist in the world to cause his brethren to die. While searching for answers and vengeance for his cousin's death, the Almighty One, Creator of the universe, *Agziabeher Amlak (Agzio)* calls Mekonnen to a special mission that will take him on a grand adventure of a life time, catapulting him to places, kingdoms and realms that he never thought he would thread. Along the way he befriends

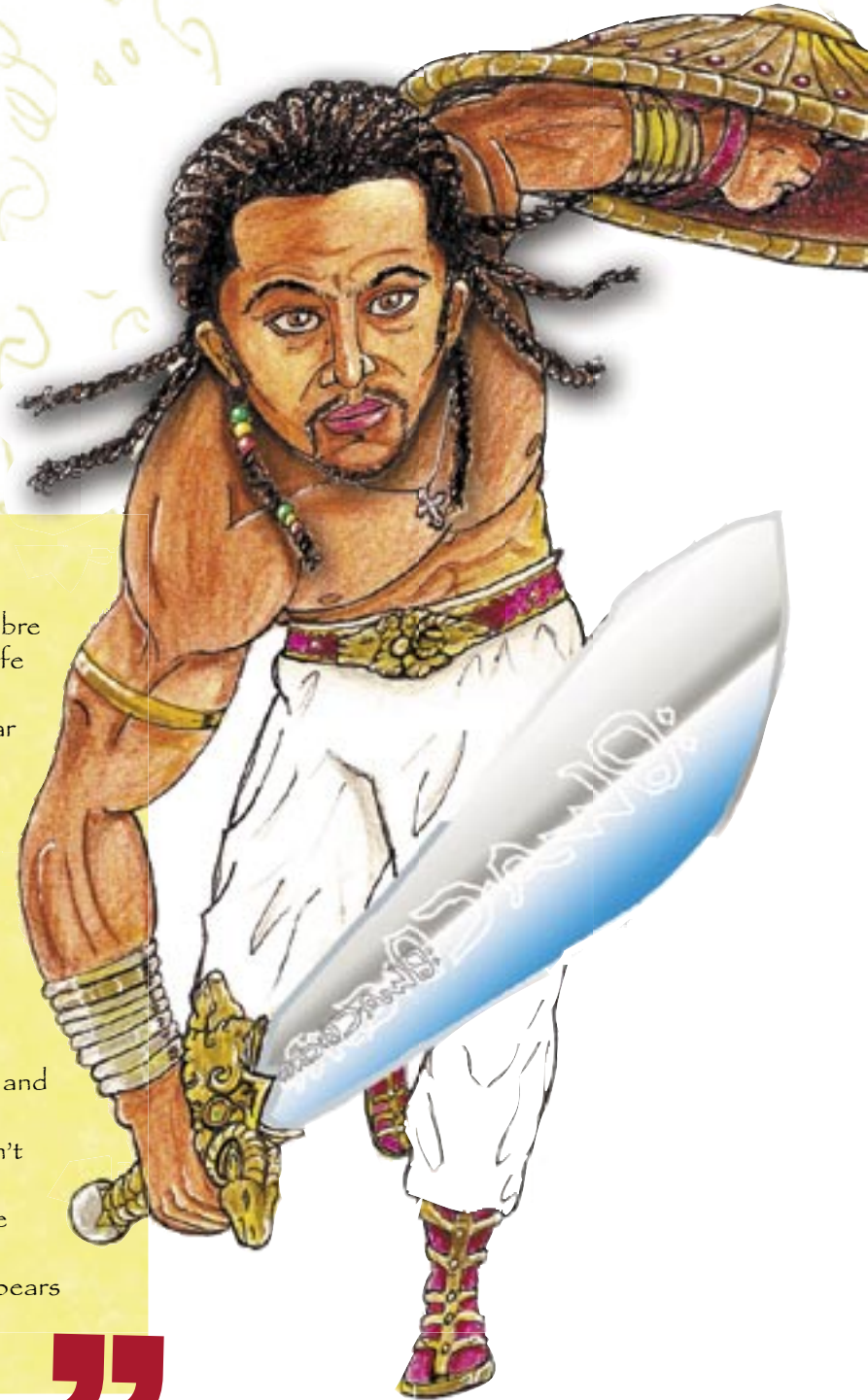


and forms alliances with Abba Shiloh, Nuhamin, Abner, Rabbel and Iessai, including the mighty *Antessa Tsiyon* (Lion of Zion) and other beings from the *Realms of Mengist Semayat*. Together they join forces to become *ZeBerhanen Torenyat* (Warriors of Light) to uphold the Righteous and Upright Way that was sanctioned by the Almighty One called *Yashar Zodi* (The Upright Way, or The Way), for the sake of all creatures to live in peace, love and harmony.

At the center of his adventure is the mysterious *ZeAgziabeher ZeTor Mesariya* (Armour of The Almighty One) that inhabits strange powers and abilities against the forces of the evil *Prince Mastemo* and his armies of Darkness, spawned from the shadowy realms of a more vile and ancient adversary.

Key Bible verses. References:

The Armour of God - Ephesians 6: 11-14; Isaiah 52:7; **The Way** -Acts 9:2; 24:14
Thrones, Principalities and Powers – Colossians 1:16; **Sodi** - The Witness of the Stars, E.W. Bullinger, page 15
The Sword of the Lord – Isa 34: 5-6; Isa 49:2; **Word of God sharper than sword** – Heb 4:12
The Upright Way - Ps 25:21; Ps 36:10; Prov 13:6; Jasher 3:11-12, 4:3
Righteousness and Salvation – Isa 59:17 **The Armour of Light** - Romans 13:12



Story excerpt: Mekonnen saves the King from assassin's spear. Warriors pursue attackers.

Meanwhile, Mekonnen runs frantically towards the Negus' aid from the right, determined to save His Majesty from the flying spear that is aimed for Negus Gebre Meskel's torso. Which ever gets to the Negus first will determine His Majesty's fate. Life or Death! Mekonnen, just a few feet away, now leaps with shield in right hand, becoming almost horizontal in mid-air in front of the Negus, just in time to intersect the deadly spear with his shield, successfully saving Royal flesh.

"Craaacksh!!" the sharp head of the spear penetrates Mekonnen's shield, missing his arm by an inch. But Mekonnen's flight carries the spear away from His Majesty and his wife the Nigist, sending Mekonnen and spear tumbling to the ground on the left side of the royal platform, rolling over about five times...

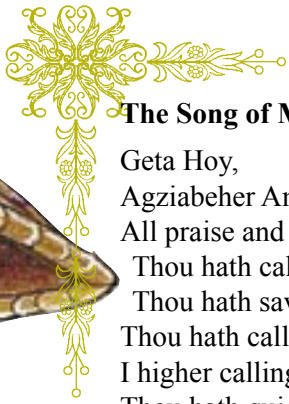
Now as Mekonnen and Afeworki ride on to the southern ends of Aksum proper in hot pursuit of the Hooded assassins, they are accompanied by five more royal guards on horse back. They converged from different directions, from various streets onto the same path with Mekonnen and Afeworki. Valiant warriors they are, all quite acquainted with the two kinsmen. Their names are Gedion, Biniyam, Yeshaq, Endubis, and Nezana. Yeshaq rides up beside Mekonnen and salutes,

"Selamta, my brothers. Let us catch these wretched dogs and show them we don't welcome assassins here, okay!"

Mekonnen replies with zeal, "Ow, Yes, my warrior, for Aksum, for Negus Gebre Meskel and for Azgiabeher Amlak!"

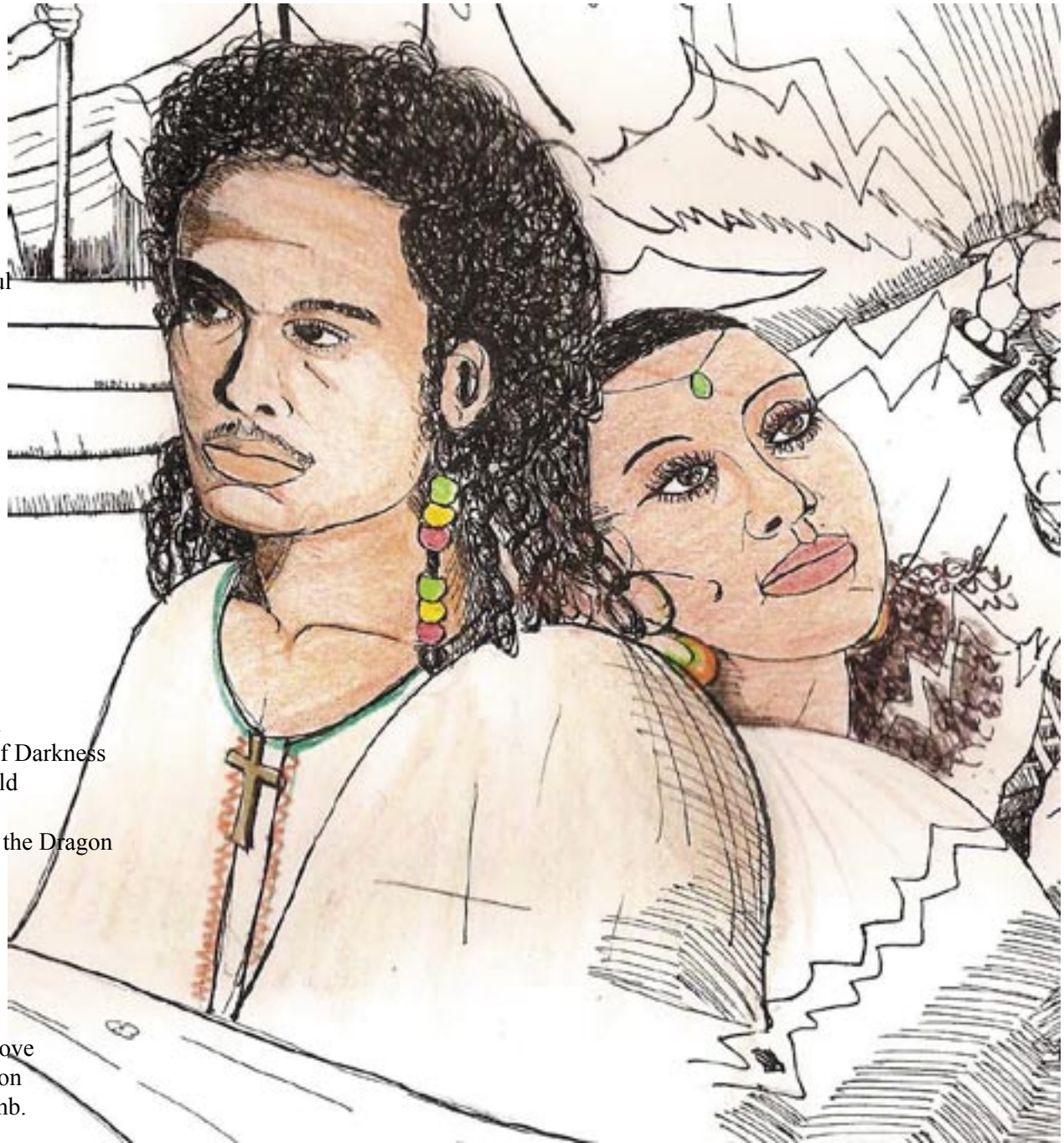
And in unison the seven warriors belt out ululations with glistening swords and spears raised up in the air,

"Luuloolooloolooloo!!"



The Song of Mekonnen

Geta Hoy,
Agziabeher Amlak,
All praise and honor be onto you
Thou hath called me from the depths of despair
Thou hath saved me from the grip of Death
Thou hath called me to a mission
I higher calling, to a full life
Thou hath quickened my spirit and saved my soul
From the Valley of the Shadow of Death
Who could not keep me in his realm
For Death has been defeated.
Thou hast clad me
In thy Holy Armour
The Armour of Agzio
That was fashioned and formed
In the Mountains of Fire
The Mountains of Semay
By your holy and mighty Melakt.
Thou hast sanctioned me
Thy unworthy servant
To wield thy glistening, two edged Sword
Seifu Manfes
Thy Sword that cut asunder all thine adversaries.
Destroy Powers and Principality in the Realms of Darkness
For the mystery of iniquity is already in this world
But your armour covereth
Thy Shield protect from the flames of Zendowu, the Dragon
Thy Righteousness cover my heart from deceit
Thy Helmet secures my Salvation
Thy Belt girdles my loins
You make my feet ready to scale the mountains
Like the Ibex upon the rugged hills
Declaring thy grace and judgment to all nations
They shall know that thy love is as tender as a Dove
And thy wrath is as fierce as the Anbessa/The Lion
And thy redemption is from the blood of the Lamb.



Anbessa Tsiyon

The Lion of Zion
Kirubel from Mengist Semayat

Other Names: Anbessa Tsiyon, Ariel Tsiyon, The Lion of Zion, Iron Lion of Zion

Languages: Mengist Semay (Kingdom of Heaven), All languages.

Rank: Kirubel: Warrior class. Mekonnen's guardian in battle

Symbol: The Kingship of Iyesus Krestos from the tribe of Yihudah. The Lord's strength and fierceness in battle.

Height: Unknown

Weapons: Claws of iron, Teeth of Diamonds, Mane of Flames, Mighty roar

Special Abilities: Can be transported from Semayat to Earth as Agzio allows him. Fierce in battles against other creatures from the Realms of Darkness. Loud roar to disorient the enemy or call other beings from Mengest Semay.

Hailing from the glorious heights of the Realms of Semayat, near the inner courts where *Agziabeher Amlak*, the Almighty Creator and His Elect Chosen One communes, *Anbessa Tsiyon*—the Lion of Zion—is sent to help the warrior Mekonnen in battle when the Forces of Darkness become too much to overcome. Anbessa Tsiyon is one of myriads of mighty Kirubel that are in the presents of Agzio who sends out his celestial beings to do his will through out the universe.

Whether it is to send a message to one of human-kind, stand as a symbol or engage in battle, Anbessa Tsyion and the other obedient Kirubel, Seraphel and Mel'akt are ready for action.

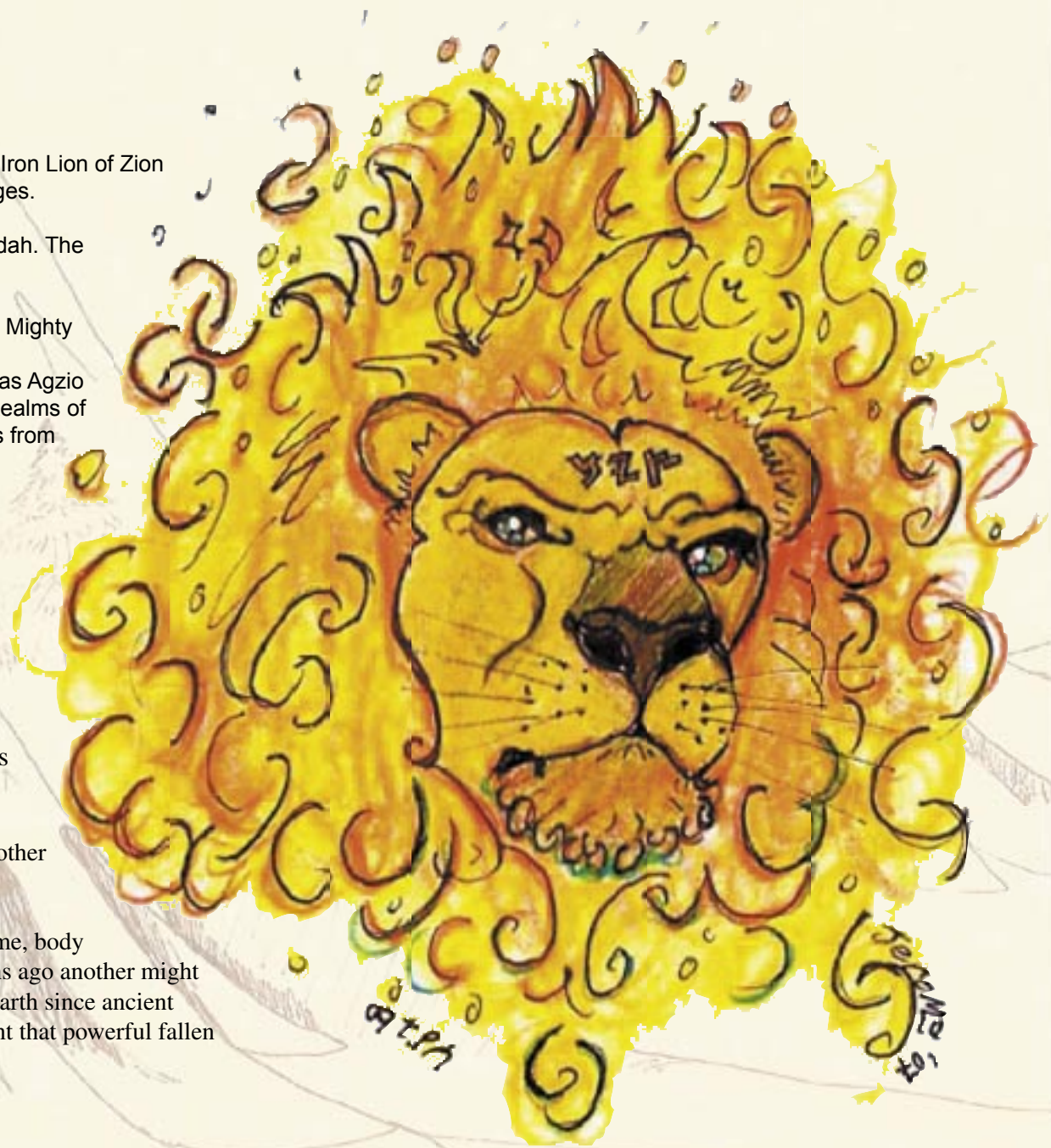
Anbessa Tsiyon is a magnificent creature of unusual characteristics by human standards with a mane of brilliant flame, body of burnished gold, claws like iron and teeth like diamonds. Eons ago another might Kirubel was cast out of Semayat and has been terrorizing the Earth since ancient times. But not even the formidable Anbessa Tsiyon can confront that powerful fallen Kirubel on his own.

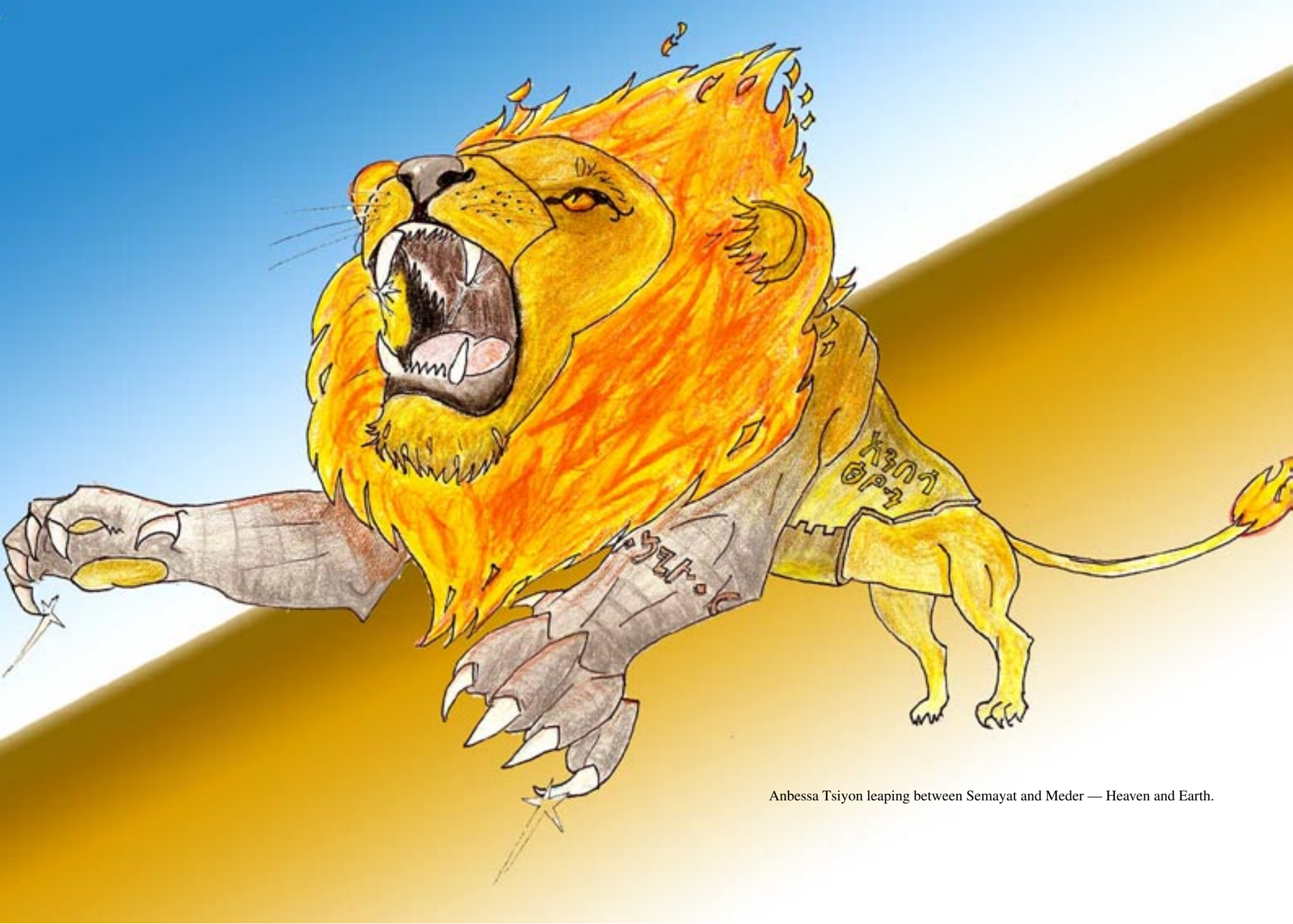
Key Bible Verses:

Rev 5:5; Isaiah 31: 4-9; Jer 25: 30, 38; Joel 3:16; Amos 1:2.

Gen 49:10; Ps 128: 5; Ps 129:5; Ps 132; 133; 135

Heavenly Creatures & Angels of Flames: Isa 6:1-4; Ezek 1:4-11, 26-29; Rev: 4:7; Judge 13:19-20





Anbessa Tsiyon leaping between Semayat and Meder — Heaven and Earth.

Abba Shiloh Daniachew

A Bahetawi of Abyssinia

Name Meaning: *Shiloh (Heb)* = Peaceful; *Daniachew (Eth)* = You be there judge

Languages: Geez, Hebrew, Aramaic, Sabaeen. Egyptian (Coptic), Greek, Latin

Ethnicity: Habesha/ Beta Israel

Major-Group: (Hamito-Semitic)

Symbol: *Yasemay Mel'akt*, The Host of Semayat

Height: 6' 0"

Accessories: Prayer Stick, Dula (Staff).

Special Abilities: Gifts of Miracles from Agzio, Prayers and Visions. Council and Words of Wisdom. Understands riddles, mysteries and the Oracles of Agzio. Dula Meketa. (Stick Shield)

The old and wise Abba Shiloh Daniachew is a Bahetawi, a character unique to Abyssinia, an itinerant holy hermit.

Bahetawi are Holy Men not officially affiliated with any Beta Krestiyān (church) but are still respected as revered men. Shiloh was once a warrior for the kingdom of Aksum in his younger days, leading excavations and adventures deep into the heart of the uncharted African forests to enchanted lands in the East. He fought in many battles and encountered numerous characters and creatures that are beyond mentioning. Then he had a deeply spiritual experience that changed his heart and soul.

He had visitations from *Agziabeher Amlak (Agzio)*, the Lord of all creation, sending Shiloh into the wilderness and rock hewn structures of Abyssinia as he walked and communed with *Agzio* and his *Yasemay Mel'akt*, the Heavenly Hosts, for long periods of time.

Agziabeher revealed many visions and mysteries of the universe to Shiloh. Eventually Shiloh settled in a secret gorge along the Abay River, which is the Nile, where it grew into a small village of people that followed him to learn and live in *Yashar Sodi, The Upright Way*, which is the Righteous Oracles of Agziabeher and his son Iyesus Kristus that was established since ancient times. The village is called *Wänz Mändär*, meaning The River Village.

For about two decades Shiloh dwelt in Wänz Mändär with his people living a simple life away from the bustling metropolis of Aksum and its adjacent cities, until a young man drifted into the village in a boat, unconscious. This young man is Mekonnen, Aksumite warrior. Agzio had already revealed to Shiloh in dreams and visions that the arrival of this young warrior would signal the time for him to come out of seclusion and prepare for a new adventure in the last stage of his life. A different sort of battle, for the heart, mind and soul of all mankind.



background image of rock carved monasteries from corbis.com



Key Bible verses:

...until Shiloh come. -Gen 49:10

Israelites assembled at Shiloh - Josh 18:1;

The Lord of Hosts in Shiloh -1 Samuel 1:3, 24

The Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh - 1 Sam 3:21

...he forsook the tabernacle in Shiloh - Psalms 78:60-72

...my place which was in Shiloh... - Jer 7:12



Story exerpt. Abba Shiloh counsels Mekonnen about the ancient battle between good and evil:

...Mekonnen enquires, "But why, Abba? Why is there such a great battle for the hearts and souls of men? What is so special about us? We are all just dust of the earth!"

Shiloh exclaims, "Oh, aidehlem, Oh No. it isn't so my boy. Mankind was made in the image of Geta Agziebeher Amlak, we bear his witness and project his attributes. From the very beginning when he created our father Adom and our mother Eve and breathed the breathe of life of the Qeddus Manfes, the Holy Spirit, we were to be the gem of his creation, the Sons of Azgio, like the Sons of Agziebeher, the Mel'akt. Like Agziebeher, Man was made to love, nurture, express emotions, create, subdue, rule over and expand His Majesty's holiness throughout the earth and the universe.

But then the great adversary, the Nachash, became proud of himself, and was jealous of Agziebeher Amlak's creation of Man, supposing Agzio will reject the Liq Mel'akt and Kerubel, and cause man to rule over all the heavenly creatures. But that was not so. The Mel'akt will always have a purpose and dominion in the Kingdom of Agzio, only this time is joint reign with Man.

So the Nachash rebelled and deceived a third of the Mel'akt to join him in a revolt, together with certain Kerubel, Seraphel and Onaphel. They caused anarchy and war broke out in Semayat. Liq Mel'ak Mikael lead the remaining faithful two thirds of the heavenly host in victory over the Nachash a and his minions and cast them out of Semayat. The cosmos and Realms were shaken and damaged as the Nachash, that ancient Dragon, and his legions were defeated and cast out of Semayat, falling to our heaven and earth."





Name Meaning: Nuhamin(Eth): Naomi(Heb) =Pleasant
Welette Semayat= Daughter of Heaven (religious title).

Languages: Geez, Hebrew, Sabaeen. Greek.

Ethnicity: Habesha/ Beta Israel

Major-Group: Hamito-Semitic

Symbol: Ibex (Walia)

Height: 5' 5"

Special Abilities:

Psaltery: playing the krar, begena and washint, Singing and Dancing. Survival skills for the wilderness, Caring for animals and livestock. Ability to Communicate with some animals, especially fond of the Ibex of Abyssinia.

The lovely Nuhamin is a distant relative of Abba Shiloh the Behatawi, who is her great uncle on her father's and grand father's side of the family. Shiloh has raised her in *Wänz Mändär* (River Village) since she was a little girl like his own daughter since her parents past away. She grew up and enjoyed a happy life among people of many nations and tribes from the lands of Abyssinia, Kush and South Arabia who all live and commune together as one big family. Here the people of *Wänz Mändär* try their best to live in the upright and Righteous Ways as taught since ancient times and written in the sacred Oracles by prophets and servants of Agziabeher Amlak, who has manifested himself in the flesh through the life, death and resurrection of Iyesus Krestos, the Elect One. Nuhamin has a special fondness and bond with animals, especially the Walia Ibex.

When she was about age 19, Mekonnen the warrior drifted into her world in a papyrus boat and changed the course of her life forever. Eventually Nuhamin and Mekonnen fall in love with each other and Mekonnen asks Abba Shiloh for permission to marry her. Abba Shiloh agrees for them to be betrothed but as the Armies of Darkness threaten to overthrow the kingdoms of the world and the Nubia kingdom wars threatening to spread to the kingdom of Aksum, Mekonnen and Nuhamin most decide wether to have the marriage ceremony before or after he goes off to fulfill his Calling to fight in the Armies of Light against the Mysteries of Darkness.

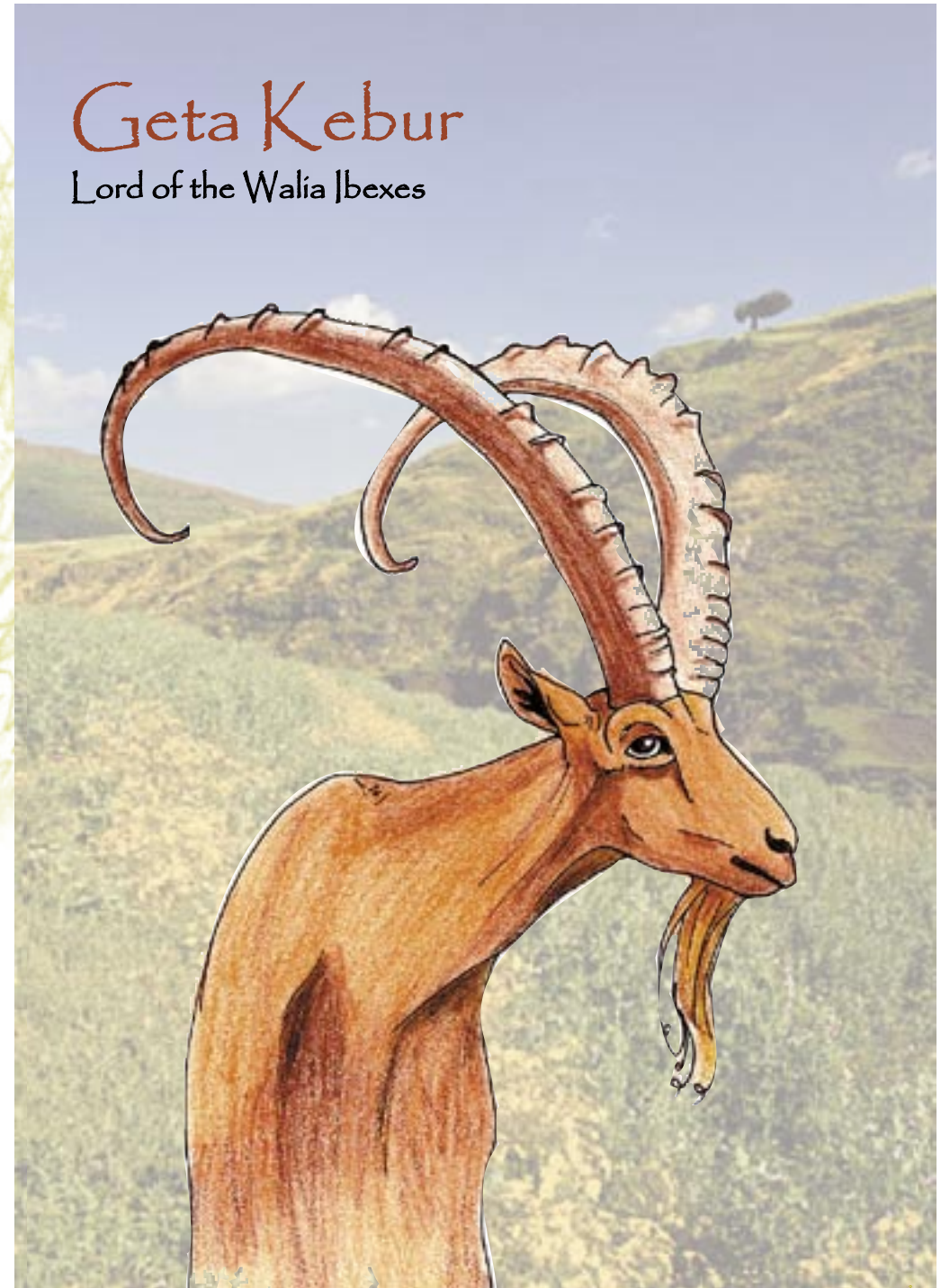
Key Bible verses:
Ruth 1:1-5; Ruth 1:19-20; Eph 5:25; Isa 61:10; Isa 62:5; Matt 9:14-15; John 3:29
Rev 19:7-8;

Drawn in the likeness of model Betty Amare, 2008

Nuhamin Welette-Semayat

Lady of the Wänz Mändär (River Village)

As Mekonnen's return tarries longer than expected, Wänz Mändär fall under attack and Nuhamin and the rest of the village flee from their once peaceful dwelling and head for the bustling capital city of Aksum. Nuhamin enters the royal court of Emperor Gebre Meskel to inform him of the plight of the villages in the wilderness. Frustrated and feeling a sense of duty to protect her people, Nuhamin decides to take matters into her own hands.



Geta Kebur

Lord of the Walia Ibexes

Geta Jallel Yohannes

An Elder at Wanz Mändär (River Village)

Name Meaning: *Jallel (Orm)*= Love; *Yohannes (Heb)* = Yah has been gracious

Languages: Oromiffa, Geez, Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic, Sabaeen, Nubian, Egyptian (Coptic).

Ethnicity: Oromo (Borena)

Major-Group: Kushitic (Hamitic)

Symbol: Dove

Height: 6.1”

Accessories: Prayer stick and Spears/Lances

Special Abilities: Wisdom, Council, help and support for Abba Shiloh at Wanz Mandar. Dula Meketa (stick shield). Originally from the southern frontier and is familiar with its fertile and mountainous terrain. Excellent horse back rider.

The loyal and trustworthy Geta Jallel, also known as Yohannes, hails from Oromiya, or Borena, one of the verdent southern regions of Abyssinia. He is one of the elders of Wanz Mandar that counsels the people when their patriarch Abba Shiloh is out roaming the wilderness and alone with Almighty Agziebeher in prayer and meditation for weeks or months at a time.

His people are known as fierce and courageous warriors that show little fear in the face of danger, and good horseback riders. Geta Yohannes lives the simple life now in the village with Abba Shiloh and the others. When Mekonnen drifts into the village after an expedition to capture the culprits that tried to assassinate the Negusa Negus of Aksum, things start to take a different turn for Yohannes. He agrees to join Mekonnen and Abba Shiloh to the kingdoms of Nubia and stop the invasion of King Basiliskos’ army from the north.

Since ancient times Geta Jallel’s people believed in a one Almighty creator of heaven and earth they called *Waaqa (Wakenna, Waaqqefata)**. Now he believes that the Almighty sent his only begotten Son Iyesus Kristos, leader of the Armies of Light that even now battles against the Empire of Darkness, now manifesting themselves in the current tension that brewing in the lands of Kush and Mizraim-Nubia and Egyptus.

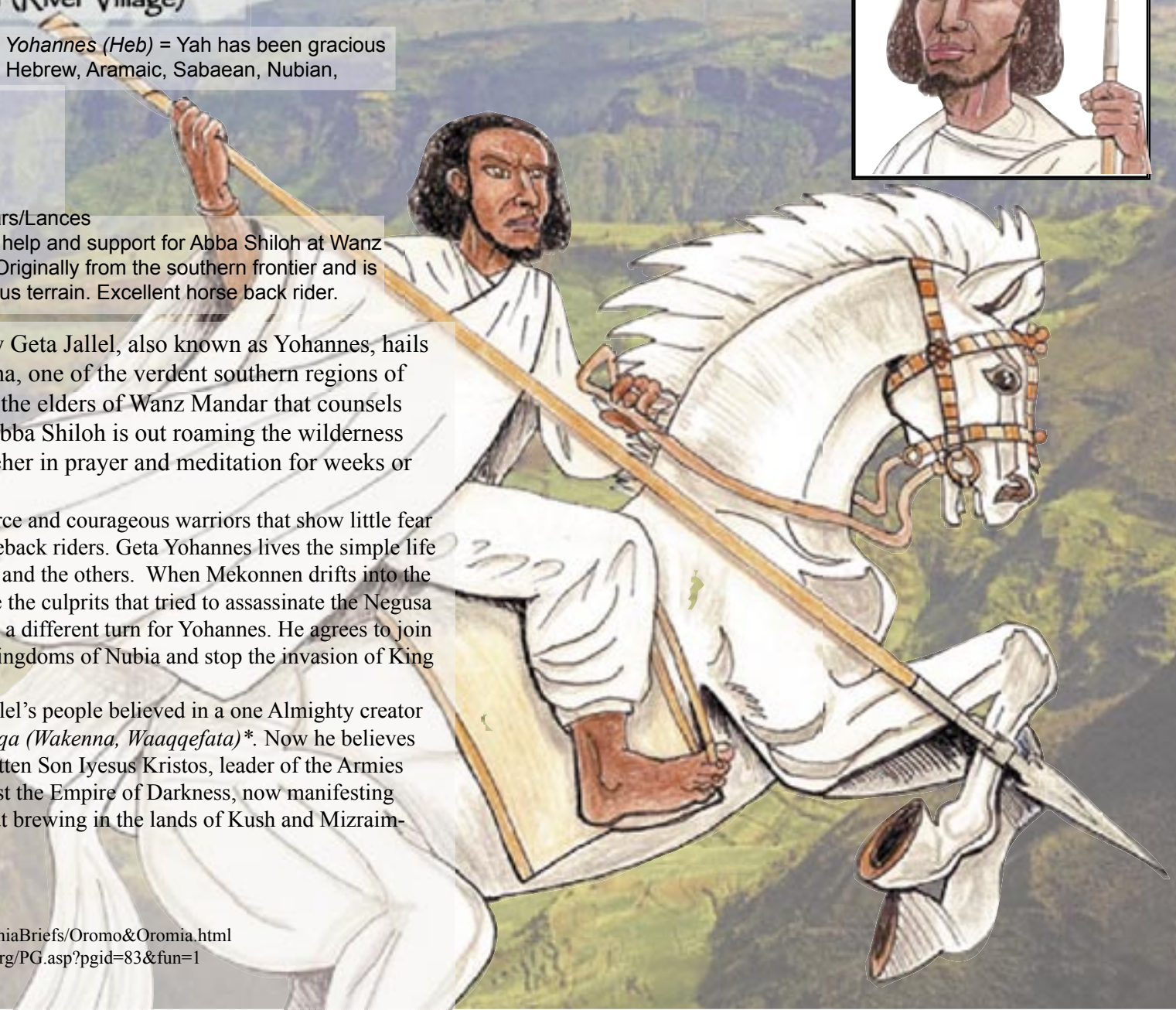
* See Glossary on page 67

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SIM People Group Profile: <http://www.sim.org/PG.asp?pgid=83&fun=1>

Spirit descending like a Dove - John 1:32



The Simien Mountains going towards the Royal and Holy city of Aksum.
Stock photo from corbis.com



Negus Gebre Mesqel - Ella Adimas

King of the Aksumite Empire

Reign: c. 543 -560 AD

Name Meaning: Gebre Mesqel = Servant of the Cross;

Other Names: Wazena (at birth)

Languages: Ge'ez, Greek, Sabaeen, Egyptian, Nubian, Hebrew.

Ethnicity: Habesha; **Major Group:** Hamito-Semitic

Symbol: Anbessa Yihuda/ Lion of Judah

Height: 6' 0"

Weapons: Regal Swords, Spears, Shield

Special Abilities: King of Aksum, Ruling over Abyssinia, South Nubia, Saba (Sheba) and Himyar after his father Ella Atsbeha-Kaleb (c. 514 to 530 AD) retired to live a monastic life in the monastery of Abba Pantelewon at Bet Qatin near Aksum.

Descended from a long line of distinguished Kings that trace their lineage back to the reported union of King Solomon of the Kingdom of Israel and Makeda the Queen of Sheba, Negusa Negast Gebre Mesqel, firstborn son of Negusa Kaleb, now enjoy days of peace and prosperity in the Kingdom of Aksum, 6th century AD. The Kingdom has grown to an empire and now have sovereign rule of territory extending from northern Abyssinia to Saba/Sheba across the Red Sea to the east, most of the Horn of Africa to Somaliland to the south and most of Nubia, the old land of Kush to the west and north almost reaching to the third cataract south of Egypt.

Spiritual and cultural hope and rejuvenation has also come to the land in a second wave with the arrival of the *Tzadkan*, the Nine Saints from Asia Minor and the Levant. The Tzadkan encouraged the upright teachings of "The Way" in the local Geez language, built many monasteries and help establish an ensign and a standard for the people that will last until the end of the world.

When a failed assassination attempt is intersected by warrior Mekonnen, Gebre Mesqel now perceives that the peace and influence is treated. Now with civil war brewing to the north in the three Kingdoms of Nubia, and invasion from the Persians to the east at the door step. The Negus must now prepare his army troops for battle once more or be overcome by the devices of King Basiliskos of Nobatia, and a possible traitor within the palace walls.

References:

Aksum: An African Civilization of Late Antiquity by Stuart Munro-Hay, 1991.
www.dacd.org



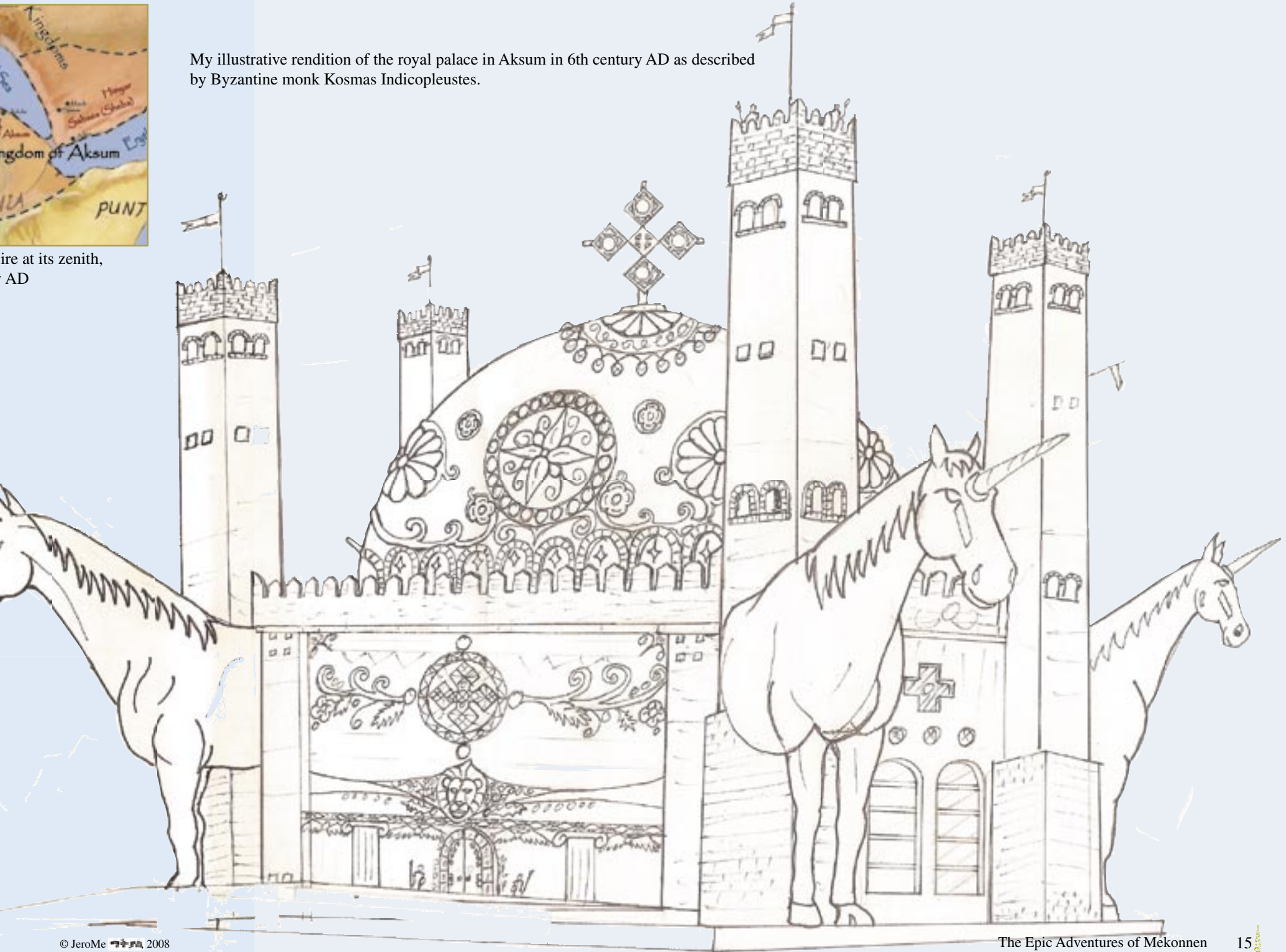
Map of Aksumite Empire, 6th Century





My illustrative rendition of the royal palace in Aksum in 6th century AD as described by Byzantine monk Kosmas Indicopleustes.

ire at its zenith,
AD



Mel'akt


Messengers and Warriors from The Realms of Mengist Semayat



Sabat Qedus Liq Mel'akt:

*The 7 Holy Arch Angels encountered
by Henock the Prophet (20:1-8)*

Mikael
Gabriel
Uriel
Raphael
Reuel
Sariel
Remiel



The Mel'akt and other beings of Agziabeher's Kingdom were created to minister and serve Him in all his creations and purposes. They are also known as *Beni Elohim*, or the Sons of God, created from fire and light and can transform themselves into the likeness and form of mankind, thus sometimes appearing as humans among men until they reveal their supernatural power, strength and glory that will immediately set them apart from mere flesh and blood.

The Mel'akt appear in various sizes and stature and are appointed assignments and missions from the throne of the Almighty One. Some appear with splendid wings, others don't and appear in plain human form and clothing. They are set in different ranks and levels ranging from messengers and helpers in dire situations to valiant warriors and guardians of the children of Agzio and other Warriors of Light engaged in spiritual combat in the Realms of Earth.

Mel'akt are under the direct command from the *Iyesus Krestos*, the Chosen Elect One, The Ancient of Days, Anbessa Yihuda, The Lamb of Agziabeher that make war against the Armies of Darkness that defile His universe. In ancient times a third of the Mel'akt of Semayat followed the rebellious *Nachash*, The Chief Anointed Kirubel that became proud and vile, and was cast out of Mengist Semayat to Realms of Earth, until the Great Day of Judgment. At various ages some Mel'akt left Semayat (either at the same time with the *Nachash* or separate incidences after, it is uncertain) to intermingle their seed with that of beautiful women of Earth and produce hybrids that became great heroes, kings, queens and grotesque gaints of ancient time as written in the oracles and legends of every nation across the whole Earth.

The Mel'akt are not to be confused with other living beings of Semayat, like the *Kirubel*: mighty winged ones of various forms that may resemble creatures of earth; *Serufel*: awesome winged beings whose bodies are a flaming fire; *Onafel*: beings resembling living wheels or machinery with eyes and intelligence. There are many beings from Semayat that are difficult to explain or describe. Behold, it is noted that a third of these creatures also rebelled and were expelled from Mengist Semayat with the *Nachash* and the Mel'akt that followed in disobedience, whom the ancient prophet *Henock* called *The Watchers* in his oracles.

Behold, the deeds and lore of Mel'akt and other celestial creatures, good and evil, are written in the oracles of every kingdom in Semayat and Earth.

References:

Genesis 6:1-4; Gen 18:1-22; Ezek 1 & 10; Daniel 10:5-6; Enoch 8,9, 10,18, 1; Jubilees 7:21-5, Jashar, The Book of Angels
Wikipedia.com, search Christian Angelic Hierarchy, Jewish Angelic Hierarchy.



The Righteous Ones (The Nine Saints)

Above: A mural painting of the seven of the Nine Saints as displayed in the Church of St Miriam in Aksum, Northern Abyssinia, Ethiopia.

The legend of the honourable Nine Saints goes as follows as it has been recorded. They were called Tsadkan, the Righteous Ones. Nine monks escaping persecution from the Council of Ephesus and Chalcedon in Syria in 431 and 451 AD respectively, for their Monophysite beliefs in the Qeddus Selassie, Holy Trinity. At that time Monophysitism was declared heresy but later it was lifted and not considered heretical teaching because it was only a minor difference in view points.

The Nine came to the kingdom of Axum in the land of Abyssinia during the reign of Emperor Gebre Mesqel, son of Emperor Kaleb, and contributed considerably to the spread of the Righteous Oracles of Kristos throughout the land, encouraged the translation of the Qeddus Meshaf/Holy Writings from Greek to Abyssinia's official language of Ge'ez, and the building of monasteries and churches.

The Nine also brought with them Sacred Oracles and Writings that were considered lost and forgotten to most of the world and included them in the canon of the Sacred Book of the

Abyssinian Beta Krestyan. Many stories of signs and wonders were reported by the living witness of these Tsadkan.

Their names and nationalities have been recorded as follows:

- 1) **Abba Aregawi Ze-Mikael, (Libanos)** of the royal family in Byzantium,
- 2) **Abba Aftse**, Edessa, Anatolia (Turkey)
- 3) **Abba Alef**, Caesarea, Israel (Palestina)
- 4) **Abba Gerima (Yeshaq)**, Byzantium (son of king Mesfeyanos and Sefengeya),
- 5) **Abba Guba**, Cilicia, South Anatolia (Turkey),
- 6) **Abba Liqanos**, Constantinople (Byzantium)
- 7) **Abba Pantelewon, Za-Soma'Et**, of Byzantium,
- 8) **Abba Schma**, Antioch, Turkey/Syria and
- 9) **Abba Yem'ata**, from Qusyat (Qusayr in Syria)

References:

Wikipedia.com, the free encyclopedia, Nine Saints
 Ethiopianhistory.com, The Nine Saints
http://www.dacb.org/stories/ethiopia/liqanos_.html



Timkat Festival

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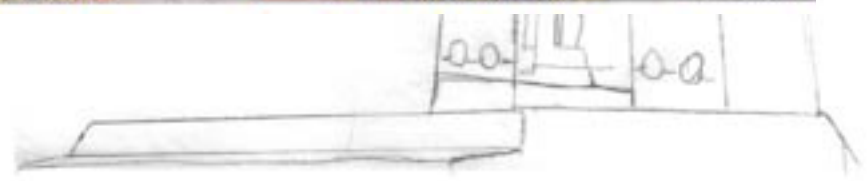
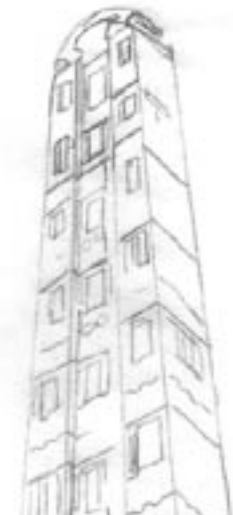
A processional of Kessat (Priests), Daiqonat (Deacons), Welletet Tsiyon (Daughters of Zion) and lay people carrying the *tabots*, which are copies of the ten commandments that were inside the Ark of the Covenant that Agziabeher (Almighty God) commanded Moshe to create as a tabernacle in the presence of the nation of Israel. This ancient festival of the tabots called *Timkat* goes on for three days beginning every year on Ter 19 (January 23rd) at Epiphany, celebrating the baptism of Iyesus Krestos by Yohannes the Baptiser.



Photographs and graphics by Jerome Matiyas, 2007



Background image of Maryam of Zion Church by Adam Cohn, 2004
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Backstories and Supporting Characters

The Legend of Angabo the Sabaeen

A forefather of the Queen of Sheba (1500-1000 BC(?))

In the history of the monarch of Habeshat (Abyssinia) there is a legend that gives account of **Angabo the Sabaeen** (Sheba) who sailed across the Red Sea to Habeshat and saved the land from a great snake dragon named **Waynaba**.

As it was recorded, a great *Zendow*—a Snake-Dragon—ruled the land of Abyssinia in tyranny between Aksum and Temben, and demanded a regular sacrifice of a young virgin in exchange for a season of peace and security. Angabo, who was probably a Prince in his home land, sailed across the Red Sea from Sabaea and after settling in Aksum for a while he heard the outcry of the people who were terrorized by the wicked Waynaba and wished to be free from bondage and fear. Angabo hearkened to the outcry and attempted to rid the land of the evil dragon.

At a time when another maiden was due to be sacrificed, Angabo mixes a special poison, feeds it to a goat, then feeds the goat to Waynaba, who in turn eats it and dies as the poison worked its way into his bowels.

The people rejoiced when news spread abroad that the Sabaeen killed Waynaba the Snake Dragon and they rewarded him by making him King of Habeshat and give him the young maiden whom he rescued to become his wife. It is said that either his daughter, or one of his descendants from this marriage, was **Makeda**, who became the legendary Queen of Sheba that traveled three thousand miles to meet King Solomon of the Kingdom of Israel.

A record list the names and reign of five of Queen Makeda's ancestors as follows: Kawnasya (1 year) > Siebado (50 years) > Giebur (100 years) > Angabo 200 years) > Makeda (? years) > **Menelik** (? years).

Note: > = begat.

References:

Kebra Negast; trans. E.A. Wallis Budge; Introduction page xliii.

Aksum: An African Civilisation of Late Antiquity, by Stuart Munro-Hay

Biblical Archaeology Society Online Archive Search: <http://members.bib-arch.org/>

The Queen of Sheba, King Solomon and their son Menelik

The ancestors of the Kings of Aksum (c. 1005-955 BC)

The events surrounding the well known legend of the **Nigist Saba/Sheba**, **Negus Solomon** and their son **Menelik** is probably one of the greatest mysteries in the world. As it involves the perceived disappearance and final resting place of the **Holy Ark of the Cevanant** has stirred up even greater mystery and intrigue for all realms in the universe.

As recorded in the annals of the Kings of Israel and the *Kebra Negast*, the virgin **Queen Makeda**, The Queen of Sheba, heard of the great wisdom and riches of King Solomon from **Tamrin**, her chief of caravans. Queen Makeda traveled thousands of miles to the Kingdom of Israel to meet King Solomon and they both grew impressed of each other's wealth, wisdom and beauty. The King eventually tricks the Queen to sleep with her and they produce a son named Bayna Lehkem or **Menelik**, which mean "Son of the Wise Man". When Menelik grows up he travels to Eyerusalem to meet his father Solomon who acknowledges him and wants to make him King of Abyssinia/Ethiopia and send the first born sons of his preists, Levites and nobles and a copy of the Ark of the Covenant with his son to set up a Kingdom there.

Eventually **Azaryas**, the son of **Zadok** the High Preist, conspired a successful heist to switch the real Ark with the duplicate and take it to Abyssinia with the caravan. Menelik was unaware of the conspiracy and switch and by the time he and his mother Makeda found out it was too late and already in their land. They came to the conclusion that if Agziabeher (The Almighty God) allowed the removal of the Ark to happen then it must be his will to have the Glory of Tsiyon (Zion) to move from Eyerusalem to Aksum.

Some skeptics say this story is a myth and never happened, others say the Ark was taken to Abyssinia at a later period in a different way. Either way, there are lots of evidence to indicate that the Ark (or a copy) did make its way up the Nile River from Elephantine Island to Lake Tana and finally to Aksum. Only Agziabeher knows the truth.

References:

1 Kings 10: 1-13; Kebra Negast; trans. E.A. Wallis Budge;

Backstories and Supporting Characters

Qeddus Yared Diaqon

Musical genius of the Aksumite Empire (c. 525 AD)

Saint Yared became known as one of the first musical geniuses to emerge after the days that **Iyesus Kristos** walked the earth. During the reign of **Negus Gebre Meskel** and the ministry of the **Tzadkan**, the Nine Saints, he revolutionized the composition of liturgical Beta Krestyan Mezmur, Church music, to more melodic beauty and lyrical devotion.

As it has been recorded, when Yared was a young boy he had difficulty memorizing the **Dawit Muzmur**- the Psalms of David- under the tutelage of **Za-Mikael Aragari**, one of the *Tzadkan*. One evening while young Yared sat under a tree sulking about his failures, he noticed a caterpillar struggling to climb the tree, falling back a few times, but it still tried again each time. Eventually the caterpillar did reach the top of the tree, and Yared saw this as a sign from **Agziabeher Amlak** (Agzio) to never give up. Young Yared became encouraged to return to his tutors and miraculously he was able to memorize the Psalms in a short space of time. The boy then grew to be a well accomplished musician of several instruments and a singer with a beautiful voice that captivated all that heard it.

There is a story concerning Qeddus Yared about an occasion when Negus Gebre Meskel summoned Yared and his musicians to the royal court to minister in music. The Negus was so captivated by Yared's voice as he sang that he did not realize that he had pierced Yared's foot with the end of his royal spear. At the same time Qeddus Yared was so enraptured while singing the songs that he did not even feel the Negus' spear pierced his foot and continued singing until the end when they both realized what had happened, the Negus hastily pulls out the spear and only then Yared's foot started bleeding. Ofcourse, eventually Yared's foot was healed and all was well.

In his collection of hymns, *Mezgeba Degwa*, Qeddus Yared stated that he learned the music from **Agzio** himself, influenced by His *Qeddus Manfes*, the Holy Spirit.

References:

DACB; www.dacd.org/stories/ethiopia/yared_.html

Henock the Prophet

Antedelugian Prophet that walked with Agziabeher (c. 5000 BC)

One of the first and most ancient of the writing prophets of **Agziabeher** was **Henock**, the one who walked and communed with the Almighty One for 300 years on the Earth then was taken up to **Mengist Semayat**—The Kingdom of Heaven—out of the sight of mankind.

As written in the oracles that bare his name, Henock was the first prophet to write of the coming of the Elect One of Agziabeher, the holy Meshiach, which is Iyesus Krestos, the one who shall come to Earth in the last days with his Yasemay Mel'akt—His Heavenly Host of Angels and Saints—to execute judgement on the wicked and purge the Earth with fire.

As confirmed in the brief oracle of **Yihuda** (Jude 14-15), Henock wrote, *“Behold the Lord comes with ten thousand of his saints, to execute judgement upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”* - (Enoch 1:9).

The oracles of Henock tells of many accounts of awesome visions and heavenly journeys the prophet experienced while in the presence of Agzio, including trips to Semayat where he saw magnificent mountains of precious stones, the Tree of Life, pillars of fire, the seven Liq Mel'akt (Arch Angels) of antiquity and even the dark abyss and fires of punishment.

It was during the days of his father **Yared** that about 200 Mel'akt—later called **The Watchers**—led by **Shemihazah** broke the commands of Agzio by leaving Semayat to have malevolent offspring with women of Earth and teach mankind evil deeds. It was Henock that first testified against the Watchers and prophesied that their offspring must be destroyed, the Watchers must be imprisoned in the abyss until judgement day and that Agzio will destroy the world with a deluge of water, saving only his grandson **Noah** and his family with the animals in the great Ark.

According to the **Book of Yashar**, Henock was made a King among the people of Earth and reigned in wisdom and righteousness, teaching the holy and *Upright Way* to those that will listen. Because he walked so close in the presence of Agziabeher his face and body glowed with brightness and the people were reverent and convicted of their trespasses in his presence. When it was time for him to be taken up *“Henoch ascended into Semayat in a whirlwind, with horses and chariots of fire.”* in the presence of many witnesses. - (Jasher 3:1-38)

Gen 5:21-23; The Book of Enoch by Nickelsburg; **Jasher (1840); Jubilees; Jude 14-15**

Illustrations of Legendary Figures of Ancient Abyssinia



Waynaba Arwe-Zendowu
The Snake-Dragon that terrorized Aksum.



Prince Angabo the Sabaeen

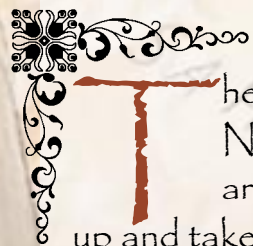
Abeto Angabo Sabaeen.
Prince Angobo the Sabaean/Sheban
Sailing in his ship from Saba/Sheba
to Habeshat/Abbyssinia.



Makeda, Nigist Saba enna Lij Menelik I
(Makeda, The Queen of Sheba and her son Menelik I, son of King Solomon)

The Battle of the Nubian Kingdoms

By J.M. Griffith 'Matiyas' © 2006, 2008



The Nubian Kingdoms of Alodia, Makuria and Nabotia, which are under Aksumite Sovereign rule, are at the brink of civil war and threatened to be split up and taken over. Sinister forces from the Higher Realms of Egyptus has seduced King Basiliskos of Nabotia to war against Makuria and Alodia to take them over and cut them off from the influence of Aksum. If Egyptus and Nabotia defeats Makuria and Alodia, Aksum will be in danger of being attacked and overthrown.

With the aid of Abba Shiloh and Queen Amanikaditede with her Alodian Madjay army, Mekonnen joins forces with the Makurian Madjay army of King Shakanos and finds himself in the midst of great battle that involve the Realms of Earth and the Cosmos. They will soon discover the shocking truth behind the chaos and the various strategies and counter attacks it will take to win this battle.

In the midst of the schism, Mekonnen struggles with his new calling from Agzio to endure in living the upright life of The Way and understanding the power of the Armour of Agziabeher.

--Matiyas



The three kingdom provinces of Nubia in conjunction with Egyptus and Aksum, 6th century AD.

Kandake Amanikaditede

Warrior Queen of Alodia and Meroë

Reign: 538 -556 AD

Other Names: Kandake is also spelled as "Candace", title for Warrior Queen of the Kushite/Nubian Kingdoms

Languages: Nubian, Meroetic, Greek, Geez, Egyptian (Coptic).

Ethnicity: Nubian

Major-Group: Kushitic (Hamitic)

Symbol: Spear-Toothed Tiger

Height: 6' 0"

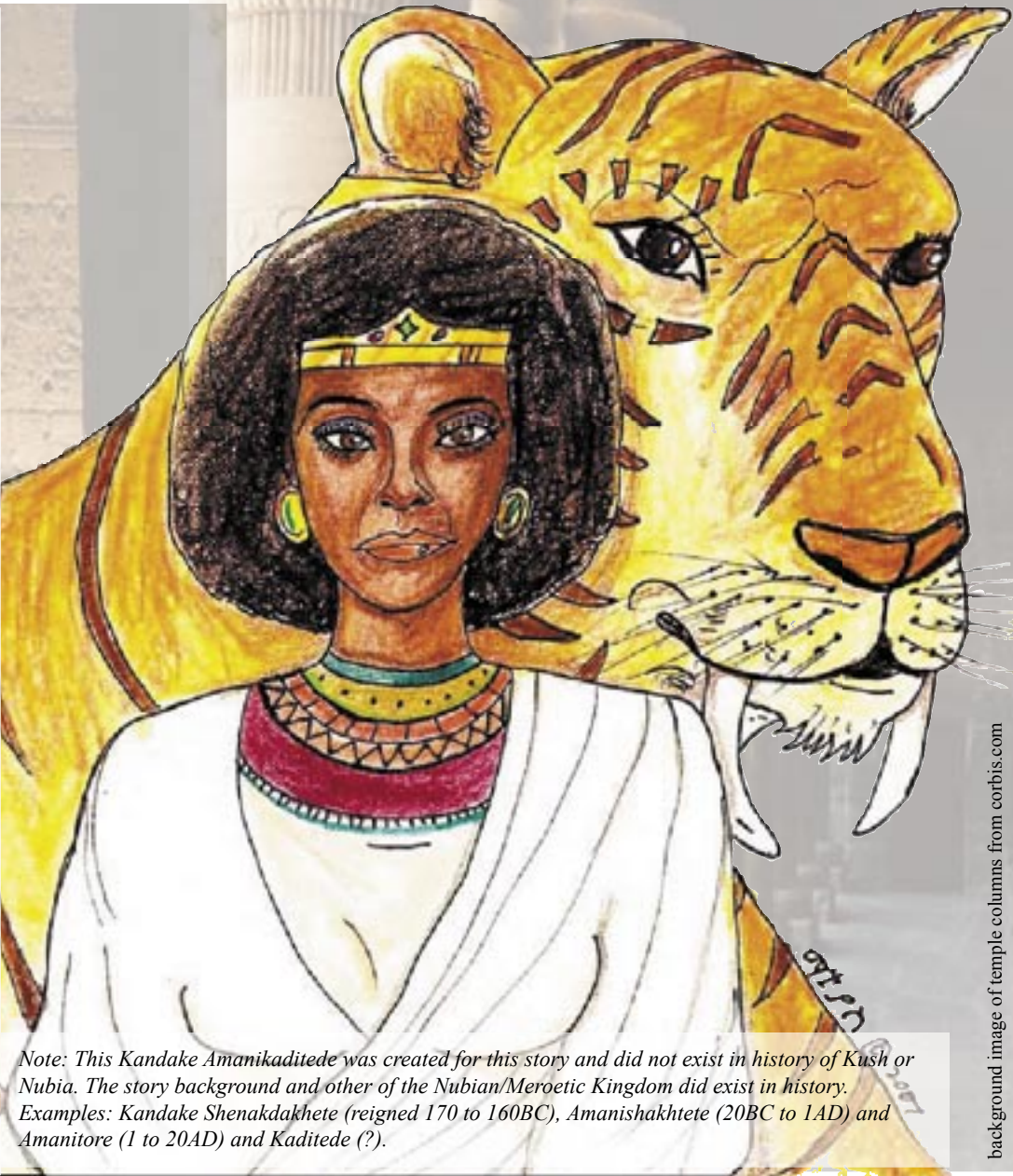
Weapons: Spears, Swords, Daggers, Bow and arrow.

Special Abilities: Ruler of South Nubian province of Alodia (Alwa). Commander-in-chief of the Alodia Army, Lead soldiers into battle. One on on fighting skills and sciences of ancient Kemet (Egypt) and Kush. Great War Strategist. Skilled in battle, mounted upon War Elephant or on foot.

Kandake Amanikaditede is the enigmatic and outspoken Queen of the Alodian Kingdom which is a vassal state ruled by the Kingdom of Aksum in the 6th century AD. Descended from a long line of Warrior Queens of the Kingdom of Kush for more than a thousand years, Amanikaditede is skilled in battle techniques and war strategy.

By the time Mekonnen, Shiloh and Jallel-Yohannes arrive into the realms of her kingdom, her husband the King, who was of the royal family in Aksum, had passed away under mysterious circumstances. The three Aksumites approach Her Majesty Amanikaditede to form an alliance with King Shakanos of the Kingdom of Makuria to defend themselves against the impending attack from King Basiliskos and his Nobatian army. But the Kandake may have ulterior motives with plans of her own to conquer all the surrounding kingdoms, including Aksum, and revive the old Nubian/Kushitic Kingdom to the size and splendor it once was in ancient times, spanning from Meroe to Egypt.

Will the Kandake use the pleas from the Aksumites as an opportunity to seize the Kingdoms that were once ruled by the ancient Kushites, or will she help them assist their Makurian neighbours, defend the borders and be content with the modest realm she rules now?



Note: This Kandake Amanikaditede was created for this story and did not exist in history of Kush or Nubia. The story background and other of the Nubian/Meroetic Kingdom did exist in history. Examples: Kandake Shenakdakhete (reigned 170 to 160BC), Amanishakhete (20BC to 1AD) and Amanitore (1 to 20AD) and Kaditede (?).



The Kandake Amanikaditede welcomes her guests with salutations, “Selamta! I am pleased to have you all, Warrior Mekonnen, Bahetawi Abba Shiloh and Lord Jalleel here in the province of Alodia to assist us in fighting, and winning, this war...

The Kandake enquires to Mekonnen, “So tell me young Habesha warrior, how many battles have you fought in your life time?”

“Oh, A few, your Highness.” He replies modestly.

“Well, you are only about 20 years old, I can imagine you have been in about a handful of battles, if any at all.”

Not ready to boast about his experiences, Mekonnen replies sagely,

“One battle is enough to last for a lifetime in the hearts of men.”

“You have spoken with wisdom. Though the kingdom of Aksum has been at peace for some time.” Adds Kandake, then she continued, not ashamed to boast,

“I, on the other hand, have been in many battles and have many cuts and bruises to prove it. And I look forward to seeing more battles. I also long to see the reestablishment of the Kingdom of Meroe. Oh, the grand kingdom of the Nubian people that was loved and feared from Egypt to Punt. The glorious empire of the Kushites that was renowned throughout the world, from Greece to Babylonia, and from the Pillars of Hercules to beyond the source of the Nile River!”

Mekonnen notices a crescendo in the Kandake’s voice and the excitement in her expressions. He can sense she has become power hungry, as the rulers of most kingdoms do...



Map of Alodia and other Nubian Kingdoms



References:

Wikipedia.com: Search Kandake (Candace) and Nubia, List of monarchs of Kush.

Medival Nubia by P.L. Shinnie, 1954

Ethiopian Eunuch under Candace, Queen of Cushites/ Ethiopians - Acts 8:27

Ancient Name Galleria: www.geocities.com/mariamnephilemon/names/libya/kush.html?200824

King Shækanos

King of Makuria

Reign: 535 -559 AD

Name Meaning: Unknown

Languages: Dongolawi, Nubian, Greek, Egyptian (Coptic).

Ethnicity: Nubian

Major-Group: Kushitic (Hamitic)

Symbol: Cheetah/Leopard

Height: 6' 4"

Weapons: Spears, Swords, Bow and arrow.

Special Abilities: Ruler of middle Nubian province of Makuria (Maqurra). One on one fighting skills of the ancient Kemet(Egypt) and Kush.

Noble King Shækanos is in a serious predicament. His realm is caught between two rival provinces; Nobatia is invading from the north under commands from King Basiliskos and Alodia from the south lead by Queen Amanikaditede. Rumour has it that Basiliskos has hordes of Egyptian forces with him, while the Kandake may actually be coming to aid Shakanos in battle with Aksumites by her side. Yet Shakanos is suspicious that his friends to the south may also be his enemies, knowing Amanikaditede's character, she may have ulterior motives of overtaking Makuria. As for the Aksumites, who are the strong rulers of the Horn of Africa at this time, they may be planning to overthrow and make Makuria a part of there empire.

Mekonnen, Shiloh and Yohannes try to assure King Shakanos that Aksum has no plans to capture his realm, in fact Gebre Meskel has not even sent troops yet and is waiting to see what happens at the borders of Makuria and Nobatia first before making a decision about sending mercenaries. Nevertheless, Shakanos is still suspicious as the fate of his kingdom lies in the balance.

Note: This King Shakanos was created for this story and did not exist in history of Makuria in Nubia. The story background and other rulers of Nubian Kingdom did exist in history. I compiled the name Shakanos from real rulers of Makuria like King Shakanda and Greek influenced names like Merkurios and Markos.

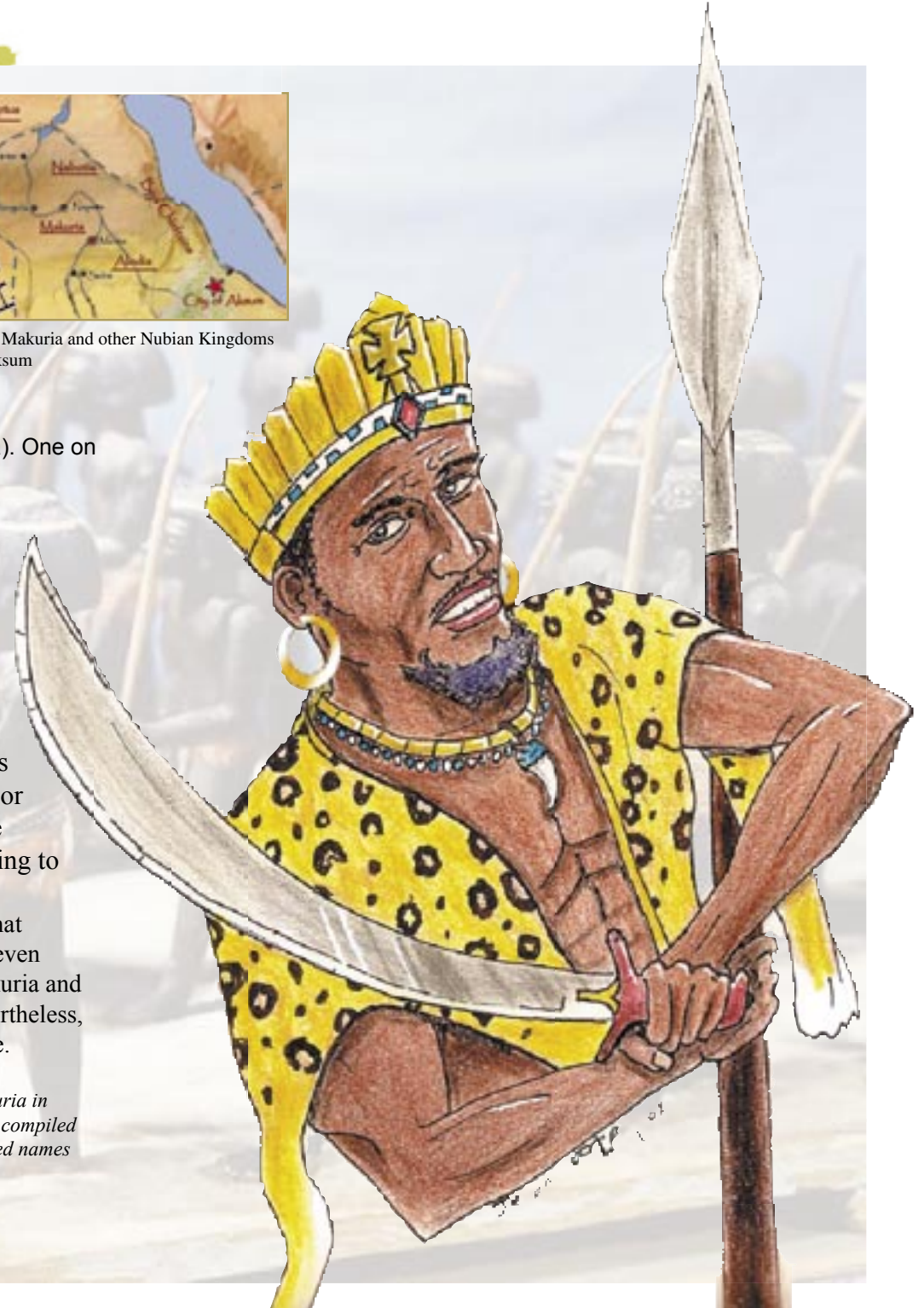
References:

Wikipedia.com: Search Makuria and Nubia, List of Makurian Rulers

Medival Nubia by P.L. Shinnie, 1954



Map of Makuria and other Nubian Kingdoms with Aksum



background image of Nubian Archers from <http://wysinger.homestead.com/nubianarchers.html>

King Basiliskos

King of Nobatia

Reign: 525 -549 AD (approximate 24 years)

Name Meaning: *Basiliskos* (Grk) = The Sovereign One

Languages: Noba, Greek, Egyptian (Coptic), Nubian, Arabic.

Ethnicity: Nobatian

Major Group: Hamitic

Symbol: Cobra Snake

Height: 5' 11"

Weapons: Swords,

Special Abilities: King of Nobatian province, under influence/possession of forces from a mysterious unknown source. One on one fighting skills of ancient Kemet (Egypt) and Kush.

King Basiliskos—also called *Little Snake*—was a well known and respected ruler of the northern Nubian kingdom of Nobatia. For years he ruled in peace and executed righteous judgment to his people and lived in peace and goodwill with his neighbouring kingdoms of Egypt, Makuria, Alodia and Aksum. He also had good personal relations with Negus Gebre Meskel, Kandake Amanikaditede, Abuna Exlexian and Abba Shiloh. It seemed strange and suspicious that suddenly he decides to put a heavy yoke on his subjects and made an alliance with Agents of Darkness to accompany him in a violent invasion of Makuria. Alodia and Aksum were next in his southern path of destruction.

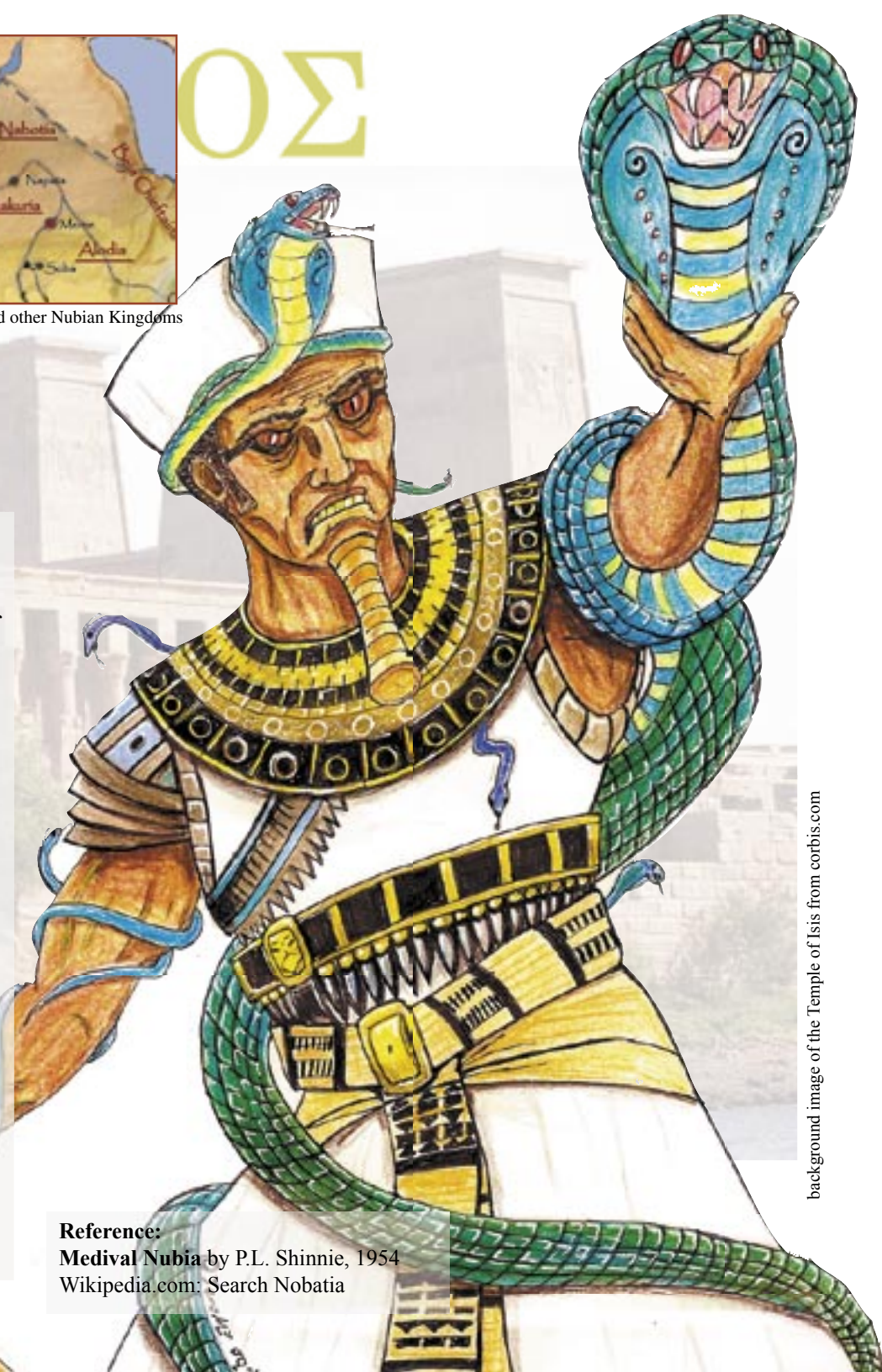
When Mekonnen and Abba Shiloh manage to infiltrate their way into the Realms of Nobatian they notice that lately King Basiliskos has been wearing a crown with Cobra Snake of crafted gold on the front in the style of the Egyptian Pharaohs. The King now seems to have a liking for an abundance of snakes and vipers in his throne room, even having them slithering over his body. Even his usual palace ministers and attendants have either been forced into submission or replaced by sinister characters that lurk about the Nobatian palace halls with ill intent in their postures and glances.

This seems suspicious to Shiloh and he suspects there may be a connection to the King's sudden change in behavior and may hint at his new allegiance to malicious powers. Has King Basiliskos conjured up this madness on his own, or is he just a pawn, a puppet king controlled by higher powers?

Note: King Basiliskos was a real king that ruled Nobatia of northern Nubia in the 6th century AD. The events and wars were created for this story for dramatic purposes. There is no record of King Basiliskos going mad or starting wars in Nubia or anywhere else in the world.



Map of Nobatia and other Nubian Kingdoms with Egyptus.



Reference:

Medival Nubia by P.L. Shinnie, 1954
Wikipedia.com: Search Nobatia



Name Meaning: Unknown
Languages: Egyptian (Coptic), Ancient Egyptian, Geez, Nubian, Noba, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Persian.
Ethnicity: Greek/Egyptian
Sub-Group: Mixed parentage: Greek father and Egyptian mother.
Symbol: The Cross
Height: 6' 1"
Weapons: None
Special Abilities: Knowledge of the sacred oracles and other secret writings. Arch Bishop appointed by Coptic Church in Egypt as leader of priests and monks of Aksum.

Abuna Exlexian is the Arch Bishop of the Abyssinian Orthodox Beta Krestiyān, appointed by the Lead Arch Bishop of the headquarters in Alexandria, Egypt. He is in charge of all the priests, monks and deacon in the Kingdom of Aksum and all its territories in Nubia and South Arabia.

He is much honoured and highly acclaimed for his knowledge of the *Qeddus Manfes* and the ancient Oracles of the Prophets, Holy men and Mystics. Many miracles and wonders have also been reported to have been performed by his hands, including prophetic saying and words of knowledge.

Abuna Exlexian was in the Kingdom of Aksum when the assassination attempt was made on Negus Gebre Mesqel's life during a Timkat festival and was one of the spiritual leaders responsible for maintaining spiritual stability within the royal family and the citizens of Aksum.

As tensions rise within the Realms and Aksum and the battle of the Nubian Kingdoms escalate into chaos, it turns out the Abuna Exlexian may inhibit a key factor that will determine the outcome of this war.

Abuna Exlexian

Arch Bishop from the Egyptian Coptic Church

Note: Abuna Exlexian is a fictional character created for this story and does not represent any of the real Abunas, monks or preists of Aksum or Abyssinnia.



Manfesawi Seifu

The Sword of The Spirit
that was granted unto
Mekonnen, Son of Sofaniyas,
Warrior of Light
from the Kingdom Realm of Aksum.

Forged and fashioned in the Realms of *Mengist Semayat* by *ZaAgzio Melakt* (Angels/ Messengers of Agzio), in the flames from the Mountains of Fire at the foot of *Tarrar Tsiyon* is the powerful *Manfesawi Seifu*—The Sword of the Spirit. This is the same *Tarrar Tsiyon* where the *Qeddus Kristos*, The Elect One, sits at the right hand of HIS father, The Almighty *Agziabeher*, from whence He intercedes and fights as a warrior in defence of HIS people, *Yeshurun*, the Upright Ones, who are the Warriors of Light, and other Servants of Agzio.

The *Manfesawi Qeddus Seifu* is the Sword of the Spirit of Agzio, the blade of which is strong and sharper than any two edged sword. It is a living blade that is alive with the words of Agzio as when he spoke it into existence by His *Ruach*, his breathe of life and power. It is translucent in appearance yet as solid as diamond, and sturdier than any metal of Earth. The Words of Agzio can be seen moving up and down through it by who so ever is granted to wield the Sword.

It is said to move like “living water”. When active it glows brightly, but sometimes it does not shine but looks like a transparent blade as clear as jasper. At other times it may look like a normal sword with regular steel blade, particularly when he who is in possession of the *Manfesawi Seifu* is not using the oracles of Agzio in battle or not operating in the spirit at the time. It operates with and through the body, soul and spirit of the *ZeBerhanen Torenya* (Warrior of Light) as it communicates with *Selassie*—The Trium Godhead of Abbat *Agziabeher*, *Kristos* and *Manfes Qeddus*.

If Warrior *Mekonnen* is not awakened spiritually the *Seif* may reveal the words on blade to warn, admonish and encourage. The handle is finely crafted and engraved by *Melakt* to the likeness of the cultural designs of he who has been granted the sword. *Mekonnen's* *Seif* has a golden handle that has been skillfully engraved with the figures of a Lion's head on one side and a Ram/Lamb's head on the other side. These two figures represent the dual nature of *Iyesus Krestos*, the Elect One of *Agziabaher*, as the Lamb of Agzio offers as a sacrifice for the iniquities of mankind, and as the fierce, ruling Lion (*Anbessa*) of the tribe of *Yihuda*, conquering the enemies of those that oppose the *Yasher Sodi*, the Upright Way, and ruler over HIS *Yeshurun*, the Upright Ones, in peace and justice.

In the center of the handle is a multicoloured precious stone that radiates the colours of the rainbow that encircle the throne of *Agziabeher*.

There are many other spiritual weapons and articles of warfare: bows and arrows, spears, hammers and battle axes. This particular weapon has been custom made for *Mekonnen*, son of *Sofaniyas*, for use in spiritual warfare against the Armies of Darkness. With this sword the bearer is encouraged to wear the full Armour of Agzio, which include the Helmet of Salvation, Breastplate of Righteousness, Shield of Faith, Belt of Truth, and Sandals of Readiness to be commissioned for the mission. As warriors now enlisted in the Armies of Light, Swords and other spiritual weapons most not be used against the flesh and blood of the innocent. The Sword will harm, destroy or convict the guilty, the Hooded Ones, the fallen Watchers, and Prince *Mastemo* and his army ranks.

May he who wields *Manfesawi Seifu* be strong and courageous in battle.

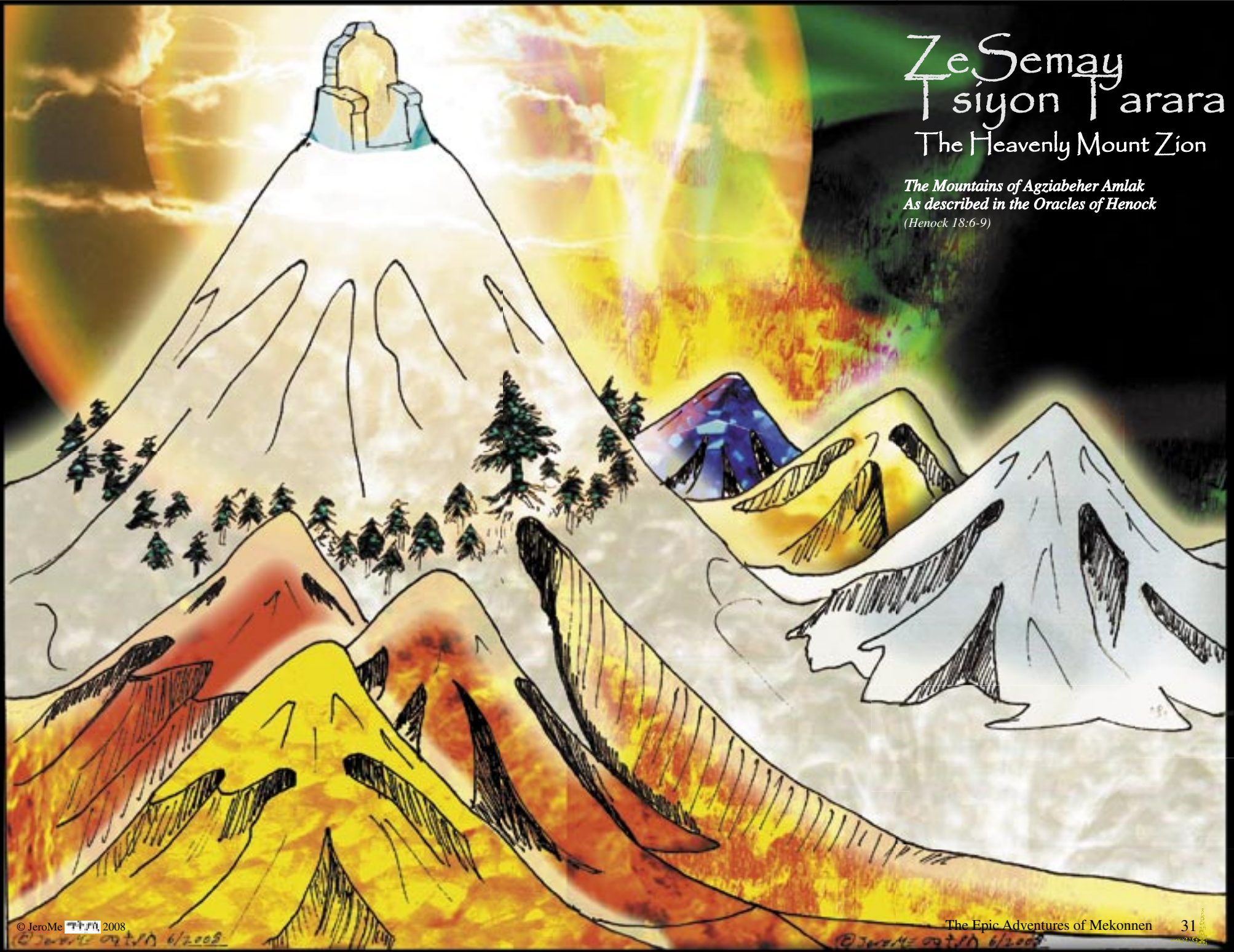
Ephesians 6:11-18; Heb 4:12; Isaiah 59:17; Gen 3:24; Deut 32:41; Isaiah 21:1; Josh 5:13.



Illuminated Pyramids of Giza at night. provided by corbis.com, photograph by Frans Lemmens

Ze Semay Tsiyon Tarara The Heavenly Mount Zion

*The Mountains of Agziabeher Amlak
As described in the Oracles of Henock
(Henock 18:6-9)*



Abba Yaqob Endalkachew

Mysterious Bahetawi residing in Eyerusalem

Name Meaning: *Yaqob (Heb)*= Supplanter, Yah Protect; *Endalkachew (Eth)* = Tell them what to do.

Languages: Geez, Hebrew, Aramaic, Sabaeen. Egyptian (Coptic), Greek, Latin, Persian

Ethnicity: Habesha/ Beta Israel

Major-Group: (Hamito-Semitic)

Symbol: Scales that weigh the balance

Accessories: Prayer Stick, Breastplate of 12 precious stone, Anceint Oracles written on scrolls and codices.

Special Abilities: Revealer of secrets and counsel to the servants of the Almighty One. Interpreter of dreams, mysteries and the signs of the times. Abides in secret passageways under Mount of Tsiyon.

After fighting alongside the Nubian warriors against the Armies of Basiliskos, Mekonnen was instructed by Abba Shiloh to enter the holy city of Eyerusalem secretly and seek the counsel of Abba Yaqob Endalkachew, a mysterious holy man that abides in *ZeTsiyon Tarara / Mount Zion*.

This Abba Yaqob, a former Bahetawi from Abyssinia and a friend of Abba Shiloh, is to give sound counsel and instructions to Mekonnen and other Warriors of Light, in this second phase of the epic adventure which pits the Warriors directly against Prince Mastemo and his growing army. The council is hidden deep within secret tunnels and catacombs under Mount Tsiyon as to be safe from infiltration and deceit from spies of Mastemo that may lurk within the city walls of Eyerusalem and just beyond the Hinnom Valley in the *Hill of Evil Council*.

Dressed in the ephod, breastplate and robe of a Levite priest, he seems to wear the garment to signify a deeper and broad meaning to the Levitical priesthood of the former Kingdom of Israel. Mekonnen heard a rumour that Abba Yaqob may be descended from the Levites that were sent to Abyssinia with Negus Menelik, son of Negus Solomon, to set up the *Way of the Upright* in the land of the Queen of Sheba. Another rumor is that he really represents the more ancient priesthood after the *Order of Melchitzedek*. No one really knows and no one is brave, or disrespectful enough, to ask.

Therefore the true origin and history of Abba Yaqob is a mystery. Only things that are sure about him is that *Warriors of Light* seek him to be blessed with spirit, oil and sound guidance for cosmic warfare. It is at this *Council at ZeTsiyon Tarara* where Mekonnen meets and join forces with Abner the Benyamite, Rabel the Nabataean and Iassai the Macedonian.

Gen 14:18-20; Exodus 28: 15-30; Heb 7:1-28; Deut 33: 8; Rev 21:19-20
Kebra Nagast 43, pg 62

© 2008



This character's face was drawn in the likeness of Israel Endalkachew, 2008

Photographs of Jerusalem (Jerusalem)



The Temple Court in Jerusalem, photograph by Joel E. A. Griffith, 2008



Buildings in Jerusalem, photograph by Joel E. A. Griffith, 2008

Abner Ben Zebadiyah

Benyamite Warrior from Yihuda

Name Meaning: *Abner* = My Father is the light; *Ben Zebadiyah* = Son of Gift of Yah(weh)

Languages: Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic, Egyptian.

Ethnicity: Israelite from tribe of Benjamin

Major-Group: Hebrew (Semitic)

Symbol: Twin Wolves (Ze'èb): *Sar and Gá'al* = *Prince and Redeemer*

Height: 5' 10"

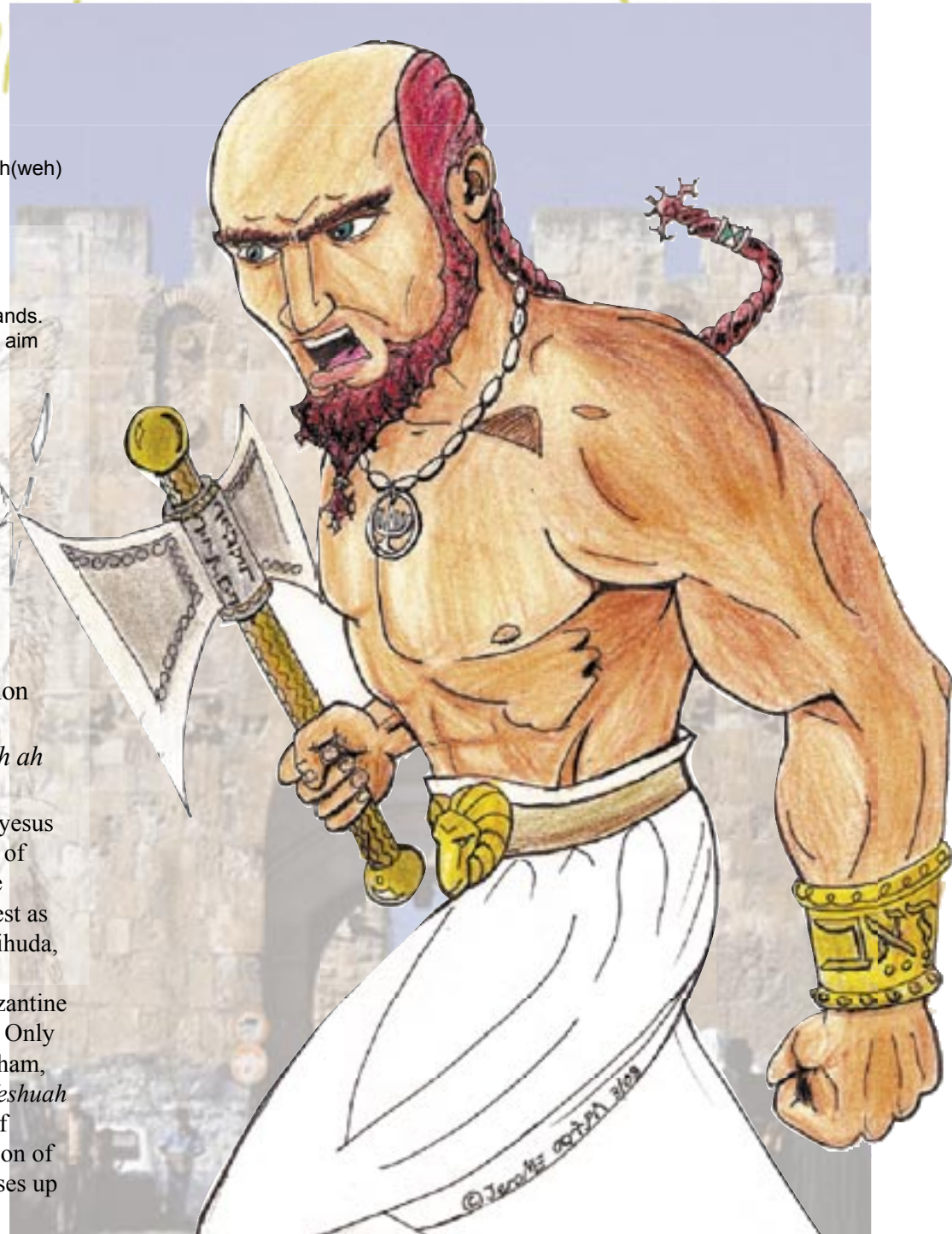
Weapons: Sling shot in left hand, Axe in the right hand, Bow and arrows in both hands.

Special Abilities: Left handed (Ambidextrous), Strong arms, Fierce Warrior, Great aim with the sling shot.

Abner is a Hebrew from the tribe of Benjamin and is descended from a line of left handed warriors as recorded in the sacred oracles of his people (*1 Chronicles 12:2*). Ironically, Benjamin means “*son of my right hand*”. Abner takes pride in the history of his country and tribe. The first king of Israel, Saul, was a Benyamite and so was the Apostle Paulos who wrote letters that became 12 books of the New Sacred Oracles and first took the good news of the *Upright Way* to Europa. Also, the Holy City of Eyerusalem is located in the region of Benjamin and they are closely linked to the tribe of Yehudah, from which came the Anointed One, *Iyesus Krestos*, Whom they call *Yeshuah ah Meshiach*.

Though as a nation the Israelites of Yihuda (Judea) have rejected Iyesus as their Messiah because they did not realize that he arrived in the fullness of time as written in the Psalms and the Prophets, a remnant of Hebrews have accepted Iyesus Krestos as the Elect Chosen One, Elohim/YHWH manifest as man. Abner Ben Zebadiyah is part of that remnant, serving as a soldier in Yihuda, region the Byzantine Empire renamed as Palestina.

Unfortunately, Eyerusalem is almost desolate and occupied by Byzantine rulers, and many Hebrews are scattered abroad to the nations of the world. Only a few remain in the Holy Land that was promised to their forefathers Abraham, Ishaq and Yaqob in ancient times and even fewer remain that believe in *Yeshuah ah Meshiach* in secrecy. Looming in the *Hill of Evil Council* to the south of Yihuda are conspirators in service to *Mastemo*, that evil accuser of the nation of Israel since ancient times. *Mastemo* is brewing troubles in the east as he rises up



the last of the Nephilim, malevolent giants of old, and stirs up the Kingdom of Persia to attack the nations of the earth and stop the spreading of the Righteous Ways of The Almighty One to the rest of the world.

Abner teams up with Mekonnen the Aksumite and Rabbel the Nabataean to embark on a grand adventure through the kingdoms of the east and stop the evil devices of Mastemo and his Legions. With sling shot in left hand and Battle Axe in his right hand, Abner is ready to smash the heads of Mastemo's diabolical army. But he must remember that it's not by his might nor by the power of his strong arms, but by the Spirit of the Almighty Creator.

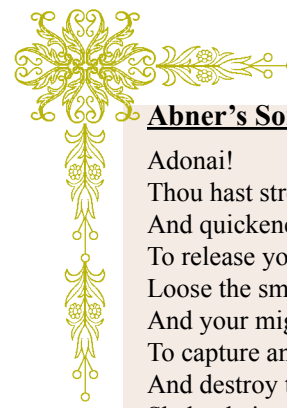
Key Bible Verses

Benjamin shall ravine as a wolf. – Gen 49: 27

Ehud, left handed, kills King Eglon – Judges 3: 14-23

Able to sling stones and use bow and arrow with both hands - 1 Chron 12:2

Zebadiah, Benyamite warrior – 1 Chron 12:7; The Benjamin Gate – Zech 14:10



Abner's Song

Adonai!

Thou hast strengthened my right hand
And quickened my left arm

To release your swift arrows to the east
Loose the smooth stones to the south

And your mighty Battle Axe to the north
To capture and subdue the Evil ones.

And destroy their hiding places and idols.
Shake their tents like a Ravenous Wolf.

Yet my strength is no match for you might
O Lord, Adonai

By your mighty hand
And a stretched out arm

You make war
Break the enemy to pieces

By signs and wonders you cause confusion
Among the wicked Powers and Principalities

In secret abodes, and in high places
Like when you brought my forefathers

The Israelites, out of the land of Misraim
Out of bondage and oppression

In the land of Egypt

By a Pharaoh that considered not the ancient treaty
With our deliverer Yosef

My brother and saviour.

By the hand of Moshe and Yeshua

You reveal the Meshiach

The Lion of the Tribe of Yehuda.

He shall fight for his people

Like he fought in the day of battle at Jericho.

With the breath of your mouth, Adonai

The evil ones shall know your glory

They that encompass the Holy City

As you thread the winepress of your wrath

With your glistening sword in hand

And a consuming fire from on high

The Armies of Darkness shall be destroyed

And be made desolate.

You lift up a standard in Mount Zion

Thy glorious throne forever.



Map of Yihuda/Palestina



The Temple Court in Jerusalem, photograph by Joel E. A. Griffith, 2008

Rabbel ibn Mansur

Nabataean Warrior from Petra

Name Meaning: Rabbel = Unknown (see glossary on page 67);

ibn Mansur = Son of the Divinely Victorious

Languages: Nabataean Arabic, Greek, Aramaic, Hebrew, Persian, Sabaeen.

Ethnicity: From tribes Nabaioth and Saba (Sheba)

Major-Group: Arabic (Hamito-Semitic)

Symbol: Eagle (Nesser)

Height: 6' 3"

Weapons: Bow and Arrows, Scimitar Swords.

Special Abilities: Excellent shot with the Bow and Arrow, Scimitar (Curved sword); Knows the ways of survival and secret passage ways and hideaways in the desert. Dark and mysterious. Elusiveness,

Rabbel ibn Mansur is from the Nabataean Kingdom of the Arabian mountains bordering to the east and south of Judea. Nabataeans are masters of the desert, traders of frankincense, myrrh, incense, gold and spices renowned through out the whole known world. An elusive people with a mysterious past concerning their origins and a progressive spirituality that have strange connections and similarities to the anticipation of a coming *Messiah* as written in the prophecies of the ancient Hebrews. Centuries ago the Nabataean order of Priest-Kings the *mukarribs* –also from the Sabaeans – revealed an ancient mystery of the coming of *Dhu-Sharat*, the “anointed one” who shall descent upon the mountains.

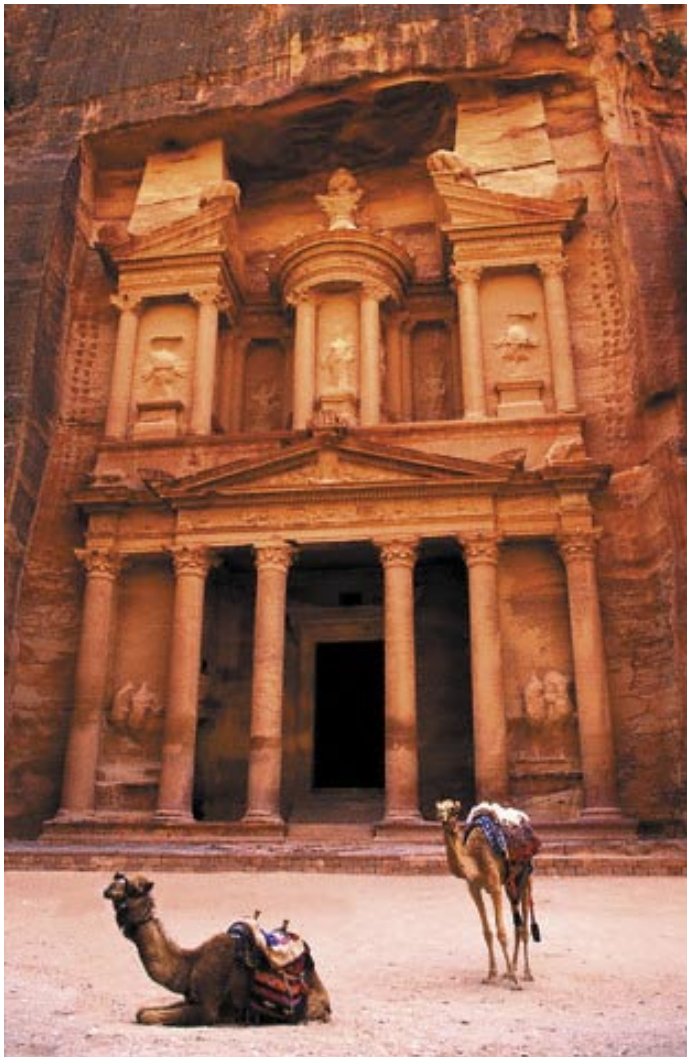
Their culture and skills suggest strong influence and roots from the Nebaioth, descendants from the first son of Ishmael, and the Sabaeans, cultivators of frankincense plants in the fertile countries of southern Arabia. There rock hewed cities of Petra, Shivta, and Bostra, to the south of Yihuda (Judea) and east of the Dead Sea are awesome and beyond compare.

The ancient Sun Mysteries of Saba is what lead Rabbel and his people to come to the full realization that *Iyesus Kristus* is the one and only *Dhu-sharat* that shall save humanity. Putting aside their worship of the sun, moon and stars, Nabataeans were among the first group of people to except the life, death and resurrection of Iyesus Krestos, closely followed by the conversion of the Habesha Kingdom of Aksum.

Rabbel brings the skills of his people of desert survival, knowing many secret hiding places in cisterns, underground caves and passageways, his quiet demeanor, quickness and excellent archery skills from his Nebaioth ancestors.

He quickly bonds with Mekonnen and Abner because of there common belief in the *Dhu-sharat*, the Messiah Iyesus Krestos, and their common enemy in Mastemo, the adversary of the servants of the Almighty One.





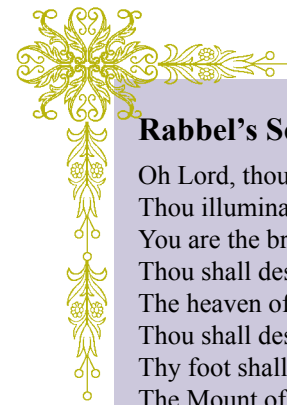
Photos of “The Treasury” in Petra by Tony Craddock and Paule Seax. corbis.com

Reference:

The Lost Civilization of Petra, by Udi Levi, 1996
 Petra and the Lost Kingdom of the Nabataeans by Jane Taylor, 2001
 www.sudairy.com



Map of Nabataean Kingdom



Rabbel’s Song:

Oh Lord, thou art brighter than the sun by day
 Thou illuminate the night sky more than the moon
 You are the brightest among the stars
 Thou shall descend from on high
 The heaven of heavens, the sky of skies
 Thou shall descend and set thy feet upon the mountain
 Thy foot shall split the mountain in two
 The Mount of Olives
 Thou shall cleave the mountain
 Making a valley from east to west
 Leading to the Holy City
 Yerusalem, city of David
 The Holy Mountain
 Mount Zion
 The Mountain of God
 Thou art the one and only *Dhu-Shara*
 The one and only Messiah
 As revealed in the ancient Oracles
 The ancient scrolls
 The one and only Priest-King
 Iyesus Krestos
 King of the Mountains
 King from on high
 King of the deserts
 King of the seven seas
 King from the sky
 Yehoshua ah Mashiach
 King of Kings, Lord of Lords
 Prince of Peace.

Key verses:

House of Rechabites – Jer 35:6;
Priest-Kings – Rev 1:6; Rev 5:10; Matt 19:28; 1 Peter 2:9.
 Melchizedek – Gen 14: 18-20; Heb 7; Heb 8:1-3.
Messiah descends on Mountain – Zech 14:4; Ps 48:1 |
The Arrows of God - Ps 64: 7-10; Ps 45:3-5
The Sun, Moon and Stars – Ps 72:17; Ps 84:11; Ps 89:34-37; Ps 148:
 3-4.

Together Mekonnen, Abner and Rabbel are...

Zion Three

A Threefold Cord

*"If one prevail against him, two shall withstand him,
and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*

--Ecclesiastes 4:12



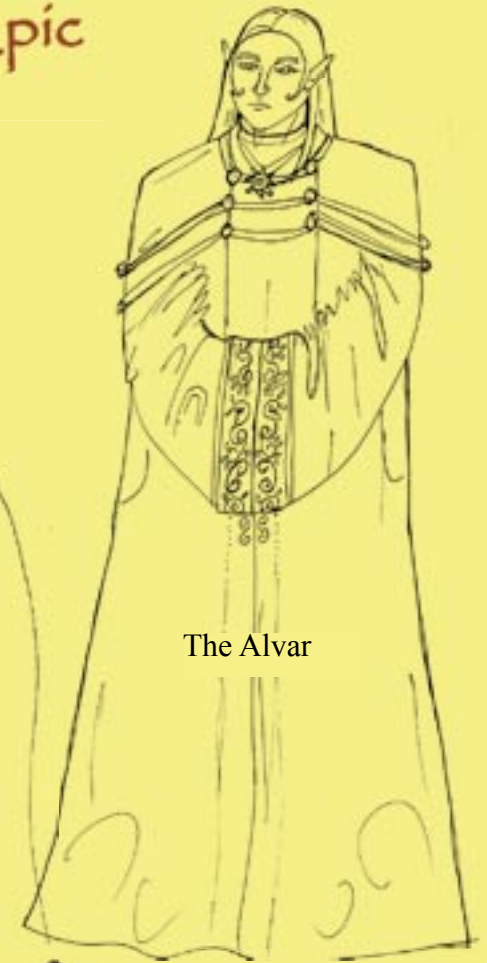
More Characters in the Mekonnen Epic



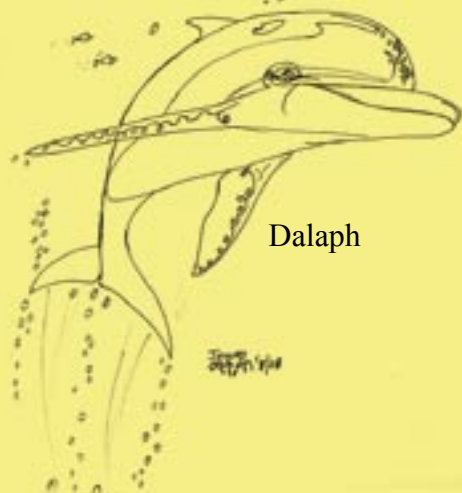
Liq Melak
Mikael



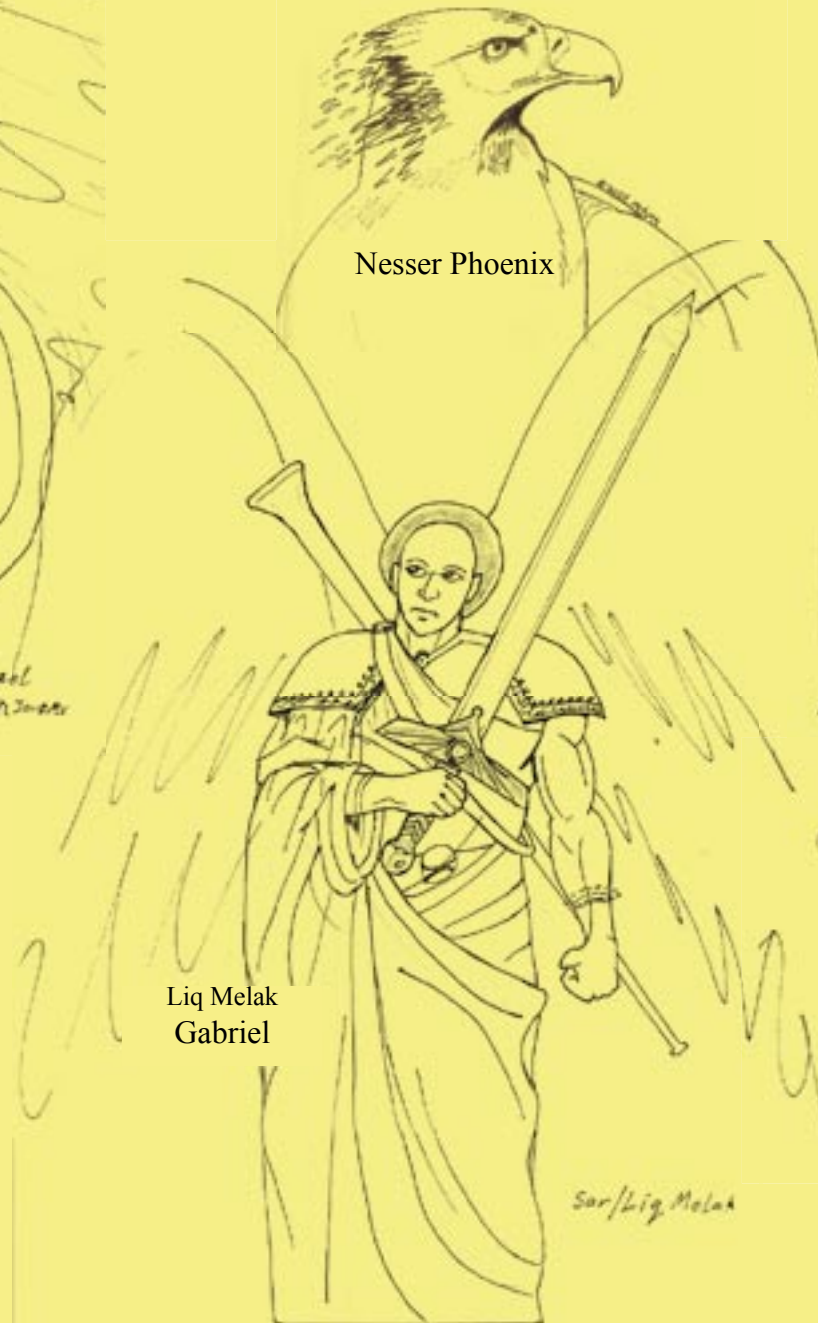
Nesser Phoenix



The Alvar



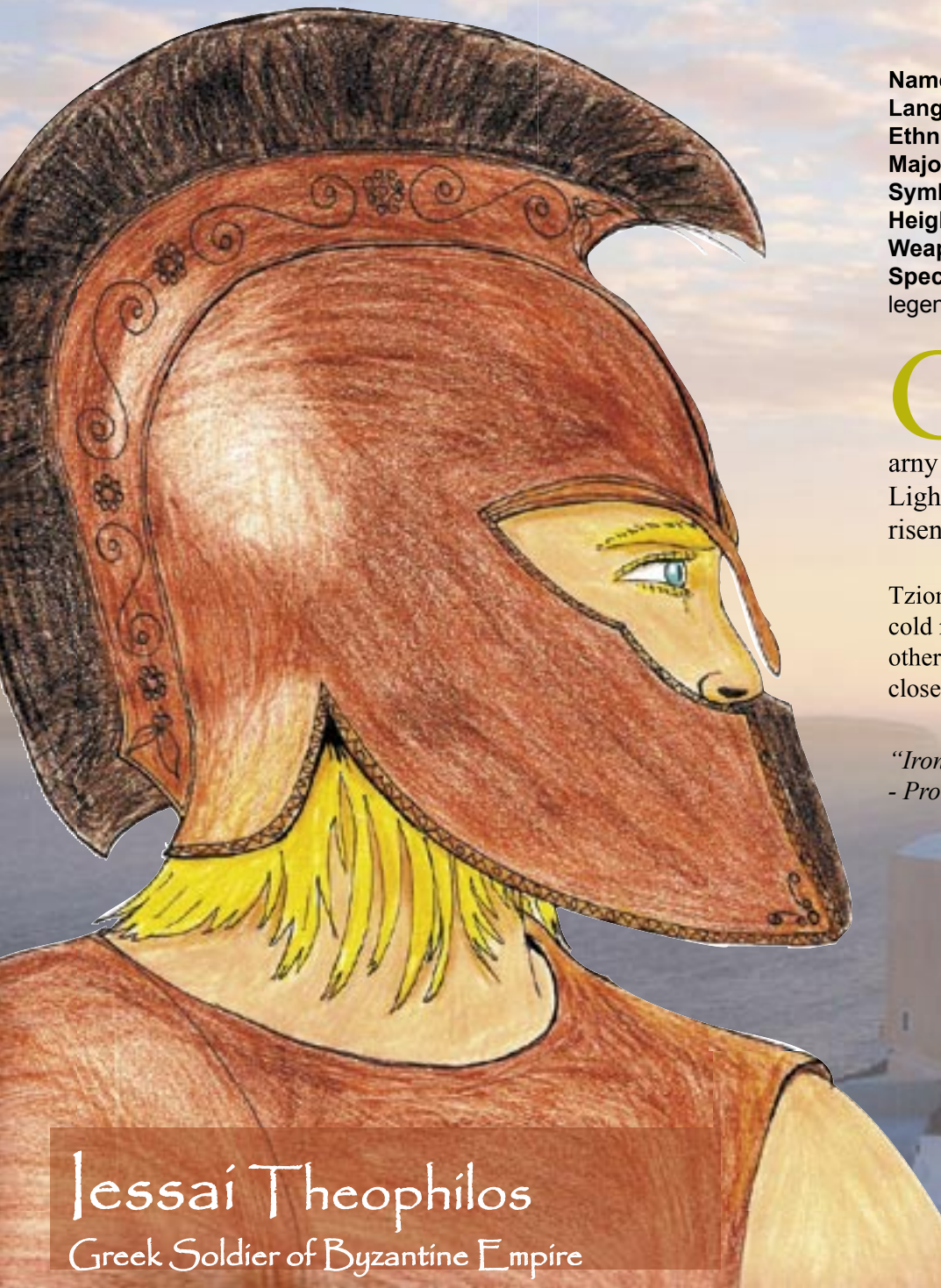
Dalaph



Liq Melak
Gabriel



Twin Wolves Sar and Gâ'al



Iessai Theophilos
Greek Soldier of Byzantine Empire

Name Meaning: *Iessai /Jesse(Heb)* = Unknown; *Theophilos(Grk)* = Friend of God
Languages: Greek, Latin, Aramaic, Persian.
Ethnicity: Macedonian/Greek
Major-Group: Yaphet
Symbol: Pegasus (Winged Horse)
Height: 6' 0"
Weapons: Sword and Shield, Cross Bow, Archery
Special Abilities: Skilled in the royal army of the Byzantine Empire. Trained in the legendary fighting techniques of ancient Greece and Macedonia.

Golden mane of hair and eyes like sapphire stones are the first physical attributes that are noticed in Iessai's appearance, reminiscent of the likenings of Alexander The Great. A skilled soldier in the Byzantine army for Emperor Justinian, Iessai (Jesse) is also a warrior in the Armies of Light that is set against the Armies of Prince Mastemo and is hordes that have risen up from the Abyss and residing in the Realms of Babylon.

Iessai meets Mekonnen and the other companions at the Council of Mount Tzion lead by Abba Endalkachew, but becomes acquainted with Mekonnen later in the cold northern country after a heated battle with Mastemo's armies near Babylon and other regions of Middle Asia. Mekonnen and Iessai become great friends and form a close bound after losing contact with Abner and Rabbel.

Together they are like Soul Brothers.

"Iron Sharpens Iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend."
- Proverbs 27:17.

References:

Proverbs 18:24; 27: 17
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12



*Background photo of the island of Santorini, Greece
by Peter Smith Jr. 2007*



Tsi Ming Moon

Mysterious Qilin Rider from
the Realm of Khitai

Name Meaning: *Tsi* = A purple flower used for women's perfume.
Ming = When the sun and the moon can be seen in the sky at the same time, representing precious beauty.

Languages: Han Chinese, some Persian.

Ethnicity: Han

Kerubel/Symbol: Qilin Unicorn

Height: 5' 2"

Weapons: Chinese swords. Star blades, Flying Daggers

Special Abilities: Oriental Martial Arts, Wisdom, Riddles.



The Noble Qilin
Creature of loyalty and power

Tsi Ming Moon is a mysterious, unassuming princess-warrior from the Far East riding upon the noble Qilin, a creature of loyalty and power. Traveling with her caravan of Chinese (Khitai/Cathay) warriors and dignitaries of the Southern Qi Dynasty, no one really knows which side they are on and why they are moving westward towards the heated battle between the Warriors of Light and the Armies of Prince Mastemo.

Mekonnen thinks Moon and her army of Qilin Riders might actually be the fulfillment of the prophecy by *Qeddus Yohannes* in his Apocalypse about the “Kings of the East” that will cross the river Euphrates for the final battle in the Valley of Megiddo in the Holy Land. He also perceives the Qilin to represent as the Oracle of the Apocalypse describe as “three evil spirits that look like frogs...”. (*Rev 16:12-13*)

Meanwhile, Prince Mastemo assumes that Moon and the Qilin Riders are in league with his evil master The Nachash and coming to his aide to trample the Armies of Agzio and overthrow the Holy City, Eyerusalem.

Both armies will be in for a big surprise when it is revealed what Ming Moon is really up to and the secret she holds that can change the outcome of the war. She brings an ancient oracle from the one her ancestors knew as “*Shang Ti*”— The Emperor in the Heavens.

Reference:

Cosmic Codes, Missler, Chuck, Page 104-106.

Rev 16:12-13



Reign: 527–565 AD (38 years)
Birth Name: Petrus Sabbatius (482-565 AD)
Languages: Latin, Greek, Aramaic, Coptic.
Ethnicity: Roman/Greek
Major Group: European (Yaphet)
Special Abilities: Leadership, Diplomacy, War Strategy.

The Great Emperor Justinian 1 and Her Majesty the Queen Theodora are the reigning monarchs on the throne of the Byzantine Empire. Through wise council and deft military strategy they were able to bring the empire to prosperity and relative peace and security for the citizens. Emperor Justinian most give much credit to the military genius of his Commander General **Belisarius** for regaining eastern territories towards the Euphrates River from the Iron clad armies of the Sassanid Empire and defeating the Gothic Kingdoms advancing from land and sea in almost every direction.

One day Justinian is informed of a mysterious *Ethiopian* warrior that was brought to his Realm in chains and on trial for supposedly terrorizing Byzantine provinces. The accused happens to be Mekonnen, but after being convinced by Empress Theodora and a certain priest that intervned, he is pardoned and finally recognized as being from an ally Kingdom, which is Aksum, and sent to fight along side the Byzantine Warriors in the Mediterranean Sea.

The Byzantines army call him *Mekonine* and soon learn that he will be a great asset to them in coming one step closer to defeating the evil Prince Mastemo and his Armies of Darkness who are determined on conquering all the Realms of Earth.



Emperor Justinian I & Empress Theodora

King and Queen of The Byzantine Empire

Background photo of the Athens, Greece
by Peter Smith Jr. 2007

More Historical Supporting Characters

General Belisarius

Commander General of Byzantine Empire

Duration of Military Duties: 527-559 AD

Full name: Flavius Belisarius

Languages: Greek, Latin, Germanic languages.

Ethnicity: Debatable: Greek, Thracian or Slavic

Major Group: Yaphet

Symbol: The Ox **Height:** 6' 2"

Weapons: Sword and shield, full Roman body armour

Special Abilities: Strategies of War, Military genius.

The undefeatable General of Emperor Justinian's army is Flavius Belisarius who was instrumental in capturing much of Western Europa and North Africa from the Germanic Kingdoms, and seizing territories as far east as the Euphrates River from the Persian Sassanid Empire. He will be considered the last great Roman General of the Byzantine Empire.

After Mekonnen is wrongfully captured by Byzantine troops in the north countries, they try, unsuccessfully, to falsely accuse him of attacking Byzantine territory in the north. After clearing him in these charges and releasing him from prison, they then enlist Mekonnen in Belisarius' army as they set sail to North Africa and battle the Vandal forces.

During this great land and sea expedition Mekonnen and Belisarius encounter the true forces that plot the enemy invasions that are unleashed from the evil realms of Prince Mastemo and his master the Nachash.

King Khosrau I

Sassanian King of Persian Empire

Reign: 531-579 AD (48 years)

Other name: Anushiravan ("with the Immortal Soul")

Languages: Persian, Arabic, Aramaic.

Ethnicity: Persian

Major Group: Shem and Yaphet/Medo-Persian

Symbol: ? **Height:** 6' 0"

Weapons: Bow and Arrow, Lance

Special Abilities: Strategies of War.

The Kingdom for Persia has risen again in the form of the powerful Sassanid Empire, ruled by King Khosrau I. Prince Mastemo now uses Khosrau's army forces to sweep across the known world, threatening the peace and freedom from east to west, north to south. From the Byzantine Empire to the Kingdoms of Khitai (China); from the Caucasus Mountains to Saba and Aksum; all tremble and brace themselves for the heavy assault by the iron clad Sassanian Army.

References:

Aksum: An African Civilization of Late Antiquity by Stuart Munro-Hay, 1991.

Wikipedia: King Khosrau I, Sassanian Empire.



Above: Photo of the Athens, Greece by Peter Smith Jr. 2007



Above: Photo of the isle of Santorini, Greece by Peter Smith Jr. 2007

The Prince of Persia

Chief Mel'ak Principality of the Kingdom Realms of Persia

The principal Mel'ak (Angel) ruling over the Realms of the powerful Kingdom of Persia, now in the dynasty of the Sassinids. As written in the ancient oracles of the Prophet Daniel the Mel'ak told the prophet that when he was on his way to deliver the answer to Daniel's prayer he was captured and restrained by the Prince of Persia and other ruling principalities of the Persian Realms for 21 days until Liq Mel'ak Mikael came to rescue the messenger from bondage. Mel'ak Gabriel also mentioned to Daniel that the Prince of Grecia was on his way to battle with the Prince of Persia and will be victorious in the end.

By the time the Tsiyon Three Warriors of Light, Mekonnen, Abner and Rabbel infiltrate the Realms of Persia, the Prince of Persia had already been indoctrinated and recruited by Prince Mastemo and his dark forces from the Abyss.

Will Mekonnen be able to convince the Prince of Persia to join forces with the Warriors of Light and restore the Persian and Hindustan Realms back to upholding *Yashar Sodi*- the Upright Way- or will they be forced to consider him an enemy in league with Mastemo and his corrupt army legions?

References:
Daniel 10:1- 21



The Nephalim

Last of the Malevolent Hybrid Giants

Other Names: Rephaim, Anakim, Emim, Zam-Zummim, Eljo.

The origins and deeds of the various Nephalim have been reported since the time of the Prophet Enoch in the Antedeluvian Age before the deluge that Agziabeher sent to destroy the world, saving only Noah, his family and the animals with them. They are the results of the Fallen Melakt called the Watchers that produced offspring with women of Earth. These hybrid offspring came in various forms possessing different powers and abilities. Many were giants of great stature and malformed features, others were more human-like heroes and rulers of ancient times but with great strength or paranormal powers.

Most of the hybrids were destroyed before or during the Great Deluge and during the times of Moshe and Yahshua but some have survived through the world even unto the time of the Warrior Mekonnen and his other companion Warriors of Light.

Prince Mastemo has now recruited some of the last of the remaining Emim and Zam-Zummim from Middle Asia and the Northern Realms to be in his army of Darkness, with hopes of intimidating the Warriors of Light, and other servants and creatures of Semayat and capturing Mount Tsiyon for himself and his master the Nachash. There are rumours that Mastemo may have found another way to generate even more hybrid monsters for his army.

When Mekonnen, Abner, Rabbel, Iessai and the Kerubel face these creatures they prove to be formidable enemies and challenging to defeat. Only with weapons assigned to them from Agziabeher/YHWH and His Melakt and sound counsel in the principles of *Yashar Sodi*- The Upright Way- will they be able to overcome these foes.

References: Gen 6: 1-4; Deut 2:20-23; Enoch 7:3-6; Jubilees 7:22; Josephus 1.3:1, 5:2.5

The Hooded Ones

Mastemo's Agents of Darkness

Mysterious characters, shrouded in secrecy, cloak and dagger. Hooded and blending in with the crowd and common folks of many Realms and the Kingdoms of the Earth. They usually appear in human form but they may actually be creatures of another realm, nobody really knows. Some say when they reveal their dark faces that's shadowed under their hoods they appear as hideous monsters. They infiltrate crowds then suddenly strike as deadly assassins, killing or maiming kings, leaders and even innocent civilians.

They are evil and corrupt agents of the Army of Darkness working for Prince Mastemo and the Zendow himself, executing their diabolical plans to destroy the Kingdoms of the World and set up an Empire that is contrary to "The Upright Way" that was sanctioned by Agziabeher Amlak since the beginning of time.

They first appeared in Mekonnen's homeland in the Kingdom of Aksum, clothed from head to foot in white with daggers, swords and bows and arrows hidden under their cloaks. The warrior Mekonnen foiled their attempt to assassinate Negus Gebre Mesqel but they have already caused havoc and discord in other Kingdoms and Realms. Mekonnen and the other Warriors of Light most contend with these villains for the rest of their mission. They most trust in the Lord of Lights to dispell these formidable Hooded Ones and other agents of Darkness.



Wolfbane

Scythian Sorcerer of the North Country

Real Names: Unknown

Languages: Scythian, Russian, Greek, Latin, Germanic.

Ethnicity: Scythian

Major-Group: Magogian (Yaphet)

Symbol: Snow Wolf

Height: 6' 1"

Weapons: Cross Bows, Ravenous Wolves

Special Abilities: Sorcery, divination, ability to communicate with a pack of wolves to do his evil biddings. Familiar with the cold, snowy mountains and wilderness of the Tundra North countries.

Weakness: Lacks knowledge of the Oracles of Agzio and underestimates His power.

This powerful sorcerer of the cold northern Realms has been sommuned by Prince Mastemo to intersect Mekonnen and his small band of elite Warriors of Light between the Asian and Scythian war theater. Known only by the name Wolfbane, he has caused havoc and terror to innocent inhabitants of various parts of the north country, using his diabolical powers to control a pack of ravenous snow wolves to intimidate and instill fear in his victims and enemies.

Wolfbane and Mastemo have conspired together to possess the snow wolves with evil phantoms as part of their war strategy to specifically counterattack *Sar* and *Ga'al*, the Mighty Kerubel that have been assigned to accompany Abner Ben Zebadiyah in this cosmic battle. After this manuvre to hopefully take down Abner and his Hounds of Semay, the ultimate plan is to destroy the rest of the Warriors of Light, including Mekonnen, the Warrior from Aksum.

Is Wolfbane and his 66 Hounds of Hell powerful enough to take down Abner and his Twin Wolves of Semayin, Mekonnen and The Anbessa Tsiyon and Rabbel with the Nesser Seraf? Are the Warriors of Light outnumbered or will they be backed up by the Melakt and the Almighty One of Semayat?

The fate of the Warriors now hang in the balance.

Prince Mastemo

Hostile accuser against the servants of Agzio and the Warriors of Light

Mastemo has been the hostile accuser and persecutor of mankind since he led the 200 Chief Watchers - the Fallen Mel'akt/Angels - to leave their abode in Realms of Semayat and interbreed with women of the human race. These illicit unions spawned half breed creatures, some became mighty heroes and kings of great stature, others becoming malevolent giants of frightening appearance. Mastemo and the Watchers also taught mankind how to create weapons of war and the practice of witchcraft and divination, causing mankind to sin greatly and forcing Almighty *Agziabeher/Elohim* to send the great flood to destroy the earth.

The Watcher's descent onto earth was originally supposed to be a godly venture sanctioned by Agzio to teach and assist mankind in learning the upright ways of Agzio. But the Dragon Nachash sent Prince Mastemo to deceive them and reveal too much of the secrets of Agzio that mankind could not be responsible for in their fallen state from the sin of Adam and Eve.

Mastemo's hatred for mankind is spurred by envy because Agzio grants man the ability to rule with Him in Semayat and the New Earth while he and his Watchers have been cast out after losing the battle with Prince Mikael's Army of *Semay Melaekt* - Army of Heavenly Host - never to return again, but bond and cast into the bottomless pit until the time of judgment at the end of times.

Now Mastemo does the Nachash's bidding, raising up and bringing down kingdoms, causing discord among men and sending out a flood of adversaries against Agzio's sanctioned warriors, Mekonnen, Shiloh, Abner, Rabbil and Iessai. Now the Kingdom for Persia has risen again in the form of the powerful Sassanid Empire, ruled by King Khosrau I. Mastemo now uses Khosrau's army forces to sweep across the known world, threatening the peace and freedom of nations from the corners of the Earth. From the Byzantine Empire in the west to Khitai in the east; from the Caucasus Mountains in the north to Saba and Aksum in the south. All tremble and brace themselves for the heavy assault by the iron clad Sassanian Army. Mastemo also unleashes other forces from the Pits of Darkness in the form of deceitful men, Hooded Ones and more giant creatures in the likes of Anakim, Emim and Zim Zummim, as he grows more obsessed and determined to overcome/conquer the Qeddus Tarrar Tsiyon --*The Holy Mount Zion*.

Other Names: Mastema, “Hostility”, “Hatred”.

Languages: All languages, except the secrets and mysteries of Agzio/YHWH/ Elohim.

Rank: Principality

Major-Group: Chief of the Fallen Angels/Prince of the Watchers

Height: Unknown

Weapons: Weapons of war to destroy and cause dissensions

Special Abilities: Master of lies and deceptions. Instigator of conflicts and battles. Commander of the Armies of Darkness.

Mastemo(a) in the Ancient Oracles

The ancient oracles recount the deeds of Mastemo, some in plain speech, some in riddles. In the oracle of the *Book of Jubilees*, which was written by Moshe as dictated to him by a Mel’ak of Mengist Semay, Mastemo first appears in the writings as the chief of the evil spirits as he petitions to Agzio to let the disembodied spirits of the Nephalim remain on earth to deceive mankind (Jubilees 10: 8-12). Then it is recorded that he influenced the Chaldees of Babylonia to worship graven images and malevolent beings of Darkness, only to cause a famine in the land of the days of Terah, Abraham’s father.

For the first time in this oracle, Mastemo was bound temporarily by Mel’akt after Abraham was stopped from sacrificing his beloved son Yeshaq on the altar at Mount Tsyion and was provided a ram in his stead.

Again Mastemo was used to set Pharaoh and the Egyptians to oppress the children of Yisrael during the time when Agzio spoke to Moshe to lead them to freedom (Jub 48:12-17, Exodus 7:12-14).

Then the name of Mastemo reappears in the oracle of the prophet Hoshea during very turbulent times in the ancient Kingdom of Yisrael, even in the very house of Agziabeher (Hosea 9:7-8).

Though his name is not mentioned directly in other oracles of *Qedus Manfes*, *Henock* and *Kebra Negast*, the corrupt works and accusation of the Prince Mastemo and his minions can be noted in them. Many of the unsuspecting children of men are unaware that most of their disagreements and dissensions among themselves that lead to bitterness and wars are first instigated by Mastemo who shares a hatred for mankind with his dreaded master the Nachash, because man was not made in their image but in the image of Almighty Agziabeher, the same who is YHWH in the likeness of the anointed Elect one, Iyesus Krestos.

Key Verses and References:

Jubilees 10:8-12; 11:5; 5:11; 18:12; 19:28; 48:2, 8;

Enoch 40:7; Exodus 7:1-12

Hosea 9:7-8;

Kebra Negast chapter 100

הנחש

The Nachash

The Serpent, once a Liq Kirubel of Agziabeher,
Now the adversary against all that represents
The Almighty Creator and His Elect One



Other Names: Lucifer, Qai Zendowu (*The Red Dragon*), The Serpent, covering Kirubel

Languages: All languages, except the secrets and mysteries of Agzio/YHWH/Elohim.

Rank: Ruler of all the Fallen Melakt and demons/King of the Kingdoms of the Earth

Major-Group: Former covering Kirubel of Agzio's Kingdom/Now the Evil Prince of Darkness

Symbol: Crooked Serpent / The Dragon

Size/length: Unknown/Large

Weapons: Breath of Fire, sharp claws, spiked tail, scales of precious jewels.

Special Abilities: Authur of lies and deceits. Creator of conflicts and battles, cunning, wisdom.

Weakness: Unable to walk after being cursed by Agzio. Does not understand all the Oracles and mysteries of Agzio/YHWH.

The Nachash, the great and ancient serpent of old was once a beautiful and glorious creature, a Liq Kerubel that reflected the glory of Agziababer Amlak, who is YHWH, who is The Almighty One. He was the covering Kerubel, the Bright and Morning Star, until iniquity was found in him, and he was cast out of Semayat and stripped of his glory and brilliance, yet his wisdom, cunning and intelligence persisted but is limited. Once decked with all the precious jewels in his body and under his wings and musical pipes and timbles built into him, he was stripped of his precious covering and limited in his musical prowess.

What a sad and catastrophic event it was when the great Zendowu and those that followed in his rebellion to overthrow the Almighty One, was cast out of Mengist Semayat unto the ground of the Earth like lightning, and he become the Prince of the Powers of the Air, Thrones and Dominions in forgotten Realms. What a great

and horrible loss it was that the Red Zendow had become prideful and deceitful and strived to rise above the *BaAgziabeher Terara*, The Mount of Agziabeher. Woe unto the inhabitants of the Earth, and those that have been created in the likeness and image of Agziabeher, The Elect One of Semayat, for the Nachash hates you and wishes to destroy us, because we are reminders of HIM.

Once Zendowu, glorious and bright. Now a Nachash, a crooked snake, cursed to drag on your belly forever, red and scabbed, roaming the Earth to and fro, seeking whom you may devour. You constantly accuse us Warriors of Light before the Agziabeher Amlak day and night, but our Commander, King and Priest, Iyesus Krestos stands in the defense for us.

Woe unto Prince Mastemo, a seed of Nachash, who has done his evil biddings, for the fires of Gehennam have been prepared for you and your minions from since the foundations of the world.

Woe unto the Watchers that were once holy but followed after flesh and fell into your Realm of Darkness and error. They were judged and they will be judged. Woe unto the Hooded Ones and the Emims for their violence and shedding innocent blood, they shall be consumed by fires of Gehennam from within them and from without them.

The firey Pit and the Dark Abyss are deep enough as the pillars of fire are high enough to contain and consume the wicked.

Yet the firey Pit and the Dark Abyss are not deep enough nor the pillars of fire are not high enough to contain the Almighty Chosen One who built the foundations of the Universe, but they will contain and consume the wicked.



The symbol of The Nachash,
The seed of the crooked serpent

Key Bible Verses:

The Serpent(Nachash) in the Garden of Eden - Gen 3:1;

Lucifer, fallen from Semayat/Heaven - Isa 14:11-19;

Anointed Kirubel with precious stones and musical instruments - Ezek 28: 13

Satan fall like lightning from Semayat – Luke 10:18

Leviathan the crooked serpent – Isa 27: 1

Red Dragon defeated by Liq Mikael and his Melakt - Rev 12: 3-9



Geta Iyesus Krestos

Negusa Negast, King of Kings, Lord of Lords

He who holds the seven stars in his right hand.

Rev 1:12-20



ה'ש"ח
י"ח
י"ח

He is Iyesus Krestos, The Alpha and the Omega, Negusa Negast, King of Kings, Lord of Lords. The Elect Chosen One, The Son of Agziabeher, The Lamb that was slain, Anbessa Yihuda, Lion of Judah, Prince of Peace. The Head of Days, Ancient of Days.

He shall reign as King over the universe forever more.

Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that he is his Lord. And all the nations shall walk Uprightly and serve in HIS light in the glorious new city, Addis Eyerusalem, The New Jerusalem. And there will be no more war.

Peace and Righteousness forever more.

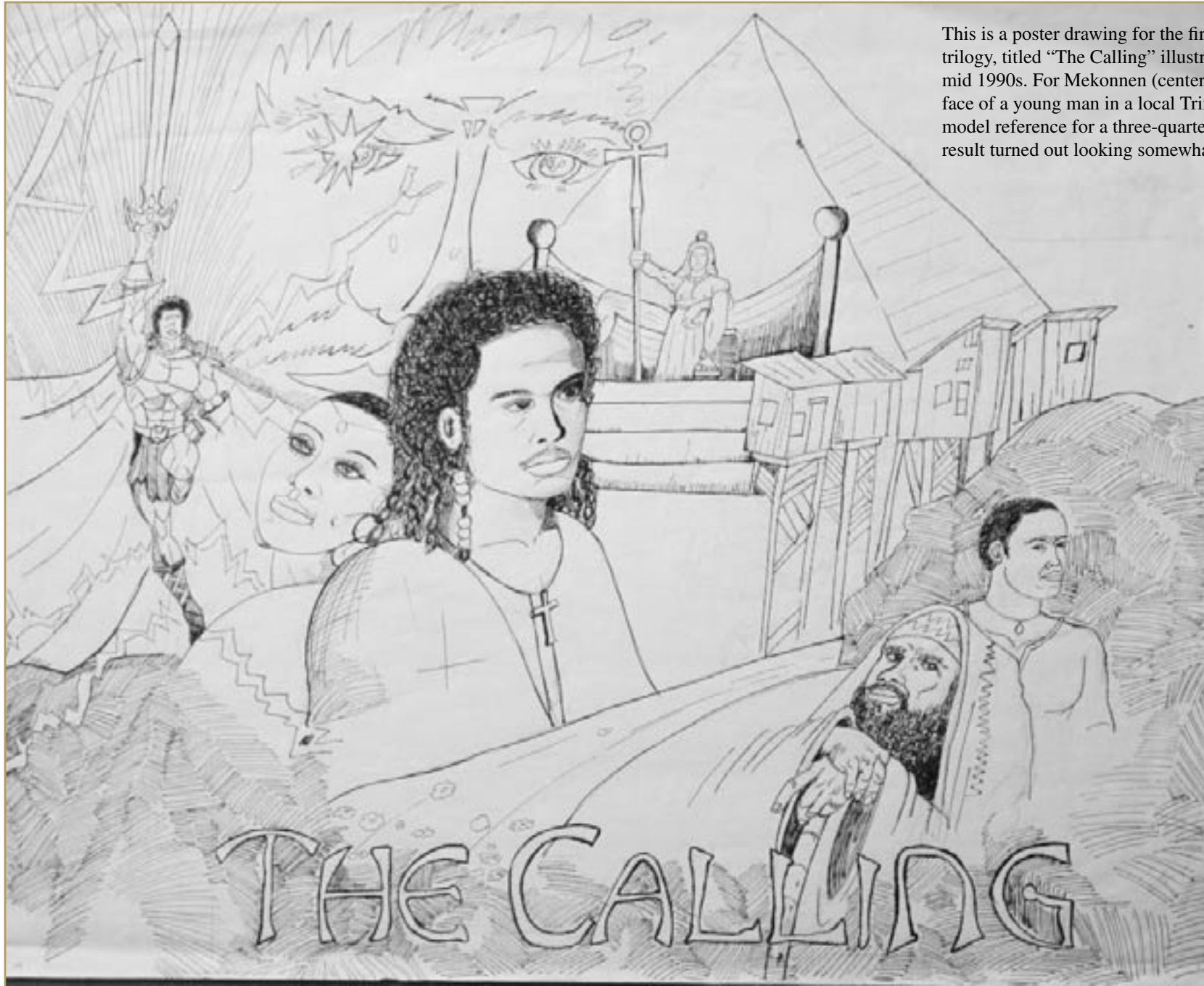
Amen.



יהושע

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ

Poster Gallery



This is a poster drawing for the first book in the Mekonnen trilogy, titled "The Calling" illustrated some time in the mid 1990s. For Mekonnen (center) I started off using the face of a young man in a local Trinidad newspaper as a model reference for a three-quarter facial angle. The end result turned out looking somewhat like me.



The first design idea for the book cover and poster, done in early 2008.
I decided it was too crowded and striped it down to the present book cover.

The Creation of Mekonnen

From the early years to the present

The progression of creating a character and story



photo by Joel E. A. Griffith, 1993

Jerome Mathias Griffith, around 1993-1995 in San Fernando, Trinidad, West Indies. The early years when the seeds for the Mekonnen epic story was first planted in my mind and spirit.



photo by Jerome M. Griffith, 1998

Art display at Church of God convention, Trinidad, early 1998.

Above: A painting I did around 1991 entitled 'The Armour of God' based on the verse in Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 6. This piece shows my interest in the fantasy genre, but I wanted to give it a Biblical/Spiritual point of view. I sold this painting to a friend before I left Trinidad to come to Baltimore MD, USA in August 1998. The verse and painting also helped to trigger the ideas in my head for a hero in a story where he fights creatures that personify the evils and trials that confront us all in life. I labeled every part of the armour according to the verse in Ephesians 6:12-18.



Above: Zeph-Martigon is the first name I came up with for my main hero, circa 1992. Influenced by the hyphenated title of one of my favourite adventure movies, *Ben-Hur*. Not familiar with Ethiopian names yet, I liked Zephaniah from the Bible, and Mad-Martigon was the name of Val Kilmer's cynical warrior hero in "*Willow*".



Left: The very first facial sketches for the hero, Martigon, whom I will later change his name to 'Mekonnen'. The features of these drawing are not the typical Ethiopian features but at the time I just knew I wanted my character to be of African descent. Later on I would pickup on the distinct Habesha/ Abyssinian facial structure that is common to most of them.



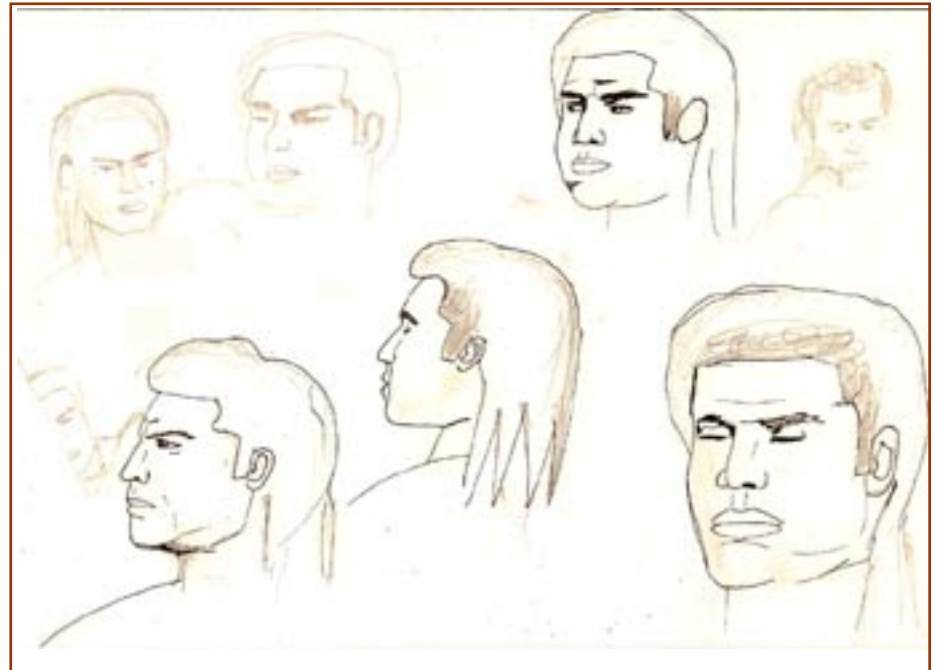
Left: In the same year, I sketched a map showing the assumed boundaries of the Aksumite Kingdom in the 5th and 6th century AD, according to a book I found in the library and home encyclopedias.



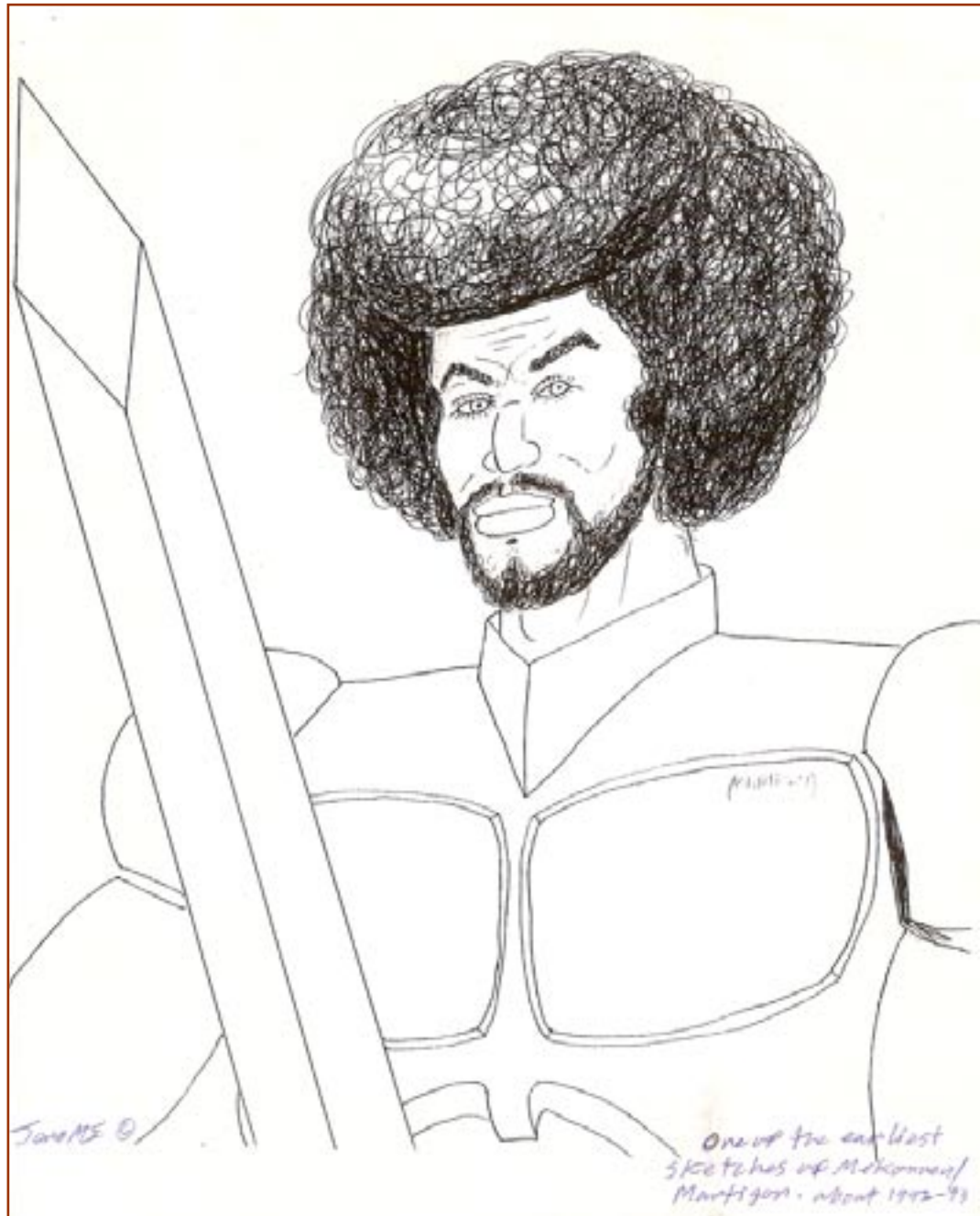
First full body and armoured sketch of Martigon in kneeling position. Keeping the Amour of God theme in this study.



Martigon in a dramatic pose and full body armour near a rugged mountain, pen and ink, 1993. Influenced by medieval metal armour, though at the time I did not know that it was not practical for an Abyssinian warrior to wear armour in a hot climate. I believe I got the Abyssinian facial features correct this time.



Above: Facial studies for 'Martigon' based on the head shots of an African American soap opera actor. These were done some time in 1995 as I was trying to settle of a look for my character. the actor had a short hair so I added longish locks to my drawings.

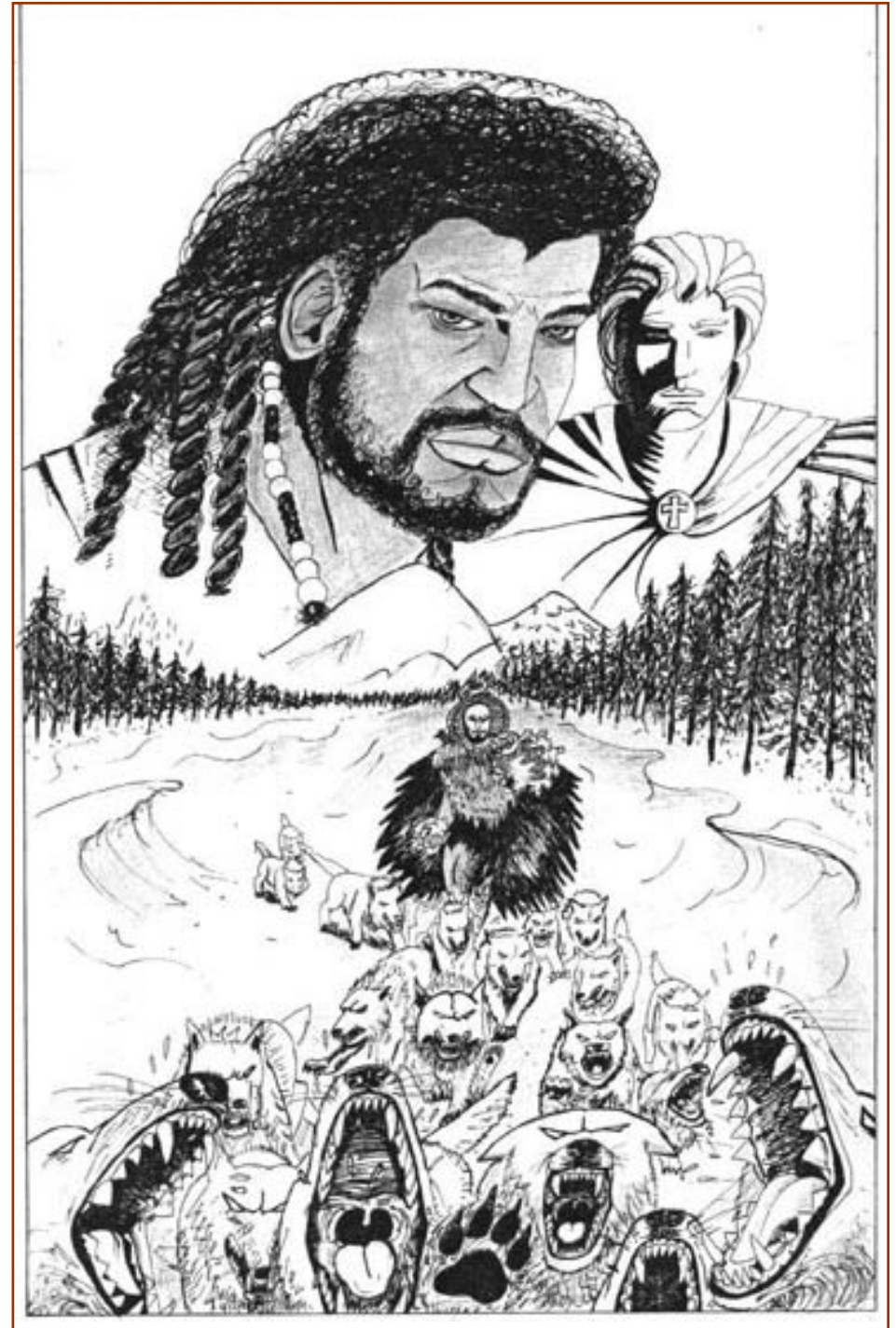


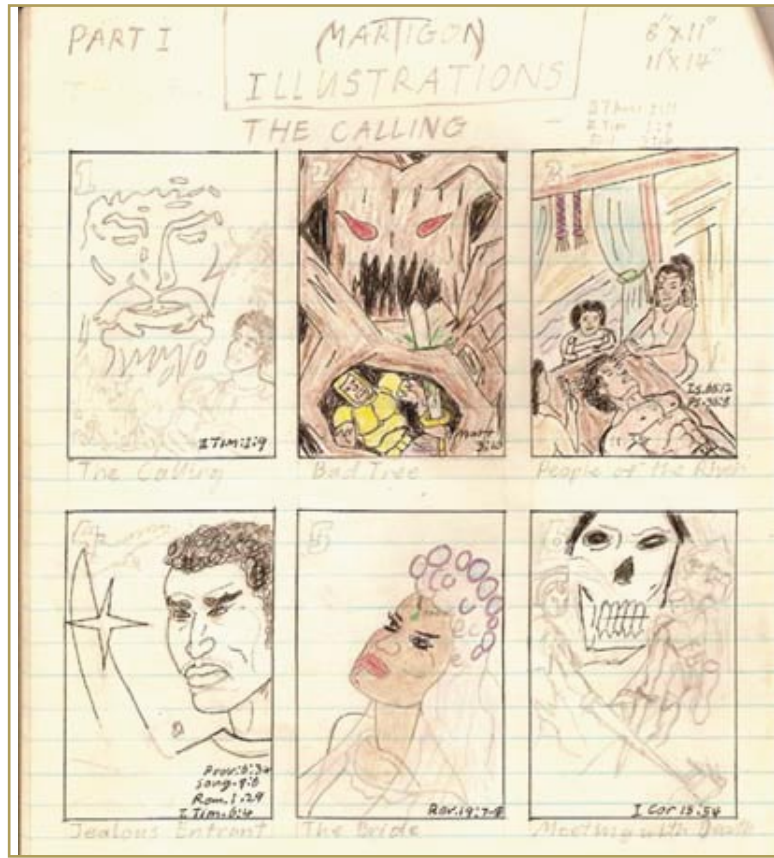
Early line sketch of Martigon with a large Afro and in a suit of armour.



Sketches from the early 1990s.

Above: Sketches and studies for a poster entitled “Martigon: Wolfbane” when the hero and his Greek friend Jesse confront an evil sorcerer who terrorizes village civilians by using his powers to control a pack of ravenous snow wolves.
 Right: The completed black and white poster now entitled ”Mokennen: Wolfbane”.



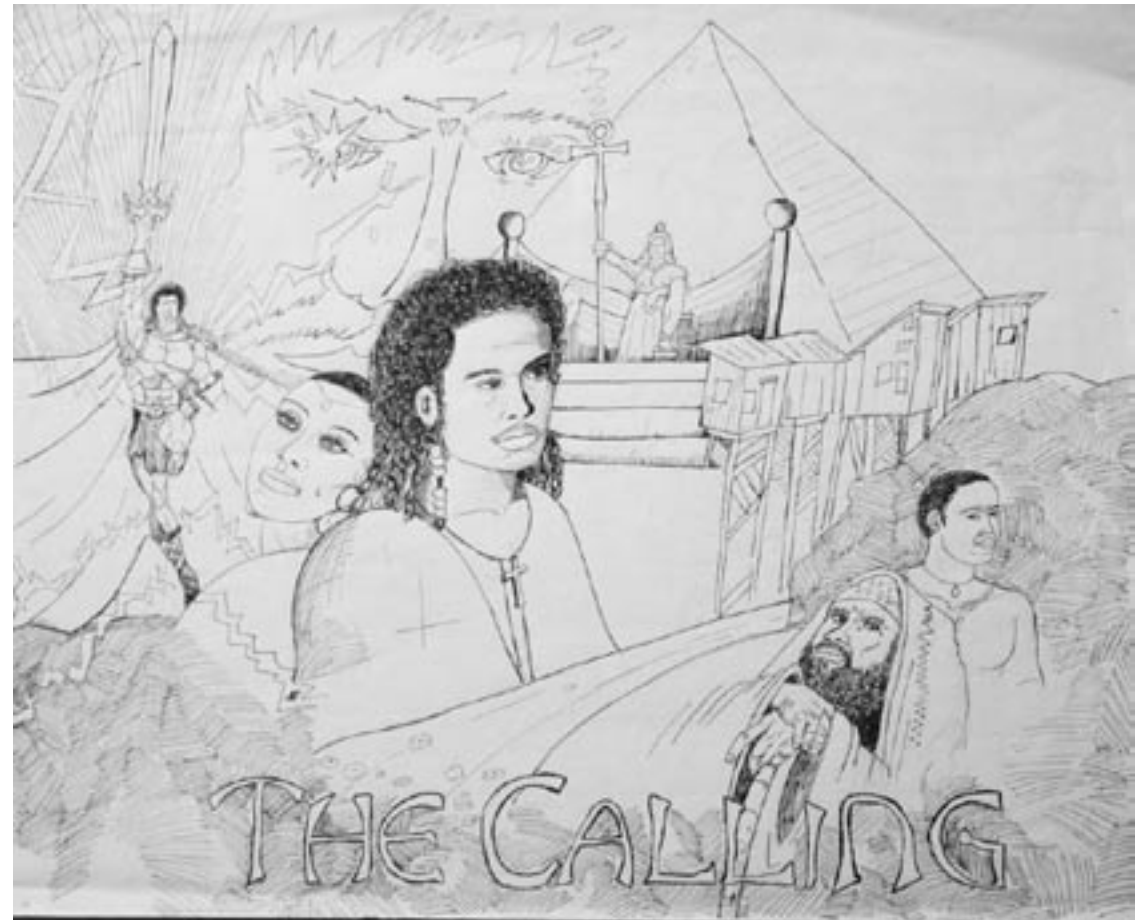


Top: An almost full body drawing of Mekonnen in Middle Eastern clothes and a helmet with the red sun set and the silhouette of an army in the background. I did this sketch in a note book on a page just before I wrote a long poem that recounts the whole adventures of Mekonnen. This is the early to mid 1990s. .

Right: Early thumbnail sketches for each character of the epic from the early to mid 1990s. Some of these scenes and chapters have remained to this day, some have been changes or enhanced, many new ones have been added since then. I planned the story to be a trilogy with the title of the first book as "The Calling", the second book "Sword & Psaltery" and the third "Amour of Light" (originally "My Battle Axe").



Left: Thumb nail sketches while brainstorming for poster ideas. Early 1990s.



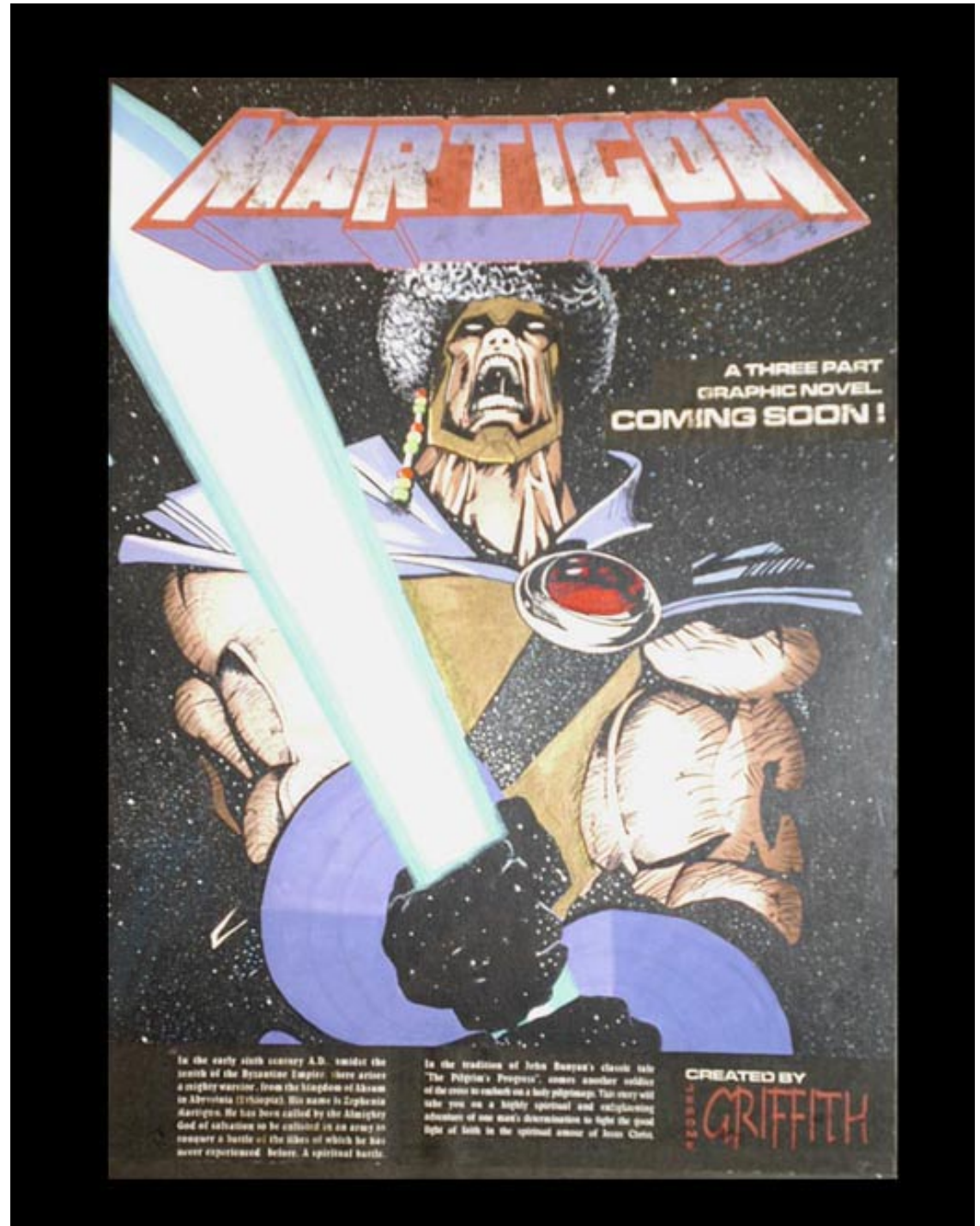
Top: Complete pen and ink drawing in mid 1990s of a poster for the first book of the Mekonnen trilogy titled "The Calling".

Left: A single element of Martigon/Mokennen lifted from the same poster, added colour pencil and computer graphic effects. Done in 2005.





This was a poster design for a class project when I attended Commercial Art class in John S. Donaldson Technical Institute, Port of Spain, Trinidad back in 1994/1995. At the top left is a small 5 x 7 inches preliminary sketch and painting. I borrowed the concept for the pose and glowing rod from the cover of an Image Comics book called "Union". On the right is the completed piece at about 20 x 30 inches on canvas board using acrylic and oil paint. The poster advertizes my up coming three part graphic novel for "Martigon". Below the painting is a short synopsis of the story.



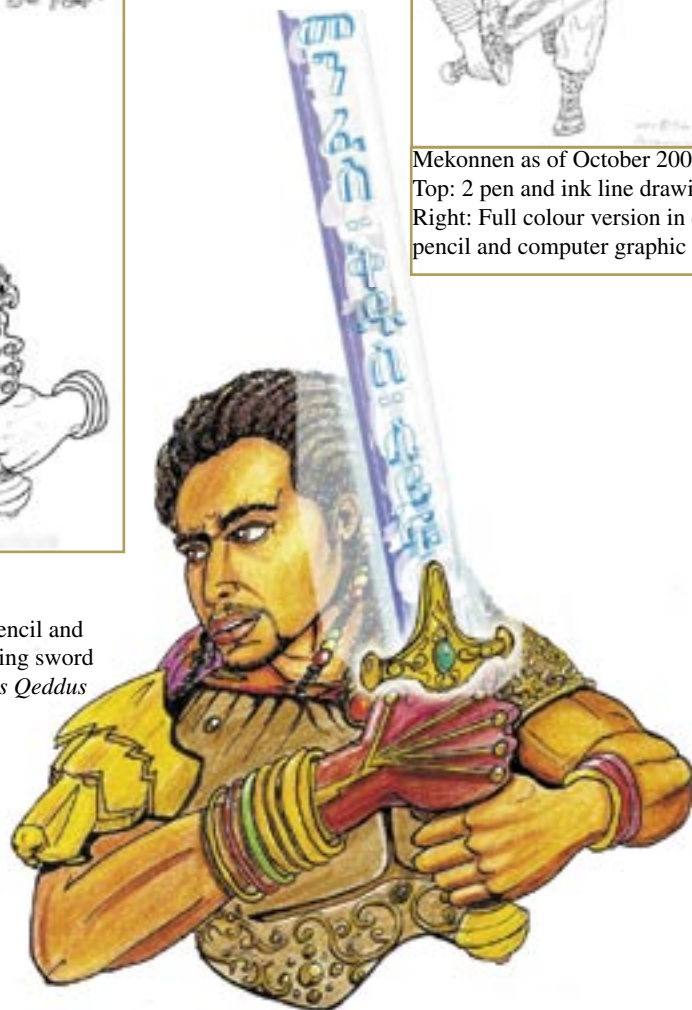
Recent developments to the lead character Mekonnen as of 2008.



Mekonnen as of October 2008.
Top: 2 pen and ink line drawings
Right: Full colour version in colour pencil and computer graphic effects.



Mekonnen as of early 2008.
Top: Pen and ink line drawing
Right: Full colour version in colour pencil and computer graphic effects for the glowing sword and Ethiopic script which says *Manfes Qeddu* *Seifu*—The Sword of the Holy Spirit.



A brief photo montage of my Ethiopian experiences from 2006 through 2008



Me (center) with some friends at the Emmanuel Ethiopian Evangelical Church, Baltimore MD, 2006



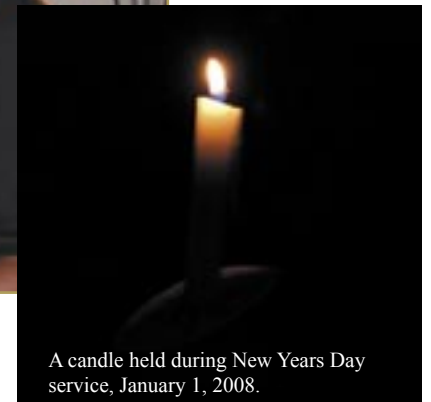
A Begena (10 string harp) held by musician Temesgan at the Ethiopian Soccer Tournament and cultural celebration at RDF Stadium in DC, July 4-5, 2008



A festival at an Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Washington DC as a processional of Priests, Bishops, Deacons and musicians begin to carry the "Tabots" in a procession around the block, March 31, 2007.



Me hanging out at my friend's wireless phone service tent at the Ethiopian Soccer Tournament and cultural celebration at RDF Stadium in DC, July 4-5, 2008



A candle held during New Years Day service, January 1, 2008.

Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following people for contributing in some way to make this book possible: My Lord and Saviour Iyesus Krestos for inspiring me, giving me the talent and vision for this project, and for confirming to me that I should proceed with this dream that will glorify his name, even in times of insecurities and uncertainties about myself and life circumstances. My parents James and Joycelyn Griffith for always encouraging me to pursue my dreams. The Ethiopian and Eritrean communities of Baltimore and DC, USA. My brother Joel E. A. Griffith. My aunt J.Y.G. and cousins 'Almaz and Enqw' (*Daimond and Pearl*) who were a big surprise and confirmation for me. Cousin Bud. Israel Endalkachew for pointing me in the right direction, Seifu Haile Selassie, Kamau Sennaar, Peter Smith Jr., Rich Austin, Christy Leung for the idea of 'Tsi Ming Moon', Gideon Mulat, Binian Bezabih, KB, Zack Gizaw, David A. Durham, Betty Amare for agreeing to be the face of Nuhamin, Jallel for letting me use your name, Tewodross Melchishua, Hiedi Shepler, Avery Smith, Tim Osterholm and African Martial Sciences Specialist Dr. Germon 'Mama G' Miller, Ph. D. And Mr. Anthony Best, my secondary art teacher who encouraged me to remember who I am and the people I represent and to reflect that image in a positive and realistic way in my art.

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The Book of Angels, 2006, by *Ruth Thompson, Williams and Taylor*
The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, by *James Strong*
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The Witness of the Stars (1893) by *E.W. Bullinger*
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Influences of similar books and movies:

The Holy Bible, King James Version, Amplified, NIV
Conan the Barbarian/Cimmerian by Robert E. Howard, Various artists
Pilgrim's Progress, by John Bunyun
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkein
The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkein
Ben-Hur (1958) starring Charlton Heston
Mad Max: Beyond the Thunderdome, starring Mel Gibson
The Lord of the Rings, Directed by Ralph Bakshi
Willow, directed by Ron Howard, produced by George Lucas
The Labyrinth, Jim Henson Productions
The Dark Crystal, Jim Henson Productions
Excaliber directed by John Boorman
The Lord of the Rings trilogy, 2001-2003, directed by Peter Jackson
The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe, 2005, directed by Andrew Adamson

Honourable mentions of similar stories and ideas:

Acacia: by David Anthony Durham
Archangels: The Saga by Patrick Scott and Eternal Studios
AlterNation by F. G. Hagenbeck and Image Comics
The Fall of Lucifer by Wendy Alec
Ramayan 3392 AD by Deepak Chopra & Shekhar Kapur, Virgin Comics
300 by Frank Miller
The Mark of Solomon series by Elizabeth E. Wein
Belisarius series by Eric Flint and David Drake

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Borders Express, Owings Mills, MD
Cokesbury, Catonsville MD
Everybody's Place, Baltimore MD

Glossary

Abba - (Semitic origin) Father

Abner - (Hebrew) Father's light

Abuna - Title for the Arch Bishop of Ethiopian Orthodox Church

Abyssinia - Ancient name for what is modern day northern Ethiopia and Eritrea. Derived from the word Habasha which is South Arabic to describe the ancient people of Abyssinia as "Mixed People" of different tribes.

Agziabeher Amlak - The Almighty God of heaven who created all the universe.

Aksum, Axum - A powerful kingdom/empire that once flourished in Abyssinia/Ethiopia (100 BC - 900 AD) and also ruled most of Nubia (Sudan) and South Arabia. One of the first nations to accept Christianity as state religion in 330 -350 AD. The monarch claim to be descendants of **King Solomon** and **Queen of Sheba** and also strongly claim to possess the real **Ark of the Covenant**.

Anbessa - (Ethiopic) Lion. A brave, courageous person.

Angabo - In Ethiopian legend, he was a prince from Sabaea/Sheba who defeated **Waynaba** the snake-dragon that terrorized Abyssinia/Aksum. After defeating the serpent he was made King of Abyssinia and begat **Makeda** who later became the **Queen of Sheba** that visited **King Solomon** from whom she bore her son **Menelik I**.

Bahetawi - (Geez/Ethiopic) An Ethiopian/Abyssinnia hermit monk not affiliated with a particular church but still honoured and respected. They are said to exercise powers from the gifts of the Spirit of God (e.g. Cast out demons, heal the sick and prophecy)

Ben - (Hebrew) Son or "Descendant of".

Benjamin - (Hebrew) Benjamin = Son of my right hand.

Beta Israel - meaning "House of Israel". Ethiopian Jews also called Falashas. See Falashas

Dalaph - (Semitic origin) means "pouring out of water quickly". Ancient name for the dolphin constellation within the constellation of Capricornus.

Ethiopia - (Greek(?)) means 'burnt or dark face'. The Greeks called the land south of Egypt Ethiopia because the people that lived in that region had darker skin.

Ethiopic - Referring to the Ge'ez language and languages that branched out of it. See Ge'ez.

Falasha(s) - Ethiopian Jews, better known as Beta Israel. Experts and researchers suggest they existed in Ethiopia and Sudan since the time of Moses (or before) or after the time of the Queen of Sheba adopting Judaism after visiting King Solomon.

Ge'ez - A Semitic language related to South Arabic/Sabaeans and Hebrew. The ancient language of the Abyssinian Kingdoms/Empires. Spoken in the Da'amot and Askumite Kingdoms. The language from which Amharic, Tigrinya, Tigre, Harrari and Gurage derived from. Today Ge'ez is only spoken and written in the liturgy and scriptures of the Ethiopian and Eritrea Orthodox Church.

Habesha - (South Arabic origin/Ethiopic) means "mixed people" of the people of Abyssinia (Ethiopia & Eritrea) that inhabited the kingdom of Aksum and spoke the semitic language of Ge'ez. The various intermingling tribes in this region included (but not limited to) Agew, Agazi, Beja, Kunama, Kushites, Sabaeans and even Israelites. Another theory is that it means "Ham-Shem" as in the intermingling of descendants of Ham and Shem. Modern Habesha descendants are namely the Amhara, Tigrinya, Tigre, Harrari, and Gurage, among others.

Ham, Kham - (Semitic origin) means "warm" or "hot". One of Noah's sons. Considered the father of most Africans, and some scholars say also most native Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Henok/ Henock - Enoch, the seventh from Adam that walked/communed with God for 300 years and was revealed many secret mysteries of heaven and earth (*Gen 5:18-24; The Book of Enoch*). He did not die because God took him up to heaven. Tradition says he was the first writing prophet.

Iyesus Krestos/Kristos - Ethiopic for the Lord Jesus Christ, derived from the Greek translation of *Jesus Christ*.

Ibn - Arabic for 'son' or 'son of'. Same meaning as the Hebrew 'Ben'.

Jallel - (Kushitic) An **Oromo** name that means "Love".

Kemet - (Hamitic) means "black". The ancient name for the land and kingdom of Egypt.

Khitai - An ancient name for the far eastern country of China.

Kandake - (Kushitic origin) The title for the succession of warrior queens of ancient kingdoms of Kush and Meroe. History states that they were skilled in military tactics and warfare. Also spelled 'Candace' which is now a popular girl name.

Kirubel, Kerubel - (Semitic/Ethiopic) a Cherub. A celestial creature from the realms of heaven that usually have wings and described in the Bible as having physical characteristics that resemble a combination of animals of earth (e.g. Ezek 1 & 10). They are a high class of beings that worship near the throne and presence of God.

Kush/ Cush - One of the principal sons of Ham, son of Noah of whose descendants established the great

nation/kingdoms that bare his name in the land south of Egypt between the third cataract and the north of Abyssinia, which is most of the modern country of Sudan. Translated as "Ethiopia" in most Bibles.

Liq - *lee'k* (Ethiopic/Ge'ez) Arch, as 'Liq Mel'ak' means an 'Arch Angel'

Mastema(o) - (Hebrew) means hostile, accuser. Mentioned in the *Book of Jubilees* as the evil fallen angel that accused and opposed many of the ancient people of God, including Abraham and the Israelites.

Mekonnen - Ethiopic name meaning Elite and Respected. Also means a Governor or high ranking officer.

Mel'ak(t) - (Semitic origin) meaning messenger or Angel.

Mengist - (Ethiopic) Government or Kingdom. e.g. *Mengist Semay(at)* = Kingdom of Heaven

Meder - (Ethiopic) Earth

Nachash - (Hebrew) Snake or shining serpent. First mention in Genesis as the serpent that deceived Eve to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Nabataean - Ancient Semitic people of Arabic origin with mysterious roots. They built many elaborate rock carved structures in the Jordan area, Petra being a main city, and southern Judea. They were one of the first nations to accept Christianity in about 330 AD. Some scholars say they may be descendants of Nebajoth, the first son of Ishmael, son of Abraham by Hagar the Egyptian slave. Some say they may also be related to the Sabaeans/Shebans.

Negus - *neh-goos* (Ethiopic) King; **Nigist** = Queen

Nesser - (Semitic origin) Eagle or Hawk

Nubian - An ethnic group of people derived from the ancient Kushites with their powerful kingdoms and long running dynasties. They mostly inhabited the land of Kush which today would be the country of Sudan.

Onaphel - (Ethiopic) from Hebrew *Ophanim*. Celestial beings from heaven that look like wheels with eyes through out them. As mentioned in the Book of Enoch 71:7 and described by prophet Ezekiel 1:16-18.

Qedus, Qeddus - *k'edoos* (Ethiopic) Holy, sacred.

Rabbel - The name of two Nabataean Arab kings: Rabbel I, 2nd century BC; Rabbel II, 70-106 AD who was titled "He who brings life and deliverance to his people".

Sabaeans - Ancient Semitic-Hamitic people that originated in South Arabia (modern Yemen) and also lived and comingled in Abyssinia/Ethiopia/Eritrea. Also called **Sheba** as the possible origin of the Queen of Sheba and her father/forefather Angabo. Saba means "seven" or "an oath".

Semayat - (Semitic/Ethiopic) The Heavens, **Semay** (singular) = Heaven. Referring to the sky or the celestial Heaven where the Supreme Being and His angels abide.

Shem, Sem - (Semitic) means "Name" or "Honour". One of Noah's sons that is the forefather of most of the people of the Middle East and many people of Africa.

Serufel - (Ethiopic) Seraf(im) (Heb). This word suggest burning fire. A celestial creature from the realms of Heaven that usually have wings and bodies that are a burning flame. They are high class beings that worship near the throne and present of God with the Cherubim.

Seif - *say'f* (Ethiopic/Arabic) means Sword.

Sodi - (Ancient Semitic origin) means 'the way' or 'method'. From which the word Zodiac derives.

Siol - (Ethiopic) Sheol (Hebrew) the grave or the abode of the dead. Sometimes translated as 'hell' in the English Bible.

Torrenya - (Ethiopic) Warrior. e.g. ZeBerhanen Torrenya (*Ge'ez*) = of Light, Warriors.

Tsiyon - (Hebrew) Zion. Referring to Mount Zion in Jerusalem or the Heavenly Mount Zion.

Waaqafeta - (Oromiffa) The ancient belief system of the **Oromo** people that believe in a one supreme being, God, that created and rules the universe.

Wanz Mändär - (Ethiopic) River Village. A fictional village near the Nile River where Mekonnen drifts into and meets Abba Shiloh, Nuhamin and Geta Jalleel.

Watchers - Another word for the Angels, especially the fallen angels that sinned by having offspring with the women of earth and which grew up to become malevolent giants called the **Nephilim** and great men/heroes and rulers of ancient myths and legends.

Yaphet - (Semitic) means "Expand" or "Beautify". One of Noah's sons that is the forefather of most people of Europe and also some people of northern Asia, Persia and India.

Yashar, Jasher - (Semitic/Hebrew) Upright. E.g. The Book of Jasher = Book of the Upright

YHWH - The tetragrammaton for the name of God as revealed to the ancient Israelites as Yahweh (Jehovah).

Ze'eb - (Hebrew) Wolf



End of Introductory Guide
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