

The Purpose Driven Life of Ambassador Girma Asmerom

Rick Warren wrote a famous book titled: "The Purpose Driven Life." I am taking the liberty of borrowing the title and applying it to the Eritrean political space. Within the Eritrean political context, a purpose driven life pivots around the following crucial precepts:

1. Believing in the just cause of Eritrea and its people.
2. Being a part of the struggle waged to secure Eritrea's independence and ensure that neither overt encroachments nor covert intrigues reverse or compromise Eritrea's sovereignty.
3. Sacrificing personal comfort and self-indulgence realizing that the good of the people outweighs that of the individual.
4. Mastering courage, resilience and perseverance in the face of adversities and setbacks.

I can affirm with great confidence that Ambassador Girma Asmerom's life was purpose driven implementing the above precepts. Girma did not squander precious opportunities or dodge critical responsibilities vis-à-vis defense of the homeland. Girma did not drift through life without a clear vision or purpose. Girma was not among the crowd which Viktor Frankl alludes to: "I don't know where I am going but I am going to get there faster". Girma's steps were deliberate and gravitated towards a clearly defined goal, guarantee Eritrea's independence and sustained sovereignty. Girma had a love song serenading Eritrea: "What am I living for if not for you?!"

We would have loved for Girma to perpetuate his fight and grace our events with his presence and inspiring speeches. Albeit, we cannot plead with the fleeting moment: "Won't you stand still; won't you linger awhile; thou art so sweet?!" [Nietzsche] Like all the Eritrean martyrs, Girma passed away bestowing upon us a rich legacy and instilling in us indomitable fighting spirit. As he disembarks from the conveyer belt of life, many a fighter is born to carry the torch of freedom!

Mohammed Ali said "Don't count the days; make the days count." Girma's life was not barren. His days did not tick away without etching indelible marks on the Eritrean canvas.

Ambassador Girmai Asmerom - We salute you! Here is our collective tribute to you: You fought a good fight; you finished your course; you kept the faith in the Eritrean cause. May you rest in peace!!

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