A CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION BY GHANAIAN BELIEVERS

When challenged to work for the transformation of the mindset that creates the ethos of our homeland that I have been trying to present, we respond with, “That is how it has always been.” We point to our past, we reiterate the ideology of san kofa. Going back into our tradition, our history and our culture, we retrieve for today only what confirms what we want to continue doing. It is our culture, we say, when we want to continue with bribery. But we leave the fact that we are the makers of our culture and that we have been transforming aspects of it continually. We conveniently forget that our forefathers expect us to be creative so that we might straighten what they have left crooked and find innovative ways of journeying together as a people worthy of our heritage and determined to improve upon it for posterity.

For Ghana today the most urgent task is the transformation of our mindset. Preachers are pointing at this, only mostly they move us with what will make for our personal advancement only. We need motivational preachers who will direct us towards the prosperity and integrity of the whole nation. San kofa should mean, “go back and retrieve from the store of traditional wisdom, culture, beliefs and practices, what is required for the new duties presented by the new occasions we are faced with.” The hymnist James Russell Lowell says, “time makes ancient good uncouth” (Methodist Hymn Book 898. See the 1933 edition. Methodist Publishing House, England. All the hymns used in these reflections are taken from this edition which continues to be in use in Ghana).

The resting places of yesteryears are no longer our resting places. When Owura Amu was teaching us the song about Okofo Kwasi Barima, what he was saying to us is that this confused man struggling to achieve fame should look into the past for wisdom and well-being as the birds go to the fatty glands of their tail to fetch oil to preen themselves. He was saying there is a wealth of resources in our culture that can make us noble and compassionate and just. When we look back it is these things that we should bring back.
Today, Ghana needs churches that will inspire their members to have the strength not to seek to hurt the weak by deed or thought. Ghana needs people who will promote ministries that enhance life and eschew all deeds of death. We are praying and struggling to become a noble people, more loving and more caring. We want to be a people glad to give honor where honor is due. We want to be a people who are ready to praise what is praiseworthy and to render thanks where gratefulness is called for.

**A CALL TO PRAYER**

Today we need to pray and work for a united Ghana. We need to be united across all our differences so that together we may sing the song of justice and peace and be able to rejoice in God who has held us these 52 years. We need to pray to God to purge our nation of all bitterness. While we decry sins we ourselves should refrain from indulging in them. We need to guard our tongues against careless words and avoid cruel deeds if we cannot do the positive good. We need to eschew pride and the inordinate ambition that trample on others in our bid to climb up. If you are a Christian I recommend that you strip yourself of all pretenses and stand naked looking at yourself in the mirror of Christ. You will never be the same again and the deed that Christ did will be reflected in how you live your life.


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