Remembering Eritrean heroes in contemporary history

A Short Biographical Sketch
Of

Abubeker Ahmed and Mohamed Nuri

Copied from ዓገብ : ታሪኽ ኤርትራ መበል 20 ዘመን
መግዛእታዊ ገበናትን መኸተ ህዝቢ ኤርትራን
ገጽ 88-89
ብ ምስማይ ገብረሂዎት

ኣቡበከር ኣሕመድን መሓመድ ኑሪን

ህዝቢ ሳሆ፡ ንዝኾነ መሬቱ ዚዘምት ወራሪ ዚምክት ተዋጋኣይ ህዝቢ ምዃኑ ድሮ ገሊጽና ኣሎና። ኣቐዲሞም፡ ራእሲ ኣርኣያ ናይ ትግራይ፡ ኣብ ሩባ ሓዳስ፡ ራእሲ ኣሉላ ኸኣ ኣብ ሩባ ሩባይ፡ ብህዝቢ ሳሆ፡ ተሳዒሮም ነይሮም ኢዮም። ወራራት ትግራይን ኣምሓራን ምስ በዝሐ ግን፡ ህዝቢ ሳሆ ግዝኣት ጣልያን ተቐበለ፡ ነዊሕ ግን ኣይጸንሐን። ንጣልያን'ውን ኪቃወሞ ጀመረ። ነዚ ተቓውሞ'ዚ ዚመርሑ ብዙሓት ጀጋኑ'ውን ኣጥረየ። ካብዚኣቶም እቶም ዝያዳ ዚፍለጡ፡ ኣቡበከር ኣሕመድን፡ መሓመድ ኑሪን ይብሃሉ። ክልቲኣም ከኣ ዓሳውርታ ነበሩ።

ምሉእ ታሪኽም ገና ኣይተጻረየን። ብሰፊሑ ክሳብ ዚጽሓፍ ግን ነቲ ክሳብሕጂ ተፈሊጡ ዘሎ ንርአ።

ጣልያን ግዝኣት ኤርትራ ምስ ኣወጁ፡ ኣብ ዓሰርተ-ሓደ ዓመቶም፡ ማለት ብ1901፡ ኣቡበከር ኣሕመድ ኣብ በረኻ ነበረ። ካብ 40-50 ዝኾኑ ዕጡቓት ከኣ ነበርዎ። ሰዓብቱ ደቂ ሳሆ ጥራይ ኣይነበሩን። ምኽንያቱ ሽዑ ዓመት፡ ደግያት በይነን ቀሺ ዘርኡን ዚብሃሉ ደቂ ኮርባርያ ናብኡ ተጸንበሩ። ብሰነ 1901፡ ኣቡበከር፡ 20 ሰዓብቲ ጥራይ ሒዙ፡ ን200 ወተሃደራት ጣልያን ገጠመ። እቲ ውግእ ሓሙሽተ ሰዓት ወሰደ። ካብ ጸላኢ፡ ክልተ ኪሞቱ እንከለዉ፡ ኣርባዕተ ቆሰሉ። ሰዓብቲ ኣቡበከር ከኣ ሓደ ምዉትን ሰለስተ ቁሱላትን ከሰሩ። ጣልያን በዚ ኣንጻርጻሩን ሓፈሩን። ኣቡበከር ንምሓዝ ከኣ፡ በብወገኑ ወፍርታት ኣካየዱ።

ኣብዚ ውግእ'ዚ፡ ሰበይቱ ንኣቡበከር ቆሲላ ተማረኸት። ኣቡበከር ግን ኣይተታሕዘን። ናብቲ ዘይድፈር ዞባ ኣደላራብ ኣትዩ ድማ ህዝቢ ኪእከብን ክንቀሳቐስን ጀመረ። ጣልያን ንህዝቢ ብምፍርራሕን ብጥበራን ኣንጻር ኣቡበከር ክልዓዕሉን ፈተኑ። ህዝቢ ሳሆ ግን ኣሕሊፉ ኣይሃቦን። ዋላ ንኣቡበከር ዚጸልኡ ዝነበሩ ቀቢላታት ሳሆ፡ ምስ ኢጣልያውያን ምትሕብባር ኣበዩ። ጣልያን ብዙሕ ተገረሙን ሰግኡን።

ኣቡበከር መጥቃዕታቱ ቀጸለ። ጣልያን'ውን ወፍርታቶም ኣየቋረጹን። ግን ኪሕዝዎ ኣይከኣሉን። ብዙሕ ኣሸገሮም። ጋዜጣታት ዓዲ ጣልያን ከይተረፉ፡ ብዛዕባ ኣብያ ኣቡበከር ጸሓፉ። ኣብ መወዳእታ ግን፡ ጅግና ኣቡበከር ኣሕመድ ኣብ ሓደ ኣንጻር ጣልያን ዝገበሮ ውግእ ተሰውአ።

እቲ ካልኣይ ጅግና ሳሆታይ መሓመድ ኑሪ ይብሃል። ከም ዓሊ መሓመድዑስማን ቡሪ፡ መሓመድ ኑሪ'ውን «ሰባር ናኹራ» ኢዩ ። ጣልያን ኣብ ናኹራ ኣሲሮምዎ። ንሱ ግን ኣምሊጡ ትግራይ ኣተወ። እዚ፡ ኣብ መንጎ 1898-1900 ኮነ። ምስኡ ዘምለጡ ካሳ ኪታን፡ መሓመድ ዑስማን ኣልከቢር ዚብሃሉ ከም ዝነበሩ፡ መዛግብ መንግስቲ ጣልያን ይሕብር። ኣብቲ መጀመርታ መሓመድ ኑሪ ካብ ትግራይ ሶሊኹ እናኣተወ ዓሳከር ጣልያን የጥቅዕ ነበረ። ካብ ቦታ ናብ ቦታ ምንቅስቓስ'ውን ኪኽልኦም ፈተነ። ብ1903 ከኣ ምስ ሰዓብቲ ገረመድህን፡ ወዲ ደግያት ባህታ ኣብ ከባቢ ሰንዓፈ ይንቀሳቐስ ነበረ።

እዚ እናኾነ እንከሎ፡ ጣልያንን ምኒሊክ ናይ ኢትዮጵያን ስምምዕ ገበሩ። ጣልያን ምእንቲ ንኤርትራ ብሰላም ኪገዝእዋ፡ ምንሊክ ንኹሎም ተቓወምቲ ኤርትራውያን ካብ ትግራይ ከውጽኦም ተሰማምዑ። በዚ መሰረት፡ ናይ ትግራይ ገዛኢ ዝነበረ፡ ደግያት ገብረስላሴ፡ ንመሓመድ ኑሪ ኣብ ዓድዋ ኣሰሮ። መሓመድ ኑሪ ግን ካብ ማእሰርቲ ኣምለጠ። ምስ ሓሙሽተ ሰዓብቱ ከኣ ኣብ ጉንደት ኣብያኡ ቀጸለ። ግን፡ ብጣልያንን ኢትዮጵያን እናተሃድነ ነዊሕ ኪጸንሕ ኣይከኣለን። ከም ደግያት ኣበራ ሃይሉ ብኢትዮጵያ ተኸዲዑ ከኣ ተቓውሞኡ ኣቋረጸ። ብድሕር'ዚ መሓመድ ኑሪ ናበይ ከም ዘበለ ዚፍለጥ የልቦን። ስሙ ግን ኣብ መዝገብ ታሪኽ ኤርትራ፡ ብወርቂ ቀለም ኣጽሓፈ።

Abubeker Ahmed and Mohammed Nuri

The people of Saho were also known for their opposition to any colonizer and bravery. They had defeated Raas Araia and Raas Alula but due to the repeated attempts by the Tigrayan rulers to colonize the people of Saho. But when the attempts of these rulers intensified the people of Saho were compelled to accept Italian rule, thinking that it would the lesser of two evils. But they soon began to stage opposition against the Italians. Abubeker Ahmed and Mohammed Nuri were some of the well-known opposition leaders from among the people of Saho.

In 1901 Abubeker, together with 20 of his followers confronted 200 Italians troops and killed two and injured four of the soldiers. But Abubeker's wife was captured during this confrontation while he escaped to Adelarabe region and began inciting people to stand against the colonizers. The Italians tried to persuade and threaten the people of Saho to fight against Abubeker, which only made the people's support of Abubeker grow stronger. Abubeker continued to oppose the Italians and they made various attempts to capture him, which all failed, even Italy's newspapers began writing articles about his opposition and he died in one of his fights with the Italians.

Another Saho hero was Mohammed Nuri. He was one of those who broke out from the Nakura prison. After his escape he was living in Tigray and was attacking Italian commanders from Tigray

jointly with Gebremedhin, the son of Degyat Bahta Hagos.

While many Eritrean heroes were organizing against Italians from Tigray, Italy made an agreement with King Menelik to deport all Eritrean opposition leaders from Tigray. Consequently, Degayt Gebreselasie of Tigray imprisoned Mohammed Nuri from which he ecaped with five of his followers and settled in Gundet. Following this nothing is known about the life of his Eritrean hero, though he is always remembered as one of the brave men that opposed the Italian colonization.

Translated by Winta Weldeyesus

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