

# AAAZ: Time for Humanity, Unity, Civilization and Community!!!

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## INTRODUCTION

A.A.A.Z. is an acronym for Afar, Ankober, Axum and ZGB. Humanity is represented by Afar land, unity by Ankober center, Civilization by Axum town and community by Zgb village. I regret to show the respective locations of AAAZ on Google map to my readers. This is a challenging task for all Ethiopians and Eritreans alike for the knowledge of geography – a fundamental issue for nationalism and its value.

Eritreans and Ethiopians seem to lose sight of their own heritage – the heritage of humanity, community, civilization and of unity in reverse order (AZAA).

Currently a lot of us seem to be confused by the above mentioned concepts coupled with the lack of knowledge of the history of these four geographical locations. This article would attempt to elucidate issues of concept and locational significance.

- Humanity answering the question of “who am I?”
- Community answering the question of “who are we?”
- Civilization answering the question of “what did we accomplish in history?”
- Unity answering the question of “what do we want?”

I would attempt to share with my readers, my experience and knowledge about these four places and concepts in the following few pages. But before I do that I have to say something of the past 26 years of claims and counter claims.

The last 26 years, representing one year to one letter (A-Z), Eritrean/Ethiopian elites have been losing one alphabet of value for every year. A terrible loss of intellectual property.

Similarly the political power holders in both countries of Eritrea and Ethiopia have been squandering assets of both labor and capital for 26 years. The end result in both countries have been dismal in many ways. One clear example is the value of trust and confidence.

Ethiopians have lost trust in their leaders and Eritreans have lost confidence in their country. As a result of these conditions, there is a frustration of being cynical and destructive. There are some elements who wish the Rwanda genocide experience and as well as the Yugoslavian breakups. Both conditions of genocide and breakup will not happen. Why? What is the rationale behind this thinking, one may ask.

The following paragraphs will explain.

First, Addis Ababa or Finfinnee has become the international seat of United Nations, the African Union, with high government stakes of the United States Administration, the European Union, the Chinese and the Russians. Nothing happens without the consent of these groups around Addis Ababa and perhaps around Asmara too.

Second, the Ethiopian populace are so much indebted to one another for thousand years if not millennia and are still tolerant of each other.

Thirdly, the Ethiopian Revolution was set up in the right direction although it had a lot of ups and downs. Nevertheless, the upside stories are positive contributions in the eyes of the large masses of Ethiopia and Eritrea. The culprit were results of faulty methodology by leaders. There was a lot of confusion portrayed by threat, execution and lies by leaders of numerous organizations. One clear example is the misnomer of Revolution as War. There was no war between Eritreans vs Ethiopians apart from the Badme war!!! All the rest were battles and struggles for Revolutionary purposes.

The Ethiopian Revolution has been going on since the 1960s and still is an on-going project. The Ethiopian true Revolution dubbed as the Eway Revolution is on par with the American Declaration of Independence, the Russian, the Chinese and the French. It is the finale of all these Revolutionary experiences.

So how can Ethiopians halt the impending “civil war”? In my opinion, there is not going to be civil wars as there has never been one in our history. What is going to happen is to identify the sources for humanity, community, civilization and unity? And these are located at Assaita, ZGB, Axum and Ankober respectively. These geographical positions are the narratives for our history, politics and socio-economics conditions.

I believe the readers can locate these places on the map of Ethiopia and Eritrea. All four places are narratives of our history and destiny. Here is why and how.

## ASAITA center for Humanity

Asaita is the capital center of the Afar lands. At one time it was governed by Sultan Ali Mirah. By the age of 18, I travelled to Asaita to negotiate or rather to request the return of my brother’s corpse. My oldest brother was killed by some Afar bandits to take his money. My brother and his business partner were gunned down by their guides while sleeping. The killers were roaming freely in the Afar land. This is one example that banditry aka shifta has caused for triggering the Ethiopian as well as the Eritrean Revolution. Unfortunately, we have a long way to dispel the dual concepts of Banda and shifta replacing by patriot and revolutionary respectively.

So the question ‘who am I’ is an adjective inquiry to each individual Eritrean/Ethiopian to identify whether, he/she is labeled as Banda, shifta, patriot or revolutionary. Without this label, there is no way to answer this question of “who am I?” The simple answer for us would be “I am a human being or I am an Afar Ethiopian.” Both words are interchangeable.

In other words, the Afar land is neither Ethiopian nor Eritrean land, it is God’s land. This Land is inhabited by all types of believers including Muslims and Christians. It is a hell and a heaven at the same time. By this concept of hell and heaven, it could be explained by archaeological discovery and human creation.

We can refer to “Lucy/‘Dinknesh’ or by checking the origin of travel by Paul Salopek, American journalist and writer for National Geography. Paul is walking the Globe in 7-year journey. The walking project is known as “out of Eden/Africa”, originating from Afar Ethiopia covering 21,000 miles and Mr. Salopek has commenced his journey in 2013. **The time has come to compare and contrast creation vs. science.**

## ZGB village for Community

This is a community village perched on the edge of the escarpment of Seharti region. Zgb village is located 17 km south of Asmara, capital of Eritrea. It has no vowel, all three letters are in the sixth rank of Ge'ez letter. ZGB is a village representing more than seven communal nationalities. The location is very suitable for its inaccessibility otherwise rendering access to rebel or banditry operations. Economically the village is also the path to men and cattle who strive to go to the lowland areas for cultivation or herding. But the residents of this village have the privilege to grant or deny access to the other surrounding villagers.

What is more crucial for this villagers is the fact that they do not depend on any government services but rather they depend on each other. They are a tight community to be desired by any nation or nationalities. If any one of the members encounter problem, it is the duty of the entire community to assist him/her. Even in cases of political or criminal charges, there was a chance for the culprit to be allowed to hide himself in the countryside where no one can catch him.

Land distribution is equal and fair. In order to sustain the equality of land distribution, every seven years, there would be exchange of plots of land among the people.

There was only one religion and one church of Gabriel and no modern school only church school. Currently, there are two churches of Orthodox followers. As far as modern school, the village is approaching to be a suburban for the city of Asmara, the capital of Eritrea. ZGB has a potential to serve as a positive community role. **The time has come for historical significance of community.**

## AXUM town for Civilization

In 330 A.D. King Ezana converted to Christianity and since then Christianity spread all over Ethiopia. Before that the Axumites believed in many gods. As is well known in history books, Axum was the center of Ethiopian civilization. It was well known for its trade. At the time of the Axumite Empire, many countries were ignorant of ideas and investment, the Axumites were well known for minting coins and tourism business.

The world is now talking about globalization and it is all about trade. The Axumites were for trade both domestically and internationally. **The time has come for reviving the Ethiopian Civilization.**

## ANKOBER center for Unity

Ankober is located at the south eastern escarpment edge of Ethiopian highlands. It is perched at 8,100 feet above sea level. At one time Ankober was the key central command (cc) of emperor Minilik II of Ethiopia. Minilik II was at the head of the victory of Adwa I that was fought against Italian fascist government.

However the significance of Ankober was diminished due to the empress Taihtu, Minilik's wife and successor who encouraged him to relocate his government seat to the current location of Addis Ababa. The concept of Ethiopian unity has been dwindling ever since that time. **The time has come for revival of Ethiopian unity.**

## Conclusion

The four dots of node, a village, a town and a center, however we call them, should be connected not only in terms of political unity but also in humanity, community, and civilization. In the four locations belie our software and hardware, beginning 2018. HAPPY NEW YEAR to those Julian calendar followers.

**TRUTH WILL PREVAILE**

For questions and concerns

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