

HAITIAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
Willingness, Know-How, Resources

Weston, Florida, Port-au-Prince and Aquin, Haiti
Aldy Castor, M.D., President aldyc@att.net
954.873.0064, 509.3.685.1931

The Haitian Resource Development Foundation <hrdf.org>, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established in 1987. It has US Tax No. 72-1074482 and is also registered with the Government of Haiti as a non-profit, No. MPCEFP/1993/94/17, and with the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation as No. B-0167. HRDF's mission is to initiate and support projects that develop Haiti's resources through programs in the fields of health care, education, scientific research, arts and culture and economy.

"FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA"
From Charity to Development



1175

June 30, 2023

HAITIAN DECLARATIONS, "SODOTO" AND JAMAICAN RUM

Scene One - The Genie and the Exiled Politicians



Once upon a time, three exiled politicians sat on an empty beach in the Caribbean. It was a desert island. They were hungry. Their clothes were in rags. Every day was the same. Looking toward the ocean, they could barely see the mainland in the distance. Between it and the island, a warship patrolled the water, preventing their escape or rescue, and prolonging their punishment.

Suddenly, an old wooden box the size of a coffin appeared in the surf and washed ashore. It was ornate, locked, with primitive handles and hinges. Inscribed on the top were two words, "NEVER OPEN." All the same, the exiled politicians elected to look inside. They smashed the rusted lock and lifted the top. Instantly, a dark pillar of smoke rose from inside and took the shape of a tall genie ("djin") wrapped in silk, with large hands, a long sword and burning red eyes. The politicians expected their doom.

Instead, the djin looked down and began speaking their language. It said, "I am a magic genie. I served a king who became a tyrant. Many years ago, he locked me inside this box and threw it in the ocean. I became no one and I belonged to no one. But as a reward for my freedom today, I will grant you three wishes. Whatever you desire, command me and I will make it so."

Without thinking, the first politician blurted, "I miss my family! I want to go home!" The genie's burning eyes gazed down at the exile sitting on the sand. Then he snapped his long fingers and the first politician disappeared in an instant. Nothing was left of him but an empty place on the beach.

Witnessing this magic, the second politician took a few minutes longer to choose. Then he said, "I was once a very rich and powerful man in my country. I detest being weak and poor. I want my old job back!" As before, the genie's burning eyes gazed down at the second politician. Then he snapped his long fingers and the man disappeared in an instant. Nothing was left of him but another empty place in the sand.

The remaining exile sat alone, by himself, on the desert island, at the edge of the sea. The magic genie loomed above him in a pillar of dark smoke, waiting for the third command. The politician looked to his right, at the place from where the first one disappeared. Then he looked to his left, at the place where the second one disappeared. Then he looked up into the burning eyes of the genie and began to cry. Through his tears, he said, "Magic genie, now I am alone. I cannot bear it. I miss my friends and..."

But before he could complete his words, the genie snapped his long fingers. In an instant, both previous exiles were back in their original positions, to the right and the left of the third one. All were in rags as before, looking out to sea with no hope of rescue. Nearby was a large, empty box inscribed with the words "NEVER OPEN."

Moral: The power of magic is wasted on politicians.

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Scene Two - Message in a Bottle



One afternoon, in the nets of Aquin fishermen, an ocean-worn glass bottle appeared, tightly sealed against the elements. On inspection, the fishermen recognized a word on the label, "JAMAICA." They knew that was the name of the island to the west, famous for rum. But being two hundred miles away, Jamaica was much farther than they had ever fished. In fact, to their knowledge, no Haitian had ever visited Jamaica.

Curious, the fishermen opened the bottle. It was empty, nothing to drink, not a drop of rum. Instead, was a page of writing in black ink and, at the bottom in red, the word "HELP!" The fishermen had never caught anything like this in their nets, only fish that had become smaller and smaller year after year. Nor could they read the message because they had never been to school.

All the same, they thought it could be valuable. The fisherman recalled their grandfathers' stories about pirates who put treasure maps in bottles and then threw them in the ocean. In reality, however, when a rare bottle appeared on a Haitian beach, they were always empty, with no maps and no treasure. Some bottles appeared very old, but in the end, they were just floating trash from the wide Caribbean.

Among the fishermen's children, however, some had been to school. For them, reading the message in the Jamaican bottle was difficult at first, but after several days they began to realize that the message was a "wish list" similar to ones Haitian children would bring to church on Christmas for Santa Claus to read. But while the children's lists were for tangible things like fish, toys and clean water, the message in the bottle wished for abstract things like "security," "power sharing" and "*tissu économique*."

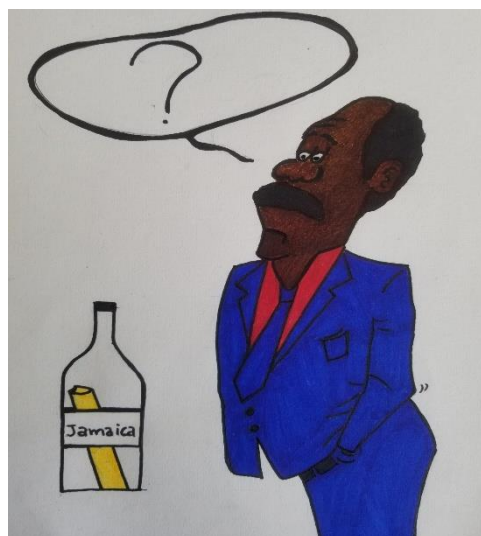
To the fishermen, not only were these bottled wishes incomprehensible, but none of them recognized the names signed at the bottom of the message, nor their organizations. If they were Haitians, none of them had ever visited Aquin. And if they were not Haitians, then the message was not meant for Aquin fishermen. The call for "HELP!" was in vain.

Thus, early one morning, the fishermen took their most sea-worthy boat and sailed out beyond the horizon. They rolled up the message, put it back in the bottle, capped it tightly and threw it back into the waves of the blue Caribbean. In the sky, a jet plane flew high overhead. Returning to shore, the fishermen and their hungry children all agreed it was better to wish for fish than for another bottle.

Moral: Nets can be fooled; the ocean contains more than fish.

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Scene Three - The Opposition Diplomats



The morning after the Kingston Summit in Jamaica concluded in early June, several Haitian opposition diplomats flew together on the same plane back to Port-au-Prince. Their suits were wrinkled, their shoes were scuffed, their briefcases were full of declarations and propaganda. All of them had hangovers from too much Jamaica rum the night before.

During the flight, they debated the outcome. One of them told the others, "That was my first trip to Jamaica. I enjoyed the food, the people and the scenery. But when we land back in Haiti, we will have the same crises as before, or maybe worse."

A second replied, "It was a We prepared to negotiate, to catch fish, so to speak. But when we arrived, we discovered that the ocean was empty. No fish, only salt water."

A third said, "Our work has been reduced to trivial accords, like a child's Christmas list. It will take a magic genie to bring it to life."

A fourth said, "I was so frustrated that on the party boat last night, I wrote "HELP!" in red letters at the bottom of my copy of the Declaration. Then I put it in an empty rum bottle and threw it overboard. I heard the splash. Who knows how far and where it will go, and who will read it?"

At that moment, the jetliner banked low over Aquin Bay on the approach to the capital. The group looked out the window at the fishing boats. One of them said, "Maybe I should give up my life as an opposition diplomat and become a compliant fisherman. At least the ocean has some fish."

Moral: In the rear-view mirror, Jamaica is closer to Haiti that it appears.

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Postscript:



On the first day of my residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at New York Medical College, our chief resident assembled all the first-year residents and solemnly said, "SODOTO" - See One, Do One, Teach One. He was referring not only to a teaching and learning approach to surgery but also to initiating behavior modification by altering our neural rewiring to create lasting change. After 4 years of training, we were all skillfully performing ob-gyn procedures. My environmentalist colleague, Stuart, had the same experience.

In Haiti, the same lesson may not apply, except perhaps for neurosurgeons who become Prime Minister. Historically thought, politicians wave a magic wand and create an alternative reality where the values and terms of reference are incompatible with those of modern societies. They have created an informal world that has generated informal thought patterns, which in turn recreate an informal world. To illustrate, take the opposition's declarations after their meeting in Jamaica. They were qualitative goals or wishful thinking. They have completely forgotten the quantitative objectives that I keep repeating: Who will carry out these pious wishes? When will we begin and end their executions? What will be the price? Who will pay? My chief resident would scratch his head and ask with his usual glare: "What are you talking about? What about "SODOTO" with its evidence-based solutions?"

Aldy Castor, M.D. aldyc@att.net

President, Haitian Resource Development Foundation (HRDF)

Director, Emergency Medical Services Haiti Medical relief Mission, Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad (AMHE)

Stuart Leiderman leiderman@mindspring.com

Environmental Refugees and Ecological Restoration

OPPOSITION DECLARATON, KINGSTON, JAMAICA SUMMIT FOR PEACE IN HAITI JUNE 11-13, 2023

DECLARATION CONJOINTE DE KINSTONG, JAMAIQUE

Les partis politiques et les organisations de la société civile signataires de la présente

Considérant la situation d'exception du pays

Désireux de contribuer à l'élaboration de la résolution finale du sommet inter-haitien de Kingston

Convaincus de la nécessité de mettre fin aux souffrances endurées par les populations haitiennes du fait des actions violentes des gangs armés,

Préoccupés par les problèmes humanitaires liés au flux de déplacés internes, à la résurgence du choléra, à l'insécurité alimentaire, etc...

Alarmés par la destruction du tissu économique du pays proposent :










- 1 Le rétablissement d'un Pouvoir Exécutif avec :
 - Un Collège Présidentiel
 - Un Gouvernement d'unité nationale dirigé par un Premier Ministre
- 2 Le gouvernement devra satisfaire les priorités définies dans une feuille de route tenant lieu de termes de référence pour la transition. Il s'attèlera à respecter les prescriptions constitutionnelles concernant la participation des femmes
- 3 Le gouvernement devra créer les conditions nécessaires pour inspirer confiance a la population, instaurer un climat de sécurité favorable à

la reprise des activités économiques, aux reformes et à la tenue d'élections crédibles et inclusives.

4. La mise en place d'un Comité de suivi constitué entre autres de représentants de la CARICOM

Kingston le 13 juin 2023.

Suivent les signatures

- Dr. Emmanuel Néraud 
Force Louventurienne Réformiste
(Opposition Démocratique)
- EN AVANT Jemy TARDIEU 
- ACCORD DU 30 AOUT 2021 dit
Accord de Montana
Parti Haïtien Tet Kale (PHTK)
UNION NATIONALE p l'Intégrité et la
Réconciliation (UNIR) 
Lino Ballage Ballage
Jean Louis
- MPP J.R. Bob Limon 
- OPH Edgard Lettère 
- NPD Porcéy Jeffery 
- EDE Claude JOSEPH 
- Collectif des Partis Politiques du 30 janvier 
- MOVOI Jean Austre Victor 
- Fan mi Lavatas Nany Nany 