



HABU DAWAKI AND HIS MORAL TEACHINGS: TOWARDS HELPING MAN TO BUILD A SUCCESSFUL LIFE

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ABSTRACT

Man arrived in the world without pre-information of his life- journey and without knowledge of himself and the world and remained in that state until he became conscious of himself and the world. As he became conscious of himself and the world, creative thought and experience have been informing him about himself, the world and his place in it. Knowledge so far acquired has enabled him to embark upon a lot of projects. Courtesy of rationality and experience, conformed by common sense, knowledge and wisdom, the project of all projects man has been working to attain is his well-being. Habu Dawaki, as an agent of history, a continuous student of human nature and a friend of humanity, has taken up the task to show up moral light for man to find his way and thus make a success story of the project of his well-being. The significance of this work is that it will reactivate the will and restore hope in those men and women whose will and hope have remained dormant as they have given up struggle due to a lot of problems they have encountered in their life- journey. Methods of exploration, analysis, criticism, motivation and prescription have been adopted in order to give the topic a deserved treatment.

Key words: *Man, Life, Success, Morality and Teaching*

INTRODUCTION

Man ever since he arrived in the world and saw himself as a unique being in the midst of other beings, bearing the image and likeness of the supreme Being –the Creator of the world and as a lord of creation and a caretaker of other beings in the world, he has been facing a lot of challenges in all spheres of existence. But the challenge of all challenges is his life. How to manage it effectively and efficiently so that he and his fellows can live well and die happily has been a great challenge to him. Man as regards his dream to live well and die happily is never found inactive or standing with his hands folded on his duty post. He is always busy doing one thing or another with a view to attaining his dream. But fortunately and unfortunately, man's efforts towards the attainment of the said dream have not been fully rewarded. Fortunately, man's efforts towards keeping human stream running from generation to generation have been consistently a success story as the human population is now above seven billion and resources to maintain it are always there for his asking. Unfortunately, man's efforts to create and maintain an atmosphere of peace, harmony, progress and development have witnessed a series of setbacks. As he has become a being of contradictions, who loves and as well hates, builds and as well destroys, dreams for peace and as well campaigns for war, craves for social living and as well holds selfish thoughts and activities, desires to live according to God's will and as well degenerates to the extent of worshipping money, longs for universal brotherhood and as well treats some of his fellow humans as rejects and slaves, etc. These contradictory actions of man pasted every way which have



humanized and as well dehumanized the face of the world have made great minds in the flesh among human beings to take up the task of rescuing their fellows from these negative thoughts and activities of theirs which have shipwrecked the lives of many people in the world. Among these great minds are Socrates who saw that man is prone to committing moral vices due to ignorance, advised him in his words: "Man know yourself". Jesus Christ who saw that man is distorting his social nature by treating his fellows badly, advised him to "Love your neighbours as you love yourself; treat others as you would like to be treated. Mahatma Gandhi who saw that people's wishes are different from their actions, advised them to be the change they wish to see in the world. Martin Luther King Jr who saw that man has used his scientific and technological skills to reduce the world to a global village in terms of communication and not in terms of fellow-feelings, advised him as follows: "We must all learn to live together as brothers. Or we will all perish together as fools (1986: 269), Habu Dawaki, who saw that moral standards and values have been ignored in preference to expedience and conveniences as people are always willing to lie, cheat, steal, defraud, abuse truth, stain justice, and do whatever thing they can no matter how bad it is to get what they want at the expense of even their names, advised man as follows: "A good and great society is never built on falsehood or misplaced value.... If we must reach the shores safely, we must dare to change. However, those who will not, will soon fizzle out" (2005:93-46). The message from the following great minds who made the well-being of man as their concern and sacrificed everything they held dear including their lives in order to show man how to live well and die happily in the world, except Habu Dawaki who is still alive, is that man is a social being-a being who lives with others, who can only succeed in attaining his dream only by observing strictly moral principles and values. These moral principles like: what belongs to all must be shared by all and moral values like: truth is bitter but elevating to man, are building blocks with which to build a successful edifice-called life. The moral teachings of Habu Dawaki on how to build a successful life whether as an individual or a group, is the focus of this paper. Significance of this paper is that it will help people who are still in doubt or confused about their nature and purpose in the world, to know where they came from, where they are and where they are going. It is only when they are aware of these three phases of their life that they can live a life of purpose and succeed in realizing their ultimate goal which is happiness.

EXPLANATION OF CONCEPTS

Man: Man as a concept has other synonyms: humanity and mankind. Like any of these synonyms man is an umbrella name for the entire beings called human beings. So, when the concept man is used without definite articles- 'a' or 'the', it refers to human beings as a whole-both males and females. But when it is used with a definite article, it referees to male while woman refers to females. Man is aware that he is in the world not by his own making but by the making of his Creator- the Supreme Being. For this reason, man's innate desire has been to live and have his being in the world according to the will of his creator. This innate desire of his, has enabled him to become aware that he is purpose – oriented being, since he is not in the world by accident. For that reason, to discover his purpose in the world and to attain it has equally become a burning desire in him. These



two desires have become both visible and invisible hands that determine and rule his affairs. Fortunately, man is endowed by his creator with capacities and resources-material and human-with which to make a success story of the purpose of his life-journey in the world. Self-consciousness, being one of the capacities, enables him to understand and appreciate others such as rationality (creative thinking), curiosity, free-will, innovation, craving for enhancement, self-interest, social interest and corporate existence and resources such as helping hands of his fellow humans, animals, lands, waters, space, etc. Good use of these natural endowments will enable man to live well and attain his purpose in the world. But abuse of them will make him look like a person who stands near an ocean, yet is looking for a water to sharpen his knife, courtesy of ignorance.

Life: Life is a concept understood in several senses. First sense, life is seen as ability to function and grow which distinguishes animate beings such as humans, animals, birds and plants from dead ones and from inanimate beings such as rocks, soils, metals, etc; second sense, as living things; third sense, as state of being alive as a human being; fourth sense, as qualities, events and experiences that characterize existence as a human being; fifth sense, as a period between birth and death or period between birth and the present or period between the present and death; sixth sense, as business, pleasure and social activities in the world; and other senses. All these senses in which life is associated with certainly will enable a creative thinker to understand and appreciate this fundamental value called life. In this work the sense in which life is understood as a network of qualities, events and experiences which characterize existence as a human being is its focus. This is because such qualities, events and experiences combine to define man as a human being and when positively deploy aim at flowering into happiness-the ultimate goal of life, which every human being is craving for and striving to attain and enjoy throughout his period of existence in the world. These qualities, events and experiences include values such as positive thinking, curiosity, awareness, self-confidence, purpose, self-interest, social interest, emulation, hardwork, persistence, patience, love, truth, justice, honesty, sincerity, dream, foresight, hope, open-mindedness, change, innovativeness, learning, teaching, social interaction, friendship, peace, harmony, security, progress, development, employment opportunities, a desire to elevate the mankind, urge to keep the human stream running from generation to generation, to continue humanizing the face of the world morally and aesthetically and leaving it better than the present generation of humans met it for the future generation to continue from where they stop. Habu Dawaki in support of the view that purpose is a necessity among the building blocks in edifice called life said: "Life without a purpose is life without meaning" (2005: 23-Shake Hands..). In support of the view that dream, that is, dreaming to become an asset in the world is very important aspect of life, Jose Ortega Y. Gasset, said: "Life is not the sum of what we have but what we yearn to be," (Dawaki, 2005:159-Shake Handing).

Exhibition of all these both in theory and practice is what makes a human being a true human being as he or she is an asset to himself or herself, his or her family, country and the world. Their opposites such as negative thinking, ignorance, fear, purposelessness, selfishness, imitation, procrastination, laziness, doubt, hatred, injustice, falsehood, etc, are great disasters and miseries to their perpetrators and to those affected. Habu Dawaki



saw these as enemies of mankind as they usually prevent their victims from reaching their destinations or attaining their goals. In his words:

Some of these enemies include fear, superstition, ignorance, procrastination and laziness. Later in "Old Age" they (their victims, sic) end up settling down to a life of regrets because they have discovered rather too late, that they could have reached their goals if only they had fought and endured a little (2005:25-Shake Hands...).

So, life is another name for man and it is the sum of what he has, what he wants to be or to achieve, things and activities he longs to engage in and those to avoid as he struggles to achieve the purpose of his mission in the world.

Teaching: Teaching as a concept has synonyms such as education, instruction, communication, training, etc. Teaching is a means of giving information to somebody, causing somebody to know or develop ability or skill to do something. It is a process of learning through which a recipient or recipients are enabled to understand things or issues they are interested in. Reasons for teaching are, among others, every man arrives in the world ignorant of himself and the world and remains in that state until he becomes conscious of himself and the world. As he becomes conscious himself and the world, he becomes curious about his existence in the world and desirous to know his place and purpose in the world. Courtesy of experience, the teacher of all teachers, he becomes aware that his knowledge of himself and every aspect of the world is limited. Being aware that he cannot make a success story of life- journey in the world by being ignorant of what to live in the world means and connotes in all its ramifications; aware that knowledge is light which he needs to find his way to his destination in the world, he sees continuous expansion of the frontiers of knowledge about himself and the world as number one among his primary duties. It is for these reasons that everybody seeks services of a teacher in any field of his or her endeavour. The teacher knows what he or she is looking for and thus teaches him or her by helping him or her understand and appreciate facts concerning issues involved.

Morality: Morality as a concept is concerned with people's conduct as members of society. It is a network of moral principles and values as regards what is right or wrong, good or bad conduct of the people in their dealings with one another and with their institutions in the society. In fact, it is general agreement among the members of any human society on what they should always do or avoid. So that they will create and experience an atmosphere of peace, harmony, progress and development in their life time and also leave behind good legacies for the future generations. Morality is a product of human nature. Man is a being whose life is governed by two natural interests: self-interest and social interest. He considers his self-interest as fundamental and thus sees it as his first law to be observed at all times and in all places. And it is obvious that no man feels comfortable in a place his self-interest is not recognized and respected. Nor is he ready to play out his best in a project his self-interest is not recognized and accorded its due respect. It is in order that man should play out his best in the world that his Creator allowed self interest to be one of the qualities of his life. But while man is seeing self-interest as fundamental, he equally notices that he is a social being – a being with others. A being who needs the assistance and support of his fellows to solve his problems and



enjoy his living in the world. John Donne in support of this said: “No man is an island” (King, Jr, 1986:138). In agreement with his view Martin Luther King Jr said: “We are all involved in a single process. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. We are all links in the great chain of humanity (1986:138). Habu Dawaki in agreement with their views about man and his existence in the world said:

Man is a social being and cannot fulfill his purpose in isolation. The most intelligent and smartest person is no strong enough to do everything all by himself....The road to the top can be lonely and miserable without some to help, or run to in times of need” (2005: 130-Shake Hands.....).

It is obvious that man is a social being –a being with others who needs the services of others as they need his own too in order for him and for them to achieve whatever a goal or goals they are pursuing in the world. In order to create a good atmosphere for man and his fellow human beings to work creatively to attain their purposes brought about the need for moral principles, values and rules that people need to strictly observe in order to live well and die happily in the world. Some of these moral principles, values and rules include: love your neighbour as you love yourself: treat others as you would like to be treated; what belongs to all must be shared by all; united with stand, divided we fall; life of purpose is a path to success avenue; man is an architect of his own fortune or misfortune; stealing is bad and destroys life; prostitution is suicidal, handwork, justice, truth, helping hands in positive actions, etc. It is because of the fundament roles they play in helping people to succeed in their projects that morality is seen as the foundation of human society.

Habu Dawaki’s Brief Biography

Who is Habu Dawaki? Before answering the question, it is important to recall a statement made by one of the great philosophers of all ages, Aristotle. He said great minds (people) usually have shortest biography. This is because what bother them so much and engage their attention at all times in all places are issues and concerns about mankind as a whole. They have no time for personal achievements but collective achievements-those achievements that bring about the reality of universal brotherhood and humanize the face of the world. They have no time for title as they consider it a distraction to their focus which is always on ideas. Anon has these kinds of people in mind when he said: “Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people (Dawakis: 2005:105-Shake Hands...).Wonders we see in the world-natural and artistic-are all products of ideas. So for them personal and social possessions such as properties, titles, status, privileges, etc, are non-issue.

In the annals of history such people are many and among them are Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Jesus Christ, William Shakespeare, Chinua Achebe, William Churchill, Abraham Lincoln, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (who was always called Mahatma even though he did not like it), Wole Soyinka, Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King Jr, Nelson Mandela, Akanu Ibiam, Ralph W. Emerson and so on. They are registered members in the school of all ages due to contributions they have made towards the elevation of mankind. For instance Socrates: “Man know yourself”; Plato: “No man should bring children into the world who is unwilling to persevere to the end in their nurture and training”; Jesus: “Love your neighbour as your love yourself”; Wole Soyinka:



"Man dies in those who keep silent in the scene of tyranny"; Gandhi: "Be the change you wish to see in the world"; Aristotle: "Excellence is not an act but a habit"; Winston Churchill "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give". Now about the question, Habu Dawaki is a Nigerian by birth; a son of Mr. and Mrs. K.Z. Dawaki and Hajiara Dawaki; a citizen of the world whose ever burning desires which have shaped his thoughts and actions are: to contribute to show light, for mankind to find their way; to help them see that they are members of one human family; that they are not in the world by accident but by the intention of their Creator-the Almighty God and that they are purpose-oriented beings and all the recourses they need to realize their purpose in the world are at their disposal.

Dawaki as a man who has been interacting with great minds by reading their books and biographies, listening to people as they explain their experiences on issues of life and learning from his own personal experiences, has made it as his own duty to pass on the knowledge gained to his fellow human beings through his books and motivational speeches during seminars, conferences and events. Like other great minds, Dawaki is in total agreement with common sense, knowledge, wisdom and history that everybody is indebted to mankind of selfless services and to pay the debt should be the purpose and focus of anybody who does not want to regret about his or her journey to the world. In his words:

Life is not worth living if you have nothing to live and die for life without purpose is death....To be outstanding, you must have a passions, an obsession, a drive, a desire, a conviction, to give yourself for something that could benefit your generation and generations to come(2005:112-The Final...).

Thus rendering of selfless services that will benefit one's generation and future generations is the right path one has to take in order to become an outstanding personality, a problem solver, an asset and point of reference in history. Commenting on one of Habu Dawaki's books- There is Place called TOMORROW Written with a view to rendering services of enlightenment to mankind especially those men and women who have lost hope in themselves and in their capacities to build a successful life, Sam Nda Isaiah said:" This is a treasure trove of practical wisdom. It offers incredible insights that could help motivate you to a new level of thinking" (Dawaki, 2005:3). About the same book Mohamradu Buhari said: "Self-confidence is the foundation, handwork the cement, commitment the concrete...these are the essentials to build a successful person. There is a place called tomorrow has captured all in a lucid and simple language. I recommend it to all especially younger readers" About his other book: The Final WHISTLE Has Not Been BLOWN, Matthew Hassan Kukah said: "Every one will find this book a tonic for life. It will help you build and consolidate your success while it will serve as a foundation block for those who think life has passed them by" (Dawaki: 2005:3). In order words, everybody no matter the nature of problems he or she is facing in life, has a chance to revive his dormant faith in his creator who created him and enveloped him with creative recourses with which to achieve his purpose in the world. To restore his lost hope and confidence in himself and his abilities so as to work and make a success story of his life.



His Moral Teachings

Dawaki's moral teachings focus on people's well being in the world. Their well being is a network of their needs and their attainment which will result in the ultimate goal of life-happiness, has been their burning desire. Dawaki as a friend of humanity has taken up the task of helping people to help themselves to that end. Given the fact that moral values such as love, integrity, honesty, excellence, neighborliness, justices, mutual respect, compassion, fellow-feeling, responsibility, self confidence, etc, are building blocks needed to lay the foundation of a successful life, he begins by enlightening people to see important roles such moral values will play if rightly and strictly observed in their efforts to achieve their goals in life. In this work some issues in his moral teachings which call for the observance of moral values will be discussed.

First is life. Since life is value of all values, an end in itself while other values are means to serve it, it is better we start from what Dawak thinks that life means and connotes in all its reifications. He sees life as people and it is lived well and meaningfully when people focus on discovering and fulfilling their purpose; helping one another to achieve their individual and collective goals; living their lives according to the will of their Creator-God with a view to becoming what He wants them to be- assets in the world so as to make effective contributions to the development of the world. In his words:

Life is people....Life is about discovering and fulfilling purpose; it's about being a blessing; it's about serving God an becoming all that he wants you to become. It is about lifting and helping others; it's about making worthy and laudable contributions. It is about being useful to you, your family and mankind. Life is about impact. It is about investments (2005:119 ...--The Final...).

It is obvious from his conception of life that life is not what one has but what one wants to achieve with a view to helping oneself, one's family, country and the world as a whole. Second is life of purpose. Purpose is a thing man wants to do, get or become. Since man is not a being by chance in the world, it means that he is purpose-oriented being. As purpose-oriented being, he must live his life on purpose. As life is a network of qualitative events and experiences full of actions and distractions, it means that it is only when one has a purpose he striving to attain and remains focused on it that one be free from distractions. This is the view of Dawaki on the matter.

It is purpose that gives meaning to life. To live a life of purpose means you are doing exactly what you were born to do. We were not created to fulfill the same purpose or to play the same roles in life, that is why we have different talents and abilities. Therefore, I don't expect anybody to look like me, think like me, talk like me or act like me (2005: 181-Shake Hands..).

The obvious impressions in his preceding view are that every man is borne with endowments in the forms of talents and abilities. To discover his talents and abilities and develop them with a view to attaining his purpose should be his or her pre-occupation at all times. For that he or she should avoid competition, comparison and envy which are distractions and have made their victims loose gold medal of life which they would have won by living their own life, thinking their own thoughts and pursuing their own goals. In his words,

We are all created equal, but we don't have the same abilities and the same destinies. Life is not meant to be a competition, or a comparison between two or more peoples. That is folly and a waste of time.... If you must compete, strive to compete only with yourself. Don't buying things because others are buying them. If you look at what other have and what you lack; you will constantly live under stress and pressure (2005:141-There is :)



In other words a person should cultivate the virtue of self-reliance and shun the vice of imitation. Self-reliance is a key man needs to open a door to his house of talents and abilities. While imitation is abandonment of his talents and abilities in preference to living a life of others. Dawaki hammers on this more when he said: "It is very expensive to live a life that is not your own" (2005: 141-There is...). It is important to know that since man is a being with others he cannot avoid interacting with others. To be self-reliant does not mean that such a person should not emulate some good things he sees in others as such emulation usually reminds him of what he has but has not developed. But to be imitative is very dangerous as it leads a person to live a life of another person, reject himself and allow his own gifts to remain dormant. This certainly leads one to live a life of confusion, misery and failure. So, as Dawaki has said, such a life-a life of imitation- is very expensive to its victims.

Third is knowledge and ignorance. Generally, knowledge is awareness and its opposite is ignorance. No man can live well and attain his purpose in the world except by light of knowledge. And any man who has wrecked his life the cause is always traced to his ignorance. Dawaki threw more light on these issues by citing some views of scholars and thinkers on them. Socrates, a great philosopher of all times, whose first and last project was to serve humanity and thus lived and died for humanity said: "There is only one good that is knowledge, and one evil that is ignorance" (2005:51- There is..). Socrates saw knowledge as virtue, in fact, virtue of all virtues. Since, it is through knowledge that man can become aware of himself and his resources and how to use them well to attain his purpose. As well knowledge helps him to understand and appreciate the importance of other virtues like love, truth, honesty, kindness, patience, handwork, integrity, good name, dream, humility, fellow feeling, etc, in his dealing with his fellow people. Francis Bacon a great philosopher said: "Knowledge is power" (2005:147-Shake Hans...). Dawaki agreed with them in their views about knowledge and added that "Knowledge is light. It exposes the mistakes of the past so we could take corrective actions today against tomorrow" (2005:90-Shake Hands....). Knowledge as virtue has enabled people to understand the roles of moral virtues and the need for them to strictly observe these moral virtues such as justice, truth, love, honesty, etc, if they hope to live well and happily in the world. Knowledge as power has raised confidence in man as it gives him an edge over other beings. Despite his size as speck in the universe, when compared to other beings with intimidating features, he remains convinced and confident in his power to bend the rest of beings to serve his will. Knowledge as light enables man to find his way in thick darkness of confusion, competitions and distractions which his ignorance has brought about in his attempt to live peacefully, well and happily in the world. In summary Dawaki, said:

To become what you want, you must learn what you can and do what you should. You can never have an edge in any given field of human endeavour without knowledge. Remember knowledge is a compound word "know" and "edge". It is what you know that gives you an edge in this life (2005: The Final....)

It is obvious that knowledge and its right application which is wisdom is what every man or woman requires before he or she can hear and experience success and happiness in the world. Concerning ignorance, Dawaki saw it as a great obstacle to success. It usually makes its victims to know next to nothing in all spheres of life. Thus they live a wasted life by becoming agents of darkness, superstition, make-believe, gossips, self-destruction,



visionlessness, destruction of potentials, dreams and destinies and all other things that bring about failures in life. In his words:

To be uninformed is to be deformed. Ignorance is very expensive. It makes men impotent, senseless and liabilities. The destiny of Mr. Ignorant is poverty, shame, reproach, pain, embarrassment and irrelevance. It is impossible to be senseless and be attractive and useful at the same time... Ignorance suffocates potentials, suppresses vision, amputates dreams and immobilizes purpose (2005:150, 189-Shake Hands...).

It is obvious that victims of ignorance do not know where they are coming from, where they are and let alone where they are going. They are just like a ship in a sea without a landing point in view any wind can blow it to any part. They usually live a life not based on purpose. For that reason, they become a liability to themselves, their family, community, country and the world; problem creators, wreckers of people's destinies, destroyers of potentials and dreams.

Forth is people. Man is a social being, according to Habu Dawaki, who cannot make it in life, that is, achieve his goal or purpose by living and working in isolation. For whatever goal he is pursuing be it becoming a successful farmer, engineer, teacher, business man, husband, writer, mechanic, house builder, student, wife, politician, etc, he needs helping hands of others to succeed. So the first rug on the ladder of success is setting up a goal and the second rug is carrying people along by living in harmony with them so that they can always give him support he needs to succeed in his work.

Dawaki is in total agreement with Lee Lococca who said: "The key to success is not information, it is people "(Dawaki, 2005:59-There is..). So, for Dawaki, nobody can succeed in life without people' support. In his words:

No man can fulfill his purpose in isolation. Every teacher needs students, every businessman needs customers. You can't be a good wife without a husband, neither can you be an employer without employees. A king is worthless without subject. Great success always comes as a result of contact with people in one way or the other. The reason for any vision is people. Without people, you have no business. Where there are no people, dreams and visions are paralyzed (2005:59-There is..).

It is obvious that life is an interdependent phenomenon and man being a projection of life has to live a corporate existence, that is, with his fellow human beings if he must succeed in life. Fifth is success and way to attain it. What is this burning desire which every man or every woman has been dreaming, wishing, hoping, working and struggling to attain? This burning desire is success. Every person wishes to succeed with a goal. Success, some people see it as setting up a goal and treading on the path that leads to achieving it. Once the person is on the path that leads to it whether he or she finally attains the goal or not he or she is already a success. Some see success as contributions to collective inputs directed towards improving people's well being and as well enlarging common good. Dawaki a student of human nature is in agreement with the preceding views on success. Hence he said:

Success is about accomplishments and the producing of useful results. It is about rendering services, meeting needs, solving problems and healing hurts. Success is about making value based contributions and leaving behind impactful impressions. It is about unearthing and understanding the various roles you play in your walk here on earth and ensuring that you have played these roles effectively and efficiently to the best of your ability (2005:206-207-Shake Hands..).



Dawaki although shared the view about success as an attainment of a given purpose which produces useful results beneficial to the producer and others, he also agrees with Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic games who said with regard to success that: "...the most important thing in Olympic Game is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well" (2005: 82-The Final..). Thus, once a person is doing the right thing, at the right time, at the right place with the right people and for the right purpose, he is a success even if he fails to attain the purpose. Only the average minds who discuss events and little minds who discuss people will see him as a failure. But the great minds who discuss ideas- seeds of wonderful achievements in the world- will see him as a success. This is because the legacy he left behind another person will take off from there to accomplish the purpose in view. Dawaki in support of this, said:

Many people don't know that trying in itself is a success and not trying is a failure. Real victory is in having the courage to try to participate, to separate yourself from the crowd of onlookers by sticking out your neck to attempt what ordinary people dread to do (2005: 82-Final ..).

It is obvious that success is not something that can be wished but rather worked into a reality. For that reason there must be a thing or things to do in order to make it. What are those things? Habu Dawaki held the view that the leader of success has rugs and among them are thinking, dreaming, purpose, determination, perseverance, hardwork, faith, confidence, acquisition of skills, focus, patience and fellow feelings. After mentioning some names of great achievers in the world, he said:

You two can do the impossible, you can do great things, you can make your mark if you stop the blame game and demand for yourself a place in the world through dreaming, determination, perseverance, hard work, faith, confidence and the acquisition of skills (2005:154- There is..).

A person who stops blaming others for his problems whatever they are and sets up a goal for himself and remains focused on it and continues to march on the mentioned rugs on the ladder of success, he is bound to make a success story of his life- journey. This is because everybody has access to resources-human and material –for the asking, needed to realize a goal he or she has set up within the realm of human nature. For example, all the rugs on the ladder of success mentioned above and others not mentioned are inbuilt in everybody. The ones mentioned are human resources and the material resource such as love, knowledge, hardwork, commitment, lands, water, air, fire, trees, minerals, etc, are other rugs on the ladder of success and everybody has access to them. All these are gifts from the Creator of the world to man. It is now left for every man to creatively, usefully and rightly apply what he has to achieve what he wants in the world. When a person engages in relevant actions to that end he or she is already a success and when he or she allows these gifts remain dormant or apply them wrongly he or she is a failure. So let every person work to become what he or she aspires in the world.

Sixth is character. Character as a word is used in several senses. But the sense it is used which is relevant to this work and acceptable to Dawaki is what will be stated and discussed here. The word character means mental or moral qualities that make a person, group, nation, etc different from others. It is all those features that make a person, a thing, a place, a nation, an event, etc, what he or it is. That is to say character is a true picture of



a person, a country, a place, event, etc. In order to understand what character means and cannot very well it is important to trace its origin. Frank Buchman, cited by Habu Dawaki, gave a hint of what character is. Buchman said: "Sow a thought, reap an act; sow an act, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character and reap a destiny" (2005:85-Shake Hands...). So character is among the building blocks used to build an edifice of life called destiny. And destiny is the final result of what one has become in the world, either as a success or a failure. So everyone is a moulder of his or her own destiny-what he or she becomes in the world. As man thinks so he is. Seventh are values. Generally values are principles, things, events, issues, etc, seen by man as very important to him and for that deserve his observance, respect and recognition. In the world there is a legion of values but the values of all values is life. This is because life is treated as an end itself and not as a means to attain another end. Other values such as knowledge, housing, communication, education, transportation, construction, food, cars, books, love, truth, justice, integrity, etc, are means to attain the purpose of life. Therefore values whether material or moral are employed by man to guide him meeting up the demands of the absolute value –life. Habu Dawaki throwing more light on the nature and importance of values said;

I believe a man's values and principles are the chief determining factors that shape his ideas about life. To value something, means to place importance on it. Your values determine what you think, where you go, the people you associate with, the things you run after what you do and what you become in life... without proper values, there will be no character, integrity, and role models to follow. Strong values build strong character, they help to build strong and untied families and healthy relationships that ultimately head to establishing great, wholesome and blooming societies (2005:207- Shake Hands...).

It is obvious from Dawaki explanation of the place of values in people's development that they are jewels of inestimable worth. This is because values give self-confidence which is the foundation, hard-work which is the cement, commitment which is the concrete, patience which is the plumbing, and so on. All these are essential tools needed to build a successful edifice- a person or a society.

Dawaki is never tired of hammering on the fact revealed by common sense confirmed by knowledge and wisdom and supported by experience- the teacher of all teachers, that no person or society can experience development let alone attain his or its goal in any sphere of life without strict observance of values. In his words: "These common and unifying values like integrity, honesty, excellence, neighborliness, love, mutual respect, justice, compassion, responsibility and the likes can help shape our thinking and get us on the right course, on the pathway to our destiny" (2005:207-Shake Hands...). In other words, anybody who makes these values and the likes a habit is bound to think right, do the right things and follow the right path that leads to his or her destiny.

Eight is love. Love is a selfless service. The place of love in human relationships, interactions and progress is like the place of air in life. No air no life, no love no human person. A human person is a person who is aware of his social nature and obeys its demands by recognizing, respecting and appreciating the rights and needs of others. He is always showing sympathy, kindness, mercy and understanding in his dealing with his fellow human beings. Dawaki was of the view that "Life is all about relationships and there can be no meaningful relationship outside love" (2005: 214-Shake Hands...). He



went further to throw more light on what love as a concept means and connotes in all its ramifications. He said: The only time love looks down on others is to lift them up., outside love, there is no music but noise. Friendship is the music of love; goodness is the character of love; kindness is love on duty, care is love at work and compassion is love in action. Benevolence is the nature of love and respect its garment. Patience is the attitude of love, courtesy its consideration and humility its strength. Mercy is the sword of love, forgiveness its fragrance, justice its joy and truth its crown (2005:126-Shake Hands..).

It is obvious that love is a mother of friendship, goodness, kindness, care, compassion, benevolence, patience, courtesy, humility, mercy justice and truth. These are ingredients which sustain life as whole and human relationships in particular. It is clear that love is what man needs to transform the world into God's kingdom. If man loves others as he loves himself; treats others as he would like them to treat him, he will be agreeably surprised to discover that God's kingdom he has been craving to reach in the great beyond is here with him but has been lying dormant. So love is the key he needs to open the door of God's kingdom and present the report of his deeds in the world imbedded in his character. So for one to love is to live well and not to love is to wreck one's life. Ninth is good name. What is a good name? The phrase is a compound of two words: good and name. Good is self-explanatory which means that its meaning is understood by all for that does not call for explanation. While name calls for explanation because apart from being seen and understood generally as an identity, it is equally seen and understood in some other ways. Dawaki acknowledged this fact about the word name and in his explanation, said: "A name goes beyond giving man an identity. It speaks volumes of one's personality, quality of life, reputation, character, beliefs, principles, worth, values and destiny. No matter what man possesses, he is worthless without good name" (2005:94-Shake Hands...). That is to say once a man's personality, quality of life, reputation, character, beliefs, principles, worth, values, character, beliefs, principles, worth, associations, actions, words, ideas, company and so on are good-meaning they are beneficial and elevating to him, his family, his community, country and the world as a whole, such a man has a good name. When the opposites are what on the ground, the man has a bad name. History sees him as worse than human reject, virus and malice as he is always creating problems, destroying lives and homes, wrecking characters and destinies. It is for this reason that king Solomon the wise emphasizing the importance of good name said: "a good name is more to be desired than great riches; to be esteemed is far better than silver and gold" (Dawaki, 2005: 94-Shake Hands...). In support of this view as already cited Dawaki said: "No matter what a man possesses, he is worthless without a good name" So good name is worth living and dying for as it is what one is required to possess before he can be registered member in the school of all ages. It is in the record that in annals of history the following persons lived and died for the elevation of mankind in terms of enlightenment, open-mindedness, enhancement of sensibilities, extension of the frontiers of human knowledge, sensitivity to moral values such as justice, truth, love, kindness, patience, trust, cooperation, compassion, integrity, mercy, sympathy and so on. For instance, Socrates used his life to demonstrate that it is good to live one's life and teach others by personal example. He believed that ignorance is a source of problems in the world and that knowledge which is enlightenment is the only solution. Hence he left a dictum: "Man



know yourself". Jesus preached to mankind what their human nature has been telling them: "Love other as love yourself and treat other as you would like to be treated". If these moral principles are observed by all, the world will become the heaven we think is in the great Beyond. Mahatma Gandhi who is of the view that for harmony, progress and development to be the order of the day in the world "everybody must be the change he or she wishes to see in the world" Ralph Waldo Emerson who said: "Man is what he thinks about all day long". Each of these statements seeks to remind every man that he is a potential of greatness and has to use what he has to achieve what he wants which must be in his own interest and as well in the interest of mankind as a whole. Tenth is good leadership. Leadership generally is seen as an exercise of authority over a person or a group of persons. It could be formal or informal depending on the level in which it is exercised. In a nuclear family level a husband exercises it over his wife and children; in a peer group, a community, a town union and other levels of social association, a person chosen among the member's exercises the authority over them. In these levels the exercise of authority is formal and it involves control of people and management of their institutions and resources with a view to improving their living conditions. So leaders are persons chosen, appointed or elected to manage the affairs of their people. Thus leaders are expected to hold the light for people to find their way in all issues bothering them.

Habu Dawaki in his comment on good leadership holds the view that man's social nature gave birth to formation of society and nature of society necessitated the need for leadership. For society to grow and develop, leaders have to be role models, agents of enlightenment, observers of moral principles and values both in theory and practice, inspirers of people and custodians of their resources. In his words:

I believe the call to leadership at whatever level of life is a call to live a higher standard. Leaders should be custodians of truth, inspire commitment, and generate confidence in theirs by positively influencing them through their life ... the most worthy badge a leader should wear is integrity. It is one trait of leadership that stands taller than all other traits (2005: 95 – 96 – shake hand...).

From his statement; it is obvious that leadership is the highest calling in a society. For persons appointed or elected by the people to lead them as their leaders to deserve that great name, they have to understand the people, their environment, needs and aspirations and make these issues their focus. Their primary task is to help the people to help themselves, to show light for them to find their way, to encourage them to see the need to live life of purpose, to believe in themselves and encourage them to work continuously with a view to achieving their individual and collective goals in the world. So for the people to believe in their leaders and lean on them for help, the leaders have to wear the badge of integrity – meaning they have to be honest and morally upright in their dealings with the people both in public and private spheres. It is only when the leaders make honesty and moral uprightness their philosophy and way of life that their subjects can trust them, obey their instructions and work for common good. So for leaders to be described as good and great, they have to live an exemplary life, they have to be instrumental to bringing about positive changes they and their subjects are aspiring to experience in the world. It is only by making themselves and their subjects assets that they can be in a position to realize their dreams. Good leaders are the light while their opposites are darkness. Leaders become bad when they engage in acts of corruption, when they ignore and set aside the demands of the people and focus on their selfish needs at the



expense of their subjects. According to Dawaki, bad leaders are disasters of non – descript to themselves, their subjects and the nation as they usually corner for themselves what belong to all; treat the people who are not on their side as human rejects; destroy lives, wreck people’s homes an destinies, sentence many people to prison without walls, make some people to wish they had died a stillbirth. They always destroy dreams and hopes in the people and make them live a life not based on purpose; a life which is not theirs by choice; a life which is a reference point to anything wrong with humanity; a life which has made God regret to have created man. In his words:

Sadly, we have a gang of people who delight in others eating from crumbs that fall from their tables, instead pf teaching them how to fish in order to become independent in life. These pride themselves as the only giants among dwarfs. They never give others chances to discover, explore, and harness their potentials. I find it strange that some people can feel very comfortable simply because everything is going on well for them, whereas the opposite is happening even in their immediate environment. Chaos, confusion, discontent and its (sic) likes are unavoidable when leaders are interested only in building themselves (2005:132 – shake Hands..)

From Dawaki’s views about bad leaders, it is obvious that bad leaders are a great hindrance to people’s efforts to create and maintain an atmosphere of peace, harmony, progress and development which will help them to live well and achieve their individual and collective goals in the world.

COMMENTS: Habu Dawaki as a friend of mankind ever ready to share their joys and pains with them has chosen their elevation in the world through enlightenment, open – mindedness, broadening of sensibilities, sensitivity into human values such as compassion, integrity, self – reliance, fellow feeling, honesty, excellence, hard work, etc, as his first and last task. Man, given his limited knowledge which has made him to engage in continuous expansion of the frontiers of his knowledge about himself and the world, he is not sure of many things and events in the world but he is sure that, nothing in the natural world including man brought itself or himself into existence. So everything in the natural world is a product of another being – the Supreme Being. So, since man is not a product by accident but rather intention, he has to live a life of purpose by finding out who, whom, what, where, why and how he is in the world; and how to use what he has to achieve his purpose in the world. Also, due to the fact that man is by nature a social, being – a being with others, it has come home to everybody that no man can make a success story of his life by living an isolated life. For that every man should live a cooperative life – a life that recognizes and respects other people’s interests. In support of this kind of life Aristotle said: “... the man who seeks for his own good alone is not the best of men but the man who seeks for both his own good and for the good of other” (1955:173) translated. So nobody can succeed in life without the helping hands of others. And for others to extend their helping hands to him or her, he or she has to work for his or her own good and their own good too. In order for individuals and nations to pursue and realize their respective purposes, they have to strictly observe moral principles and values. These moral principles and values such as: love your neighbour as you love yourself, treat others as you would like to be treated; what belongs to all must be shared by all; united we stand, divided we fall; Heaven helps those who help themselves, integrity, good name, truth, honesty, sincerity, patience, dreaming, hard-work, etc, and their strict observance a necessity for anybody



who or a country which desires to succeed in life. It is their strict observance will make people to feel comfortable and ready to play out their best in their individual and collective projects. They always act as social bridges between people and their fellows. So an edifice called life can be built successfully by anybody in the world provided he or she lives a life of purpose; remains focused, determined and diligent; carries his or her fellow human beings along by treating them well; strictly observes moral principles and values, lives in fear of God by doing His will; works towards becoming a positive change or change he or she wishes to see in the world. Given that man is a purpose-oriented being, the only person who can stop you from achieving your purpose in life is a person entertaining your doubt, thinking your negative thought, living an isolated life, standing in your shoe, speaking with your tongue, seeing with your eyes and hearing with your ears. So the ball is now in your court. Concerning the place of leaders in the development of individuals and nations, it is obvious that they have important roles to play. In creating and maintaining an atmosphere of peace, harmony, security, progress and development. This is an atmosphere which must be on the ground before individuals and nations can embark upon projects and hope to achieve their aims. For this to be a reality, leaders must be role models in all spheres of life in doing things that are right and progressive and avoid doing things that are wrong and retrogressive to the society. So their behaviour both in public and privacy must be worthy of emulation. In support of his Chinua Achebe said:

Leaders are, in the language of psychologist, role models. People look up to them and copy their actions, behaviour and even mannerisms. Therefore if a leader lacks discipline the effect is apt to spread automatically down to his followers. The less discerning among these (i.e. the vast majority) will accept his action quite simply as the done things, while the more critical may wrong about it for a while and then settle the matter by telling themselves that the normal rules of social behaviour need not apply to those in power (1983:37)

Therefore, since leaders are seen by their followers (citizens of their country) as role models whose actions, behaviour and even mannerisms are to be imitated by them whether good or bad, leaders should live a life worthy of emulation if they want their citizens to become assets in the development of their country. If leaders are trustworthy by being truthful, honest, sincere, impartial, courageous, purpose-oriented, foresighted, just, merciful, selfless, enlightened, development conscious, etc, in dealing with their citizens and managing the resources of the country their citizens too will follow their foot steps and all of them will experience development. But if it happens that their moral disposition is such that results in moral vices such as "moral laxity, selfness, bribery and corruption, lack of sense of duty and moral responsibility, disregard for public good, embezzlement of public fund, etc..." (Omogbe, 2003:198), their citizens will imitate too their immoral actions and behaviour. When that is the case both citizens and their leaders will only hear of development but they can never experience it in their country.

CONCLUSION

From the preceding discourses, Habu Dawaki's intention in his moral teachings has been to show light for people to find their way. He seeks help them to help themselves; to understand and appreciate where they came from, where they are and where there are going; to discover their potentials and their purposes and how to develop their potentials and use them to attain personal and collective purposes in life. For that



reason he has convinced everybody who has read his works that no human being is in the world by accident but by the intention of the Supreme Being-the Almighty God who created both heaven and earth and all therein. So man is a purpose-oriented being and for him to make a success story of his life- journey in the world, he has to live a life of purpose. It is only by living a life of purpose that his life –value of all values-can be meaningful, worthy and fulfilled at the end. Fortunately, man being the only being bearing the image and likeness of his Maker, has all the necessary resources required to achieve his purpose of life. Whatever thing he wants to be: a farmer, a mechanic, an artist, a teacher, a philosopher, a scientist, a statesmen, an administrator, a preacher, a trader, a writer, an engineer, a social bridge builders, a father , a mother, etc, he has all the enabling resources at his disposal. The resources well used he has a chance to become a role model in the area of his choice. For him to have that chance he has to believe in God and live his life according to His will, believes in himself and has confidence in his abilities, lives a life of purpose, carries his fellow human being along as he needs their helping hands in attending his purpose. He has to remain foresighted, focused, determined, diligent and hardworking at all times with a view to attaining his chosen purpose. Also he has to, a social being- a being who lives with others- make the following moral virtues such as love, kindness, sincerity, honesty, mercy, patience, compassion, righteousness, truth, service, etc, his way of life at all times. It is only by making moral virtues as his way of life that man can succeed in avoiding moral vices such as hatred, dishonesty, falsehood, stealing, bribery, crime, greediness, blackmail, negative criticism, injustice lawlessness and the likes which have sentenced some of their perpetrators to prisons and others to prisons without walls and their victims to predicaments of non-descript.

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