



*Various Meetings  
With*

*His Imperial Majesty  
Qädamawi  
Haile Selassie*

*King of Kings*



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## Meeting H.I.M. in Addis Ababa

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Dr. V. Raymond Edman,  
Wheaton College Chancellor  
September 22, 1967

"This will be the first time in more than ten months that I have attempted to speak in public. But I want you to consider with me an invitation to visit a King.

A number of years ago I was invited by His Majesty Haile Selassie the First, of Ethiopia, to visit his ancient empire and inspect the schools which were beginning to be reorganized after the long occupation during the war, and then report to him in person. In company with Dr. E. Joseph Evans, one of the trustees of the college, I went to Ethiopia and made that inspection. Then came the word from the palace that as of a given day and hour we were to present our report to His Majesty. You can be very sure that we were punctual and that we arrived in plenty of time.

When our names were called, we went to the drawing room in the palace in which the Emperor himself was seated at the far end of the room. According to court protocol, as I came to the entrance I stopped and bowed to ask, silently, permission to enter. His majesty nodded to indicate his permission.

I proceeded to the middle of the room — it was quite a large room — and then stopped and again bowed to

indicate, "May I come further?" This again is court protocol, because if the Emperor has observed something distasteful to him, at that point he can indicate a negative, and one has to retire. He nodded and then he went beyond customary court protocol, because usually he would remain seated and nod his approval; but in this case he arose, took a few steps, extended his hand, and pointed me to a seat at his right.

Dr. Evans came next, and he was seated to the left. The interview was held in Amharic and English. The prime minister sat between Dr. Evans and myself, and he interpreted for us into English and then back into Amharic for the Emperor.

I shall never forget the reaction of His Majesty to my explanation of our educational philosophy at Wheaton. He expressed his knowledge about the college and interest in it, and made inquiry about it. When I explained that our education is based upon the Word of the Living God, and when he had heard the interpretation, he smiled and extended both hands, and he said to us in Amharic, "I wish the education of my people likewise to be based squarely upon the Word of God."

But I speak primarily of another King. This chapel is the house of the King. Chapel is designed to be a meeting on your part with the King of kings and the Lord of lords Himself. To that end, chapel is designed for the purpose of worship. Over these years, going back to Jonathan Blanchard, Charles Blanchard, J. Oliver Bus-

well, myself, and now to President Armerding, there has been this same basic objective — that chapel is to be a time of worship, not a lecture, not an entertainment, but a time of meeting the King. Coming in, sit down and wait in silence before the Lord. In so doing, you will prepare your own hearts to hear the Lord, to meet with the King. Your heart will learn to cultivate what the Scripture says, “Be still and know that I am God.” Over these years I have learned the immense value of that deep, inner silence as David, the king, sat in God’s presence to hear from him.”

## Meeting H.I.M. in Bonn

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Prof. Dr. Wendt,  
Friederich Wilhelm University, Bonn, Germany  
09.11.1954

“On behalf of the Agricultural Faculty of the University of Bonn, I would like to thank you all for having accepted our invitation. Today, the Faculty of Agriculture bestows the highest academic honour, a German university has to award, on His Majesty Haile Selassie I. of Ethiopia. His Imperial Majesty has received the title of Doctor honoris causa already from a number of universities in the United States of America, Canada and Great Britain. I only mention the Harvard University in Cambridge and Oxford University in England. As long as the Touropa still does not do any holiday trips to Ethiopia, I cannot assume that each of us has an idea of the farming problems in Ethiopia. Let me therefore say something about the Ethiopian Empire and the local agricultural conditions. [...]

The number of livestock in Ethiopia is the highest of all countries on the African continent. 1952, the empire had more cattle and sheep than it had residents, namely about 20 million cattle and 28 million sheep and goats. For comparison, I cite the figures of the Federal Republic. We have about 12 million cattle and 2.5 million sheep and goats. Our stocks are constantly decimated due to diseases such as Tuberculosis, foot and mouth disease damaged basis. We have been try-



ing for years to overcome the tuberculosis, and it is not clear when the goal will be fully achieved.

You can appreciate the difficulties that arise with the same task and the high livestock numbers in Ethiopia! [...] As a problem unknown to us, I name the plague of locusts. It is clear that such an abundance of various practical problems can hardly be solved by a pure scientist treating special problems in the solitude of his study room. It requires a far-sighted person who has thorough expertise in the agricultural sector and is of deep human understanding. We know how skeptical in this country the rural people are to innovations. I only remind you of the great difficulties in the introduction of the potato in Germany. Only with careful hand, under the careful observance of traditional values the high goal can be achieved. The improvement of agriculture in Ethiopia requires an outstanding teacher of the whole people. And this teacher and supporter, the people of Ethiopia have in His Imperial Majesty.[...]

What action has now taken His Imperial Majesty, to increase the agricultural wealth of his people? I shall confine myself here to some points. About thirty years ago the first steps have been taken for land reform. Today, large parts of the empire have been measured, and there are clear legal relationships created.

Foreign experts have set up model farms, to which seed stations were affiliated. On some of these farms His Imperial Majesty has introduced European breeding animals for the refinement of cattle and horse breeds. Young farmers go to these farms to learn how

to use modern machinery and seed selection, seed storage, fertilizers, waste management and irrigation. After completion of the training young farmers can avail themselves of free modern plows, harrows and seeders that allow them to implement the newly acquired knowledge into practice. Next is that in the provinces agricultural colleges have been established, and two cities have higher agricultural schools. Here the students are taught in agriculture and animal husbandry, agricultural engineering, veterinary medicine, plant diseases and other subjects. Numerous German work at these schools. One of the first schools was set up in the German model following the German Koslan. I now come to the reading and presentation of the diploma. "

## Meeting H.I.M. in the Victoria Park

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Mr. Johnson, Bath-citizen,  
Victoria Park, Bath, England  
1936

“I was walking with my sister in the Victoria Park and I looked up, there was a man coming towards me, which I found very striking. He was immaculately dressed but he was quite small, but very very powerful. Great sensitive energy coming off him; and he walked up to me and spoke to us and he had a very gentle, gentle quiet voice.

He touched me on the head, and I can remember to this day the sense of being in the presence of someone who was more than man.

His eyes were very powerful, very dark, very honest-the sense of honestly...perfection...this was a stock for me all the years and I am very pleased to have met Him.”

## Meeting H.I.M. in the Kindergarten

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Susanne S.,  
Kindergarten Schweizer Spende, Vienna, Austria  
1954

"What I will never forget are His eyes. As He came in, through the door, He seemed little and delicate to me. But as I dared to look into His eyes, He suddenly became powerful; I would say 'imperial'. These eyes had a charisma that you cannot describe.

They exuded power, but also goodness and the (His) gaze seems not only to enter the person, but also their thoughts and character."

## Meeting H.I.M. in India

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Professor Ajai M.,  
Indian Agricultural Research Institute, India  
1956

“In 1956 I had an unique metaphysical experience at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. I began to notice unusual vibrations from the left side of my place; someone had sat on the carpet and came quietly to me. When I lifted my head, I saw a slender, small, quiet and serene, bearded man with an aura of mystical awe around his face. He was wearing a blue three-piece suit with a narrow tie. I stood up and greeted the visitor, who in turn, smiled and nodded his head. A few seconds my puzzled look hit his confident, piercing and flowing-love eyes. I saw universal love and care flowing down his face. While I was still staring at him and perceived so much cosmic love from this visitor- he was standing two feet next to me, looking around the reading room. As he went back toward the entrance, I noticed that he was accompanied by a minister of the Indian government and by the director of my institute. On inquiry, I learned that this unique person was His Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I.”

## Meeting H.I.M. in the Hospital

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Dr.med. Lydia T. , Erlangen, Germany,  
1955

“...Something I must stress yet! The large, bright, dark brown eyes of the elder were without interruption, so directed to my eyes, that I thought he was one of those who can read through the eyes of the soul. I looked him continuously in the eyes ...”

## Meeting H.I.M. in Moscow

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K.P.S. Menon, Indian Ambassador to the USSR, Moscow  
1959

“Your Imperial Majesty,  
Your Excellencies,  
Dear friends.

We, the heads of the missions of Afro – Asian countries who participated in the Bandung Conference, have gathered here to pay our respect to the highly esteemed head of one of these countries, His imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Ethiopia.

On behalf of my colleagues and on my own behalf I sincerely greet His Imperial Majesty.

I would also like to say how highly we value his kindness that he found the time for our reception despite his extremely busy programme.

I would also like to say how highly we value the presence of the outstanding Soviet leaders. We always wait for the occasion when we can repay, even to a light degree, the splendid hospitality accorded us by the Soviet Government and the Soviet people when we travel through the vast Soviet country.

I shall not speak further on this matter as my dear and respected colleagues, the Ambassador of the United Arab Republic will propose a separate toast to the Soviet leaders. As you know, there is a custom according to which the oldest among us proposes a toast to the principal guest while the next in seniority – to the Soviet leaders.

We had the honour of greeting many heads of states and governments from the Eastern, Western, Central parts of the Bandung Area, but there has never been among us a head of a more ancient and romantic country than Ethiopia. Last years I was in Damascus and strolled along a street which was bound with the name of St. Paul, I felt the spirit of two milleniums of history. One has the same feeling when recalling the history of Ethiopia. Actually, our feelings are even more profound because while the history of Damascus goes back to the New Testament, the history of Ethiopia dates back to the Old Testament. As we all know the Ethiopian dynasty originates from the union of King Salomon and the Queen of Sheba some three thousands years ago. Are there many states with such an ancient history?

And nevertheless a ruthless attempt was made in our time to destroy the independence of this kingdom with the connivance of the League of Nations. Allow me to recall the words pronounced by His Imperial Majesty on that occasion: "If you are looking for peace without justice", His Imperial Majesty said, "you will have neither peace nor justice". These words proved to be prophetic as Italy's aggression against Ethiopia was the beginning of a chain of events which plunged the world into World War II.

I recall a historic case when the words of His Imperial Majesty were cited. At the end of April, 1945, the representative of Ethiopia at the San Francisco Conference recalled the words of His Majesty which Imperial I just cited from the rostrum of the Conference. A strange coincidence – precisely at the time when



these words were being spoken, the naked corps of Mussolini was hung by his feet on a large square in Milan, where several years earlier large crowds greeted him shouting: duce, duce, duce. And I recalled that this was the man who, on seeing corpses of thousands of inhabitants of Ethiopia, exclaimed that this reminded him of “the beauty of a blossoming black rose”.

It is unpleasant to recall these events. However, they cannot be forgotten as we must all be on guard against the revival of fascism or Nazism in any form or way.

I called Ethiopia an ancient and romantic state. However, a rapid transformation of this country is at present taking place. His Imperial Majesty granted his people a constitution on his own will. Under his inspired leadership Ethiopia has scored remarkable success in education and health protection. This is one of the reasons why the people greatly love and respect His Imperial Majesty.

The presence of such an historic and respected personality is a great honour. I ask you to rise and drink to the health of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Ethiopia and to the happiness and prosperity of his people.”

## Meeting H.I.M. at the Harbor

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Wilfried S., Hamburg, Germany

“My uncle Bruno is a policeman at the white mice (white motorcycle police) and told me the following beautiful experience: When Emperor Haile Selassie left the ship, after his harbor cruise, and walked toward his car, my uncle opened the car door. Suddenly the emperor turned around and gave, with a warm handshake, a twenty-mark note to the completely surprised. His features betrayed so much kindness, that my uncle could not resist a human emotion. Not only the money, especially the benevolence compared to a policeman's – that was what my uncle made so delighted.”



