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EDITORIALE

di Lidia Corbezzolo

Carissimi Amici e Carissime Amiche
l'anno 2013 ci vedrà impegnati nella realizzazione del progetto "Asmara Benefiting Sport Activities", per la fondazione in Asmara di un centro di Medicina dello Sport, secondo un accordo firmato da Assiter con l'Eritrean Sport Commission. Per questo progetto abbiamo vinto un Bando al Comune di Roma il cui finanziamento sarà pari al 50% del costo totale.

Il progetto prevede anche la formazione di un medico eritreo a Roma, in Medicina dello Sport e in Pronto Soccorso Respiratorio per la durata di sei mesi.

Il medico eritreo è stato individuato dall'Eritrean Sport Commission ed è il dott. Eyob Tesfaselasie. Il dott. Eyob farà formazione all'Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore-Policlinico Gemelli-Scuola di Specializzazione in Medicina dello Sport- Direttore Prof. Paolo Zeppilli, il suo Tutor sarà il dott. Massimiliano Bianco, e, all'Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"-Azienda Policlinico Umberto I- UOC Fisiopatologia e Riabilitazione respiratoria- Direttore dott. Marco Brunori.

Un caloroso benvenuto al dott. Eyob ed auguri di buona formazione in Medicina dello Sport ed in Pronto Soccorso Respiratorio.



(Nella foto: dott. Eyob e Lidia Corbezzolo)



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Non è una tassa aggiuntiva, né un sostituto dell'8x1000 (destinato alla Chiesa), ma un modo per scegliere a chi destinare parte delle proprie tasse, che andrebbero comunque allo stato.

Se il contribuente non firma nell'apposito riquadro del 5x1000, questo rimane allo stato.

Si può devolvere il 5xMille attraverso i Mod. 730, UNICO e CUD.

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Grazie al tuo 5x1000 aiuteremo la popolazione Eritrea e porteremo avanti i nostri progetti:

la costruzione di scuole; lo scavo di pozzi d'acqua; la formazione nel campo dello sport; sostegno agli ospedali eritrei; sostegno agli orfanotrofi; adozioni a distanza; mostre e conferenze per diffondere la storia e la cultura eritrea...

...e tanti altri futuri progetti che potranno aiutare la popolazione eritrea

a risollevarsi e superare le difficoltà date dalla guerra, dalle carestie e dalla siccità.

Siate sempre con noi con la Vostra amicizia e il Vostro sostegno per realizzare piccoli e grandi sogni per la NOSTRA AMATA ERITREA.

ADULTS AND YOUTH: TO INVOLVE AND WORK TOGETHER

by *Daniel Semere*



There is a general belief that the relation between adults and youth is most of the time filled with misunderstanding from which emanates tension or disagreement of opinion and the general perception they have toward things. This might be seen as natural since the influences that shape the overall make up of these two groups is naturally different and circumstantial. But whether we like it or not adults and youth need to work together in almost every field and area in order to ensure a desired outcome of just about everything. And moreover both can benefit from the usually vast areas of expertise one enjoys which the other one lacks and vice versa. Hence if understood properly and reconciled their joint effort can accomplish a lot of things.

To effectively mobilize this joint effort, adults and youth need to identify a successful ways of working in partnership. First they have to recognize that each brings its own experiences and insights to the other. At the same time there are some specific needs youth and adults have of each other, if met, will contribute to the success of any endeavour. It needs no further explanation therefore, that adults and youth need each other, but there are certain things they need to know to make this possible.

If we say youth and adult need to be allies then young people need to see adults as honest, and reliable. This happens when adults show genuine interest in and respect for what young people are in need of and passionate about.

Adults in these partnerships need to operate as absolute advocates for the young people that are looking to them for their support. The youth on their part have to give the experiences and insights of adults its due respect and strive to learn from it. Often, adults can feel that their perspectives may be outdated or irrelevant, that's why it's important that the youth let the adults know that their experience is valued.

Mistakes are great teachers though no one would like to commit them. Perhaps that's the reason people tend to cover up their mistakes and become dishonest. This particularly can have undesirable effect when adults do it. Young people need to know that adults make mistakes. Too often we behave as though only our best faces can be shown and as though our successes are more important than lessons learned. As adults, we have to tell stories that include the challenges we've faced, the mistakes we've made, and the lessons we've learned. When we share our shortcomings along with our successes, we create a safer place for both youth and adults to work together because we can help each other with our weaknesses. Adults should also know that they are not expected to have all the answers or be perfect. This can be challenging for adults who have assumed the role of guiders or teachers. As young people, we can remind our older partners that we need their honesty and their insights. We must also remember and value the lessons that are learned from challenges and mistakes and to learn from their stories without judgment or prejudice. This in a way can promote true history of our ancestry as well as our struggles and achievements. And needless to say true history helps

us think of ourselves as responsible for our community's well being as a whole.

Young people make multiple choices that reflect their own thinking, relationships, preferences, and desires every day. These can all be regarded as victories if they are all consciously made. And adult need to take notice of these acts and encourage and guide them through words, actions, and gestures. And show that there is a high expectation of their talents and skills, and aid them with whatever we can.

This all boils down to one major point that we have every good reason to involve and coordinate young people in any venture and hence we

should have an understanding on how to make this possible. Young people are natural leaders, young people listen to other young people, and young people provide energy and ideas to any effort. By involving youth therefore, both youth and community benefit. Youth will discover and develop their abilities and talents while gaining valuable experience from adults and community. And the good thing is that this type of experience will last a lifetime and prepare young people to be active adults. Community on the other hand is strengthened by including youth voice and contribution. They also benefit by witnessing positive youth role models and hence challenging the stereotype of the "careless youth".



Foto Lusci

Daniel Semere, is a researcher at Research and Documentation Center, he is also a columnist in Eritrean profile.

ENDEAVORS THAT BROUGHT HIDDEN TREASURES TO LIGHT

by *Meron Abraba*



Paradise on Earth

The Northern Escarpment or Eritrea's Green Belt came to be known only after the construction of the Serejeka-Shebah road.

Breathtaking hairpin bends winding down the magnificent mountain scenery give travelers a spectacular and unforgettable sight. And right where the cliffs begin, just beyond the village of Weki, a stunning view awaits your eyes: the sky at eye level filled with a dense white fog makes you feel like you're floating in the clouds.

The amazing panorama gets even better as you proceed down the road, through the thick forests where roaming wild animals and chirping birds in the air add further delight to the enchanting trip. The majestic scenery you



get to see after it rains is yet another remarkable vision – and all thanks to the construction of that road.

Invigorating Harmony

Among the fruitful road constructions of the country one is the Massawa-Assab highway, which has reduced the drive from three days to a one-day trip.

Before, owing to the bumpy roads and tiresome journey, travelers rarely noticed the area's natural beauty and that the road passed along the seacoast. Although not yet completely asphalted, the Massawa-Assab highway is now smoother than a runway and has not only resolved the transportation problems in the area but also brought about relaxation for the minds of travelers.

Along the road, ostriches and antelopes freely wander around, shielded by the Afars' strict laws forbidding hunting of wild animals: they are of the belief that "God gives us water for the animals' sake!"

With such long freeways there is no reason why we couldn't hold car rallies in Eritrea in the future.

Thanks are due to all those who thought of building this road and actually did. They deserve high praises while their names shall be engraved in the hearts of the millions of tourists of tomorrow.

Gerset Dam

One of the benefits of tourism is that you can see for yourself sites whose existence you just took for granted.

When a person who saw Gerset years ago, goes there today, he is in for a real surprise. Filled up to its borders, the Gerset Dam today seems to be the venue of convention for the trees and animals in the area, while the vast land across it has gone beyond providing the fruits of its soil.

In the early morning hours, swarms of birds invade the Gerset skies as they fly away, but only to return in the same manner as the sun sets down. This is a clear sign of Gerset's inevitable contribution towards promoting a rich biodiversity. It has already begun becoming a domestic tourism destination and soon Gerset Dam, along with the neighboring Fanko-Rawi and Fanko-Tsimue dams, will definitely be welcoming tourists from the region as well as around the world.

A True Miracle

To say that I have never seen such a unique, beautiful and highly significant endeavor in my life would be the understatement of the century. The Igla-Demhina road is by far one of the very strategic and important works of infrastructure.

The steep descent from the highest spot in our country (above 2000 meters above sea level) to ground zero at the sea level in only a few kilometers distance is indeed a truly astonishing phenomenon.



Almost the whole country can be seen from the top: facing you from the west are the highland plateaus of Adi Keih hosting the ancient archaeological sites of Kohaito; Mount Soira towers over you from the South; the precipitous gorge in the east leave you with the valleys lined ahead towards North. Looking down there is the Hadas River while the Red Sea acknowledges its presence in the Southeast.

When an elderly resident of the area was told that a road would be built for them, all he could manage to say was "Is it by the hands of man or of God?" Indeed, this miraculous work accomplished by the Government of Eritrea proved the strong Eritrean will of doing the impossible.

The list is endless... The Eritrean relics are so countless that even if we were to be given one each, we would still remain outnumbered.

(This article was first featured in a special edition of Tourism magazine published early 2013. The Tigrigna version appeared in the Tigrigna edition of the same magazine published in 2011 in the occasion of the symposium by the Ministry of Tourism.)

Meron Abraha, is journalist and web chief editor for Shaebia.org.

WHAT USED TO BE CHILDHOOD

by *Daniel Semere*



I always remember a teacher from my high school. First of it is imperative to know here that it's only been ten years since I finished high school. So it hasn't been that long and the memories are still fresh. But lately he just repeatedly appears in my mind, and what I particularly end up with is his famous speech he used to give every time we annoyed him, for whatever reason. "You guys don't know how lucky you are to get this opportunity of education even though you don't seem to appreciate it" he would begin. "It is easy to take things for granted" after this we always knew what would follow. "I used to walk 32 kilometers everyday to attend my classes. Some of these times I didn't even have proper shoes." Of course he was quite old, so even though the comparison did shame us often, most of us just tacitly accepted the fact that times change. After all he was talking about how things were half a century ago. So the changes, as big as they are, were simply natural. Every now and then we tried to visualize what kind of life children had back when he was a kid. What's more we would try to joke what kind of life children will have after 50 years when we eventually become as old as our teacher.

The point of this article is not about education. Rather it is about how things change with time. And the above example is meant to put the insight that is to follow in to perspective. Things change and there is no question about that, but how fast? When I observe high school students their values, their way of doing things, their thinking, even their character, I can't help but to think it is so much different than how things were before 10 years when I was in high school. I would have never thought things would change this fast, and I am still young. It should be made clear here that there are changes that could considered positive, while others are not so much desirable.

But what this article wants to address is the issue of childhood. What we have mentioned so far was to give a perspective on the rate of change across generations. The rate of change between the time between my teacher's generation, and our generation, and that of ours and the children of today, is incomparable. I think things are changing in much faster rate in the later. And it's understandable that technologies affect behaviors and hence today's children, as they are living in much technologically advanced time have a different behavior. But the rate of this technological advancement in recent years has been unprecedented it self, therefore having a corresponding effect in



today's children behavior. As much as there could be numerous benefits to this fact, there is also a dark side to it. One of the victims in this respect is the issue of childhood.

The time of childhood is perhaps the most cherished memories a person can have for the big part of that person's life time. It is fond memories of the innocent, happy and exciting time of our life. Of course the time of childhood differs from generation to generation. And as has already been stated the realities of a given time has a lot of influence in this respect. However, no matter the difference, the hallmark of it is fun and excitement. These, in later times, are to be cherished and remembered with love and longing.

My childhood, as most of my peers, is no different. There are many things I hold close to my heart. What I reminisce most vividly is the kind of games we used to frequent. There were seasons of games, where a certain time is inundated with a particular kind of game. Everywhere you go you would see children playing the same kind of games and activities. It was as if every season was a festival where everywhere one goes it was bustling with fun games and activities. And children back then knew what children ought to know and nothing more. There was a clear distinction between what children and adults knew and hence corresponding the clear difference between these two age groups. I think that is why we used to be more respectful of adults and that we revere them. It might spark a smile on the young faces of today's children but back then it was common to feel ashamed and even be fearful if your teachers saw you playing games for fear of being shunned lest we got weaker in our studies.

Sadly however, nowadays the clear distinction between children and adults are getting very vague. In this era of television and internet both groups are exposed to the same kind of



information and hence making them more and more the same. As if it is not bad enough that children are confined inside their house watching TV or playing games while missing out the fun they could have had outside getting dirty, falling and rising as life really is; they are inundated with information that are even confusing for adults. Adults also descend down and plunge themselves in movies, TV, Music, and sometimes games together with their children all the while destroying the delight of childhood their child should have had. A writer once puts it by saying that “adults are becoming more childish in these pop pursuits and that children, with all the secrets of adulthood now revealed to them in prime time, are becoming more adult.”

What's more troubling is the kind of information these children are being continuously bombarded with. Indeed knowing that one of the most favorite TV programs is the disgustingly violent, exceedingly inappropriate, and ethically depraving Wrestling. It is almost expected that a 6 year old knows all the “stars” of wrestling world. What kind of world are we to expect where such people are the role models and fantasies of the coming generation? At least back in our time the weight tilted towards football superstars, and imitating them would be playing football which is healthy, interactive and good. God forbids should today's children try to imitate John Cena!

The implication of this phenomenon goes

beyond the aforementioned concerns. In a world where contact and familiarity with one another is getting less by the day, the social fabric of the society as whole could one day be on the line. Back in our time of childhood, everyone knows everyone. Let alone kids from your neighborhood, even kids we used to play football with who came from other neighborhood, we all knew each other. The beauty of

this is that, growing up one ends up having many friends everywhere. Friends who stand by your side in time of happiness and sadness; and friends who reminisce the good old time - what used to be our childhood. And I am sure most of them are concerned just like the author we mentioned above wrote “wherever one looks one sees more evidence that childhood is disappearing.”



Foto Lusci

Daniel Semere, is a researcher at Research and Documentation Center, he is also a columnist in Eritrean profile.

SOME ONE WHO IS FEELING LONELY SHOULD COME TO ERITREA

by *Yakiem Alemshged*



In most part of the western and many parts of the world, how many people at this very moment are feeling absolutely useless and miserable. No matter how rich, charming, charismatic and enchanting they may be because they are alone today, yesterday and may be tomorrow they will be who knows. Young people who have nobody to go out with tonight, elderly people sitting in front of the TV as it were the last hope of salvation. Business man in their hotel rooms wondering whether what they do has any sense to it. Since all that they feel at this moment is the despair of all being alone.

Who feels that we are far from each other and no one cares about us, and who forgets we Eritrean`s are along side of each other? We never feel lonely so does our parents do. Even if they have no money, they are not charming; they all have friends they could talk to strangers. They even could go and have a coffee ceremony in some of their cousin`s house. Everybody is a friend. What a culture.

Couple days ago after sharing some time with my friends, I was walking towards my home, I started to imagine that if I were not here, may be in some other part of the world, I could feel the overwhelming feeling, the strange sensation, I may have many reasons to say that I am lonely. But now I say I am in Eritrea soon I will be asleep and tomorrow I will go to work there

I have friends. After work I could have some time with my friends, I am always surrounded by people no more reason to say I am lonely.

One of my old cousins came from Europe and I heard him saying the year he passed there was the saddest of all his life. Because he knows that nothing in life is worse than to be lonely. I consider striking up a conversation with him. He says it was better for him to reach the limit and to understand how necessary is to dare, to talk to strangers, to discover where to meet people. To avoid going to watch TV or read a book because if they do that the meaning of life will be lost, loneliness will became a vice, and then the long way to human companionship will be no longer found. As a choice we are making it an we are saving our own lives. We never go on pretending day by day we are gathered as a big family. We can`t let someone suffer of loneliness no we can`t tolerate it. At last my cousin express that he is very proud to be one of this loving friendly and helpful culture. Anyone who strikes by loneliness should come to Eritrea and should get relief soon.



Yakiem Alemshged journalist for Eritrean Profile.

DEBRE-BIZEN

by *Daniel Semere*



The monastery of Debre Bizen is found in the breathtaking mountainous area near the town Nefasit (25 km from Asmara). It was established in 1360 AD by the monk Abune Filipos, at

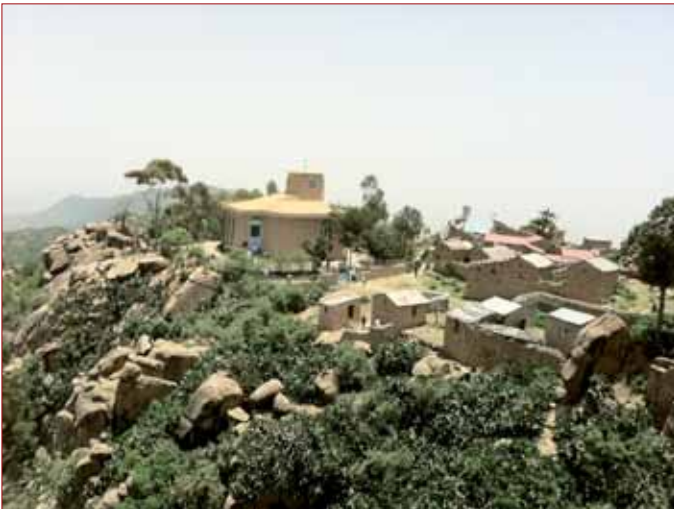
the top of the mountain that is 2700 meters above sea level. From the foot of the mountain to the top is about 2 hour climb. Since there is no straight line road to the top, one is required to take a devious road of about 6 km. the monastery has 3 churches with the earliest one being built by Abune Filipos himself in 1368. The walls are made of plain small rocks and cement made of mud mixed with provender. The doors of the church are made of pine wood.

It is 4.50 meter length and 4 meters wide; and it is carved by hand. The inside of the church is embellished with incredible paintings of Byzantine style. It is indeed astonishing that the paint was concocted from flower petals, red mud, eggs, and it is still holding after around 6 centuries.

On the left side of the church hangs ancient bell that still gives service.

The two caves where Abune Filipos used to pray and rest is another sacred part of the monastery. The passage to these caves is a window sized hole.

Another wonder of the monastery is the 40 kg bible that includes 80 holy books of the bible. 600 years old cross made of wood wand dresses of the founders of the monster, Ancient thrones, are among the valued assets of the monastery.



Daniel Semere, is a researcher at Research and Documentation Center, he is also a columnist in Eritrean profile.



A CUSTOM DURING SPRING IN THE HIGHLANDS OF ERITREA

by *Daniel Semere*



In Eritrea every season has its own customs; and as spring is one of the four seasons in the land it has its own distinct customs. Spring is a season of hard work; every farmer sets out to his farm with his sharpened sickle at dawn, spends the whole sunny and windy days chaffing the dried crops off the field and only returns back to his home after dark. One of the dearly cherished customs of the spring season in the highlands is the chaffing campaign. The work of this season at times is a little too hard that the people have a custom of helping each other in harvesting their crops. In addition to the help given to those who are in need, a hand is also given to people who are fully able as a sign of courtesy. One of the collaborations made in the form of chaffing campaign is the one made between families of engaged couples. The families of the boy summons all the young male members of their kin, friends, and neighbors and make a chaffing campaign to help the family of the girl. This campaign is made as a response to the ox given by the girl's family to the boys family as a sign of good will and collaboration on the engagement. The name of such kind of chaffing campaign is 'Metse'aria'. In this Metse'aria the family of the boy spread out from 50 to 70 young men all over the farms of the girl's family and chaff all their crops and make the haystacks in a day or two; a job

which would have take the whole season for the girl's family.

On the day of the Metse'aria all the food and drink for the campaigners is prepared by the girl's family. They make Suwa (a traditional beer) and prepare meat and a party is held in honor of the campaigners.

On the chaffing ground campaigners select and good 'Keraray' (a person who plays the traditional musical instrument Krar and sings), and he plays songs for them all day long while they are chaffing. The Keraray sings different traditional songs commonly sang on such events; songs praising the engaged couple, their families, songs praising the skill and vigor of the campaigners, songs that encourages and inspire the campaigners altogether. These songs electrify the campaigners and make them even more vigorous. Furthermore, the young boys compete with each other in order to prove their skill and efficiency to the elders facilitating the tasks evermore. For such campaigns are among the areas where young men show that they are good farmers, good men.

After a long day of chaffing the campaigners go to the house of the girl where a big party awaits for them. They eat, drink, and dance, singing till late in the evening. However, they don't dance through the night as is done in other parties, since they know that they have to go chaffing early morning in the next day. Similar campaign is undertaken in spring season on the occasion of threshing the crops to separate it from the hay.

Daniel Semere, is a researcher at Research and Documentation Center, he is also a columnist in Eritrean profile.



Foto Lusci

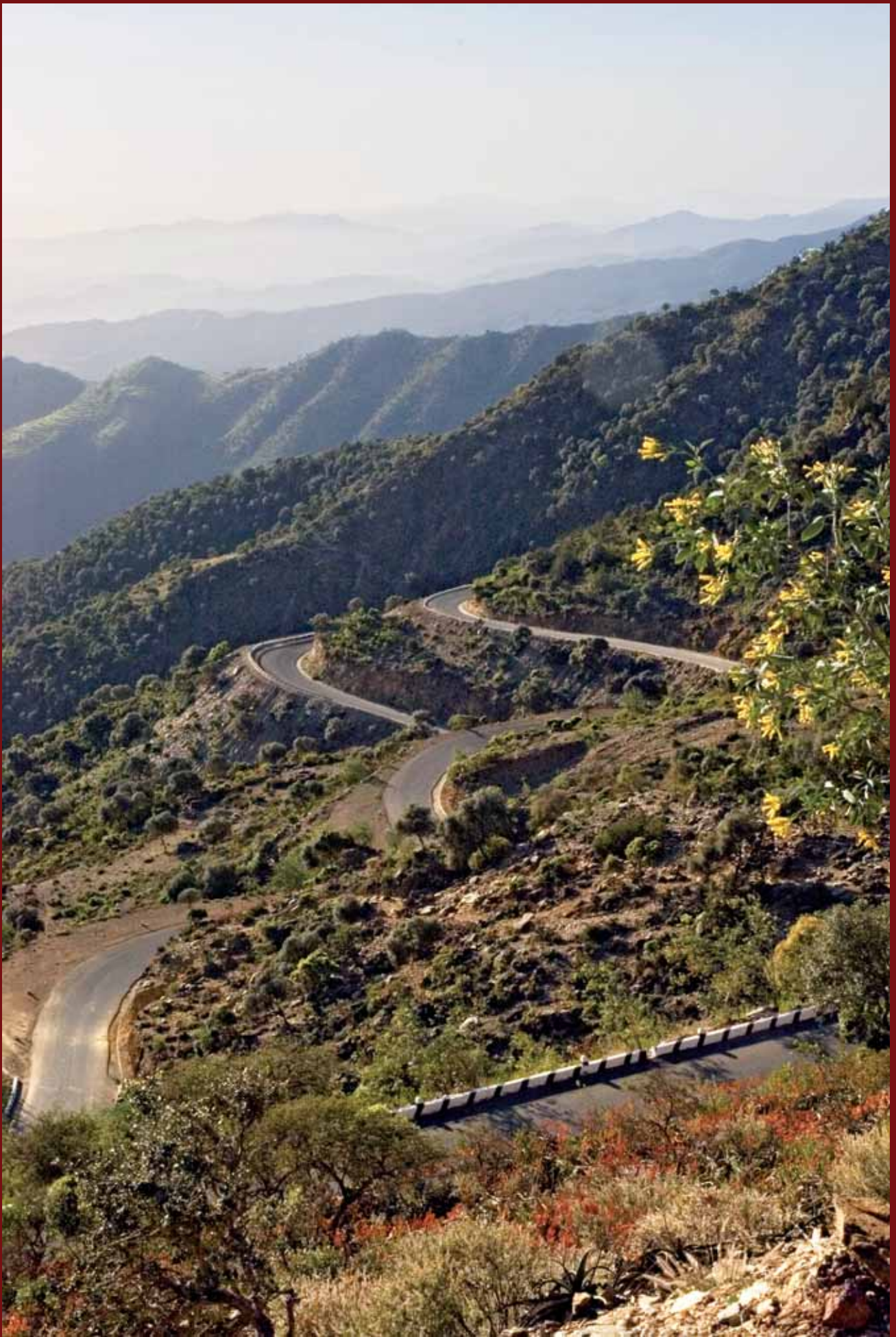


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