
No Law? No God.

How the simple, direct mind of Rutaboba, and old slave trader (now the Christian Gabriel, "best and mildest of patriarchs"), detected the flaw in the "broadmindedness" of Anglicanism, is told by Pere Soubielle, a White Father of the Vicariate of Ruanda. Rutaboba lost his faith in sorcerers thirteen years before his baptism, when his first five children died in infancy. Feeling the need of religion, he was in a receptive mood when an Anglican minister arrived at Rukira. Asked what the minister taught, Rutaboba replied:

"He taught us in such faulty language that we had all the trouble in the world to understand him. He spoke a little to us of the God-Creator, and a great deal of the marvels wrought by instruction in Uganda. There, said he, everybody is well dressed, many wear shoes, many ride the bicycle. Later, he spoke to us again of the Creator, a few words of the Savior Jesus, in whom it was necessary to have great confidence -- he said that with confidence one was sure of going to heaven; then he came back to the benefits of clothes, of soap, of salt, articles which he distributed generously. As I was chief and because, as he said, he liked me so much, he promised me the gifts of a fine bicycle and shoes if a large number of my people would inscribe themselves for his catechism lessons."

Rutaboba then related that he had sought out the White Fathers: "I questioned them about the Creator and the Savior, upon the soul and a future life... They answered me everything.... What pleased me greatly was that the Creator of their teaching was a King, a powerful King Who forbade and ordered, Whose commandments were severe, His punishments terrible for those who disobeyed His laws; and then that the Savior, although He was so good, granted His pardon to those alone who repented, His heaven to those who were constantly growing better and better. I asked: 'Are these missionaries paid? Why do they not marry? Do they act as they teach?' In short, what I learned from them of doctrine at first, then of charity, the abnegation of the Fathers, filled me with admiration and inspired me with the desire of becoming a Catholic. I was won over."

The Anglican minister returned to the district. Seeing that Rutaboba did not come for instructions, he sent for him. He reminded him that he had promised him everything he could desire - clothes, shoes, a bicycle - if he would come to the Mission. The chief said that what he wanted was a fine place in heaven, not clothes. The minister replied:

"But I have told you all that - what more do you desire? Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."

"Your God has no commandments - with Him one may do as he pleases."

"It is faith which will save you."

"A king who cannot command is no king. A subject who does not obey is no subject."

Another chief, Bizabapfumu, was present while Rutaboba was telling this story. He interrupted: "It is true, he has no commandments. When I went to him for instruction I had two wives. As I had heard that the Europeans do not allow this, I asked the minister what I should do. And what he answered me was: 'Keep them both if they love you.' No, truly, there are no commandments with him."

Here ends the present series of African Apologetics. Would to God all our American thinkers preserved as carefully as Ndeni the fragmentary traditions of the primitive revelation; would to God they all thought as clearly; would to God that like Bizabapfumu (and unlike Ndeni) they would turn out their extra women and serve Gindri.

PRAYERS: Deceased - the father of J.D. Barry, C.S.C.; Thos. Daly's grandfather; Ignatius Goisson, alumnus; the mother of Malachy Gooley, ex-'20; a relative of Albert Orzechowski. Ill - the father of Richard Murphy, C.S.C.; the father of Wm. and Bob Burghart (accident). Five special intentions.