

# HAWASSA CHRONICLES

EDITION 05 | 17 and 18 APRIL 2010

## ENJOY THE WEEKEND! ... BEING ILL...

My dear friend and colleague, Japie, became ill last Friday infected me in the process. I became subsequently ill on Sunday throughout Tuesday. On Monday I thought I could yet again grapple with life,... in retrospect I should have stayed home. How silly!

Saturday however, was a day that came before a runny nose, headache and not so consistent faeces,... amongst other not so interesting ailments. We spend the day loitering 'bout Hawassa, staying for lunch at a random place with a pool table where we were confronted by two cue ball wizards who showed us all corners of the table. Afterwards our Amhari friend Belay called and wanted to introduce us to Khat. As an experienced consumer of Mother Nature's fruits, I really was curious as to what Khat would do to my physical and mental gestalt. Japie also was interested, and not long after we bought a bushel of Khat and set forth to our hotel room. Having consumed coca leaves in the Andes a few years back, which is a mild stimulant, I expected to experience something similar. However, after a not so slim amount of bitter leaves, Japie and I still felt... nothing peculiar. But heh, interesting experience and we downed our daily amount of vege tables (Ethiopian for... vegetables).

Later that night, we ate on top of the Dashen Bank with a nice view of night time Hawassa. With right hand delving into Tibbs (local food) and left hand wrapped around beer and Gin Tonic, we prepared for a night of live Amhari music. Before the night was over, however, the head and throat ache came swinging full force ending this fairy tale prematurely. To quote the Beatles, 'Life is what happens to you, whilst you make other plans'.

