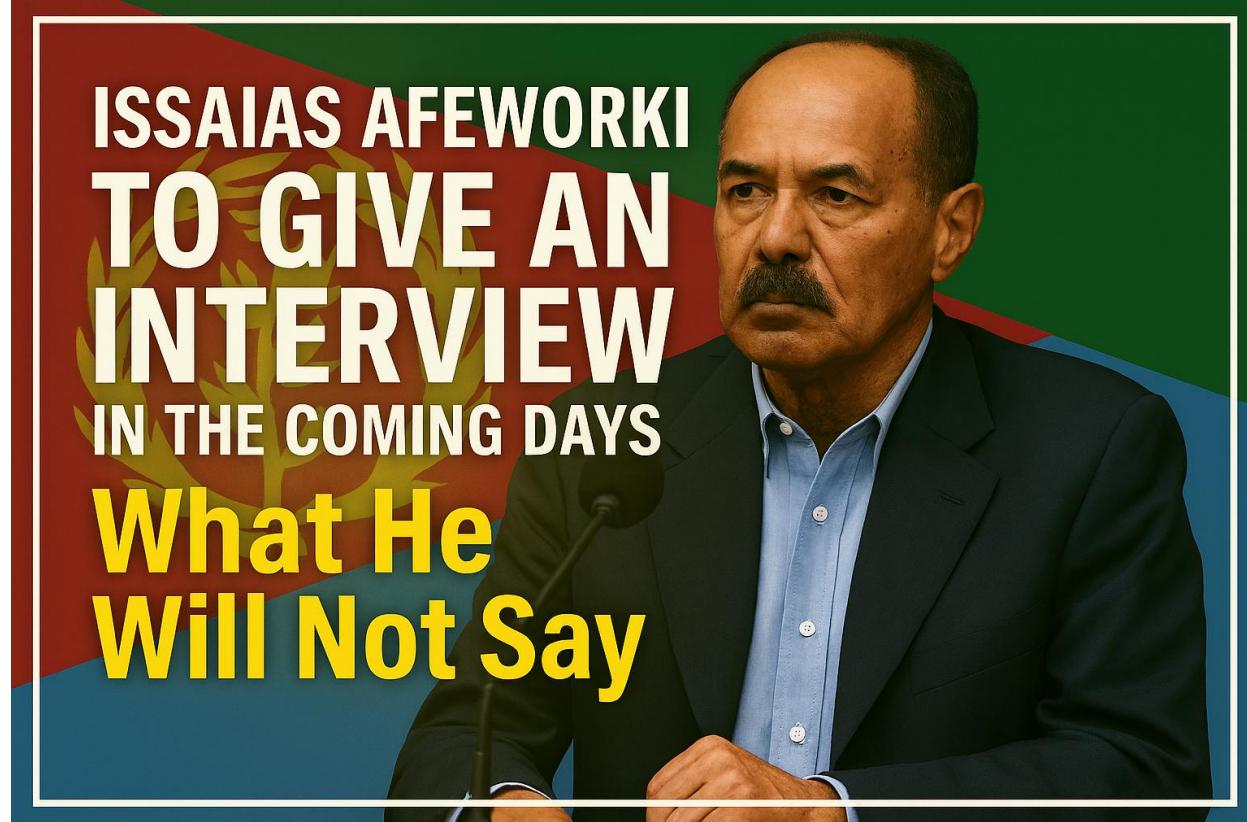


# Preemptive Strike: The Akrasia<sup>1</sup> of a Regime in a Shifting Horn

Dr. Gebre Gebremariam

January 9, 2026

In the coming few days, Issaias Afeworki is expected to give his usual sham interview. Since his similar appearance in early 2025, the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa have undergone seismic shifts. If the past is any guide, Eritreans and international



observers will be treated to a masterclass in geopolitical analysis - a grand tour of global power shifts, the “inevitable” failure of Western hegemony, and the

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<sup>1</sup> Akrasia, in philosophy, refers to acting against one's better judgment. It's the state of knowingly choosing to do something you believe is not the best course of action, essentially a "weakness of will" or a failure to act in accordance with your own rational decision. This concept has been explored by philosophers like [Socrates](#), [Plato](#), and [Aristotle](#). It also remains a significant topic in contemporary philosophy and psychology, building upon the foundations laid by these ancient Greek thinkers and philosophers.

machinations of regional adversaries. Issaias will likely speak with the unearned authority of a global sage on everything except the state of the Eritrean household.

The most critical issues - those defining the daily survival of our nation - will be conspicuously absent. There will be no discussion of the unimplemented constitution, no timeline for elections, no explanation for the continued "generational enslavement" of our youth, no word on the complete socio-economic collapse and decay, and no answers for the thousands of families whose children have risked everything to flee the country they are supposed to be serving.

This article is a preemptive answer to the interview that will not happen. It is an attempt to analyze the reality of 2026 through the lens of "**Akrasia**" - the act of choosing against one's own better judgment. The greatest threat to Eritrean sovereignty today is not the external forces Issaias will name, but the profound cycle of internal self-sabotage that his rhetoric is designed to obscure.

### **The Geopolitical Distraction: Red Sea Alliances vs. Domestic Decay**

In his interview, Issaias will likely gloat over recent regional developments. He will point to the **UAE being kicked out of Yemen** as a victory for his brand of "regional ownership" and may hint at a burgeoning **strategic alliance between Egypt, Eritrea, and Saudi Arabia** to secure the Red Sea. He will frame this as a masterstroke of Eritrean diplomacy.

- **The Akratic Reality:** While he plays "Red Sea Grandmaster," he ignores the fact that Eritrea is a hollowed-out shell. What is a "Red Sea Alliance" to an Eritrean mother who has no electricity, no food security, and no news of her conscripted son? Issaias knows that a nation's strength comes from its people, yet he continues to treat the population as a disposable resource for his regional chess games. This is the regime's foundational act of Akrasia: pursuing the "prestige" of regional security while ensuring the biological and economic insecurity of his own people.

### **The Ethiopia Factor: Belligerence and Sovereignty**

Since 2025, we have witnessed **Ethiopia's increasingly illegal and belligerent actions** to secure Red Sea access through Eritrean sovereign territories. Issaias will weaponize this threat. He will present himself as the sole, indispensable defender of our borders against Abiy Ahmed's ambitions.

- **The Unasked Question:** He will speak of defending borders, but ignore the hollowing out of the nation *within* those borders. True sovereignty is not just a line on a map; it is the health, freedom, and prosperity of the people living there. By refusing to implement the constitution or build a functional economy, Issaias has

made Eritrea more vulnerable to Ethiopian aggression, not less. He has created a “sovereignty of the graveyard,” where the land is defended but the nation is dead.

### **Global Chess and the Somaliland Nexus**

Expect a lengthy lecture on **Israel's recognition of Somaliland** and the **US-Venezuela energy politics**. Issaias loves to connect the Red Sea to the Caribbean to the South China Sea to prove his “intellectual depth.”

- **The Distraction:** These global narratives are a shield. While he discusses the “multipolar world,” he avoids the “unipolar failure” of his own administration. He knows that his policies have turned Eritrea into one of the largest refugee-producing nations in the world, yet he will speak as if he is the architect of a new world order. This is **Impetuous Akrasia**<sup>2</sup> - acting on the passion of global grandiosity while the local reality collapses.

### **The Audience's Akratic Bargain**

For Issaias’ supporters, particularly in the diaspora, the interview will serve a specific purpose: to reinforce their own Akratic bargain. It will supply the passionate nationalism needed to override their rational knowledge of the country’s suffering.

When he speaks of the “failed intervention” in Yemen or the “treachery” of the West, it allows his followers to feel the patriotic fervor of the liberation struggle. They know their relatives are suffering; they know the country is stagnant; but the “passion” of Issaias’ narrative allows them to act against this knowledge. They accept the “devil they know” as the only choice - a classic Akratic trap that perpetuates the cycle of national self-harm.

### **Creating the Opposition He Condemns**

Issaias will likely condemn the opposition as fractured puppets of foreign powers - specifically Ethiopia. What he will not say is that his own policies are the primary catalyst for the opposition’s desperation.

The Akrasia of certain opposition groups - choosing to align with an expansionist Ethiopia - does not exist in a vacuum. It is a direct consequence of the suffocating political environment Issaias has created. By closing every door to internal reform and peaceful dissent, he has pushed his opponents toward self-defeating strategies that

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<sup>2</sup> **Impetuous Akrasia**, according to Aristotle, is a form of Akrasia where an individual is so swept away by a sudden passion, impulse, or “grand idea” that they bypass the process of deliberation entirely. In the context of the Eritrean regime, it refers to a leadership so addicted to the “passion” of geopolitical grandiosity and regional power-playing that it ignores the rational, life-and-death domestic needs of its own citizens.

compromise the very sovereignty they claim to want to restore. He breeds the “treason” he later uses to justify his tyranny.

### **The Uncomfortable Truth**

As the interview unfolds very soon, and the discussion drifts from the war in Sudan to the maritime security of the Bab-el-Mandeb, we must force our attention back home. The grand narrative of geopolitical maneuvering is a distraction from the silent, grinding reality of domestic decay.

The true measure of a nation’s strength is not the sophistication of its leader’s foreign policy analysis, but the well-being of its people. True sovereignty is the lived experience of a free, prosperous, and self-governing people.

The most important political act for any Eritrean after watching Issaias’ interview is to judge the interview not by the “global truths” Issaias pretends to tell, but by the **critical domestic questions he systematically ignores**. The ultimate question remains: What is the cruel irony of keeping a “doctor” in power whose only cure for the nation is a poison that slowly kills it?