

HIGH BRIDE PRICE (THE BANE OF THE SINGLES)

Virtually every spinster or bachelor is looking forward to the day he/she will walk down to the altar. The wedding day is very exciting and intriguing that every singles will like to make his/hers a unique and remarkable history of life.

Much as many singles crave for this epoch day in their life; to some people, the wish of joining their partners has remained a distant dream. The worst is that most of the singles are already engaged for years, still the dream of metamorphosing into married couple, is still born.

I quite agree that there are many factors that has made the dreams of singles, especially the female a mirage chief among them is high bride price accelerated by the economic depression in the country.

Bride price is the 'token' given to the parent(or family)of the bride as a mark of acceptance of the bridegroom by the parent or family of the bride as demanded by the custom. Suffice is to say that the amount is relative depending on the culture and people involved.

In the golden day's a prospectus husband may just be required by the would be in-law to work for the before their daughter is giving to him. This is partly to ascertain his ability to work and feed his family as no father or mother would want to give his/her daughter to a slothful lazy bone. Also as a way of appreciating the parent of the bride for taken care of the girl till the age of marriage. However it is never the cost of the girls welfare from cradle to adulthood Never!

It is now surprising, how the contemporary society has turn bride price into something else. Its been so inflated that one begins to wonder if it is a payment of the cost of maintaining the girl. It is really sad to tell how some fathers have turned their daughters into commodity to be purchased. In this age of materialism you hear such statement like "woman are like cloth, the highest bidder takes it home.

My question is: if bridegrooms pay for the cost of maintaining the daughters, who will pay them for taking care of the wife afterward?

Is it not alarming how parents pushed their daughters into untold hardship after compelling their husbands to pay through their nose? Who will tell fathers and indeed that their daughters has become object of caricature and valueless commodity. Can this generation ponder and imagine how many girls has resort to prostitution when no suitor come their way after a long times because the ones that attempted were scared to death by the weapons of high bride price.

You cannot imagine the effect until you ask a girl after 35years her experience when she yet to marry. (No thanks to high bride price). The same society that institute the obnoxious bride price under the cover of tradition will turn round and mock the life out of her.

Some days back the news reports of a man that raped a small girl to death. Please 'media' can you us the full report. Was he married? Much as I am not making excuse for him but I humbly thank that such taboo can be avoided by making bride price affordable.

The contagious effect of bride price cannot be measured but the society should help, let marriage be recognized as the bedrock of the family while the family is the nucleus of the society.

Our government are not left out of the blame. Poverty and hunger is biting hard unemployment is growing at geometric proportion. Tell me what a young man without means of livelihood will do with another burden of wife and children?

A friend told me that the rat in Mr. president's dustbin can afford 3 square meal for his kids while the dogs could celebrate his children's birthday comfortably annually; meanwhile all these are luxury to average Nigerian masses (the hoipolois) Mr President how far! Is it true? all we the singles ask is for the bride price to be reduced.

Written by

Ezike Samuel Ebuka