

NAME: EKEKE CHIAMAKA PRECIOUS

REG NO: 2015/199477

DEPT: COMBINED ARTS (THEATRE/ ENGLISH)

TOPIC: SHOULD HUMANITY AVANGE OVER DIVINITY USING  
CHIUNA ACHEBE'S DEAD MEN'S PATH AND RUEBEN'S CLASH OF  
DIVINITY.

Whenever our finite minds think we have the infinite Lord figured out, we are heading for a shock. Just when we expect Scripture to emphasize love as being the reason for being kind to one's enemies, it stuns us by speaking of this being the door to vengeance and releasing God's wrath upon the enemies.

We know how critical it is when driving to fix our eyes on where we want to go. If we keep looking at objects on the side, we will find ourselves veering dangerously in whatever direction we gaze. Likewise, if we travel through life with our hearts filled with disgust or resentment towards someone, then, like a moth drawn to deadly flames, our minds will keep drifting towards that person. Our gaze will keep slipping from whatever is true, noble, right, and pure and worthy of praise which in the ultimate is Christ himself and, instead of Christ, our lives will resolve around the person we despise. If our minds keep drifting to that person, rather than Christ, it shows we have become more passionate about the one who hates us than we are about the One who loves us. That person will fill our minds as much as if we were hopelessly in love with him/her. In effect, our fixation upon the behaviour of the person we despise causes that person, not Christ, to become our role model, and even in a disturbingly real sense our god.

Chinua Achebe's "**DEAD MAN'S PATH**" portrays a culture clash between a headmaster who wants to rig his school up to modern standards and the villagers who follow traditional animistic beliefs.... It went through the school

yard. Specifically, it went through the flower ends that the Michael Obi and his wife planted.

The power of the story is how it appeals to either our human nature or divine nature. I am a big fan of *Lord of the Rings*. And I believe it appeals to something within us that knows that no matter the odds, good must win over evil in the end.

When Michael decides to close this path in order to prohibit people from walking through his school he starts a serious conflict within the village. In a first reaction Michael is called by the village priest who tries to explain the importance of the path for the villagers and their beliefs, but Michael remains untouched and holds on to his former decision.

What Chinua Achebe tries to show in his story is that progress cannot be imposed on people from above but needs to develop slowly in their minds. It can only be supported but never enforced. Michael failed because he started seeing himself as a God and thinks he can avenge over divinity and when he tries to bring in his European Christian ways he has to face overpowering resistance, his lack of values stirs up a huge conflict which ultimately leads to the failure of his project.

This story is an excellent example for the cultural clash of Africa and European mentality and the incapability of both sides to respect each other's differing positions. There is a belief that the path is the way the spirit travels, in morning when the supervisor gets to the school the hedges and all of Obi's works are torn down and destroyed and he gets a bad review, that is to say 'the thinking of humans is not the same with the spirits'.

Rueben's '**CLASH OF DIVINITY**' portrays a culture clash between the Reverend father and those who disgraced him and his God. In the village called Imobi Reverend Dinma was transferred as pastor in village when he came people were complaining especially the husbands of the women in his church according

them the said that when the other pastor that was there that there wife's used to cook the masquerade food for them but since Dinma came everything changed. He usually say that you can't serve God and mammon at the same time. 'You cannot blow hot and at the same time'. He told them cooking those kind of food is also worshipping the omoba idol.

The mob had swooped on Reverend Dinma and his wife, beating them to stupor. They knocked at him, spat in his face and made him sit on bare floor, having stripped him of his clothes, leaving only his pants. His wife was also molested. They has stripped her almost naked, except that the left her with her braziers and camisole, she was later raped.

Seventeen-Seventeen was among the people who disgraced the reverend, he entered a bus when a passenger was screaming, touching her chest in search of her breasts. The passenger were confused at the alarm but the seriousness with which the woman screamed, hitting her fists at the back of the seat in front of her, smacked of her seriousness that something is actually wrong somewhere.

They bus driver packed and asked the conductor to lock the passengers door and made straight to call the chairman when the man came he asked the passengers to begin to come one after the other. The chairman searched the first person in the row and found nothing, he reached the torn of the woman who raised the alarm he asked her to stay back at the bus and asked the man at the end of the row to come down he searched him and found out something at the man's waist and asked him the man said he is a hunter and that he has in the boot the bush meat he came to sell and that what he has is his hunting charm the chairman asked him to quickly return the woman breast as the man bent down fondling his hunting bag hung across his left shoulder, the woman in the bus screamed with joy that her breasts are back. Before the chairman can say anything the crowd as already started beating the man. The news of the death of Seventeen-Seventeen

was shocking to Imobi. That was the revenge the God of reverend Dinma did for him, he disgraced everybody that disgraced him.