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2015/197739

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ELS 102- INTRODUCTION TO NIGERIAN LITERATURE

SHOULD HUMANITY AVENGE DIVINITY? WITH THE USE OF CHINUA ACHEBE'S "DEAD MEN'S PATH" AND REUBEN ONYISHI'S "CLASH OF DIVINITY"

Humanity is the situation of being human, while divinity is the tendency of being metaphysical, supernatural or extra ordinary. Humanity should not avenge for divinity instead Divinity should avenge for itself.

In the literary text "Dead men`s path by Chinua Achebe. The people of Ndume avenged for their ancestors by pulling down the school fence and building which Michael Obi renovates, they believe that the still birth was because their ancestors were been insulted by the blocking of the fence which is their path to the land of the dead or spirit.

Also in the novel; "Clash of Divinity" by Reuben Onyishi. The men of Imobi fight for their gods because they were angry at the women of Divine Assembly for defying the spirit of Omaba masquerade. Ozo Elihe Ezeja restrained the men who charged at the women that although they have seen what they are not supposed to see, it is not their duty to avenge for the spirit of Omaba, but the spirit will avenge itself. He gives them the instance of women that saw the nakedness of Omaba and the calamity that befell them. The men of Imobi did not adhere to what Ozo Elihe Ezeja told them, they go ahead to carry out their vengeance which leads to the

raping of the pastor's wife, beating them up, attempting to burn them inside the church but are saved by Michael; one of the men in Imobi men.

Little do these men know that they have touched the anointed and do it harm which is the principle of a superior force that Pastor Dinma serves. The God of Pastor Dinma gives warning to the people that defied his servant through the mouth of Zeus to avert their ways lest they face destruction. The God of pastor Dinma fights for himself (here, divinity is fighting for himself) by causing the death of some of the men that carry out the actions who refuse to seek forgiveness from Reverend Dinma and his wife.

In conclusion, from the above overview on the two literary texts, one thinks that humanity should not fight divinity; let divinity fight for themselves. In page 210 God tells Zeus "Vengeance is mine", so why should we avenge for the divinity when we know they can fight for themselves.