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Topic: Should humanity avenge divinity using Chinua Achebe's *Dead's Men Path* and Reuben Onyishi's *Clash of Divinity*.

### **Should humanity avenge divinity?**

Humanity could be seen as human race which includes everybody on earth. It is also the state of being human. Divinity on the other hand is the state or quality of being divine. It is also a divine being which is believed to be God or god.

*In chinua achebe's Dead Men's Path Michael obi* became the headmaster of a school called Ndume Central School. He was very happy with his new job. He wanted to create a modern school out of an old-fashioned one. With the help of his wife Nancy, he wanted to show how a modern school should be run.

He had two aims for the new school: a high standard of teaching and a beautiful schoolyard. Nancy planted flowers of many different colours that blossomed when the rain set in.

One day, Obi saw an old woman walk right across the planted area in the schoolyard. He walked up to the place and realized that there was an old road there. He told one of his teachers who had worked at the school longer than him about the episode. Obi was shocked that people just went right through the school's property. The teacher said that the road was seldom used, but that it was holy to the villagers. The villagers used the road when people were buried.

Obi did not like the villagers using the road right across the schoolyard. The Government Education Officer was coming to inspect the school, and Obi wanted to make a good impression.

To stop the villagers from using the road, Obi set up a big fence around the school. Three days later the village priest contacted Obi. He told Obi to remove the fence because the spirits of dead people departed by it and babies who were born came through it. Obi told the priest that his job as a teacher was to destroy old myths like that. He did not remove the fence.

Two days later a woman died in the village. An old spiritualist was contacted to calm down the relatives who strongly disliked the fence. However, the next day when Obi woke up and looked out, the beautiful garden was destroyed. The hedges around the school were torn up and the flowers trampled down.

The same day, the Supervisor came on his inspection. He was not impressed. He wrote a letter to the state where he described the tribal war between the school and the village. He also wrote that this was a direct result of an enthusiastic new headmaster.

In the above highlight of story we could see how Mr Obi avenges divinity by trying to show the people how modern school should be built. The answer here is that humanity should not avenge divinity because in every society what is believed to be divine should be kept divine especially in the traditional African society.

On the other hand Ruben Onyishi's "Clash of Divinity" is about the conflict between the traditional worshippers of Omaba the deity which is also the god of the people of Imobi, and the women of Assemblies Divine church.

The conflict starts when pastor Dinma forcibly imposed Christianity on the people of Imobi, unlike pastor Udo who introduces Christianity gently.

Seventeen-Seventeen and his crew decides to avenge for divinity "Omaba" due to the fact that the Assemblies Divine women commits sacrilege by threading on the same part Omaba chooses to follow, which is aided by pastor Dinma; in this way, have seen the

nakedness of Omaba. Seventeen-Seventeen and his crew carries out their avenge for divinity despite the warning of Ozo Elihe Ezeja to let the women be, stating "...these women have already seen what they should not have seen. It is not our duty to avenge the spirit of Omaba; the spirit will avenge itself."

Seventeen-Seventeen and his crew goes further to avenge for the deity Omaba by beating up pastor Dinma and raping his wife as well as living them to burn in the church in other to avert the shed of blood on them. Although the god Omaba is silent on his avenge, we see the God of Assemblies Divine, take his own vengeance on Seventeen-Seventeen and his crew.

Zeus, whose birth is mysterious to the people of Imobi, becomes a pastor after his return from abroad where he studied medicine. He gets a vision from God on the curse hovering the Assemblies Divine church Imobi that has to be cleansed by Rev. Dinma's forgiveness on his perpetrators. God who definitely does not need humanity to avenge for him, avenges himself by taking down the lives of Seventeen-Seventeen and his crew who did not come for the forgiveness of Rev. Dinma, as the men dies one after another according to the way they treated Rev. Dinma. This Elihe Ezeja notably counts as the God of Assemblies Divine having vengeance on them.

We see that humanity's avenge for divinity is not needed in the case of Zeus and his co-pastors who fights vehemently for the post of GS. We hear God speak to Zeus to hold his peace, He definitely is in control; we see that pastor Albert who rises to the throne of GS is brought down to his untimely grave six months after. We further hear God speak to Zeus "vengeance is mine. For all those who poked their fingers into your eyes, I will be honored in their midst that they may know that I, the lord, called you while you were yet in your mother's womb. Be still and know that I am God...wait and see my salvation".

In conclusion, humanity should not avenge divinity because what is divine should be kept divine.