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COMBINED ARTS(TFS/ELS)

**SHOULD HUMANITY AVENGE FOR DIVINITY DISCUSS USING
DEAD MEN'S PATH BY CHINUA ACHEBE AND CLASH OF
DIVINITY BY REUBEN ONYISHI**

In the plays entitled "Dead Men's Path" by Chinua Achebe and "Clash of Divinity" by Rueben Onyishi. It is vividly seen that humanity cannot avenge Divinity. In the two novels, humanity is attributed to human efforts and attack to the 'gods and God' as the case may be while divinity refers to the 'god and God' themselves. In "Clash of Divinity", the people of Imobi practiced paganism as their main type of religion, although some people practiced the Christian religion, particularly the Roman Catholic. But with time the Advent of another Christian religion denomination (Assemblies of God Divine). They stood and preached against their religion, describing it as been fetish. They

tried to convert the people to their own religion and style of worship which was led by Rev. Dinma.

The Imobi community in an attempt to protect their own religion from the hands of their oppositions, fought against them, this fight consists of a gang led by -Seventeen-Seventeen, Ogbuagidi Alphonsus, Nwalugwu Paulinus and Ogbuagu Ezeoha and ten others, they beat up Rev. Dinma, raped his wife, burnt his house and locked them up in a room. But the God whom they serve avenge their cause the leader Seventeen-Seventeen's death was seen vividly to be revenge from the God of Rev. Dinma. "The manner of Seventeen-Seventeen attributed to as an act of ihe onye metalu; retribution". His mysterious and shameful death (been burnt) was a huge revenge from the God. Also Ogbuagidi as well died a mysterious death too. Ogbuagidi's decomposing body was discovered at the shallow opening... By then, Vultures has begun to gnaw at his entrails. Nwalugwu Paulinus was attacked by robbers who raped his wife before his eyes and gave him machete cut here and there which led to his death.

Also Ogbuagu Ezeoha died a mysterious death. His decompose corpse was discovered in his farm court many days after he had fallen down and died in his farm. The ten other participants in Clash of Divinity died in similar but mysterious circumstances.

While in *Dead man's path* by Chinua Achebe, Obi was appointed the headmaster of Ndume central School, he told his wife that they will standardize the quality of the school. In an attempt to revolutionize the school, he decided to impact standard knowledge, have beautiful gardens. One evening as Obi was admiring his work, he was scandalized to see an old woman from the village hobble right across the compound on going up there, he found faint signs of an almost disused path from the village across the school compound to the bush on the other side with annoyance he called one of the teacher to verify why they permit the villagers to pass through there but the teacher informed him that the road leads to the shrine and shouldn't be closed.

Obi ignored the reason of the teacher and went ahead to close the footpath. After three days the village priest of Ani called on Obi to confirm if he actually closed their village and ancestral footpath, and as well told him that the life of the community lies there. But Obi with disbelief told him that dead men do not require foot paths, and that he just wants to eradicate that kind of belief. Despite the priest effort to educate Obi about the sacredness of that foot path, Obi stubbornly did not adhere to that.

Obi woke up the next morning among the ruins of his work. The beautiful hedges were torn up not just near the path but right round the school premises, flowers trampled to death and one of the school buildings pulled down. That same day the supervisor came for their inspection due to the ugly look of the school compound, they wrote a nasty report about the school. From these two novels, we see that God and gods respectively fight for their cause; hence humanity in no way can avenge divinity.