

**SHOULD HUMANITY AVENGE DIVINITY USING TWO FICTIONAL
TEXTS; CLASH OF DIVINITY BY REUBEN ONYISHI AND CHINUA
ACHEBE'S DEAD MEN'S PATH?**

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This essay tends to expose in the most extensive discussion the indispensable objective of creating a critical and mindful stand why human is not capable and should not avenge divinity. It is situationally expedient in concise to narrow down this question of divinity, a celestial being, inferior to the supreme God, but superior to man. This issue of humanity avenging divinity which is superior to humanity is a devastating one, statistically its been affirmed according to research that over 60% of the catastrophe or crises currently plaguing or disrupting the peace of the entire world is traced to this backdrop of humanity avenging divinity, sequel to that, religion is more or less factored to be a propelling force behind this issue of discourse. Humanity perhaps being so

fanatical with his beliefs, human religion may claim adherence to divine ideas and laws but actually religion is nothing but a mere belief and adherents are sensitive to their beliefs, an enterprise that claim it's soul of compassion is now one of the greatest threat to compassion. Humanity has completely turned into a bulldozer crushing every living cell in its path all in the name of avenging divinity, then the question is can't divinity fight for itself or for its cause?

Owing to this wistful melancholy, it is pertinent to note that in Reuben Onyishi's clash of divinity, Rev. Dinma lacked adequate knowledge of the socio-cultural cosmology of the Imobi people, his zeal for the things of the will, principles and power of God which is the resultant effect of the ordeal he and his wife suffered, it also condemns the very actions the youth of Ezenagu who thoughtlessly thought they were avenging the so called divinity, Omaba. Why then should they fight for it? Omaba, should avenge itself of any wrong done to it and not humanity. Imobi allowed itself to be driven out of proportion in vengeance for a spirit (Omaba) that should know how to avenge itself. It is also relevant to decipher from this text that Asogwa Oyiugwu popularly known as seventeen-seventeen died in the hands of angry mob, a reminiscence of the mob he led against Rev. Dinma also personalities like Oguagidi, Nwalugwu Paulinus, Ogbuagu Ezoha and ten other participants in the clash of divinity who did not attend the atonement service dies in similar but mysterious circumstances. Nobody except the few wise ones like ozo Elihe who kept

records, traces their death to the clash. Furthermore, it can be also be deduced from the text that this same fate is obtainable in zeus Nwaeze's case, zeus being a wise and calculative Christian knew that religion is a personal and private belief and should not determine relationships, and need not to hate another over a fight that should be left to the divinities.

According to William Shakespeare. "life is a walking shadow for earthly existence is wired with a labyrinth of spiritual vendetta supervised by vindictive gods." Although *Dead Men's Path* succinctly captures this issue of discourse, Achebe meticulously x-rayed this question of discourse should humanity avenge divinity? Through the use of a character like Michael Obi, Obi being enthusiastic of his new appointment as the headmaster of Ndume central school has many wonderful ideas believed to be for the progress of the school. These ideas include setting a high standard of teaching and subsequently to turn the school compound into a place of beauty. But in a sharp contrast this ideals and determination in it's furtherance was not guided by the cosmology that has been in existence even before his father was conceived peculiar to his ideas and determinations to eradicate beliefs that dead men do not require footpaths, and being submerged in his curiosity closes the ancestral footpath which is believed that the whole life of the village depends on. Nonetheless, the misguided zeal of Obi the headmaster is the dead end of his ideas and determinations as every single thing he had laboured to put in place were all ruined perhaps the

ancestors were insulted by the fence, it is quite expedient to Juxtapose this Achebe's short story with a renowned Igbo adage that says let the hawk perch and let the eagle perch”

Nevertheless, why can't we just see the benefits of our diversity? The value of togetherness and the value of peace? Continuously issues of the humanity avenging divinity pop up to prove that the world is doomed to think through bloodied religious lenses, innocent blood are every now and then being sacrificed on the alter of divinities by humanity. Peaceful co-existence, cooperation and tranquillity among humanity has fled our borders, all we get to see and hear are the havocs perpetrated by this religious extremists. All this can stop if right thinking religious adherents can stop and let their divinities which they worship or pay allegiance to, fight or avenge themselves. Beliefs as they say is for the living and not for the dead, why then do we have to kill in order to avenge divinity and to promote our different beliefs if only we have our eyes wide opened to this ideology, and not deluded by this ideology, conquest ideology is practically not an ideal option in this situation. It is very obvious humanity is fanatical in his vindictive measures for divinity, and cannot account for true vengeance for divinities.

One thing is unmistakably clear, this issue of humanity avenging divinity has long been in existence cut across diverse beliefs and world views,. It has eaten deep into fabrics of the world today. Not minding the situation, humanity

is under no obligation to avenge divinity rather its the sole responsibility of this divinities to avenge themselves of any wrong whatsoever that is done to them. It is quite relevant to look at or consider perhaps the likely or possible reason behind this back drop of humanity avenging divinity, the doctrine, philosophy, body of beliefs or principles belonging to an individual or group which that individual or group tends to hold sacred. But the ill orientation of such beliefs is perhaps the reason why such individual or group tends to crush anything that tries to desecrate the sanctity of that philosophical beliefs.

Finally, in comparative case, this two examined texts; clashes of divinity by Ruben Onyishi, and Achebe dead men's path present the view that humanity is weak to vindicate divinity, now its obvious in the way both authors carefully tackled this issue of discourse, and the exposition of the fact that divinity is powerful enough to avenge itself if need be for such. It is a clarion call to humanity especially extremists to put back their sword of vengeance for divinity into its sheath and allow divinities do it themselves, in such way peace and tranquillity all over the world will be once more restored and the world will be a better place for habitation.