

ASSIGNMENT ON NIGERIAN LITERATURE (ELS 102)

TOPIC: USING TWO FICTIONAL TEXT, "CLASH OF DIVINITY" BY RUBEN ONYISHI AND CHINUA ACHEBE'S "ON THE DEAD MAN'S PATH POTRAY WHETHER HUMANITY CAN AVENGE DIVINITY.

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ABSTRACT

In religious terms, divinity or godhead is the state of things that come from a supernatural power or deity, such as a god, Supreme Being, creator deity, or spirits, and are therefore regarded as sacred and holy. Avenging for divinity at the other hand is the act of seeking revenge or inflicting harm on a giving individual, group of people or institution on behalf of a given supernatural being. On a logical platform it sounds ridiculous for a mortal being to avenge for the gods but given the high admiration and respect in which we humans, adore and worship these supernatural beings either for protection, providence, divine intervention etc, often time blind our accurate sense of reasoning on the essence and true existence of these supernatural beings, moreover if divinities of which we regard as omniscient are truly in subsistence there is no sense/need for a mere mortal to fight or avenge deeds for them, rather since there are immortal and all knowing beings they know what they want and what is right in their sight therefore they should endeavour to avenge for themselves, which will totally debase our involvement in killing each other and destruction of lives and properties all in the name of crusade/avenging for the divinities, as JONATHAN SWIFT QOUTED THAT "WE HAVE ENOUGH RELIGION/BELIEVE TO MAKE US HATE, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE US LOVE ONE ANOTHER". In other hand I firmly believe that the supposed mission of these divinities and their different religion and doctrine must be to contribute

concretely to the peaceful coexistence of humankind because no creator would want his objects to perish on account of frivolous and irrelevant situations. In addition it is paramount for us to ask ourselves this simple question, when will our consciences grow so bigger that we will act to prevent human misery rather than inflicting endless hate and problems in our society all in the name of avenging for divinities of which no one could give extensive and clear account of their existence?

EXTENSIVE ANALYSIS ON THE REASON WHY HUMAN CAN NOT AVENGE DIVINITY IN REGARDS TO “CLASH OF DIVINITY” AND “DEAD MAN`S PATH” BY ONYISHI RUBEN AND CHINUA ACHEBE RESPECTIVELY.

Man by nature is an incomplete being who posses all but little knowledge about his existence and his cause of living, despite being advanced in technological and scientific studies, yet the study of man and cosmological elements up till date are still open for debate and further research, these account for different scholars and philosophers erupting different views and thought on the actual source of man`s life and idea, though some scholars go with biblical account of man`s creation, while some agree with the scientific evolution of man through lower and look-like animals (monkeys, chimpanzees and apes) , some (scholars) also believe in traditional generated account of man`s and cosmological evolution. All these theories and accounts make the study and understanding of man`s actual existence cumbersome; therefore making man an agile preoccupy of ever wandering world, knowing nothing (his source of living) but only what lies before him, then in this act and situation of wandering and ruminating on the sources of man`s life and the reasons of some shocking actions being depict in the world that includes; bad lucks and good lucks man has no other options than to believe in divinity.

Divinity in the other hand brings about different in religion and believe, while different in religion and believe bring about clash of interest that leads to war, destruction of lives and

properties all in the name of protecting once believe and religion as it is seen in the two fictional text given for referencing. It is also important to note that one cannot avenge for the god if the boundary/doctrine of that god is not encroach upon, although I stand for the argument that allows divinities to fight and settle their issues themselves because they are “all knowing” being since divinities are all knowing they should do what pleases them.

1 In the clash of divinity we are expose to a rival world between Amobi community of Amauzo village and Assembly divine in the same village, a village that is living in harmony with their first Rev pastor, Rev Udo who is later accused of embezzlement of church fund and bribery and was transferred to another district, Rev Dimma takes over from him (Rev Udo), he comes to the village with his radical evangelism against the villages` believe and customs that turns the entire village into state of restlessness and anarchy, he (Rev Dimma) organises the church women wing to patrol round the village on the day of the popular village Omeba festival in other to disrupt the festival on account of dominating over the villagers` festival and religion, the disruption by the Assembly divine women wing lead to the retaliation from the village youths, the youth lead by a notorious hunter by name (seventeen `seventeen) retaliated through burning down the church house though they intended burning down the church together with Rev Dimma but he is saved by Micheal, and him (Rev Dimma) together with his wife and children were sent abroad for safety. Out of exasperation and annoyance the villagers make a rule that nobody on any account should interact or dine with any member of the Assembly divine and also every member of Assembly divine is seen as dead fellow, a rule that affected ZEUS NWEZE born with dreadlock that symbolises a person with great gift of prophecy and healing. On his (Zeus Nweze) coming back from university (further) education he was ostracised, his parents rejected him so to his friends just because he was converted to Christianity, even his closest friend Mathew popularly known as

magnet during their secondary school days because of his handsome nature and the way every girl falls in love with him, also rejected him after studying law and joining politics back home comes to Zeus house to ironically pay a condolence visit to Zeus parents meet his untimely death after the condolence visit. ZEUS at the other hand does not relent in pursuing his spiritual calling of ministering and anointing people combining both his pastor ship duty with his medical doctor profession, though after becoming a prophet in Assembly divine he attracted many hatred from his co-pastor because of his extraordinary power of healing and prophecy despite all the hatred and allegation he gets from his fellow pastors he doesn't retaliate or allow it to pull his spirit down rather he left it all in the hands of the supernatural being that sent him in ministering, even when he contested for the post of GS in Assembly divine in AJABU with only 3years of experience in pastor-ship meeting with Rev Shedrack his opponent with adequate qualification for the post who also refuses to step down for Zeus rather he (Rev Shedrack) takes it upon himself to play politics with the holy spirit meet his untimely death together with his followers and co-agitators in plane crash. Therefore leaving Zeus is the only standing person to ascend the throne of the GENERAL SUPRETENDENT of Assembly divine, though he pleaded with his people to allow GOD take vengeance instead of banishing and creating unequal society all in the name of religion and believe but the villagers fails to agree with him, ozo Ezeja pleaded the same thing but to no avail. At the end of the text all the youths that take part in the burning of the church building but fail to indicate and ask for forgiveness were all recorded dead (Seventeen` Seventeen, Paulinus, Ezeoha, Alphonsus Ogbuagichu) in one way or the other, whether if the supernatural being avenge for himself or not no one could tell.

2 Then in the "DEAD MAN`S PATH" by Chinua Achebe we found a character that is obsess by Christianity and modernization who also does not value the villagers

superstitious and believe that actually resulted to the gods of the land to avenge against the atrocity committed by Michael Obi. Michael Obi's ambition is fulfilled when, at age twenty-six, he is appointed to whip into shape an unprogressive secondary school. Energetic, young, and idealistic as he is, Obi hopes to clean up the educational mission field and speed up its Christianizing mission. Already outspoken in his denigration of "the narrow views" and ways of "superannuated people in the teaching field," he expects to make a good job of this grand opportunity and show people how a school should be run. He plans to institute modern methods and demand high standards of teaching, while his wife, Nancy—who looks forward to being the admired wife of the headmaster—plants her "dream gardens" of beautiful hibiscus and allamanda hedges. With Nancy doing her gardening part, they will together lift Ndume School from its backward ways to a place of European-inspired beauty in which school regulations will replace the Ndume village community's traditional beliefs.

So Obi dreams and plans until one evening when he discovers a village woman cutting across the school gardens on a footpath that links the village shrine with the cemetery. Scandalized by her blatant trespassing, Obi orders the sacred ancestral footpath fenced off with barbed wire, much to the consternation of the villagers. The local priest then tries to remind Obi of the path's historical and spiritual significance as the sacred link between the villagers, their dead ancestors, and the yet unborn. Obi flippantly derides the priest's explanation as the very kind of superstition that the school is intended to eradicate because "dead men do not require footpaths." Two days later the hedge surrounding the school, its flower beds, and one of its buildings lie trampled and in ruins—the result of the villagers' attempt to propitiate the ancestors whom Obi's fence has insulted. After his supervisor issues a report on this incident, Obi is dismissed.

In conclusion I will say that it is unwise for a mere mortal to engage in matters of divinity since divinity is beyond human

conception, avenging for divinity will only but cause war,
restlessness, anarchy, bitter heart against us human and mortal
being nothing more nothing less.