

MADUKWE PATIENCE CHINONSO

COMBINED ARTS (ENGLISH/ HISTORY)

**ASSIGNMENT: Should humanity avenge for divinity;
Discuss using The Dead Men's Path and Rebeun's Clash
of Divinity.**

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INTRODUCTION TO NIGERIAN LITERATURE (ELS 102).

HUMANITY:

Humanity is the human race, which includes everyone on Earth. It's also a word for the qualities that make us human, such as the ability to love and have compassion, be creative, and not be a robot or alien. Humanity in this perspective is generally referring to "Man".

DIVINITY:

Divinity is the existence of a supernatural being who is normally not seen but is known as a god.

Introduction:

The question should humanity avenge for divinity is a very tacky question and on a literary sense it is translated as this," Should

man defend a god or the activity of gods?”. In most traditional society men defends the gods of the land most especially, the chief priest who stands as an orator between the people and their god. In answering this question I will be looking at to metaphysical texts which are; *The Dead Men’s path* and *The Clash of Divinity* by Reuben Onyishi. It is usually very important to notice the conflicts between humanity and divinity and most times man tends to act as defenders of this divinity. In a traditional setting, once a fetish law is broken, its goes with a consequence which is more like a punishment and we finds out that its men who inflicts these punishments on their fellow men for the reason of disobeying their god. In the book, *The Dead Men’s path*, we see the primary school headmaster who on his own path violated the rule and decision of the gods of the land by leaving that singular road unblocked, even the visit by the Chief priest could not change his mind as he thinks of all those as fetish and metaphysical and eventually carried out his own plan. To his dismay his hard work was destroyed and brought to dust over night by the villagers who were not also in support because that road has also being a source of conflicts in the past. Here in this

text, it is vividly showing us the disagreement of man over divinity and the conflicts matters arising and the disobeyer according to them was punished for disobeying their god which was exactly what happened to the primary school headmaster.

Furthermore, the novel, "The Clash of Divinity" portrays the same metaphysical beliefs and characteristics. The men of Imobi were thorough traditionalists who uphold and value their traditions and customs so much and also believe that their tradition can never be terminated. This is seen when some of the Imobi villagers were predominantly Roman Catholics but it was difficult to tease out the Catholics from the traditionalists because those who claimed to be Catholics also participated in certain traditional rites, traditions, rituals, Omaba masquerade activities and ceremonies. Most especially this festival called the biennial festival which most native indigenes in the village come back both the Christians of Imobi. It is seen that the Imobi people have placed the deference to divinity on Omaba to the extent that people make vows to it. And anyone who breaks these vows are beheaded or killed.

Some years before now, the church had had a clash with the people of Imobi community over omaba masquerade festivals but the hatred for the church engendered by the clash had stuck indelibly in the minds of those even yet to be born. It is noted in the book that anyone who turns into a Christian is referred to as deemed lost dead. The people of omaba were happy with Pst. Udo until he was transferred and Pst Dinma took over and made a strong decision to stop the act of the masquerade rituals in the society and as earlier stated it had caused conflicts between the church and the people. As the anger of the men of Imobi was loosed and their wrath was unleashed on Dinma and the congregation of the church whose head has been written touch not my anointed which to him violating a tradition means to reverence a vindictive god, little did they know that they had broken the principle of the superior one, God. The men of Imobi tried all they could to destroy Dinma and the church of God but at the end part, ended up breaking God's divine principle and got the consequences and later the church prevailed.

In conclusion. I will disagree with the notion of humanity avenging divinity because if divinity known as god or is taken as a

supernatural being then its should avenge for itself and not man because if tampered with the Superior, nothing can avert his wrath.