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DEPARTMENT: COMBINED ART ENGLISH/HISTORY

COURSE CODE: ELS 102

COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO NIGERIAN LITERATURE

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QUESTION: SHOULD HUMANITY AVENGE DIVINITY? DISCUSS USING CHINUA ACHEBE'S "DEAD MAN'S PATH" AND RUBEN ONYISHI'S "CLASH OF DIVINITY".

The existential relationship that exists between weaker existence and overwhelming ones (stronger existence) the conflict which has existed between the modern Christian religion and traditional religion, the religious extremism which exists in the life of some characters in the fictional text, "dead men's" path by Chinua Achebe and Onyishi's Clash of Divinity are obvious and acknowledged.

The two fictional texts are both contradictory in the sense that in Onyishi "clash of divinity, the people of Imobi led by seventeen seventeen had taken matters onto their own hands when they burnt down the church, bawd up Reverend Dinma and raped his wife. They did this based on he fest that the named of assemblies divine who were members of the church saw the nakedness of the god deity of laobo, Omaba Amuju which they were traditionally forbidden from seeing. Religious extreme came into play when seventeen and the angry mob had taken of upon themselves to fight for the gods despite warnings of Ogo Elihe and people of Ezenagu. The god was angered by the particular action by the people of the Imobi but was appeased by Reverend Zeus when he brought back Reverend Dinma and made the to shower him with gift offerings so that forgiveness and reconciliation can surface. Whereas, in Achebe "dead men" path, it is quite clear that Mr. Obi, the head master of Ndume central school views the traditional beliefs of Ndume as narrow views that needs to be enlightened by western education. In this text he closes the path though the ancestors visit the villagers, where dead relations depart and the path of children to be born. He was warned by the chief priest, but due to his civilized nature, he refused to oblige, this brought deadly consequences by the gods.

In this text, it is evident that humanity avenging for divinity can be inappropriate. This divinities have eyes and supernatural so for humanity to take on their vengeance is not acceptable. In Onyishi's clash of divinities the need for the divinity to avenge for itself is emphasized and acknowledged.