

Human Interest

How man slaughtered his brother in Asaba

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ARE YOU a parent, loving and caring parents? How would you feel if you found out that your son murdered his brother? Kill him, sentence him, disown him or seek some middle of the road solution?

There appears to be a classic case of endemic breach of this generic expectations going by whatever response to the rhetorical questions above. The clear issue is that everyone in this circumstance would be in initial shock and eventually in dilemma.

And that is exactly what our man, Oduah, in this story did, as he battles to come to terms with how fate played a cruel game on him.

All over the world, especially in Africa, parents are generally considered role models to their children. It is in light of this socio-cultural norm that parents strive daily to inculcate the best values in their offspring.

However, Oduah, 86, popularly called Diokpa, by his friends and acquaintances, is an Asaba-based landlord who in the course of his active live, gave birth to Ossai, his eldest son to an Asaba mother. He again gave birth to Pastor Charles and some other children including a baby girl, who happens to be the last born and dreamer.

If the dream of the youngest baby girl of the family of Pa



• lifeless body of Charles and the suspect, Ossai

Oduah was taken seriously, the circumstances that led to the cruel murder of Charles (the Pastor) on the morning of the fateful day, Thursday, October 7, this year, would have been prevented.

The girl, popularly called "the baby of the house" was said to have dreamt that she saw her eldest brother (Ossai) killing somebody in a pool of blood but little did they know that it was coming to pass on

the second born of the family.

"The evil", Mr. Ameachi, a neighbour, told the *"Saturday Independent"*, "would have been prevented if not for lack of insensitivity and total negligence on the part of the parents, who saw the evil coming but remained unperturbed."

According to him, since a member of the family dreamt of the occurrence, it behooves on the parents to have chained Ossai or take him to a psychiatric

hospital for medical treatment.

Why must Ossai be chained or taken to a psychiatric hospital, you may wish to ask? He was said to have been suffering from mental disorder and with an age-long history of quarrels.

"The problem is seasonal, it comes and goes. When it comes, it disorganises him and makes him temperamental. At that time, he can maim, he can injure and even kill, nothing about life makes sense to him

again. And he so powerful at that time that he can withstand and subdue any challenge but unfortunately all these were not seriously considered until he killed his brother," Amaechi further told *"Saturday Independent"*.

Corroborating Amaechi, Friday Nwajeri, furniture maker by Zion Land near Ogbe-Ofu quarters, off Jaret Road, Cable Point, Asaba, who happens to be Ossai's professional colleague, and who described the killer-brother as "industrious" when the mental problem is off Ossai's neck, disclosed that before Ossai left Lagos where he was an apprentice, he was normal.

He disclosed further that his problem started when he arrived Asaba after his apprenticeship and he grew up as an industrious and "one-in-town-furniture maker."

He narrated the event that culminated in Ossai killing his brother to include the alleged forceful way which Charles employed in wanting to take his brother off the streets when he embraced the madness again.

The trouble started, *"Saturday Independent"* gathered, in the afternoon, at the Zion Land, a stone throw from the family house of the two brothers.

Efforts by those in the neighbourhood to wade into the scuffle that ensued between the

two brothers proved abortive as they later dragged each other to their family house, with the impression that all is well.

"But few minutes later, we were shocked to hear that he (Ossai) has killed his younger brother (Charles) with machete," not after he has descended on him and beat him to coma.

Pa Oduah, who is yet to recover from the shock, however lamented that his son (Charles) met his untimely death at the crucial stage of his life, as according to him, "that was the day he brought the lady he wanted to marry home for introduction."

To members of his church, The Mountain of Fire Ministries, Charles death is a painful one, as described him as a cool-headed gentleman, who has discharged his pastoral work diligently without fear or favour and would never hurt a fly.

Few minutes after Ossai killed Charles, he was said to have headed for the bank of River-Niger apparently to swim to safety where men of the Delta State Police Command from 'B' Division, in Asaba, swooped on him.

The police spokesman, ASP Charles Muka, however said, the command is putting facts about the matter together at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), even as he added that the command is working on determining his state of health.