

# Father throws two-year old baby into well

'Several thoughts kept coming into my head as the baby was crying and I didn't know what to do with her. That was why I threw her inside the well.'

**H**E was the son of a clergy; his father leads a congregation of nearly 3,000 faithful at the Christ Apostolic Church, Ogunu, Warri, Delta State.

But somehow in between growing up as a pastor's son and graduating from the Delta State Polytechnic, Ozoro, Elijah Edofamomi veered off from an easygoing young man to a killer of the most despicable kind when he threw his own, flesh and blood — a two-year old baby — into the well and then calmly brought out the body, which he buried in a shallow grave.

The transformation of the Secretarial Administration graduate is a poser for friends and relatives. More confounding is the reaction of the suspect who though seemed remorseful, claimed unable to explain his action.

However, investigation by our correspondent revealed that the stage was set for the bizarre drama when the accused reportedly visited Lucy Nnamochia, his lover with whom he had the baby, on February 18 at the latter's No. 21, Udumoworie Street, Ekpam.

Unknown to her, according to her account of the story, Elijah — a very different variant of the biblical Elijah — had his own devilish plans. So, when she left the apartment to take her bath, she was pleased to leave the baby in the care of her father.

"But no sooner had she left the room when the man took the baby out of the town to Ozoro (headquarters of Isoko North Local Government Area)."

Picking over the rope of narra-

**From Shola O'Neil, Warri**

tion, the Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr. Udom Ekpoudom, said the baby's mother reported at the Ekpam Police Station that her child had been stolen by the father, who took her to Ozoro and killed her.

Although our correspondent could not ascertain the circumstances surrounding the death of the child, Edofamomi confessed that he threw the baby into the well, but his account of how he came about the child was contradictory to the police's and the baby's mother's.

He said: "My woman (Lucy) gave the baby to me because she said she was tired of taking care of her and wanted me to play my part by taking over the responsibility. I appealed to her for several hours in the room but she refused and insisted that I must take the baby away."

He disclosed that left alone with the child, at Ozoro, where he was staying after his graduation, "several thoughts kept coming into my head as the baby was crying and I didn't know what to do with her. That was why I threw her inside the well."

Asked why he didn't take the baby to his parents or any relative, Elijah replied: "I couldn't take them to my parents because they did not know that I had the baby. I don't know what happened to me that day, but if my woman had been patient and did not disagree with me on that topic, I wouldn't have done it."

It was gathered that a few days after he threw the baby into the

well at the back of his apartment, Edofamomi fished her out with a long stick and buried her in a shallow grave he dug at a nearby bush.

The lid blew off the dastardly act when the police arrested the suspect who confessed to the crime. He took the police to where the baby was buried in the bush.

Asked what prompted him into taking such an action, Edofamomi blamed it all on the devil and the baby's mother. He said he suspected that he was under the influence of some unseen forces when he took the action.

His words: "I have never been a violent person. Everywhere I have lived, everybody I have lived with knows that I am a law-abiding person. But it is unfortunate that when incidents like this happen the complainants are never investigated."

"My wife (who is now claiming that I stole the baby) is still alive, she was the one who handed over the baby to me and escorted me to the motor park. But when she left the baby with me, I was frustrated and I was very helpless."

"It is unfortunate that when these things were happening no good thoughts came to my mind that is why I am saying that this thing is beyond my understanding."

No record has shown that I am a ritualist; I have never killed anybody. Why I would start with my own child beats my imagination," he added.

But Ekpoudom said the police are determined to get to the bottom of the matter. He stated that



• **Edofamomi**

the body had been exhumed for an autopsy.

"I have resigned myself to fate, let the law take its full course, but if it can be compassionate on me, I would be very grateful because at the moment I don't know what else to do, because I've just graduated and was at the point of en-

joying my life when this thing happened."

Astounded members of the public, including members of the CAC family in Warri, expressed an anxious desire for the police to unravel the circumstances surrounding the death of the baby and what the fate of her killer would be.