

'How *alfa* killed 60-year-old man and used his head for rituals'

"The concoction was meant to make him rich. He would drink some and then find a woman to make love to. After 24 hours, the woman would die and her spirit would draw wealth to him. If he discovered that money was no longer coming as usual, he would drink from it again and make love to another woman who would also die and produce money in large sums."

Who killed 60-year-old Lekan Abiodun? Where are his head, hands, toes and scrotum? These are the questions the Lagos State Command of the Nigeria Police are currently seeking answers to from three friends, Adeniyi Sayau, Saheed Animasawun and Tafsir Raji.

The trio are being interrogated by the police over suspected kidnapping and subsequent murder of Abiodun after his visit to Animasawun.

While Animasawun admitted that Abiodun actually visited his house, he said it was his friends that killed his visitor for rituals; a claim refuted by both Raji and Sayau.

Saturday Punch gathered that the three friends had become inseparable since they first met about 10 years ago. Confirming this, Animasawun said they met at a Quranic school in Epe, Lagos. "They are my senior, but we became friends since then," he said.

While Sayau and Raji remained in Epe to practise as *alfas*, Animasawun opted for Ajah. "But I was always visiting them in Epe," he said.

He recalled that sometime in February, 2008, Abiodun, who was his brother-in-law, came to him and said he was in trouble. "He said somebody gave him N30,000 as part payment for a parcel of land and later claimed it was N60,000. He wanted me to use my

Sesan Olufowobi

power as an *alfa* to blur his creditor's memory. I could not do it, so I contacted Tafsir who said he would do it.

"On February 10, I was with Tafsir when Baba (Abiodun) called me on the phone again. Immediately Tafsir realised that it was Baba, he said I should tell him to wait for us at a particular point in Epe. We picked him up from there and took him to Tafsir's house."

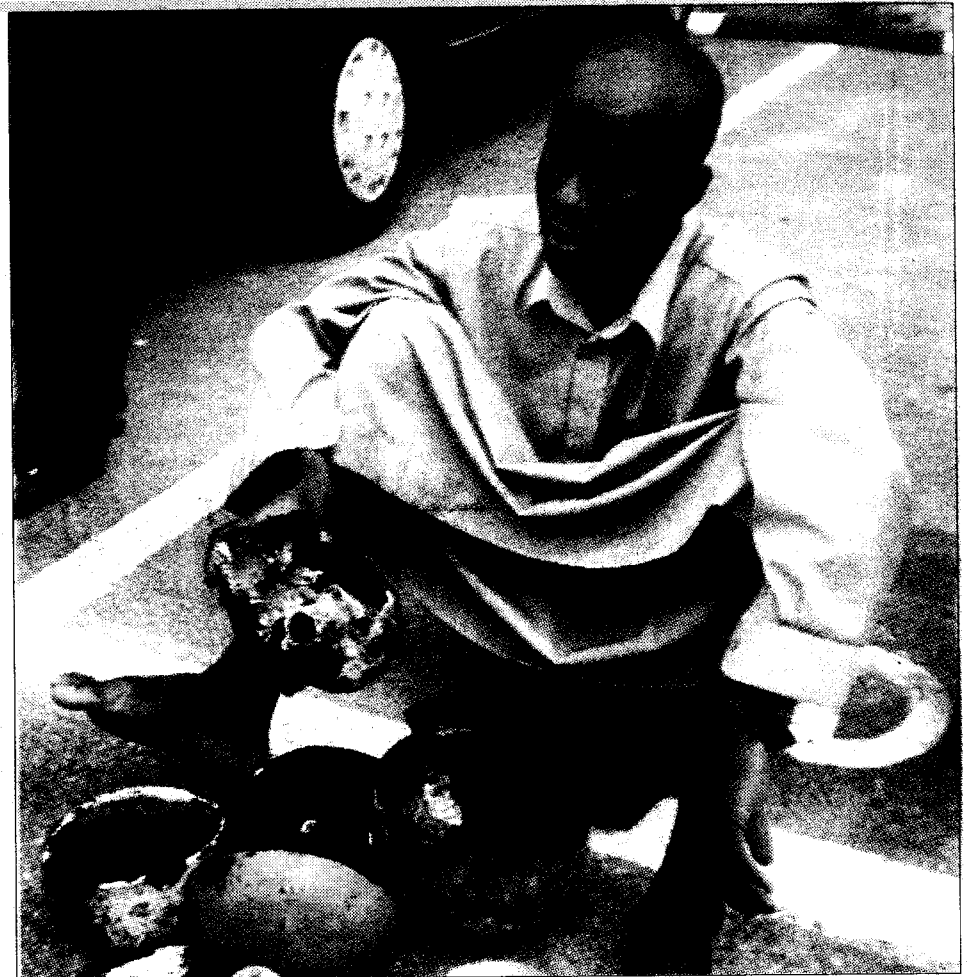
He said he began to grow suspicious when on getting to Tafsir's house, he called Sayau on the phone and asked him to come. "Immediately Sayau arrived, he (Tafsir) told me to go and wait with his wives at the backyard.

"When I protested and told him that I could also be a part of the prayers as an *alfa*, he said the prayer was very special and as such I had excuse them.

"I was with his wives at the backyard when suddenly Sayau came out with a bag dripping with blood. I knew there was no goat or hen in the house before I came out, so I became alarmed.

"But when I confronted Tafsir, he said my story should be that Abiodun came there for prayers and left. When I prodded him further, he said the man was dead and that he had cut off his head and hands and was keeping them in a concoction prepared with *ogogoro* (local gin).

"The concoction was meant to make him rich. After the concoction might have matured, he would drink some and then find a woman to make love to. After 24 hours, the woman would die and her spirit would draw wealth to him. If he discovered that money was no longer coming as usual, he would drink from it again and make love to another woman who would also die and produce money in large



• Sayau

sums."

Animasawun said when he realised what had happened to Abiodun, he went home hoping that it was only a bad dream. Unknown to the trio Abiodun had told his people his destination before he left home.

So when the people started looking for him, they turned to Animasawun who, according to the police, denied seeing him. Not convinced by his denial, the family members siezed the opportunity of Animasawun's visit to Abiodun's widow and descended on him. When he could no longer endure the beating,

he confessed all he knew about Abiodun's disappearance.

But Animasawun said besides the beating, he was weighed down by a sense of guilt since the incident occurred, so it was a relief telling the truth.

However, Raji said that the tale told by Animasawun was an absolute lie. "I don't know anything about it. It was between him and Sayau," he said. Confronted with some strange objects found with him, including a collection of pubic hair, he said they were meant for his work. "This hair is from women and not a man. I don't know anything about Abiodun's death," he said, adding that the women whose pubic hair were found in his possession were still alive.

Sayau also denied knowledge of how Abiodun died. "I am here only because I am his (Animasawun's) friend.

When he was arrested, some strange objects were found in his possession, including a human head. That (human head) is not Abiodun's head. It was obtained from the cemetery. I severed it from a corpse. That is not murder."

But Animasawun insisted that the two men knew more than they had confessed about Abiodun's death. "They killed him and they told me that we should stick to the lie they have told," he argued.

The Commissioner of Police in Lagos State, Muhammed Abubakar, said the police had found Abiodun's body. "We are only looking for the hands, the toes, the head and the scrotum," he said.



• Raji and Animasawun

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