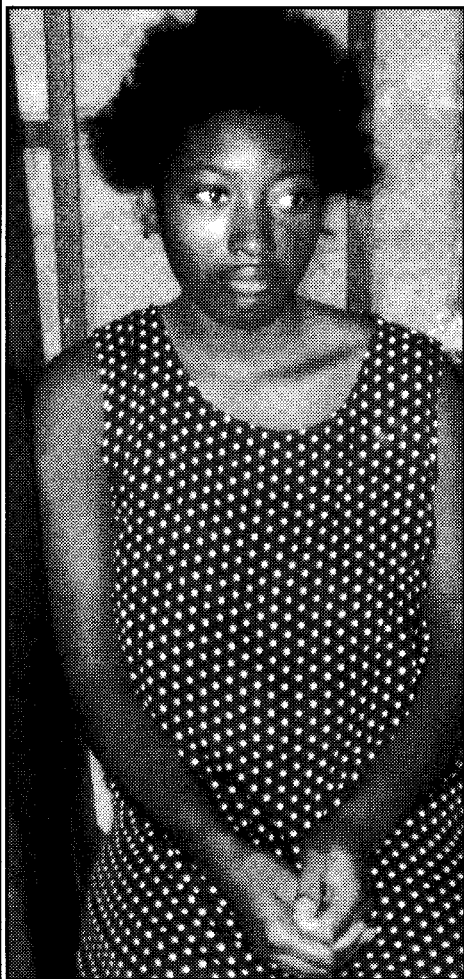


Confession of a mother

I strapped my dead baby and threw it in the bush



• Adeleke

AKINWALE ABORISADE

SHE had no record of mental illness, neither was she reported to have committed murder in the past. But her story raises many questions as it generates emotion within her immediate community in Oyo State. Going by police record, it is difficult to know the root cause of the act that led her into the trouble that she is now facing.

Eighteen-year-old Alimo Adeleke was arrested by the police at Okò, near Ogbomosò in Oyo State over the death of her daughter, Fatimo, on March 30, 2010. Records show that Adeleke, a native of Ejigbo in Osun State, came to spend her holiday with her cousin, Sunday Anah, when her daughter took ill.

Some medications were administered on the one-year eight-month-old baby, but her condition grew worse. The ailing baby died later that day. Reports have it that Adeleke killed the baby herself, strapped her with clothes, put her in a sack and threw her corpse into the bush.

She however denied the allegation with a claim that the baby had been sick and later gave up the ghost after some medication had been administered on her. Our correspondent gathered that the sick baby was not taken to the hospital in spite of her critical condition. Rather, both local and orthodox medications were given to her.

Adeleke could however not mention the

specific drugs that she gave to the baby. She said that she bought some drugs and herbs which she had been using for the baby. "That was what I used to give her whenever she was sick," she said. "The baby died on Monday, March 30 at about 4 pm. I put her in a sack and took her to Isale-Ejigbo, an outskirts of the town. I did not know what I could do because I was home alone. Though I was sad and frightened I did not cry out for help so as not to attract neighbours' attention."

The lady told *SUNDAY PUNCH* that she was confused and completely bereft of idea about the incident. She explained that she did not have the courage to call on the neighbours because she was a visitor in the area and had hardly known anybody except Anah, her cousin whom she came to visit. She quietly strapped the baby's corpse with a cloth and put it in a sack. She took the dead body to a nearby dumpsite and threw it away.

However, the evil which she had done quietly blew open when her cousin came back from work. Anah, after asking his cousin about the child's whereabouts, said that he became very curious when the hapless mother failed to give a satisfactory response. After failed attempts by Anah to make Adeleke talk, he decided to report the matter at the Iresa Adu Police Station. She said that after being quizzed by the police she took them to the place where she dumped the baby.

Police investigation showed that she had killed the baby by putting her in a sack and had dumped her with the aim of concealing

“The sick baby was not taken to the hospital in spite of her critical condition. Rather, both local and orthodox medications were given to her”

the true state of her baby. The Police Public Relations Officer, Oyo State Command Mrs. Olabisi Okuwobi, who confirmed the story, described it as gripping.

Adeleke said, "I never had any case of madness. But I don't know what came over me. In the circumstance of the baby's death I just considered what I did as the right option. I did it without considering the implication of what I did. I am appealing to the government and the police to pardon me. I have been held in the police custody for the past three weeks."

The lady at the moment is about five months pregnant. She said that she was a single mother as she was impregnated by her boyfriend, who later denied her. "But in spite of this I loved the baby and I took care of her until she died." She said that another man (name not given) was responsible for her five-month old pregnancy. She said that her plan with her new boyfriend was that they would eventually get married but she now expressed worries that the present development might have stalled her hope.

Adeleke is currently cooling her feet at the Iyaganku Police Station, Ibadan. Her baby's remains had been taken to the hospital in Ibadan for autopsy.

Widows smile amid music comedy