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I didn't know my friend would die when I stabbed him –21-year-old suspect

OCTOBER 3, 2015 : TUNDE AJAJA 0 COMMENTS

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Adejumo Afeez

Adejumo Afeez is just 21 but he looks older than his age. This might not be unconnected with his current travails. He is cooling off in the custody of the Department of Criminal Investigation, Yaba, Lagos, for stabbing his bosom friend, Ibitoye Saheed, 28, leading to the victim's eventual death. Afeez is evidently full of regrets.

Police sources said Afeez inflicted a severe injury on Saheed's joint cavity (the inner part of the elbow) in the course of a fight between them during the Sallah celebrations last Thursday, causing him to bleed and die before the next morning.

Afeez, who was all tears as he made to explain his side of the story to *Saturday PUNCH* few days ago, stated that the incident, which happened in the Onipanu area of Lagos on Thursday, September, 24, 2015, had left some bad taste in the

mouth of all concerned.

He recalled that he had been living with Saheed, who was married and had a child, for a long time and they were very close. He added they had both gone out in the evening to have some fun in the spirit of the Sallah break around Abidogun Street, Onipanu, Lagos, when the incident happened.

While Saheed, a motor electrician, was inside a popular bar on the street, enjoying himself, Afeez, who is a dancer by profession, was outside the same bar, doing what he knows how to do best; dancing to entertain passers-by. He said it was around 9pm when a moving vehicle splashed dirty water on him, which got him angry.

He said, "It was around 9pm, and while I was dancing to the music blaring from a DJ's stand, Saheed was inside, drinking and watching the television. I was still arguing with the driver of the vehicle, trying to make them apologise to me when Saheed suddenly came out of the bar where he was drinking, obviously he was drunk, and started supporting those people.

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"I thought he was even coming out to support me but he did otherwise. The people I was fighting with had gone but the two of us faced ourselves and we started fighting.

Afeez explained that the fisticuffs were so severe that it drew the attention of the people around.

He continued, "Suddenly, Saheed grabbed my neck and wanted to strangle me. He said he would kill me because he said I was beginning to disrespect him. He ran inside, brought outside a cutlass and used it to cut my left hand.

"Meanwhile, I had the knife we used to kill ram in the morning in my pocket. In retaliation, I brought out the knife and used it to cut the hand that he used to hold my neck, and blood started gushing out of his hand."

When asked why he was carrying a knife in his pocket, Afeez explained that Saheed told him to take the knife along as they were going out. According to him, the blood gushing out of Saheed's hand continued for about three minutes, but they never knew the end was near for him.

He added that Saheed soaked him with his blood, and after the fight, he dropped the cutlass and entered the house, while he also left.

Afeez maintained that he had to go and sleep somewhere else because of the fight between them but when he went to his house the next morning, he learnt his friend was dead.

He explained, "I know he lost so much blood, and the blood was gushing out for about three minutes but I didn't know that could lead to anything. I have been living with him for a long time but I couldn't go to his house that night because of the fight, so he wouldn't hurt me in retaliation. I don't think he went to the hospital but my own injury was mild, so I just cleaned it.

"I went to his house the following day. I checked where we used to sleep but I didn't see him, so, I thought he had gone to the hospital. But suddenly, I saw people gathered and among them was his brother-in-law. Suddenly, some of those people started shouting and pointing at me as the killer.

"His brother-in-law came after me and cut my leg with a cutlass, including my nerves and they all left me in pains, while I was screaming for help. That was how I got to the police station. Even though he wasn't sure if the knife attack led to the death of his friend, Afeez, who is currently regretting his action, said he if he knew his action would lead to the death of his "good friend" he would not have retaliated.

"If I had known it would be severe, I wouldn't have done anything to him when he cut my hand with a cutlass. We used to eat and move around together. He was my friend. I need help because I'm in pains. His brother-in-law successfully cut my leg and all the nerves in my left leg have been cut off."

Police sources told our correspondent that the suspect would soon be charged to court.

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