

Love war: Man kills cousin with acid bath over wife

By Sun News Publishing

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The police are on the trial of one Maxwell

Enakeno, a final year student of the University of Benin who allegedly bathed his cousin, Edwin Ifoghale, with acid for getting married to his lover, Precious.

The enraged lover who could not accept the fact that Precious belongs to his brother decided to separate them by all means.

He was said to have laid siege to his cousin who was coming from work and splashed five litters of acid on him. The effect of the acid was much on him as Edwin was blinded following the injuries sustained after the fatal bath. Edwin who was admitted at Lagos University Teaching Hospital was said to have lost consciousness after the incident long before he finally lost the battle to survive the attack. He was confirmed dead by the doctor at about 11.30 pm on August 20.

After the dastardly act, Mazwell, the assailant fled and remains at large but the family of Edwin strongly believes that Precious, wife of late Edwin, and the bone of contention had connived with Maxwell to kill the father of her son. As a result, Precious was arrested and detained for more than two weeks amid pleads that she had nothing to do with the incident.

I am not guilty

Speaking with Saturday Sun days after her release, Precious refuted the claim that she conspired with Maxwell to kill her husband. According to her, when Maxwell made known his plans to kill her husband, they decided to report the case to the police. They had planned to go to the police the next day before the incident. She admitted that Maxwell was her first love but she made it clear to him that the relationship was over as she had decided to marry Edwin. " My husband told me that they were related and that he would see if he could talk to him."

Before the incident, Precious said she and the late hubby had made up their mind to report to police the next day. " My husband had gone out with his bus to look for money. His initial plan was to get some money so that we would have enough to eat and use the other to follow up the case. He was on his way back when Maxwell called him, he was about to turn when he splashed the acid on him." He was rushed to the hospital where he died the next day.

Childhood friend

According to Precious, Maxwell was a childhood friend. They had agreed to settle down but her parents dissuaded her. During that period, a relative introduced Edwin to her. She initially did not want to continue with that relationship but pressures mounted on her by her parents made her accept to marry. This development did not augur well with Maxwell who even days before her traditional wedding threatened to spoil the day.

The marriage was successful and they came back to Lagos. Precious

however revealed that when she had problems with her husband and traveled home to Delta State, Maxwell came back with hope that things had settled itself. " He came and told me that I should come back to him since my marriage did not work. Even when Edwin came back I also informed him that I was going back to my husband as we had settled the problem."

I thought he had given up on the pressure as he did not disturb the relationship again. A year later he came calling. He was able to trace them to where they were lived at No. 10 Erole Street, Ijegan Egba, Lagos " He started sending letters to me and my husband warning that if we do not separate, he was going to deal with us. It was at that point that my husband informed me that Maxwell is his relation."

According to Precious when the threat became unbearable, they informed a family friend who advised them to see their lawyer or probably inform the police.

I love my husband

Precious however insists that she truly loved her late husband although the family of Edwin had accused her of conspiring with her ex-boyfriend. " Maxwell was my boyfriend. That was in the past and I made it clear to him. Since then I had resolved to make my marriage work, which I did. We have a son and had been living peacefully before death came calling. I am ready to help the family find him. Maxwell is their brother and they know how and where to get him. I have no cause to kill my husband. Edwin had enrolled me to learn dress making with the promise of getting a shop for me upon graduation. He stood by me even when his family members were all against me. All these I hoped for till Maxwell cut it short. If truly Maxwell loves me he would not do anything to hurt me."

Saturday Sun learnt that when Precious was in detention, Maxwell sent a text to her phone threatening to kill her and finally himself. Precious who had been granted bail is left at the mercy of his relations and friend, as Edwin's family would not stand her sight.

" They banned me from coming close to the house or to the burial of my husband. Edwin knows that I loved him and would not hurt him. I would be glad if the family would allow me to pay my last respect to my late husband. I do not know how or what to do again. I only pray God to help me to bring up our only son who is a replica of his father," she said.

Embittered father

Sad at what has befallen his daughter, Precious' father insisted that his daughter had nothing to do with it.' I believe in justice, if they can prove that my daughter is guilty let her face it. I wish I did not mount pressure on her to marry Edwin. When Edwin and his family members came for my daughter's hand in marriage I saw them as better than Maxwell. I insisted that she should not have anything to do with Maxwell as treachery runs in their family. I thought they were happily married till this incident occurred. Let us face the fact it is a family issue, they should not use my daughter as scapegoat. They know how to get Maxwell and leave my daughter alone to pick her life together and plan for her son's future.