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NOUN student clubbed to death settling feuding lovers

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BY OUR REPORTER ON MARCH 5, 2015

SOUTH-WEST MAGAZINE

FROM SEGUN OLATUNJI, ABEOKUTA

The Biblical injunction: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" must have encouraged Femi James Kehinde to intervene in a fisticuffs between two lovers. But as fate would have it, 30-year-old Kehinde ended up becoming the peacemaker in a Yoruba adage who is usually the victim who suffers the unexpected consequences.

Unknown to Kehinde who was a 400 level student of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Abeokuta Centre, Ogun State, the agent of death lurking around the corner was the one beckoning that penultimate Saturday night, as he left his apartment to settle a fight between Gabriel, a 200 level Political Science student and his girl friend, a fresher. Gabriel's girl friend had earlier rushed into Kehinde's apartment to seek his intervention.

Although NOUN does not have a formal students' union body, Kehinde who had always been regarded as the centre's de facto students' union president immediately left his friends with whom he was having dinner and headed straight to the apartment occupied by Gabriel within the same vicinity to settle the disagreement.

But within a few minutes, some students rushed back with fear and horror

written all over their faces, and informed Kehinde's friends that he had allegedly just been killed by Gabriel. They all immediately went to the scene, but they were confronted with the gory sight of Kehinde's body covered with blood and sprawling on the ground.

In an attempt to save his life, they rushed him to a nearby hospital where he was later confirmed dead. An eye witness who pleaded anonymity told Daily Sun: "On Saturday night at about 8:00pm, while he (Kehinde) was eating with his friends, a lady just rushed in and was cryrescued him from his alleged assailant and ing that her boyfriend had been manhandling her.

Today's Sun Girl

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James told the lady to calm down and assured her that the matter would be resolved amicably. But all of a sudden, James got up and left. Then shortly after, a student ran inside to inform us that James was about to be killed. Actually, James left the room before the lady. They all left the room but I did not go with them.

“But about 15minutes later, another lady rushed in and was crying that James had been killed. But as I and others were rushing to the scene, we saw that policemen had got to the scene and they corked their guns as we approached them warning everybody not to move.

“Those who actually were at the scene said as at the time they got to the scene, James had not died but they saw Gabriel hitting him with a piece of wood. They said when they tried to rescue James from him, Gabriel prevented them.”

Gabriel was immediately arrested by policemen. He was taken to the Ibara Divisional Police Headquarters where he was initially detained.

He was later transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department, Eleweran, Abeokuta where he’s currently undergoing interrogation.

Friday last week, Kehinde’s remains were buried at a cemetery at Lantoro, Abeokuta. A candle night procession was also held for him by students of NOUN the same day. Many students expressed sadness over Kehinde’s death. His colleagues at NOUN said he would be sorely missed, especially because of his leadership charisma and organizational ability.

He was said to have championed the opening of a centre at Saint James’ Primary School, Kuto, where the students of the institution go for tutorials.

The deceased who was in his final year in the university was also said to be in the habit of usually taking it upon himself to lecture fellow students at the tutorial centre.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Muyiwa Adejobi confirmed the incident: “The matter is still with us and the girl friend to the suspect is with us too. Investigation is still on and as soon as the court resumes, we’ll charge him to court.”

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