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From **WOLE BALOGUN, Ado-Ekiti**

Ikere-Ekiti agog for new yam festival

IKERE-EKITI, a sprawling community in Ikere Local Government Area of Ekiti State which has become a melting point of virtually all dialectical clans in the state, was recently agog for its yearly New Yam festival otherwise christened Odun Ijesu in Yoruba. It was held at the palace of Oba Samuel Adejimi Adu Alagbado, the Ogogga of Ikere-Ekiti.

According to Chief James Ayodele Alonge, Odolofin of Ikere-Ekiti, a retired national General Manager of Guinness Nigeria Limited, who is also one of the key organizers of the festival:

"This festival is done in virtually all communities in Ekiti. It is called Odun Ijesu, meaning; New Yam festival. It

symbolizes the miraculous fact that it is only a little bit of yam that is usually planted but that little one brings out many huge tubers by the blessing of God. And the people were though, surprised, they started to cook and eat the yam. The Kabiyesi ate last and that is why we are thanking God today.

"Ikere-Ekiti came into existence about the 11th century. At a certain period in history, we had a legend called Olosun and our forefathers were worshipping him because he came into town with enormous powers to protect our people. But after sometime, we betrayed him.

His real name was Itiguniti or Olosun.

"So, while we were driving him away, he entered into a major rock among the rocks that dot the rocky landscape of the town. The rock, which till today is called Olosunta, meaning in Yoruba: 'Olosun to sun ninu ota, (Olosun that slept inside the rock).

"The consequence of betraying and driving away the Olosun was an outbreak of epidemic in Ikere then and its accompaniment which included famine, small pox and all such plaques.

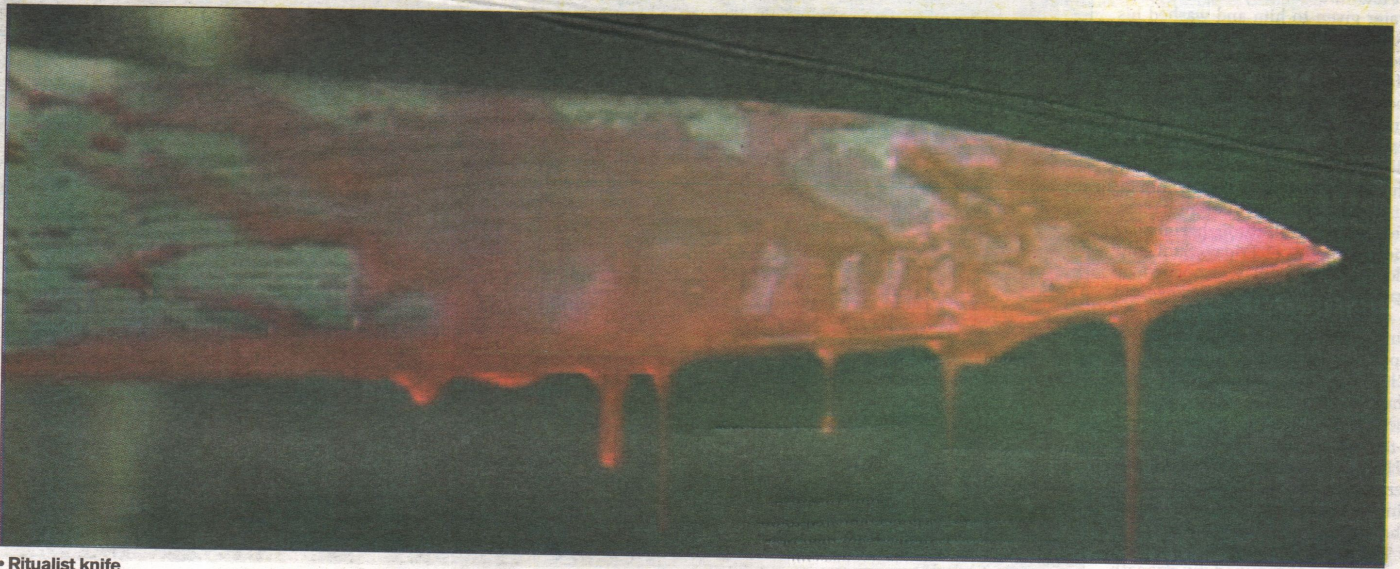
"As an effort to seek a way out, the Ifa oracle was consulted and it told our

forefathers to continue to worship Olosun in appeasement for our misdeeds towards him.

We went ahead then to appease him and immediately our forefathers did that, a heavy rain fell on the land and brought plenty as before. And you know when the heavy rain fell, we started immense farming.

"My message to all Ikere people home and abroad is that right now the town is fast developing and we want all of our people to come home and join hands with us to further develop this

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• Ritualist knife

KILLERS ON RAMPAGE

• Hold Ibadan at jugular

From **AYO ADEMOKOYA, Ibadan**

MONEY ritualists are on the prowl in Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State. Kidnapping incidents are on the rise daily and it is of great concern to the residents. Every person is suspicious of the next person close to him or her walking the streets.

So it was with a 42-year-old mother of four, Olorunyomi (not real name). She set the whole of Academy area of Odo-Ona Elewe, Orita Challenge, Ibadan, that Friday, August 19, 2016, into wild jubilation.

Reason: She came back home at 11:00pm from a near death experience with money ritualists. She was kidnapped on Tuesday, August 16, after transacting business in one of the banks at Challenge, Ibadan, that fateful afternoon.

Olorunyomi, an events planner, was still shell shocked when she narrated her ordeal to Daily Sun. She found it difficult to comprehend why fellow human being could be so wicked as to kill a fel-

low human being for whatever purpose.

She met a middle-aged woman at the banking hall who became very jovial with her as she asked about the welfare of her children: "I felt comfortable with her the way she was relating with me and we became friends. Afterwards, I got out of the bank and was heading for another bank at Orita Challenge.

"The woman beckoned on to me from a beautiful Honda Element car, introduced a girl of about 13 years old who wore a school uniform of a popular girls' school at Molete, Ibadan, as her daughter and the man behind the wheels as her husband. She asked me to join them since they were going towards Orita Challenge.

"As we approached the bank, I asked the driver to stop so that I can alight but he did not. The woman looked back at me with disdain and said, 'you don't know what has happened to you.' I struggled to open the door but it was locked. I thought by the time we get to the police check point at New Garage,

I would be able to scream for help. But before we got there, I was already weak and could not utter a word. It was then I realized that everyone in the car could not talk including the driver.

"I became a bit conscious later and when I opened my eyes all I saw was 'Welcome to Sagamu' in one of the bill boards as the car swerved off the highway into a thick bush. We arrived at a big gate of a very beautiful mansion situated in the bush.

"We were ordered to alight from the car. The man behind the wheels suddenly became conscious and was trying to ask where he was. One of our captors struck him with an object, something like a black belt, he fell and died instantly. As he was being dragged to the place where his body parts would be dismembered, the woman that lured me into the car rushed at him and disposed him off his valuables like wristwatch, gold chain, wallet and his two phones.

"The woman looked at me disdainfully again and said, 'madam no matter

what you are thinking, we can never meet on this planet earth again.' I wondered how she could read or hear my thoughts easily.

"We were ushered into a large room with CCTV monitoring the Shagamu Expressway. We could see activities going on from the expressway to the point where we veered off the road.

"The man who received us was very happy and congratulated the woman for bringing such a 'large stock' despite the fact that it was not really a 'rush hour.' Some of us were picked to be transported to another destination where 'supplies' were urgently needed. I was among them. I noticed that it was 7:05pm from the clock inside the car that was to take us to our new destination.

"On arrival, we were ushered in to another compound not as big as the first house and the ring leader was impressed. He locked me in another room where I met two other victims, a woman and one Hausa man. I was asked what

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