

ABEL AND CAIN

Man kills sibling over inheritance

♦ Says: 'His land fertile than mine'

From John Adams, Minna

JUST like the Biblical Abel and Cain, so it was with 42-year-old Muhammadu Madu, and his younger sibling, Isah. Until a few weeks ago, they had lived in peace and love after the demise of their father about six years ago. Both exuded a bond that was a source of envy residents of Ganabigi, a small farming community in Bako Local Government Area of Niger State.

But the devil struck last month and shattered the peace that existed between the brothers and in the community, leaving Muhammadu with the blood of his brother dripping in his hands. And inhabitants of the sleepy community are still perplexed over the circumstances that led him to murder his sibling in cold blood.

The bone of contention was a piece of land belonging to their father which was shared to them by members of the family on his demise. All was well after the sharing and both had cultivated their portions for over five years, before the unexpected happened.

Unknown to Isah, his elder brother had become envious of his yields and craved to dispossess him of his inheritance. He made no pretension about his desire when he approached him on a breezy Friday evening. He wanted his young brother to swap his portion of land which he considered more fertile, a demand Isah, aged 34, objected. That, however, became his greatest undoing and he paid the supreme price.

At about 5.30pm on August 10, 2017, Muhammadu trailed him to his farm where he was working and snuffed life out of him. It was a cruel fate for Isah, and a fatal blow on his wife, Amina, and her two children. After he stabbed to death at the farm, Muhammadu glanced

around to ensure no one witnessed the dastardly act, and fled the scene.

Muhammad told Daily Sun in a chance encounter: "I trailed him to his farm when I got there on that day and asked him why he had not vacated the land. In the process, a hot argument ensued and he attempted to machete me. I left and returned a few minutes later with a sharp knife with which I stabbed him several times after I had overpowered him. When I saw blood gushing out of him, I wanted to carry him, but I was scared; so, I abandoned him and fled. I had no intention of killing him, I just wanted to inflict injuries on him."

Though he fled the scene convinced that nobody witnessed the act and he would not be unveiled as the killer, Isah shrill cry for help before he eventually succumbed to death, had attracted the attention of a tipper driver and his workers scooping sand in a nearby bush, who met him at the scene in a pool of blood and rushed him to a hospital where he died on arrival.

Following a report, Muhammadu was arrested by the police at the divisional headquarters in Lemu, and eventually arraigned in court on murder charges. He is presently on remand in prison custody.

"The whole family was shocked on hearing the news because they had lived peacefully with one another before the incident. It is the devil's handiwork because there was no reason whatsoever for them to fight over a land that they had been farming on for over five years. We have left everything in the hands of God, as Muslims; we believe it is Allah that gives and takes life. When the time comes, there is nothing anybody can do about it. It's an unfortunate incident," an uncle to the siblings, Mohammed Ndaman, said.