

Man Confesses: We beheaded two for rituals

OLA AJAYI, Ibadan

IT was a gory sight at Ogbere Police Station in Ibadan metropolis when a middle aged man held two fresh human heads. Hundreds of residents mostly women in the area clustered around the unbelievable spectacles.

Women, probably thinking of a day the parents of the unlucky victims were being congratulated for the arrival of new born babies, held their chests in bewilderment. Tears flowed uncontrollably. Men threw their masculine posture aside and wept openly raining curses on the suspect who carried the two heads in his hands.

Some who could endure the offensive odour oozing from one of the heads moved closer to the man and started pinching and kicking him. Were it not for the quick intervention of policemen, the visibly enraged crowd would have considered jungle justice as the best punishment for the suspect.

Thereafter, the suspect, Tafa Ayorinde, was moved to the Oyo State Police Headquarters, Eleyele where he was publicly paraded. He spoke on how he came about the heads:

"My name is Tafa Ayorinde. I am a native of Ibadan. I live at Tafa area, Orita Aperin. I was a driver before I moved into herbal medicine. My insatiable quest to be rich at all costs led me into this. On that day, I left my house in company of another friend, Kehinde, around 5am with the aim of getting three human heads and other parts of the body for money rituals. I didn't kill them but we exhumed the bodies from a cemetery at Abode, along

Akanran Road in Ibadan.

When we got to the cemetery, we opened up three coffins but only two contained fresh heads. The other one contained bones. Nobody sent me. I am a herbalist".

How I was caught

"About 7, this morning (Friday), we had already exhumed the bodies and cut the heads. I cut the arm from this fresh one and I got these fleshy parts from his thigh. I was the one carrying the cellophane bags in which we kept the heads. As we were about crossing the road, one of the heads dropped and some passers-by saw us and raised alarm. We were given a hot chase by a motorcyclist and I was eventually caught while the second person escaped".

State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Fatai Sanni, said the man had made useful statements but he was yet to tell the whole truth. "He may have been sent by some people. But until we interrogate him further, we cannot get to the root of the matter".

On close examination of the two heads, one of them was a man and the other a girl. The head of the girl, going by the expression on her face, seemed to have

agonized before giving up the ghost. The police said they would intensify interrogation to unearth all those who may be in the shady business with the man.

Regret

"Please forgive me. I didn't know it would end this way. If I had known, I would not have done it. But I swear, I didn't kill any of them. I exhumed the bodies. I can't kill human beings. I don't sell human parts", the suspect, apparently regretting his action, told journalists.

•Tafa Ayorinde, after being caught

