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How woman beat 13-year-old daughter to death

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Although death is inevitable, the demise of Balki Abubakar, a 13-year-old girl did not only come as a complete shock to her family but also to the entire residents of Anguwan Rogo area of Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau state. This was so, according to sources, because Balki's mother was the sole suspect for Balki's death.

Prior to her death, Balki who was said to have been good in character not only in her compound but in the neighborhood was a primary six pupil. She incurred her mother's wrath which eventually resulted in her death. The death became obviously a tragic loss to her family because the late Balki was the first child out of the five children that God has blessed her family.

Peoples DailyWeekend learnt that Balki passed away following a serious beating by her mother, Aisha Abubakar.

When contacted the Plateau State Police Public Relation Officer, Felicia Anslem confirmed the death but said the suspect was yet to be apprehended by the police.

The police spokeswoman said, "actually the case has been reported to us and the girl in question has been confirmed dead and buried according to Islamic rites".

She added that the case is still under investigation and the mother had been on the run but assured the police determination to get her arrested and bring her to justice. She complained that what was giving the police problem in tracing the hide out of the mother is lack of cooperation from the father of the deceased.

Peoples DailyWeekend investigation revealed that no sooner had Aisha realized Balki was dead than she disappeared from the house and allegedly ran to a village in Riyom Local Government Area of the state. Nevertheless, the cause of the cruel beating which led to Balki's death however varied according to different sources, as Aisha who is the mother to the deceased and who was accused of killing her daughter has since taken to her heels and her whereabouts has been unknown.

According to Police investigation, the actual reason behind the beating of Balki has not been traced as the culprit had not been apprehended.

But a source in the neighbourhood of the deceased said N40 naira was what led to the Balki's death. The source said the mother sent Balki with N40 to a shop to buy maggi, unfortunately, Balki lost the money on her way to the shop and as soon as she returned home and reported the loss of the money, her mother (Aisha) took her to her room and beat her up mercilessly that she (Balki) became a dead duck.

Mallam Tasssiu Ussaini is a tenant and a next door neighbour in the house the parents of the deceased are residing. When asked how did the incident occurred, he said all he knew was that Balki offended her mother and the mother took her to her room and beat her up, adding that the mother locked the girl in the room and started beating and nobody among the tenants was able to come to her rescue because Aisha has locked in the room as her usual attitude.

"Before Balki died, I saw her suffering from the beating but I cannot tell you exactly the offence she had committed. Aisha is her mother and would only be in the best position to explain what Balki did. That is all I know", Tasssiu said.

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Tassiu however noted that the death of Balki was a great loss to the family but that it was not a deliberate act by the mother, adding that it was just a "destiny" that waited to happen even though the mother transgressed in the beating.

"Aisha is the real mother to Balki and it is unwise for people to be lamenting and shouting that Aisha's action was intentional and deliberate. Aisha was the one that gave birth to Balki and she cannot kill her daughter in cold blood", he added.

Moreover, another source in the neighbourhood of the deceased gave a different reason of the beating. The source narrated that Balki was sent to buy sweet potato by her mother but stayed long and could not get it at last. That, according to the source, annoyed the mother who beat her up which finally resulted in Balki's death.

Abdullahi Muhammad is one of the district council member of Anguwan Rogo where the incident occurred and spoke on the incident. It was quickly reported to him and in no time he went and reported the case to Anguwan Rogo Police Divisional Headquarter as part of his responsibility.

"I was at home when a boy came to me that a girl was beaten by her mother to death and that people have gathered around the house of the deceased. Then, I asked the boy to lead me to the house, on getting there, the place was crowded.

"Realizing the situation, I quickly went to Anguwan Rogo Police Divisional Headquarter and reported the case. Afterward, I was given two police officers to the house. Getting into the house, the two police officers and myself saw the dead body of Balki lying and confirmed dead."

Continuing he said, "I enquired from other tenants of the house the cause of the incident. A woman told me that Balki lost her mother's N50 and the mother got annoyed and started beating her, one tenant even said she would payback Aisha her N50 to stop beating Balki but she refused to collect the money and continue the beating. I have confirmed from the house that she was seriously beaten by her mother but did not die instantly. She died few hours later and buried the following day in the morning.

To avoid committing such crime it provoked, Felicia emphasized no matter the heat of anger, no provocation should incite parents to take instant action on any offence, adding that taking hasty decision would of course lead to what had happened to Balki. She therefore called every parent to try as much as possible to hold their anger and restrain themselves for some time before taking decision out of anger.

"I am urging every parent to learn how to hold anger and restrain themselves". If you are annoyed and choose to promptly pour your anger, you will commit the same crime Balki's mother committed and the law would hold you", the PPRO added.

In an effort to see the father, a source from the area said that when the incident occurred, the father of Balki, was not around and as soon as he returned he was asked if he knew Aisha's whereabouts and responded that he did not know but had communicated to her via phone. The source further alleged that Abubakar knew Aisha's hideout, only that he did not want her arrested, adding that the father exonerated Aisha in that she did not kill Balki intentionally and will still want to stay with her if she returned.

Concerted effort by People Daily Weekend to contact the father of the deceased to comment on the incident was unsuccessful as our correspondent went to his residence severally but could not meet him. His cell phone number was dialed many times but was unavailable.

Balki is gone forever, and her mother is on the run. The question people have been asking however is that will the mother's conscience be at rest even if she is free at the end?

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