

**WHAT BELIEVERS MUST GIVE FOR OUR NATIONHOOD
IN OUR OWN INTEREST AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF
ALL OTHERS**



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INTRODUCTION

In the name of Allah, the One, the Self-subsistent, the Creator and Sustainer of ALL affairs. Perfect peace and blessings be upon His Messenger, the best model for guidance and all of those who sincerely believe and follow his footsteps.

This material is intended to awaken the consciousness of a believer in order that belief in God will not be isolated from our livelihood, for our collective safety and prosperity. And for the believers, also in the hereafter. It is an attempt to clarify that believers are rightly positioned to be leaders of the safety and prosperity of all, because GIVING is their motto. And this giving is rewarding and promoting since it is a structure of connective or supportive giving of what is good.

However, the leaders are responsible to make this possible at all levels and especially at the level of public leadership. It questions the call for everyone doing his bit BEFORE or WITHOUT the public leader leading in enabling the ways. Leadership at public level is MORE THAN DOING YOUR BIT in our circumstance. Batons change only after the first runner gets to the first recipient. We should not be deceived by mixing up the meaning of poverty. For believers, IT IS FROM ABOVE WRETCHEDNESS. Therefore we have really not taken off, until we experience a leadership that confronts and pulls down wretchedness or the state of total lack of what we all consider to be basic for livelihood. This is most unlikely without consciousness and acting accordingly.

I am specifically grateful for the additional support with QUESTIONS from Dr Amina Lami Abdullahi, Abdullahi Ahmadu Imam, Sulayman Muhammad and Ghazzali Muhammad. As trained teachers, the questions achieved clarifying the objectives the three books on leadership, connecting to the objective of education for reorientation and inviting the reader to the three books. This is superior to just repeating the content of the three books. May we accept the truth and support

each other for the sake of Allah to realize the safety and prosperity we are craving for but groping in the darkness of ignorance, hypocrisy and confusion.

Muhammad Sa'idu Jimada

WHO ARE THE BELIEVERS?

This covers every individual who accepts the certainty of Almighty God as real and absolute. This person does not expect another person to necessarily hold the same and not compulsory for any other person to hold the same. In Nigeria, we commonly have Muslims and Christians. A Christian does not have to be a Muslim and a Muslim does not have to be a Christian, by requirement or compulsion.

Consequently, there is no absolute inhibition or difficulty in either one or the two relating with others who are neither or others relating with either or both on SUBJECTS that will serve both and all parties without abusing this critical difference and its implications. In Nigeria, we have government machineries in the Executive, Legislature, Judiciary, Security Services, etc. manned by Nigerians to serve all citizens equally, without discrimination on the grounds of language, religion or geography. The principle and practical expectation is that, the needs, wants and fancies of each and all citizens will be realized BY THE ENGAGEMENT OF ANY SUITABLE PERSONS REGARDLESS OF THE specific language, religious or geographical identity of the persons. In other words, such differences will not and should not, even though we can make them to inhibit or abuse the common objectives by enabling LESS. It is for that reason both irrational and senseless to BELIEVE IN LANGUAGE, RELIGIOUS OR GEOGRAPHICAL IDENTITY AS RIGHT AND SAFE, FOR THE SAFETY AND PROSPERITY OF ALL. It is as backward as preferring to be an animal instead of man. It is like believing and pursuing safety and prosperity by returning to one's mother's womb. And the indicator is the success of Nigerians of different languages, religions and geographical locations in other countries, even when they retain their specific identities. Muslims and Christians of different languages and geopolitical origins are making honourable mention in the diaspora. Indeed, in Nigeria, doctors, teachers, engineers, etc. are serving very credibly well,

whether their patients, students or clients share the same specific identities of language, religion, geography or not. It can thus work in politics and economy. Nigerians are advisers, millionaires, parliamentarians, mayors, etc. in other countries. If it is not working in Nigeria it is our fault, our refusal to make it, our irresponsibility. It is therefore our responsibility to deliberately act.

For Muslim and Christian believers, identity difference is not a physical colour or wear. It is a total orientation that MAKES a livelihood. The physical is connected with metaphysical that is real and alive. It is far beyond the metaphysics within the physical. For example, unidentifiable flying objects are metaphysical within our physical reality. However, Angels are beyond this. Between these, all persons live with psych, which is not physical. All persons are also motivated by ideas defining what is right and build pragmatism on it. The details of these and the variety of the scope take their forms in terms of the extent or limits of our identity or connections with our beliefs. This is because we are all believers but vary in scope. And more critical is the difference that certain beliefs matter to some while it does not matter to others. For example, the belief in unidentifiable flying objects may matter to the person who encountered the objects and whoever decides to go along. And it may not matter. Certainly, the person may include a Muslim or a Christian. However, this is radically different from the belief in angels. This matters critically because there is the one that has interacted with chosen men that have given guidance on the authority of God. There is the one that takes life, etc. These are inconsequential to the person whose beliefs exclude the beliefs in Almighty God, the angels, revealed scriptures, life after death, salvation, etc.

Consequently the beliefs that are common and positive should not be a rational and sensible obstruction to our pursuit of collective safety and prosperity. We can safely, effectively and responsibly believe IN NIGERIA, OUR CONSTITUTION, OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM, OUR FLAG, etc.

The believers in Almighty God believe in an eternal livelihood after death and Judgement. Because God is perfect, all matters of commitment and omissions will be straightened between men and between believers and God. This will result in salvation or punishment. As for the others who do not believe, it is a matter between them and God, if they return to God without that recognition and acceptance. But believers know that non-believers who are harmed by them will suffer for the excesses just as non-believers will be held accountable even though they do not believe now and end up in that status.

And this is the most positive attribute in the orientation of believers, for the benefit of mankind. It means that the True Conscious Love of Almighty God by optimal obedience or submission in order to attain salvation and the True Fear of Almighty God by distance from crossing the limits defined for believers, to be safe from damnation and the Hell Fire are double guarantees for the personal discipline of every Muslim and Christian. When this matches with any code of common discipline like Professional Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct, Oath of Office, Oath of Allegiance, Penal Code, Constitution, Laws, Rules, Regulations, etc. the Muslim or Christian will just be better and more reliable.

Accordingly, it is absurd, contradictory for any Muslim or Christian to champion any course on the basis of Language, Religion or Geography TO ACHIEVE ANY NATIONAL OR COMMON OBJECTIVES RESPONSIBLY, because the National platform is in protection of these ACROSS BORDERS OF SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES. Where and when this happens, it is the evidence of either ignorance, hypocrisy or confusion, that is dangerous for our unity, our safety and prosperity. A doctor of philosophy or a hundred years old or prophet who is in this kind of captivity logically and sensibly needs help. Only the blind, deaf and dumb will resist or fail to understand this. And any followers are worse.

Therefore between us and for our immediate livelihood, our collective safety and prosperity must be built by a form of togetherness that is SAFE for ALL OF US, BY PROTECTING OUR DIFFERENCES BUT NEITHER ABUSING OUR SPECIFIC IDENTITIES NOR IMPOSING ANY ON ANYONE. Thus, it shall be legal for all of us to produce and eat yams or potatoes, rice or stock fish. Those who eat pork will be free to farm it and eat BUT must avoid making it available to those who are prohibited from taking it. That is freedom and protecting the identity of difference. Where the person for whom it is prohibited chooses to tamper with the consistency of living his identity, he can be helped by either being reported, denied or at least recorded for our collective safety and prosperity. He will then be available for sanctions according to his beliefs. But this will not apply to canonical prayers. This is what we have responsibly provided for ourselves in our constitution. But our practices have been abusive or hypocritical, because of our ignorance in our beliefs and ‘free’ avoidance of education.

As a result, we are all necessarily believers of some sort, in some things, whether we are conscious of it or not. Our differences in what we believe is not a hindrance to our pursuit of collective safety and prosperity. We are not wretched. Our poverty is in the knowledge and discipline of what we believe on a consistent basis and in connection with our livelihood. Because we do not live by instinct, we are bound to generate a dysfunctional relationship and livelihood, worse than criminals and the satanic, who consistently differ in the codes of identities, in relation to what is commonly right and what is godly.

Hence it is daft and irresponsible to suggest that either religion is a problem in Nigeria’s constitutional setting or that abandoning religion is a strategic solution to our common challenges. Those who have nothing to protect have nothing to lose and are unsuitable as guides to those who have something to protect. Their leadership is worse than that of the blind because they cannot even feel any path. How can one who cannot explain the suspension of the sky or admit that the

normal making of testosterone that drops with age NEVER RETURNS to reverse absolute age regardless of efforts to help oneself, be a tutor on death? It will be foolhardy of any believer in Almighty God and the implications to submit to an unbeliever or an agnosticism, to a destination that is unknown or incomplete.

The comparison often made between Nigeria and by implication, Muslim and Christian believers to other countries who have either expressly denounced religion or are hypocritical in the scope of the canons, fail to appreciate that they have 'evolved' to abandon or replace the canons CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY. This is why in a decent society like the United Kingdom, the seat of the Church of England, the head of secular government will urge our president to open a window for same sex relationship, in the name of democracy. But our president was consistently unsuitable for such a mission with our collective expectations. The United States that suffers more drawbacks had a president that was so cleansed, same sex relationship and transgender orientation are part of democracy. Indeed, while on official visit to Kenya, his aides tutored his hosts NOT to go near expressing reservations for his 'freedoms' beliefs. But, regardless of whatever drawbacks of Obama, he was an outstanding leader of the United States.

I recall in the Quora forum, the plain inquiry and the response as follows: WHY ARE THERE NO TELL-ALL BOOKS ABOUT OBAMA? *It would be the most boring book imaginable. There is a reason the people who worked for him called him "No Drama Obama." He is genuinely nice and respectful to his subordinates. There just aren't any stories to tell about him throwing chairs or yelling at people. His personal life is extremely boring. He doesn't have any mistresses and doesn't dispatch incompetent sons to commit petty crimes. The worst thing he's done is that tan suit. Which is not to minimize the suit (it was bad), but you can't write a book about Suitgate.*

The entire conservative media industry spent years trying to come up with something and the spiciest thing the man appears to have done in office is call Kanye West a jackass. And Kanye was being a jackass.

Even if there was something to tell, the Obama White House was not full of people who were trying to knife each other in the back and sell each other out for some money. He hired people he thought were competent, not because he thought they would look good on TV. He even tried to help President Trump with that: Obama warned Trump about hiring Flynn.

So there aren't any "tell-all" books because there isn't anything to tell, the people who would write those books like and respect him, and he decided to hire a bunch of boring technocrats instead of Omarosa, the Mooch, and John "Bomb Iran" Bolton.

In essence, on secular matters, relationships and responsibilities, Nigeria can be much much better with leaders who have religious identity but do not care about the canons. On secular matters, relationships and responsibilities, Nigeria can be much much better with leaders who have no religious identity. We have a common point for needs, wants and fancies. But the beliefs and ideas that will propel our responsible commitment have to be the foundation. The United States experienced wars and protests. These formed a framework superseding the religious beliefs. This is why today, there are Muslims, Christians, even mystics, Jews and Church of Satan in the United States. In Nigeria, even the civil war we experienced was not driven by nationalism. And those now gambling with language-cum-geopolitical moves are native ignorants of the requirements for nationalism in whatever sphere it is to be planted.

The State of Israel which is a beautiful compact example, is actually being managed by crumbling Judaism. It will be most irresponsible of anyone within or outside, to nurse, suggest or attempt to ask that Judaism be expressly put aside.

Why are members of the Muslim Quarters/Communities complaining? But it does not stop the process of the end time. How many Israelis attend churches or the synagogue? It is a more secular arrangement. The real cousins, the Jews and the Arabs are there. There are Christian Arabs, Muslim Arabs, Jews and growing 'neutrals'.

In other words, since Satan is progressively being admitted on the pretext of NEUTRALITY, religion is now rightly a PERSONAL ISSUE. But we must recognize that what religion offers for the safety and prosperity of mankind or humanity must either be retained or be replaced by another. There is no option of REAL or ABSOLUTE FREEDOM. The real options available today are, sacrificing self and resources or committing them to our nation WITHOUT OFFENDING OUR GOD; doing exactly the same WITHOUT REGARD FOR CROSSING THE BOUNDARIES OF GOD; and doing exactly the same LIMITED TO OUR COMMON INTERESTS IRRESPECTIVE OF ANY BELIEFS IN GOD. The first two options are open to believers. The first for the truly conscious. The second is for the believers who are either ignorant, hypocritical or confused. The third is for others. Nothing then will stop us from STRUGGLING AND DYING FOR OUR COLLECTIVE SAFETY AND PROSPERITY TOGETHER EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE DIFFERENT SPECIFIC IDENTITIES. The only proviso is that the reserves of the believers must be protected JUST AS NOTHING IS AVAILABLE TO BE ABUSED IN THE CASE OF OTHERS. That is equality and not abandoning our specific identities.

THE CROSS ROAD

Nigeria is our country with believers who are Muslims and Christians in the majority. Nigeria is our country in which we have decided to live together in unity while respecting our differences. Nigeria is our country in which the widest most

superior factor that we identify with is religion. Nigeria is our country in which language and geographical regions are both inferior to the scope and value of religion and indeed cannot serve our unity. Proponents and instruments of language and geography must then appreciate, learn and accept that they are shredding our unity. There is nothing abominable about cultural differences and the maintenance of these. But it will amount to disrespect and abuse to use the platform for our collective safety and prosperity. It is only capable of pulling us apart and putting a wool over the eyes of fools.

The unity, safety and prosperity of every and all Nigerians can be reasonably, sensibly, effectively and successfully pursued and realized with our present constitutional principles and arrangements.

But why do professionals of Nigerian origin perform wonderfully outside and not inside? Why are good performers afraid to return and most of those who return collapse? Why is professionalism pervasively coloured with scandals or unethical records? Why do structures, institutions and processes employed in Nigeria, mostly will either not work or perform below average? Why do we scream for domesticating templates? Why will a president express that economic policies that work in other countries do not fit here? Why do governments in Nigeria ripen to rot for dismissal?

The majority of us who are either Muslims or Christians are worse than being double-faced. We are grossly ignorant of the requirements of our identities for ourselves and in relation to others. We are as uninformed about our scripture as we are of our constitution or National Anthem. If you are ignorant about whatever you claim, your practice will be quack and destructive. Your orientation will be like a jealous husband who is against a male physician attending to his wife and opts to use his knowledge of do-it-yourself. This fool cannot be better for himself and others because he can easily fall prey to a 'superior' ignorant or a crooked

manipulator. Then a good proportion of those who are not ignorant are either manipulators or hypocrites who live the life of what serves self. This self may be personal, of the family, a group, language or those sharing the same geographical area or time of experience like schoolmates, classmates, course mates, etc. This is feasible after abandoning the role of being a vicegerent of God Who is for all. Nationalism inevitably eludes such bankruptcy. These are different facets of negative Muslim and Christian livelihood. The religions that are universal and against discrimination on any basis other than submitting to God, for identity suffer these dysfunctional practices. The consequences can as a result not be positive.

This is why unless and until we adjust, the principle of federal character representation and zoning will neither serve us nor be overcome by their practice becoming only a colour, with no other or different member being at risk or disadvantage.

Thus, believers, Muslims and Christians are the central problems of this country and need to transform into the solutions to our collective challenges. The earlier we admit this the more prospective will it be for our future. The diversions of competitive divisions between the Muslims, between the Christians and between the believers is the greatest pointers to our ignorance and hypocrisy. And the 'profits' of these manipulation are evident to everyone who cares. Feeding and living fat on religion is alien to both Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them). No one who became disposed to either of them was at any form or kind of risk. But today, we have degenerated to the point of creating a dialogue machinery. What a laughable and shameful 'progress' between bearers of Peace?

Which President of Nigeria was or is neither a Christian nor a Muslim? Which President of the Senate or Speaker of House of Representatives? Which Chief

Justice? Which Minister or Permanent Secretary? How many Chief Executives have been or are neither Muslims nor Christians? Who are the heads of language or geopolitical groups or movements? How many non-believers, non-Muslims and non-Christians have been alleged to steal public funds, charged and convicted?

Neither of the religions is the problem, the challenge or inhibition to our collective safety and prosperity in a responsible process. We are the ones. Our inordinate greed or immodesty in the pursuit of the good things of this world at the disregard of the good of eternal life only builds up our liabilities at Judgement. To be ahead of those who believe in lesser scope is the most questionable attribute we champion. And no believer needs God to appear to him to remind him of this. The scriptures and declaration of faith are sufficient.

It is our members that engage in religious rascality out of over ambition. They generate and promote fanciful ideas BEYOND the basic tenets and guidance and enjoy troops of ignorant followers. Indeed the supporter hypocrites provide them with avenues or platforms to cheer them up.

The only solution to this is massive basic education on two fronts. One will be on the provisions of the religion for connecting members with God and the implications of this for the relationship between members and others in day-to-day livelihood. The other is sound exposure to the principles that unite us for collective safety and prosperity. Individuals, groups and institutions must be engaged permanently in this education. Without connecting these and living accordingly, no amount of human capital development will guarantee collective positive actions by all parties. And the more or better we are able to achieve this, the more it will enhance our genuine unity and prosperity devoid of INSINCERITY or DISBELIEF in our collective identity.

The solution is NOT to engage those who have monetized religion with institutional coverings. That will be the most unfortunate regression to drop into. This is why having religious political parties is prohibited and is really the most irresponsible contradiction our constitution would have provided for. Religion is a livelihood that neither excludes anyone, grades believers outside optimal striving in compliance nor a platform for class distinctions. This is why the best members are those who consistently live the knowledge of guidance. It is not followership size, erudition, structural support or resources in control that are meaningful and critical for contributing to our collective safety and prosperity. To be a prayer warrior is good but it is neither the standard for every believer nor the superior requirement for our democracy, leadership and governance.

WHAT WE HAVE AND MUST GIVE IF WE ARE SINCERE

It is not our possession. We did not produce it. And we will not lose anything by giving it. Indeed, our giving it is a duty. And the more we continue to give, the more benefits will accrue to us and to others without end.

The first is consciously sticking to the belief in God Almighty by trusting that only the best will result from following His guidance. He created all of us, gave us whatever we can find or do; and gave us to one another. The ‘fun’ He has asked us to commit ourselves to, is our voluntarily making the most, best and utmost use of this arrangement for the Time we shall be alive and strong before our inevitable return to Him for Judgement and final witnessing of the realities of the absolute truths we cannot experience before then. His first instruction and also warning is that, we must not associate anything and anyone with Him – in all respects. This simply means that we must not compromise the standard setting of being for Him by being for everyone, everybody, with ourselves and the abounding resources **FOR OUR GENERAL SAFETY AND PROSPERITY**. No one will and can die with His possessions in our transitory hands. Do we not leave

our possessions behind helplessly while we get accompanied to our graves by fellow living men who return and leave us with our DEEDS while alive? Can we logically and sensibly use more than whatever we must have used? And if we MUST BE ACCOUNTABLE TO HIM FOR HIS PROVISIONS AND RULES OF USE, must this rule our orientation or not? Do we need to be screamed at every second or under any watch arranged by us to become DISCIPLINED? This is why if a believer misappropriates any trust, his voluntary return of the same is for his own good and if convicted and punished, he has only been helped.

This ORIENTATION is the GIFT to us for between us for us. The pillars of guide are His limits. For example, is incest not practicable? But He has ruled against it. Sisters are therefore safe from their brothers. Mothers are safe from their sons. Daughters are safe from their fathers. And the other ways round. And if covenants, promises, agreements, oaths of office or oaths of allegiance are to be kept, SHALL THEY BE IN CONTRADICTION TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, THE MAJOR SINS OR OUR CONSTITUTION, STATUTES, RULES, INSTRUCTIONS, CONDITIONS AND REGULATIONS? Where we are disposed to making discretions, SHOULD OR MUST THEY CONTRADICT THE EXPRESS principles and rules? Are these not a simple combination of bearing the flag of Almighty God and what we have decided together?

Moreover it is NOT COMPULSORY on anyone or everyone to submit to those of God. They apply only to BELIEVERS. So , if an unbeliever is inclined to and decides on the practice of incest, WILL IT BE RIGHT TO MAKE FREE OFFERS TO BELIEVERS AND WILL THEY BE RIGHT TO ACCEPT? The rules of adultery and fornication will not permit. How then can such unbelievers rightly marry believing women without submitting to God whose laws must not be abused? How can believers get married to unbelieving women without believing? So what makes it impossible to live together? Unfortunately, are

believers not partakers in adultery, fornication, prostitution, same sex relationship and transgender? IF BELIEVERS WILL WAKE UP TOMORROW AND STICK TO GOD AND THE REQUIRED ORIENTATION, shall we pray and ask our Almighty God ANYTHING and fail to get? When we ask, is the status of such prayer NOT AS WE KEEP IN UTMOST COMPLIANCE OR OUR BELIEFS AND SUBMISSION INTACT? Will that not make a DEFINITE ADDITIONAL VALUE DIFFERENCE? Do unbelievers need to ask along with us? But will they be excluded from the benefits – if desert encroachment is checked or Boko Haram, Kidnappers, Armed Robbers, Human Traffickers, Cultists, Thieves of public resources, Rapists, etc. are the targets or prayer points?

But the love of God for us in general is not only unlimited but is without discrimination. Breast milk is not only for believing mothers. The same with rainfall, sunshine, air – over and above our senses of sight, hearing, taste, touch, feeling, etc. at universal and personal levels. Between us there is peace, pleasure, happiness, fulfilment etc. And He has not failed to provide the very opposites, which should serve as reminders and warnings of POSSIBILITIES. It is in this light religious people who sing that our numerous and complex challenges are rooted in our sins or disobedience, are right. This is however only partially right. The other aspect that is more critical is that we have adopted the orientation of Tempting God by our insincerity and hypocrisy. We logically and sensibly cannot expect to get bonuses or intervention WITHOUT CONSISTENT COMPLIANCE. We cannot avoid promoting unbelief by increasing ungodliness. Doing so is the culture of rascality.

This is the explanation for our culture and growing painful orientation of contradictions and confusion. For example, if a non-official is so shamelessly ambitious to attempt interfering in official matters, he cannot help being checked immediately and sanctioned, because it is like a child romancing the parent. The son who is not checked and punished by the mother will not only lead to incest,

the daughter doing the same with the father and the son extending it to his sisters and even the father and the other ways round. Discipline neither condones pretence nor covert support nor arrogant denial. Discipline is marked by consistency. It is like a Chief Executive sleeping with all his female staff in turn as a guarantee for retaining their jobs or fun. Either way is contradictory and abusive of the requirements for their relationship. We have become so grown and developed in this loose and free culture and orientation that we now practice blackmail skills. How can things get right when more wrong things are institutionalized? Do practice not make for perfection or do conventions not lead to rules?

As BELIEVERS IN ALMIGHTY GOD we must NOTE that so far, we are the DOUBLE LOSERS. We are neither exempted from the collective consequences of our handwork nor will we be excused accounting for our deliberate commitments and omissions. This is as individuals, heads of families, groups, organizations, public leaders and especially the president, the governors. Reversing this rascality, this insincerity, this hypocrisy is the only way for believers. And Nigeria can never possibly change with the present path and direction. An easier option that is also pragmatic but NOT FOR BELIEVERS is that of FREE DEMOCRACY where and how EVERYTHING goes, by our origination, design and commitment.

And for believers, the available STEP, like in the beginning, IS TO ADMIT, CONFESS, REGRET, RETURN, REPENT AND RESUBMIT. This is reconciliation with Self and Others and God. Do we not give amnesty to convicts? So why can we not COMPETE IN REVERSAL?

IMMEDIATE QUESTIONS

Let any Nigerian take ANY ISSUE OR SUBJECT of concern. Is the person involved a Muslim or Christian? What is required of him as a Christian or Muslim

who has the basic knowledge and discipline of his beliefs? Is the concern not a consequence of departing from the discipline? If the discipline is in place will the person or others who are of different beliefs or non-believers suffer?

There is no amount of structures, institutions and processes that will give us optimal value results **IF OUR CULTURE AND ORIENTATION IS FREE AND DOUBLE STANDARD**. Nigeria will not begin to work rightly or better than now, with confusion beneficial for hypocrisy and insincerity – whether with individuals, families, groups, institutions or government. Those who unconsciously express that God should not be brought into our degeneration are partially right. The bankruptcy of this lies in either asking that the way forward is without God or beliefs or without an alternative paradigm for total definitions and orientation.

DO WE NOT SEE AND UNDERSTAND OUR STAGNATION AND SINKING OR DO WE NOT HAVE THE SOLUTIONS?

COLONIALISM WAS WRONG

Colonialism was simply interstate or international slavery. The colonial masters acquired colonial territories, their people and resources for their optimal benefits. The principle that drove this practice was NOT religious because we do not become equals as before the same God after accepting their faith. Any claim to religion is therefore false. It is as covering as our present state, to mistake religious teachings and practices as necessarily causative with positive impact. This is why we have grown and developed in religiosity MINUS physical and spiritual fulfilment across the board. This is the failure of our religious leaders. The right and principal ideas of master and slave relationship that drove colonialism was indicated by the use of necessary force with religion playing the greater complementary role of softening SUBMISSION in a subtle manner, to sustain colonialism. It was the optimal use of us for optimal exploitation of our resources.

This misuse, abuse or manipulation was inevitable because the colonialists were not primarily or principally driven by religion. The pointers to this were disagreements between the same nationals when excesses were seen to be involved in the greed and gluttony of the nationals that represented or symbolized the real masters. And it cut across both those colonized and the colonial masters. This informed the protection of twins and criticisms of slave trade by the religious nationals. The other inevitability was the neutrality of the benefits of skills and literacy. These were what transformed into Education and hatched anti colonialism. This inevitability was checking, to our being mastered. The colonialists could not have given better than what they had. They were not religious even though they had a religious identity. And the religion had

continued to decline or to drive their livelihood. This has been breeding the misbelief that livelihood is or even best, devoid of religion or that religion inhibits the blossoming of growth and development of livelihood.

The blind, deaf and dumb intellect of this people MISS THE UNDERSTANDING that religion only sets HUMANE and SAFE LIMITS for the growth and development of livelihood, to prove the submission of believers and invest for salvation in eternal life. It was the mild application of these limits by some of their nationals with purely religious identity that checked what they turned round to admit as civil. But because it is like sipping from the guidance of God against total submission, slavery or human trafficking are not the only things uncivil. Capital punishment for WHATEVER OFFENSE is also uncivil and inhuman. And we have many Civil and Human Rights Organization as their innovative growing institutions. The leaders and members are believers. The idiocies of the identities of these blind and dumb caricature creatures wag clearly in the excesses beyond their beliefs identities. Have we not seen them protect gays or prostitutes? Do they not support divisive politics in the name of rights, in disregard of our unity? What is their difference with the home of Church of England hosting gay priests in a court registry and recognizing same sex marriage between Muslims?

WHAT WAS INDEPENDENCE?

The colonialists left physically. Our fighter people took over physically. We had a flag, a national Anthem and a constitution. We went further to strengthen our independence by changing the anthem and the constitution FOR OURSELVES. We even transformed from parliamentary to military and to presidential in the command of Mastership of our affairs. The motor of command, the public service and uniform or security services have been reformed and reformed. Indeed we have even changed the colour of security uniforms. And we have been changing

the leaders by coup, bloody or bloodless and elections, rigged or violently. We have even slipped to civil war.

We have spent the period 1960 to 2020 doing these, as masters of our affairs. But as we count our progress or gains like our former colonialists do, we are increasingly worse in our political, economic and social realms. While livelihood does not neatly separate between these, we continue to believe and admit that a solely divisional approach will resolve the growing gaps between comparing ourselves to them or between our efforts and resources or both. We are getting more and more unfulfilled. Our bankruptcy in the consistent base that drives our definitions of problems and solutions is now expanding from painful tenure to asking for resignation, revolution and wishing our leaders death. They are either magnetic thieves or gross non-performers. The physical achievements that used to earn them some respect no more do so. The attendance to poverty with our resources and loans are not helping. This is because we are unconscious for our beliefs and identities. We are neither ourselves nor our former colonialists.

We are ignorant of our national anthem and our constitution. Worse still, we are either ignorant or hypocritical of our beliefs and religion. Whereas our intelligence needs to be connected to enhancement of our unity, safety and prosperity by driving our national anthem and constitution with our beliefs and religion, they are in divorce or isolation of one another. How can we begin the week with beliefs on Sunday or Friday, spend the rest without care and expect the results to be of positive balance? Do we not see and understand that while we cannot sincerely logically and sensibly find any INNATE faults in either our national anthem, constitution or religious beliefs, we are beginning to attack them? Is that not seditious or secession? Is it not easy because apostasy has faded in relation to God?

We are genuinely in a serious complex trap. This is revealed by the inclination of most of us that, if we change the personalities, we shall hit the targets. But we have had Murtala Mohammed. We had Buhari and we are having him again. We had Obasanjo and had him again. We had university graduates in science with Umaru and Goodluck. Is anyone of these EVIL? Indeed are we not failing more with saint Buhari? If the Awoists resisted because his solution of indiscriminate jailing of suspects was inhuman, what has been human about the recovered trillions from suspects? The same mentality is what we are applying for RESTRUCTURING as a solution. The adjustment of revenue allocation and a special commission to attend to oil damaged areas have not helped better. Indeed poor states with driver doctors have been a greater embarrassment. The picture to instil fear or hopelessness will not be complete without the failures of the long term tenure of Badamosi liberalism, dribbling and dictatorship.

Until we recognize and admit a definite identity status and commit ourselves to it, neither our livelihood nor our spiritual ambition for salvation will be really meaningful. Why have some people been screaming the changing of service chiefs? Are they completely wrong, especially after the presidential extension of their tenures? Why has Buhari not changed them? Has there been no difference between the beginning of the screams and now? Why has it become an issue of priority, when the Commander in Chief is most informed about security matters? Who is the single person asking for the change in the more responsible position to guarantee superior security benefits? If this is not confusing, what of the case of the head of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission? Who understands the essential truth about it? Is it the President who set up a Committee, the Attorney General who failed to appear before the Committee, the Suspect who was denied appearance and his challenge for evidence or the Chairman of the Committee that considered the option of closing the case? This is the character of our independent self-rule.

Is it not clearly instructive that, we have no prospect of a systemic positive difference AS LONG AS WE FAIL TO RECOGNIZE AND DEAL WITH THE UNDERLYING FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR CONSISTENT REGRESSION? And these factors certainly have nothing to do with ONLY changing the personalities, our constitution or structure or ALL as our guarantee for consistent progress. The easiest option of joining the bandwagon is to SET OUR BELIEFS AND RELIGION ASIDE, BOLDLY. Of course, to believers, this will be foolish. To the hypocrites, this will be risky. To believers it is railing to eventual disbelief through gradual denial. The CHOICE IS OURS FOR SINCERE COMMITMENT AND THE COAST WILL BE CLEAR. As long as we remain neutral or sheepish about this, we will continue to really contradict ourselves and one another.

OUR RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS

Disagreements are inevitable because leaders are not perfect. This is why the arrangement of procedures in our Legislature and Executive meetings allows for rubbing minds and debates. And where a party in the disagreements or conflicts has been harmed or illegally treated, the judiciary is a good resort. However, before these levels, at family and group levels individuals or members are required and therefore assumed to have been responsibly educated and cultured to fit into humanity. In the case of believers, this is not only compulsory but a great sin, to ignore. Where it is reduced to a weekly affair between parents and children, they end up as puppies. And they will grow into humans only in form. So, what do leaders expect to manage where the animals are increasing or indeed the animals are reproducing because they are ignorant of the scripture they believe in? The knowledge and discipline of identity is so critical for orderliness that its absence or non-definition do not make any responsible difference. This explains why in mid-2020 some creatures got loose and vandalized resources in one of the south-south states. The Traditional ruler warned that he will place a

spiritual curse on whoever failed to return what they stole to the place of origin after a period. Returns were massively made. There is nothing inhibiting such believers from serving Muslims and Christians rightly on common terms. What is therefore inappropriate about Buhari engaging at least the key Muslims around him in an oath of welcoming the curse of Allah if they have not been sincerely truthful and committed to the course entrusted to him? Are they not believers? Will that not help solve dirty controversies? If only the leaders are in leadership as believers and for God, will it be condonable to posit that: I cannot be everywhere, whoever abuses my delegated trust will answer to God? Indeed it will be condemnable after heaping complaints. The silly and hypocritical escape is that government matters are not religious matters. But if we know, understand our beliefs, are they unrelated? Are believers free to be smart with public trusts? What a shame?

Therefore, when protests and revolts become the option for resolving conflicts, it is not enough to say, others did it and the outcome was positive. If believers hold that the institution of marriage belongs to God and the leaders are in addition trustees of God, how do we assess protests and revolutionary claims? If the protests or revolution includes vandalism, thefts with commanders directing, where do we place it? And if these are ignited by the wickedness of leadership WHAT ANALYSIS WILL EXPLAIN WHAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE TEMPLATE OF BELIEVERS? When members confess that they were paid to participate, of what value will international or human rights analysis be? Can the parents be right parents and the children right children, the education be right and members who are rightly cultured generate such complex damages or leaders be so wicked? Is it not confusing that the same Goodluck who was resisted with ANYTHING BUT JONATHAN is being mentioned to succeed Buhari? This was why when Garba Shehu was asked if Sabiu Tunde will isolate himself after the scuffle with the First Lady, for the safety of the president he replied: If he refuses

to isolate himself I will not be surprised and if he isolates himself I will not be surprised. This fully captures the understanding of our lack of a standard of doing and predicting things.

The fallout from this real confusion is that after becoming the head of Nigeria, the humility of distancing oneself from the wrangling culture of governance is the most honourable thing. When you fail to understand why you have failed and cannot clearly figure out a definite solution path, it amounts to audacity and greater confusion of the polity by pushing their ignorance with arrogance. This is the greater misfortune of most of our leaders. After worse performance they strive to guide. Against sympathy or pity for the incumbent, they remain stone blind and steel dumb to our foundation bankruptcy that dis enabled their optimal performance. Logically and sensibly, no intelligent person with a good heart will commit himself to more than constant sharing of what he did not understand earlier, for the collective benefit of this country. But in our country such leaders are actually competing with the incumbent to the point of name-calling or laced threats. Is this how believers resolve disagreements and conflicts? The polity becomes polarized along their more destructive lines of our collectivity – massaging their ignorance, wickedness, selfishness and incapacities.

This character or mode of underlying corruption by the elite constantly strangulates plain and innocent attempts for governance in poor circumstances of the general society. And because of the real weakness or failure of our caricature system or greater incapacity to sustain itself, a notorious culture of destructive elite expansion is always on course. Any law or policy that will affect the opportunists and thieves is systematically opposed by its stooges, commission agents and new recruits from within the government machinery. Outside the government, the media allies, associations and protests are sponsored. A case in point is the cult around the processing of the Petroleum Industry Bill. It has taken so long for more reasons of the costs of expanding the evil elite against the

government at the detriment of our collective safety and prosperity. Do we not see that it is not the resources for making the law that we lack? Do we not know that it is the singular breakthrough we need for our collective benefit? Do we not understand that the Covid-19 ‘excuses’ for our economic drawbacks are escapist for the government? Didn’t the breaking of the warehouses for the palliatives reveal a crack within the elite? Is the innocence of the president against the crookedness of those leaders that handled it not confusing? Is this not the wicked platform for the ‘necessity’ of getting more and more loans? Between 1999 and 2020 are not people with stupendous wealth outside and from the government increasing, while the national economy or general economic activities are going down? Even in the modern luring networking businesses of economic products is the collapse of base participants not too great to be progressive? Is gambling by airy bonuses not becoming part of our financial culture? What is the competence or intelligence in running a state government where the ministries have no authority to process the spending of five hundred thousand? Does that build or destroy our governance system? If every other person is a thief is the leader not responsible for converting them or can he really succeed in doing so when the suspects know that he is a bigger thief under covers? This is why audits, investigations, probes and visitations are of bastardized status and only additional costs or witch-hunt.

As a result, we have with time institutionalized some unbearable elements of self-disorganization. For example, our rating of competencies is most absurd and bordering on irrationality. The pointer to this is the blind trap favoured competencies are swimming in. The record of unionism by health workers, universities teachers and oil and gas workers with intermittent naive support of the labour bosses is **NECESSARILY ALWAYS A CONTRIBUTOR TO THE DIS GOVERNANCE OF ANY GOVERNMENT.** The political appointees have neatly keyed into it with constituencies projects budgeting, with authority. This

is our state of questionable rational practices. We then hear of the standards of percentage budgeting for education and health. Security Services get under equipped and underfunded. Corruption is ignited and intricate security challenges. Government always has more spending to do immediately with more productivity only chanced. How can we become like Europe, North America, Asia or Middle East in this process? And the political parties out of government are struggling for cuts until it is elections time again. Who cares about education? On what will our future be based?

This is the character of what a leader should be conscious of and be ready to confront. But how many have an idea before plunging into it? How many get a glimpse of these and seek for help or welcome help against taking advantage of the situation ‘to do one’s bit and leave’? This is how rotten our leadership apparatus and leaders are, in our history of self-deceit, ignorance, hypocrisy and evil opportunism because of ignoring our identities. In the end no government really makes or sets any principal legacy that is sustained or sustainable. If you wonder, was Goodluck not unkind to approach pension funds for governance? Is it now safe, with the trillions of growing debts? Is the target not dealing with general insecurity and poverty?

DO WE NOT HAVE THE SOLUTIONS OR DO WE HAVE TO IMPORT THEM?

The foundation is a set of beliefs to drive our livelihood. Do we lack them or are we just careless or really deny them? Whichever we choose, can we not adopt them? And is the education along with the discipline that the choice instruct beyond our reach of knowledge and understanding? Are we willing to plunge into it at all levels, informally and formally, in schools and out of schools, in our prayer houses, in the media and in our theatres? Can we generate necessary literature on these for the unity, safety and prosperity of our country? What can

stop us from starting now, by every family, every school, every group and Government at all levels? Will it take more than a year to plant this or does it require special budgeting?

The second fundamental principle is that of TRANSITION. Can we not define the LIMITS OF FORGIVABLE WRONG by anyone, in our present circumstance? For example, if EVERYONE must be housed within a year or two, must people with numerous houses which are not justifiable not give some of them up or be taken away as more are being built? Can the same not apply to finances? Can we not organize the production of excess foods in two seasons? Is adjusting to online studies or staying away for reasons of covid-19 and strikes not an eye opener to adjust to what is necessary for our collective safety and prosperity? Is playing God or Mr Clean, while all others are devils or thieves the right course? Are all of those caught to have stolen the entire thieves among us? Do thieves not deserve the opportunity of correction? Can we not be transparent for the good of all of us? Can public organizations and employees not be responsibly radically trimmed for effectiveness and efficiency FOR THE BENEFITS OF ALL? Can we not suffer the costs of their entitlements now as better than building it up with the negative implications? Can we not simultaneously generate economic employment for a million and multiple of this every six months? Must this be planned as a favour to the citizenry and on the terms of 'experts'?

Do we need a war to do and achieve these? Is the ultimate goal not to affect everyone with safety and prosperity, WITH THE CONTRIBUTION OF ALL ADULTS? Where is the independence and guts of our government? Where are our political parties and leaders? Do they not Know or Understand or Willing to serve us? The absolute untruth is to think or suggest that when or if ANYONE gets to the OFFICE and has the BUDGET, our circumstance will be changed. Our

present circumstance will not permit for that. It will be foolish and fooling to adopt that.

And the time is our choice. For believers, the time you have is what you must use to your best - defined by generating, sustaining and improving good, to humanity. Unbelievers and Less Believers stick to now. Believers will account for every now. The option of delay or neutrality is therefore completely out.

ON THE POVERTY OF BELIEVERS

EXPLAINING POVERTY

Be cautious about the pool of professional resources pursuing the different facets of poverty that make the solution to poverty appear as illusive, because for years efforts are being made to overcome it or the facets in our country and the negligible results have been too costly for honourable mention or acceptance as the right standard. It can be boring, diversionary, discouraging and helpless. The careless total admission of such will be like replanting a tree with the roots up or burying the leaves as seedlings to germinate.

For example, our experience has been that our public economic and finance institutions or drives have ‘gone down’. We rode on the ‘expert’ directive that because public institutions are social-care driven and corrupt, the losses are unacceptable. The train of privatization was created with the motor of selling out our collective ‘remnant’ assets. The buyers who were required to be non-corrupt, profit driven for better or superior economic impact and not more anti-society were ‘certified’ and took over. Our reference was a real CONFUSED attraction to seeming expanding democracies and the resistance or insistence by those who have simple faithful attraction to the scope of responsible care in communist societies. Our mixed economy principle has therefore not been saving or serving to greater fulfilment. Our baseline poverty has both increased and expanded. The structure of benefits has sharpened in a skewed manner. And worse still, at the greater undoing of the availability of goods that are made-up by imports from the democracies and communist nations. Obasanjo shivered over debts and got healed by forgiveness. Then it piled up again in spite of the advantages of the oil price we depend on. Buhari inherited this with screams of wastage and plunder. But Buhari is worse indebted, with his escapist infrastructure strides not impressive.

But it is neither scientific nor moral to append on ourselves that no rational and sensible system that works in other human societies can work with us. The simple explanation is that we have been practicing the solutions without respect for our identity against those of others. This is why whenever we have to suspend or abandon our false Nigerian identities, we are capable of excelling in non-believing or less believing environments. Our wealth is in our waking up to recognize this and become true to our identity. The pointer to this is that believers have contributed and even excelled in other admirable societies that are less believing because non-believers are more intolerant or protective of their identity.

We have critically lost sight and cognizance of our identity as believers against the attractions with background identities that are either unbelievers' or careless believers'. But we cannot possibly be believers, careless believers, unbelievers and achieve the same feats or something close. The orientation of confusion of ideas or beliefs cannot generate an orderly capacity for minimum usefulness. This is our failure, our minus, our poverty. If they do not know, to express and share the background, it has a cost for us and it is entirely our business to care and protect or abandon. The option of leaving our beliefs out because they do not sing beliefs is the submission of the greedy without integrity. And such are inevitably vulnerable to following suit and ending up with regrets. It will be more honourable to consciously admit abandonment of beliefs and welcome the full consequences along with them.

For emphasis, the reference and concern, is to the **RULING IDENTITY**. The attractive societies do not see themselves as critically religious because religion is secondary or personal affairs in the democracies or out rightly reactionary in the communist societies. Thus the mention of God in the statutes or constitution or laws is merely exclamatory or a formal routine on the path of being effectively removed as soon as bold and sincere disbelievers grow and take over. This was why Trump looked up to Easter, to look up to God in the skies because of corona

virus challenges. China didn't need to do so, because it is meaningless. However in addition to the medical care Buhari was going through, didn't we pray in loads? Was it not the Bishop of Canterbury that pronounced that his recovery was a proof of the hands of God? That is our closeness with the real identity of the Church of England. But WHO CAN ANSWER THE QUESTION: How godly is Buhari in governing us or godly has he been, since this special intervention or favour? Not even Buhari can answer the question. This is because it is false, pretence, hypocrisy and confusion that is ruling us. We swear in beliefs or believing but without being ruled by it.

Believers will appreciate that our most or best sung leaders in our times are so, either because they have distanced themselves from real post-leadership contributions or are hanging on one value that has failed to be built upon. The resolve of the civil war on no victor no vanquished is one. Elder Gowon is still enjoying this. Another is the military withdrawal for the take-off of the present republic in 1999. Yet, another is accepting defeat before the official declaration of the election results. But unity and democracy remain more unserving because we have not understood it. We are still in the competition of groping to an acceptable understanding that will serve us. Our orientation is characterized by hypocrisy and confusion or ignorance.

The connection between poverty or safety and prosperity and leadership is inevitable. But for a positive result from the relationship, the understanding of the two variables is a necessary condition. Indeed, any understanding that fails to give the positive results desired is wrong, unacceptable and requires to be attended to, by changing it. This is the critical status of our present process of governance that leaves us with maximum questionable results at criminal and oppressive costs. Neither is our mixed economy principle nor holding our beliefs an obstruction to the pursuit of collective safety and prosperity. We must wear

off our ignorance and arrogance and come to terms with our identity in relation to our livelihood.

Our well-being is continually dropping as our leadership is struggling and failing. Thus, if we must deal with the challenges, we must be both holistic and focus on our leadership. What our leadership THINKS on and about milling us for our collective safety and prosperity must not isolate us as dead woods.

Every Nigerian, like every human being has a political status and roles to play. This is because livelihood is inevitably through the corridor of decisions making. Those who are alive decide on the disposal of corpses. And those who are alive continuously decide on what to do as a collective by formal or informal actions. The most basic is for the wife to give a listening ear and obedience to the husband. The children to the parents. The employees to the employer. Politics therefore bears the essence of the pursuit of orderliness.

Without orderliness, there will be no culture, no civilization, no history, no development etc. And this orderliness is required across all levels, forms and types of relationships between men, in any given society. This is because consistency is the vital method of creating or establishing and enhancing any culture, civilization, history or development of a people and mankind. This is DISCIPLINE.

And this makes politics or political relationships most critical. It resolves the definitions of the things that are IN against those that are OUT of order. This is why there is fornication or adultery as abuse of the order of cohabitation and sanctions are prescribed for the abuse and rewards for compliance. The more a people or society keep in compliance by ensuring that abuses are promptly dealt with sufficiently and made unnecessary by attraction or conditioning , the more orderly it will be. Accordingly, the shades of abuse define how corrupt the society is.

And the most critical level, form or type of politics in any society assumes the logical and sensible status of Mastership. This is because its actions are PERMITTED to cut through any and all levels, types and forms of politics below it. Indeed, it has the discretion of CUTTING THROUGH by force, cannot be resisted and is illegal to resist it.

It is therefore the intelligent responsibility of every Nigerian to be interested and committed to the optimal assurance of the orderliness of Party politics, Governance and Leadership. The knowledge and understanding that will enhance DISCIPLINE in these aspects that will promote and sustain our collective safety and prosperity is therefore of critical importance. Those who choose to register as members of the structures or are appointed or elected or nominated for related roles will therefore either constitute our problems IF they do not care , are ignorant or not committed to the knowledge and discipline of what is right and true for OUR ORDERLINESS. Our general caring and their specific commitment is our regular and permanent requirement, for our collective success.

The ultimate objective is to strengthen our unity for our collective safety and prosperity.

THE BASE DEFINITION OF POVERTY

The concept of poverty as the status of differences in provisions is not sufficient. The calculation of abject poverty or total lacking is therefore feasible and acceptable as real based on the belief that, it can be the right share of the person's history or wellbeing. Interventions can therefore be made to 'help' raise their status.

This deliberately or ignorantly puts aside the fundamental reality that no one was born with anything and that the relationships that enabled the production of values and the ownership or distribution of these are questionable IF AND WHEN what

is basic for that time is not available to anyONE. Poverty therefore excludes abject lack, in Nigeria, in any society and in the world. It is therefore criminally wrong and against God, to either introduce, promote or accept it as a standard, rationally and sensibly. This is because believers know that God provided all the resources in our country and in the world for all of us without discriminate status that includes EXCLUSION of anyONE. The variation in the stocking for instance with vegetation against desertification or mineral resources against barrenness, oceans and rivers etc. is not for any select individuals , families societies or race. They a source of trials for the APPLICATION OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATURE AND OURSELVES, FOR GOD OR OTHERWISE. And the prove is that we are GIVEN TO EACH OTHER, regardless of language, race, religion or geography. We can therefore not throw away this critical FIRST RESPONSIBILITY belief to the bins and not be losers.

And obliging this responsibility is not impossible. The communists have proved this to humanity. The liberals have made efforts to check total freedom by the instruments of taxation and handouts arrangements like old people's homes and unemployment allowances. But the pains of both efforts are evident to even fools. The communists have developed into the gods that determine who joins the elite and who does not. Like the communists, the elite of the liberals debate and lobby, to set the level and range of reliefs to be given to others.

If believers are to consciously build our country, it will certainly be more humane and prosperous. This is because truthfulness and commitment to the foundation beliefs will drive our history. This is NOT to apply suitability to leaders of religious structures. They require even more education. And the singular pointer is in the pronouncements by some of them that tends to our divisions as against unity. Sometimes the divisions are double-laid, between believers and the collective unity of this country. This is worse than being ungodly because it amounts to playing God. For, what makes our unity as believers and as Nigerians

either IMPOSSIBLE or AGAINST THE LAW OF GOD? Inordinate greed and audacity are not admissible substitutes for ignorance and hypocrisy.

Believers will have to consciously differ on this base definition to protect our identity. If we are blind to this or deliberately ignore, then we must welcome the drop in the blessings of God and any special interventions to fill any gaps of our drawbacks by mistakes. Believers know, understand and accept that the foundation for the blessings of God is defined by keeping or saving all matters that will offend God because it is sinful and optimizing the benefits of whatever will neither contradict these nor harmful to anyone of us, our friends or enemies. This will be by either deliberate design, force or deceit. The orientation is fulfilling to believers because it opens the windows for special actions by God in our affairs in subtle ways that are beyond chance. And it smoothens our path to safe eternal life without denying us any good. It will therefore be wrong and inconsistent to expect to be safe and prosperous in our terms or in the terms of those we find attractive WITHOUT EITHER HOLDING FIRMLY ONTO OUR DEFINITIONS OR ADMITTING EITHER OF THE OTHERS. As long as we remain and continue on the present orientation, we will only 'build' on the present characteristics. We will have no justification whatsoever to complain about our makings.

It is therefore hopeless to focus and hang on the lifestyle of closing our minds and expecting to weave a beautiful mat or close our eyes and make a sketch or shade of a real person. The best we can get is to be dribbled or tossed around by the guidance of any passerby who has eyes and mind but lacks the skills. This is why we are told or invited to indices like the ratio of police officers to the society; the ratio of doctors to patients, the numbers of hospitals, schools, houses, cars, supermarkets, the amount of money in circulation etc. When we get stuck we are trolled to family planning to check over population. But the size of poverty is expanding on all sides of the other societies while wretchedness is expanding with

us. Our daft aspiration is to be like others, with all the negatives that go with them. Unfortunately, we pick up the negatives faster and build up a more complicated system that is self-destructive. This is inevitable with straight and wholesome COPY AND PASTE. It is like bleaching to change colour. Whites and blacks can do it but it doesn't change the race of the black.

This is why we plant similar institutions and processes but do not get impressive results. Take finance and imagine the impact of currency exchange on our economy that is away from the results others get. Those who get the allocation and the relationship with productivity or industrialization is infinitesimal. The access and use that are most defensible relate to pilgrimages, that are seasonal and constitute less than seven percent of such transactions. Indeed we have had a bank in the past that deliberately broke the rules and went to the Central Bank with the READINESS to pay the fine. What is Islamic or Christian about this? Is this the secularity we have adopted in our constitution? That, a Chief banker can qualify to be in the front row for public worship and be corner-cutting in our collective safety and prosperity? But do such not have rising profiles in philanthropy and awards in our society? Will the same persons nurse and act safely accordingly in societies of unbelievers or less believers? Has Trump with business background not been questioned about his tax payment status?

We must therefore accept to relate things to ourselves more than just as physical men and women. The moment the quality of our identity as believers is lost sight of, ignored or suppressed, the consequences will be amoral. Fortunately our template of morality is wide and all-embracing. It is very much wider than the present records of permissibility in the other societies, that is expanding. We cannot keep the template and get the results of those who either do not have a GIVEN ONE or have PUT IT ASIDE by adjusting it at will. It is therefore honourable to admit that our 'problem' rests with our beliefs or religion, to fools who do not respect our right to different identities or those over ambitious to de

robe us to become like them. Discrimination is a critical attribute of intelligence. And those who have no limits to keep do not establish an identity. Those who are unconscious of the limits they have broken have nothing to worry about. Those who have consciously broken the limits will be most responsible for their choice. These are the differences between us and others if we really care for our identities. No one is calling for and it will be irresponsible to ask for being a Christian or Islamic Nation. It is POSSIBLE to be a nation of believers. And it will amount to rascality to generate a new creature out of or between the two. That will be adjusting the scriptures at will. Logically and sensibly IT CANNOT HAPPEN between us. But because of our level and scope of ignorance and hypocrisy, it can happen or be introduced.

THE ABANDONED VARIATION IN APPROACH

Do believers not observe that we remain and go blank to others or as others to begin from the scratch and NEVER RELATE IT TO OUR FINAL TEMPLATE, in seeking, explaining, understanding and working our livelihood? Take any subject and you will find yourself in this trap. When we search for or review literature in learning, are the sources always protective of our beliefs? If and when they are not, are we conscious and allowed to evaluate them based on our beliefs? Has any and will any believer who makes a criticism of Marxism, Communism be welcomed to posit that it is irresponsible and selfish to the elite and vulnerable to oppression by another set of people instead of equal respect for all and opportunity for equal contributions , without destroying or denying our beliefs ? Do religious institutions even visit such thoughts? But are we not roped into it? Does it mean believers have nothing to offer? What a shame? We have abandoned ourselves. We are living without our identity. Is it sufficient to say Marxism or Communism is atheist? Hasn't it offered any good to humanity? Is this truth to be denied? Are those who believe less better by our beliefs? But are we not closer to less believers? Their hypocrisy is only bold and ours is meek.

Our cultural roping is easily appreciable in the structure of our pursuit of learning to arrive at what is True. Our schools and teachers use curriculum. These are totally 'FREE' from submitting to our beliefs EVEN WHEN WE ARE THE AUTHORS. On top of this, there is the window of research. But as open or free as these appear, they are ready-made boxes, templates of the matching of beliefs and activities. It permits for 'originality' only within the boxes. Anything outside is neither recognized nor honoured. A student of Marxism will be caned or failed by a professor for not understanding and promoting the philosophy, for possible replant in our country. But the parties are either Christians, Muslims or the two. Where the offense is not failing to promote it is failing to under rate it in comparison to democracy. But the parties are really none of these. And why will the parties need to be in any of the so called religious institutions, to act differently? Indeed do the religious institutions opportune differently or do they even care to be informed?

In fact the efforts or advancement of the unbelievers and the free believers have risen to the point of FINAL reward. And the closeness of their beliefs is revealed by for example, recipients of their rewards. The Nobel prize for instance freely admits presentations and discoveries that are 'neutral' in beliefs. In essence, NOT RELIGIOUS OR BELIEFS IN GOD AND HIS ORDERS. You will therefore logically and sensibly find the pioneer and greatest number of beneficiaries to be those in compliance. And they gradually cut across non-believers, less believers and believers. This is how believers get 'converted' subtly, without asking them to drop their beliefs. The real meaning of this role is well captured in law, by non-freeing an accomplice to crime. And we are witnesses to the experiential implications of any history, where a law loses its spirit, like the punishable offense of taking alcohol in the Penal Code of Northern Nigeria.

The only positive proof here is that BELIEFS do not inhibit capacity and ability to contribute. The minus that is often in oversight is that the believers are

unconsciously and subtly MADE to contribute to the FREE CULTURE of the sponsors - THE GROWING AND EXPANDING CULTURE OF ISOLATING BELIEFS FROM REALITY. The instruments that establish and sustain this are supporting writers and publishing houses. Universities therefore train and award degrees in these, the teachers become professors and professionals. Regulatory bodies and officials ensure strict compliance. It becomes ‘embarrassing’ to mention God, to be identified with Islam or Christianity and to glorify God.

Our mindset and orientation becomes ‘free’ from limitations UNTIL their institutions ‘consider’ a morality. For example, do we require the parameters of the World Health Organization to ban cloning before it becomes immoral? How long did it take to have this? And after, who are the challenges in compliance? Are they not the same unbelievers and less believers? Have they not ADJUSTED the morality with logic? Are pigs not currently specifically bred for transplant ‘benefits’ of organs to humans? Is the current challenge not how to make it ‘succeed’? If the ‘experts’ that thought and worked on this are Believers, will these growth and development be opportune? How can a believer who must not associate anything or anyone with God by even a carving or sculpture entertain the idea and work on cloning? How can a believer define efficiency with replacing humans with robots? Where are the limits? But as hypocrites do we not permit and enjoy the products? Are Nigerians not into transgender or using baby dolls? Have they declared to be non-Muslims or Christians?

This is why you will find a certified professor or fine professional in the forefront of a tribal organization or a geopolitical one in our country. His identity as a Christian or Muslim will not dissuade him or make him to oppose it as retrogressive. But if the religion is tribal or racial why do we profess it? Is it based on the scriptures? The fools who think that they are championing a tradition, should religion or the command of God be secondary to their traditions? The growth and development of his identity is in captivity and gradually defined as

bankrupt, meaningless or obstructive. He is therefore not REALLY USEFUL to himself because he has become less than his total identity. He cannot become a better or model believer by influencing and directing history. Religion becomes an ad hoc affair like a part time hobby.

But who believes among us, Muslims and Christians, that religion is a weekend and ceremonies affair only?

This is why those who consider and admit that the scriptures are not connected to livelihood begin to specialize in ‘religion’ and a new industry is given birth to. This is why religion can be a booming business in our country but characterized by scandals or idol worship. This is why religious leaders will not fit into our collective safety and prosperity because they are in disconnect with the reality of our livelihood. The growth and development of universities by religious bodies is the pointer to our drawbacks. Take each and all of them, what connection do they make for humanity? Are they different beyond the owners being of a given religion and clear promotion of canonical practices? The culture that mills their operation are the very same that mills other institutions. The peripheral resort is that the products should be God loving and fearing. But are the curriculums IMPACTING of the love and fear of God?

Our cultural backwardness will be appreciated if we accept that attending a religious or non-religious institution by a believer MUST NOT IGNORE , NEGATIVELY AFFECT OR PUT ASIDE his beliefs . The misfortune in our case is that, our identity is either inconsequential or effectively resisted.

OUR SYSTEMATIC SELF-UNDOING

Having been living on the neutrality of livelihood standards along with less believers and unbelievers by our attractions and relationships with them, we have been eroding our identity characteristics. Over time, we have been building what

is consistent with them. Even when we bolt out, it does not have a lasting positive effect, impact or benefit. And the only reason is that we have done so only out of frustration and greed. This is why our anti colonialism did give birth to independence that we have not been able to manage. Sixty years of groping between unity for our collective safety and prosperity against intra religious, inter religious and tribal divisions, taking unfortunate advantage of geopolitical accidents. This orientation of disorganized historical process has been further worsened by the complications of straight replantation of structures, institutions and processes from the colonialists.

Our school packages are one. Our political packages are another. The history of their failures is continually staring at our future. Do we not appreciate the difficulty of managing pressure groups? Is unionism in Nigeria not fit for burial? All of these had been galloping on the blessings of agriculture and then the crude oil. And we complain of corruption. But do we understand it beyond the indices handed to us? Why are the formulas still not giving us a breakthrough?

A fine attempt for a breakthrough was the development of the ideas of underdevelopment, neo-colonialism, capitalism and imperialism. It was considered that African, Traditional or Mixed or even socialist options are solutions with human face. How far have the ideas and practices gone? Some have considered that violence or bloodshed is a teacher. It happened in other countries. Did we not experience a civil war? Others have nursed the ideas of protests like the experience of some countries. We have been making this pervasive over time at what costs? Has governance become better? We are so daft to even appreciate that the less believers that are closer to us are moving to re-pick the commands of God they had ignored partially. Can we resist closing the windows of military rule today? No intelligent soldier will consider a coup. His leadership will be strangled. They will call it Democracy. Do we not know of

referendums as options to secession? But if we are to apply them, are we certain of the results it will give beyond serving our bankrupt elite?

An impressive positive though weak attempt was by late Fela Anikulapo Kuti. This was a traditionalist who bought the idea of being African. In religion he was not recognized as a model. BUT he used his resources to support the spread and entrenchment of the ideas of underdevelopment as the causative consequence of colonial exploitation. He secured a truckload of HOW EUROPE UNDERDEVELOPED AFRICA by Walter Rodney. And he simply dropped them across universities within his immediate reach. The extent the reading, discussion and actions this investment generated and contributed to a fresh understanding of our economic relationships is not measurable. It necessarily became a reading in the universities. It was popular and could not be stopped because of the partial truth it bore. Associations and clubs either influenced by it or making use of it flourished. But his registering to contest for leadership was checked. Those who succeeded had no better understanding nor contribution. Indeed some of the fine proponents that had the opportunity of leadership ended up in frustration, being flushed out or transforming into strange creatures. Today, where are the scholars? Where are the writers? Indeed journals are not only dead but publishing/printing is out. WHO AND WHERE IS THE BELIEVER TODAY WHO WILL DO LIKE FELA DID? Do our leaders read? Those who read, do they read on our identities? How many will commit their resources to a noble course like Fela attempted for our unity and prosperity? Even meaningless, diversionary biographies are launched for money.

It is not to suggest that nothing had been done even modestly, below or beyond this. I for instance know that late Sheikh Abubakar Mahmoud Gumi translated the Qur'an. But how many teachers or schools use it today? How many Muslims know about it, have read it or read it? Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi will die with his exegesis. Is there no Muslim that can get his teachings transcribed? The Jehovah

witness kingdom that churns out a lot of literature has not made the breakthrough of localized application for our specific unity, safety and prosperity in Nigeria. At best, you can only make the deduction that it is neutral and not anti-Nigeria. But in history, deliberate effort is required against neutrality that can be of positive or negative consequence. The commendable efforts of Oyakhilome and a few of other churches is not different. They have successfully gone international but are not adding outstanding value to our unity, safety and prosperity as one country. The growing specialization is the rascality in the forms of either questioning our related beliefs, inflaming violence between us as believers or within our beliefs groups. Does any and the only TWO SCRIPTURES that we identify with instruct, permit or promote such rascality? Are we incapable of UNDERSTANDING the message?

O Believers, of what use is our identity, our knowledge, our worship and our leadership for our livelihood? Have the scriptures and the commandments forbidden us from working hard, enjoying the permissible good things of this life? Do we not see and understand that the limits ordained are the only requirements for peace and fulfilment in eternal life? Or do we not really believe? But if we believe only in part, we can only become like those we admire but are not fully comfortable with.

We must KNOW OURSELVES RIGHTLY FOR OUR COMMON PURPOSE. The foundation is Education and Orientation Across the Board. Our identities are not inhibitive to our joining hands. On the contrary, it makes us better. We do not have to sacrifice ANYTHING WE BELIEVE IN to make our unity, safety and prosperity work and blossom. It requires overhauling of our education and orientation.

If in Nigeria we can wholesomely support the personality of Buhari and go through the gruesome leadership experience we are into, with both parties really

confused and regretful, the most rational and sensible challenge is to CHECK OURSELVES. It is absolutely beyond replacing Buhari. And the present leadership will be both most unkind and worse than all the previous ones WITHOUT INITIATING THE RADICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A CHANGE.

PART II

QUESTIONS ARISING AND THE ANSWERS FOR GUIDANCE

HOW CAN A MUSLIM LEADER UPHOLD THE LIGHT OF BELIEF IN GOD IN ANY PUBLIC POSITION, IN NIGERIA'S CONTEXT?

This is a valuable question or concern for the leader who sincerely believes in Allah. If he has knowledge of this, then he will be justifiably held responsible for his actions or commitments in any public office. If he is ignorant of this, the only path of wisdom for him, is to seek to know himself, before assuming the office of leadership. If he is ignorant and discovers this bankruptcy only after assuming office, he can best combine, learning this along with BEGGING any sincere person with the combination of such knowledge and discipline, to support or even guide him. This will require humility on his side in relation to the person. This is because, the person will actually be doing him a favour which can be least appreciated by forfeiting all his official privileges to the person. It is MORE than the entitlement of a senior aide because the aide is answerable to him to account for the assignments to the aide. Furthermore, the supporter or guide will not be accountable for the commitments of the leader. This logically implies that the leader must not be so empty as not to be able to identify or get such sincere guide or supporter. And he must BEAR the CORRECT evaluation and admission of every advice, suggestions, recommendations or guidance. No matter how much people sing that his known or assumed supporters are evil, he is personally liable for his commitments because, such right or wrong songs are his discretion to evaluate and adjust or ignore. And where he chooses to ignore it is only responsive to explain. This is because the trust is not to be shared at the risk of the real or larger owners.

It is also a critical question for the led or those to decide on the choice of who is to lead. This is what will provide the probability of a fair leadership with little or no support. Where and when this knowledge and discipline of what is right and true fades or disappears, the entire society can be plunged into WRONGS, regardless of whatever indices of achievements may be recorded. And the simple

measuring scale is the security and prosperity of EVERYONE. Targeting some members for elimination by whatever dubious excuses, the spread of fear, the risk of movement, the cutting or restriction of peace CANNOT be justified with increasing materials and worse still, the skewed access to or availability of the materials.

In Islam, this means giving life to *Tauhid*. The comprehensive definition is to be engaged, permit, support or committed to WHATEVER, with the consciousness of God watching and it will be the LAST OPPORTUNITY before returning to Him. This is because even though you do not see Him, He is all-seeing along with the recording angels and your limbs that will bear witness for it.

The leader must therefore be CONSCIENTIOUS of the following key connections:

- To Allah belongs ALL MATTERS AND AFFAIRS because He created or opportune them. His guidance is hence superior to whatever the leader, anyone or anything may suggest. This is what is recognizing His distinction and submitting to Him.
- The ladders of such compliance is by DISTANCING oneself and others from whatever He has prohibited and better still, whatever is accordingly doubtful; increasing admission and commitment to whatever He has prescribed or permitted because His ways are all good and safe for all; and exercising responsible discretion over all other matters and affairs WITHOUT APPROACHING either what is to be distanced from or abusing, by manipulation of what has been prescribed or permitted.
- The burden of leadership is to SERVE goodly, the Good, the Bad and the Ugly, like Allah provides rain, air, vegetation, breast milk, wealth, etc., without discrimination between believers and unbelievers.

- Not to be a HYPOCRITE to his regular submission in the compulsory prayers – praising Allah as a mark of recognizing Him, declaration of personal submission to Him and seeking for His guidance for the reason that he is not perfect or his best is not possible alone, asking Him for the protection against the evil of Hell Fire, the Grave, poverty, *Dajjal*, setting him along with those on the straight path as against the opposite because the Day of Judgement is a certainty.
- To join and associate with those who are good or striving to be better in order to increase and expand good things with good people for all people.

The implication of this is that, whatever kind of materially useful knowledge and discipline one has acquired, it does not qualify him for leadership as a Muslim UNLESS and UNTIL the above drive his application of common authority over others in the interest of all – including those who are not there. This is the spirit that makes one person benefit all, that protects and serves all others irrespective of their disabilities, distance, innocence, ignorance, etc.

It is thus contradictory to Islam and logically to the faith and required commitment of such leader to be self-serving, non-responsive where he is not proactive, or to become responsive on being pressured or threatened. It is therefore impossible for a Muslim who is a leader to turn into an oppressor.

The authority is ultimately of Allah that is borrowed and is entrusted by those who have given it to him as witnesses of Allah. Their security is in his submission to Allah and their reminders to him, from time to time, over and above the statutory support arranged for him and the personal discretionary windows he has, to add value to his leadership, to minimize pains and abuses.

As a result, a Muslim who is UNCONSCIOUS of this by Ignorance, Carelessness or Hypocrisy, is akin to an armed robber asking for public trust. And where the

people decide or end up to giving him the trust, it can be worse than submitting to an undeveloped robot. No one can possibly and effectively give what he does not have. The only final safety is that, Allah will fully hold him accountable for his commitments since Allah has made Guidance Knowledge and Discipline Compulsory for EVERY MUSLIM.

A Muslim who is burdened with leadership, should not have the Qur'an, Hadith, sincere scholars alienated from him, regardless of his level of personal knowledge and discipline of what is right. And EVERYBODY should be safe with him against injustice from anyone and himself.

Consequently, leadership is MORE than being well skilled or informed or learned about or in anything whatsoever. One can lead in the quantity and quality of the production of an item, in oratory, in the wealth of a family, group or nation or the world, in weaponry, in size, speed of an activity. It is beyond a personal identity. It is also AHEAD of management and administration. It INVOLVES DIRECTING Arts, Science, Spirit towards stabilizing goodly safety and prosperity for every and all members and building on the same.

The qualification or application to the context of Nigeria will therefore not be different in any public office at any level of government, in any organization or group, made up of Muslims, Christians, or a mixture of these. Non-believers will not be unsafe.

This is why military or dictatorship rule is not necessarily and always evil. And those who submit that the worst democracy is better than the best military rule or dictatorship are isolated from the reality of Leadership. This is because no formation can guarantee it in isolation of the embodiment of the leader. In reality, where there is no LEADER or LEADERSHIP management and administration will still continue and possibly effectively but CERTAINLY without sustaining

or adding value to what have been attained. The indicator is always that ordinary members will have GUIDANCE to offer.

In our present context or setting, anyone who offers himself to be granted leadership burden must be assessed and witnessed as cultured for the burden. And this is ordinarily arrogant or basically abusive of humility, for any individual to present himself. It is therefore logically and sensibly more welcome and intelligent where and when cultured people approach, request or invite someone to lead them or lead them and others. If this is the intent and logic of political party platform, are the immediate leaders cultured to produce such a cultured person for the polity? Is this a consistent attribute of political organization? Indeed are members of the polity more cultured by the majority of members to further affirm any proposition or otherwise? Is it for instance possible to have the forefront political Parties propose all the persons that have been presidents of this country and all of them failing to be voted according to what we already know? If not, the polity and the political parties are still very much behind the basic requirements for producing a leader. And our leadership or governance will continue to be more characterized by opportunism, chance, gamble, hypocrisy and crisis. This option will be informed and driven by the inclination of picking between the failures.

The most backward thinking will be that leadership rests with an age group or bracket, even if any of such have the competencies of art, science or spirit in their identity.

In other words, the value we can and should possibly get from the leadership of a Muslim is narrow and questionable UNTIL our general consciousness is orderly raised with knowledge and discipline of what is right and true.

It is therefore not impossible. It is true that we have not enjoyed this. It is absolutely a matter of our decision, willingness and deliberate pursuit.

DOES A MUSLIM'S OR CHRISTIAN'S LEADERSHIP IN NIGERIA INHIBIT LEADING BELIEVERS (MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS OR EITHER) TO SALVATION?

The foundation for this question is made of two essential attributes by both Muslims and Christians, who populate over ninety seven percent of Nigeria. It is critical because Muslims and Christians are logically and sensibly, problem(s) of Nigeria. If we decide to be the solution we shall make it. What makes this so is that 'our fate is in our hands' IF we admit and work on our real and clear identity. And our commitment will not make others endangered.

The first attribute is that both Muslims and Christians believe not just in the same Jesus and the message given to him as a revealed guidance but the very same God. This platform is critical for especially the Muslim believer for the reason that his faith is INCOMPLETE if he believes only in a select of the prophets or revealed scriptures from Allah. This is why the template of Islam in relation to the Christians and Jews is that of INVITATION and not war. There is no Muslim who is enjoined to make those who are already believers in the same God his enemies or adversaries. And whoever of them voluntarily accepts Islam, gets a double reward. Prophets Adam, Nuhu, Ibrahim, Musa and Isa are indications of the connection along with Angel Jibril.

This attribute is related to the second, which connects to the belief in the Day of Judgement with the characteristics of accounting for the deeds in this life and eternal life that will be positive or negative or an admixture of the two. The common spirit between the two groups of believers in Nigeria is therefore, the pursuit of the ultimate salvation after death in all drives in this life and world.

And this is critical as Muslims are either in misunderstanding with themselves or with Christians, just as Christians are either in the misunderstanding of themselves or with Muslims. And Nigeria can logically and sensibly only

continue to be in increasing and complicating crisis as long and the more, these levels of misunderstandings are not responsibly addressed.

This intelligently leads to the question: WILL THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF SALVATION THAT IS COMMON TO THE TWO BASED ON THE COMMON PREMISE OF SINCERE AND ABSOLUTE BELIEFS BE LOST OR ABUSED OR SACRIFICED IF EITHER OF THE MEMBERS IS THE LEADER ? From the definitions above, it is a definite and clear contradiction. It has no room for any problem. It will be unexpected. It is not defensible. It is illogical. It is irrational. It will be senseless. And the simple obvious truth is that BECAUSE we have been threading this OPPOSITE path, we are consistently HELPLESS even in our seeming successes. Are our prayer houses, the attendance of these houses, leading in these houses, the homes that feed or give life to what these houses drive, scholars of these drives, schools of these drives, pilgrimages in this drive and dying in these names not on the increase? But is our poverty reducing? Is our serenity increasing? Is our belief in the same God adding the expected quantum and quality of value to our livelihood? But are we able to deny or establish that the same God is responsible for our decreasing favours?

The reality is that God is INDEPENDENT of our choices in two respects. The first is that our beliefs and consistent submission to Him does not add to His glory just as our disbelief and deviance, straying or opposition does not affect or diminish His glory. It is His choice and favour to create us, place us in this life, provide us with the basic resources and talents to make a living and provide us with guidance to return to Him for what can be more than better IF WE SUBMIT. The second is that His favours outweigh His anger with us along with the generous opening for repentance or realization and returning to Him. This is why neither land, water, air, vegetation, talents etc. are restricted to any people or place, to CHALLENGE our accepting and working out His instructive guidance of giving us to one another.

The burden on every leader who CARES as a MUSLIM or a CHRISTIAN is to drive his leadership with the love and fear of God by consistent submission. This is the minimum requirement of him, and does not require to be a Pastor, Reverend, Imam or Sheikh, to lead well and effectively. The basic requirement of a Muslim or Christian leader to secure the striving to salvation by believers along with the safety and prosperity of all members of the society is not religiosity.

Indeed the shyness, shamefulness or rejection, denial or distancing oneself from this IDENTITY by a leader who is Muslim or Christian is both self-destructive and destructive of the society as far as adding value to general safety, prosperity and the ultimate pursuit of believers are concerned. The cheap but stupid and dangerous label of religious bigotry by believers or leaders who are Muslims or Christians is almost always informed by ignorance and confusion because of the culture of hypocrisy and inordinate greed that drive us.

There is nothing in the creeds or doctrines that give Identity to Muslims or Christians that will inhibit either from the pursuit of the ultimate goal of salvation. There is also nothing in the constitution of Nigeria that will restrain or restrict a Muslim or Christian leader from allowing, aiding and promoting the pursuit of salvation by those who believe. And both leadership and governance will be incomplete without driving the society to the safety and prosperity that leads to salvation, for the believers.

CAN A BELIEVER'S LEADERSHIP DRIVE TO THE SALVATION OF MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS GENERATE CONFLICTS AND POVERTY?

The question is like: can belief in God generate evils or negative conditions like conflicts and poverty? A more comprehensive and direct way will be to ask: is

belief in God of any necessary value against the generation or management of conflicts and poverty?

The concern for this investigation is understandable and even possibly positive in intent. This is because believers (specifically Muslims and Christians in Nigeria) are the ones clearly united in the hope or ambition and even pursuit of salvation. But they are the very ones with the double characteristics of disagreements or opposition within themselves and between themselves. And the leadership of this country has always been by either or both of them. Given the size of believers, conflicts have been pervasive across the country and we are becoming the poverty capital of the world. If we are not bold to ask ourselves this question, it may not be insulting for either non-believers beyond our shores or believers to ask the same question.

To begin with, none of the single, individual or group of believers will accept that being a follower of the Prince of Peace or Submission to Peace **IS THE SOURCE OR DRIVE TO CONFLICTS AND POVERTY**. In the missionary activities of both faiths, which ought be prioritized towards the unbelievers, the ambition of inviting one to join the other is always on the platform of peace. The only rational and sensible relationship between the two is not between the Wrong and the Right but between the Earlier and the Last. And within each group, the divisions or differences are essentially hero or star-alliance movements. These within inputs, as colourful as they may be **FALL SHORT OF** the final leadership reference of either group. Neither Jesus nor Muhammad built a structure, in the ways the faithfuls have highly institutionalized livelihood. The evident disagreements, conflicts, crisis within each group and between the groups is therefore clearly opposed to the standard reference of each. The root cause is the **FAILURE** of the heroes or stars and their successors including adherents **TO KEEP WITHIN THE PRINCIPAL LIMITS** of the standard reference. This challenge of scholarship and leadership in the material and spiritual identity of the adherents is the cancer

that has been carelessly handled. And the greatest MISFORTUNE is that IF no LIMITS are defined and kept, BURSTING from time to time is not only INEVITABLE but a burst can grow or develop into an EXPLOSION. Across the world, it can be appreciated that the extremism of associating such identities with Satan or divinity by leaders after the standard references is the implication or cost of FREE LEADERSHIP.

Limits is what gives identity. If the history of colonialism had not kept the limit or conserved the ABSOLUTE HOME OF COLONIALISTS to be for instance Britain, there would have been no Britain today. If the exploitation of the colonies was not directed to KEEP the mastership and development of Britain, what would have been its level of development today? This is the logic of RECREATING Israel. This is the key difference between the cultural growth and expansion of the communist societies, the United Kingdom, the Saudi Kingdom against the Free Bursting and Exploding United States of America.

It is therefore a logical difficulty for a wretched or poor person to lead to prosperity. It is also a logical improbability for conflict-cultured person to lead on peace or to peace matters.

Conflicts and poverty are related. If as defined above, the root cause of the conflicts is Ignorance and Indiscipline relating to the limits to be kept which have been abused, what is the opposite of poverty that the faiths or believers possess, that is lost out of the pursuit of the path of ignorance and indiscipline by hypocrisy?

The first is the absolute truth for believers that the leader is a representative of God in two respects. As a believer, he is to serve as a model, above average, in compliance to the guidance. And as a leader, he shall be personally more disinterested than interested in his comfort, compared to his greater interest in the comfort of those whose rights he is burdened with ensuring their protection. This

embodiment negates the livelihood or lifestyle of competing with the most comfortable members and is the minimum security for sensibility to those below average that are not to be blocked from improving their status.

The second is engaging those who combine competence with knowledge and discipline of what is right to assist him as against appointing them as a favour by him. Because good attracts good, this will enlarge the scope of goodly support and will possibly minimize deliberate misdeeds or mischief, with the logical implication of understanding genuine mistakes.

The third is first and final commitment to ensuring that NO SINGLE PERSON is LACKING in the basics of livelihood irrespective of variation in the quantity and quality of these between members of the society. While these basics vary from one society to another because it depends upon their levels of growth and development, in the case of Nigeria, includes food, drinks, housing, health, employment and education. This is because God cares for ALL irrespective of accepting and submitting to Him by some against one or more who may differ. To be sure, this is NOT our path or we are DIFFERENT in working towards it. In our circumstance a tenure of office and at most, two terms is SUFFICIENT, for a most responsible leadership.

The fourth, is that, the leadership will be clearly, evidently and uncompromisingly protective of the UNITING KEEPS of our collectivity. This will for instance include anti tribalism, anti-regionalism, religious bigotry.

All the same, the prospect of a safe leadership by a Muslim or Christian leader, protecting the ultimate goal of salvation and minimizing conflicts, to attend to wretchedness, is not lost. The simple reason is that we have not had and are not likely to have a cultured conflict leader stepping into public leadership. The polity is not so daft as to oversight such ambitious move. And the followers of such conflict leader CANNOT possibly in the large and variant population of Nigeria

consume all the others. As a result, the challenge of scholarship and leadership generating especially intra-faith conflicts is for public leadership to guide for checking further divisions. And this is very easy by establishing religious rascality and employing authority to deal with it.

However, where the believer who is a leader is either ignorant, very bankrupt in the four potentials identified above or knows and is hypocritical on them, the conflicts are not likely to be controlled or reduced and the poverty or difficulty of the pursuit of salvation will spread. The leader and his leadership will cut down or shred the faith of believers – towards loss of belief in the care of God. While this may not be directly or openly so expressed, it will be revealed in the changing orientation of believers. The connection between God and the world will be de-emphasized or played down. The connection between material efforts and fate will be mixed up. This is why the Prophet always prayed for safety against poverty because it can affect faith.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PURPOSE OF LIFE OF A LEADER AND THAT OF HIS LEADERSHIP? IS IT THE NECESSARY MULTIPLICATION OF THAT OF SELF OR A NECESSARY VARIATION FROM THAT OF SELF?

The leader is a fellow human being like any other member of the society. And an adult for that matter. If he is not a conscious leader, he may be moving around because he is physically alive and will not be medically certified as unconscious, but his leadership will not be alive. That means that he will not specifically connect with the society, identifiable with him. This will be regardless of whatever amount of achievements may be associated with him.

Any purpose of life requires consciousness to consistently flourish by the deliberate pursuit or direction by the person or society. A believer who is therefore unconscious of his identity will neither connect his livelihood with the

ultimate goal of salvation nor be useful in driving others to it. If and where he is a leader, it will not make any difference when compared to the leadership of a hypocrite who knows and is careless or an ignorant.

It is thus both logical and true that a leader necessarily influences the society or his followers – especially the majority, for whose primary protection authority is entrusted to the public leader. If he has a definite purpose of life for himself, it will inevitably affect his leadership inclination. Indeed, it can be foolishly expected to be a guarantee. In other words it will be embarrassing to be affected in opposite of what is expected. For example, a footballer leader will be expected to build footballing. A leader who is a businessman is expected to raise the economy to a higher level. And a leader with security background is expected to enable safety. But these are not necessary even though they are possible. This is because the leader needs to be so consciously oriented and his circumstances need to permit so or subject to such manipulation. For instance, a footballer prosecuting a civil war will not responsibly be committed to footballing even if his consciousness is that of a coach. But it will be embarrassing in the case of a security person who assumes leadership in a state of insecurity. This is why Donald Trump failed the economy of the United States and developing economies as a world leader. But these cannot possibly make the expected impact if they or any of them is either unconscious or not conscious enough.

Leadership is a complex demand and burden BEYOND ONESELF. For example, while like every other person the leader has twenty four hours in a calendar day and night, the quality of some of his hours must be exceptionally high. This is because the similar and more time other people would have committed to quality inputs or contributions can be available to the leader for straight use or adjustments and use. This is why and how a caged or isolated leader from access by possible persons that can add value to his time and commitment is both unfortunate and a fool. In psychology the leader who consciously enables or

enjoys this is an idiot. Leadership therefore entails raising or improving the livelihood of all by raising those below and possibly slowing down those in haste in order to provide safety for all by checking possible conflicts between the differences. It is therefore beyond the leader's specific personal identity. For example, the footballer will not ignore increasing economic production to check wretchedness and poverty. The businessman will be off course if materials and services are growing and expanding and human insecurity and psychological misery is being generated.

This means that what must be of the leader's self that is relevant for leadership is NOT material. It will for instance be irresponsible of a leader who has not been wealthy to be shocked by or question affluence. In the same vein it will be insulting and immodest of a leader who is affluent to mock an ascetic. For a leader with either background, asceticism can be allowed BUT as a matter of personal choice, rather than being an escape route in response to extreme poverty. This is because the primary responsibility of a leader is to raise the provisions of each and all persons beyond the stable basic standard. This requirement, responsibility, challenge, burden is a PRINCIPLE and a SPIRIT. The individual person of the leader may therefore not be different as for the people he is leading, but the similarity or difference CANNOT become the rule for governance.

The first material challenge of a leader is therefore to resist, control or manage his jumping into the pool of conveniences provided to enable him attend to shortages of needs, wants and fancies, as his primary livelihood. The evil by-product of this fall is revealed by the leader, competing with those in material comfort. The rascal will be adding and changing comfort facilities at public cost of governance.

And the second challenge is to OPEN UP to new exposures and learnings for responsible management. This is best available through the window of Consultations and Criticisms.

These principles are what inform the specific guidance that an individual does to others what he will wish to be done to him. It checks the ignorance and hypocrisy of a leader, in relation to those he relates with, comes across, under him and under his trust. And the specific status of the believer who abuses this is on the scale of two measures. The first is that the prayer of the oppressed has nothing to obstruct it from being answered. The second is the example of one who caged a bird and failed or refused to cater for it. The person qualified for hosting in Hell Fire. What of a leader who does so to a fellow human being? And what of doing so to a believer? This is the nature and benefit of the required psychology of a leader.

As a result, the worst leader and the greatest misfortune that can befall a society is to FAIL to have a minimally serving leadership because the leader has been discovered to be bankrupt, he has failed to invite leaders to support him with humility, he is afraid or resistant to making consultations, he is isolated from volunteers to assist and hateful of criticisms. This is a graphic scenario of leadership collapse. It can generate only the chanced good from routine administration and management. Governance will be enveloped in distrust, discontentment, unpredictability, stress, frustration and hopelessness. The passing time and the hand of God will be the resort by the followers, for a change.

HOW WILL A LEADER KEEP CONNECTED TO THE LED, TO MINIMIZE RULING? TO COORDINATE THE INFORMAL PLATFORM OF CONNECTIVITY OR CLOSE IT OR STIFLE IT BY SURRENDERING IT TO THE LIEUTENANTS?

To enquire about HOW, is to admit that the connection between a leader and the led is necessary or most desirable, otherwise it will amount to ruling, which is uncivil. It will not be participatory. In addition, the onus is on the leader to seek or devise to connect. This is because he is the one really most in need of every possible resource, to enable him succeed. It is therefore a real special favour to seek him by the led.

When this happens positively, with attendant positive benefits, leadership is optimized and ruling is minimized. This is the best setting for human societies. Only a negligible proportion of the members will need to be ruled, by engaging the instruments of authority or coercive force. The majority of members will voluntarily oblige the right relationship because it is recognized as right and a duty for collective safety and prosperity.

And there are two possible means of connecting or opening up to the led for optimal ADDITIONAL SUPPORT. It is additional since the bureaucracy provides for a setting for independent rational communication to serve the leader. Thus, for every decision and actions, the leader has a chain of experts and appointed aides to enable the best choices, decisions, methods, timing and actions for recurrent matters, those pending and new ones that come up. For example, if the coffers of government are found empty by an incoming government, it will browse through expenditures. If it is more unsatisfied than satisfied, it will visit the records, investigate, probe. The gaps will be followed to get them filled up by charges and may be followed by prosecution. The end results may be recoveries and convictions. A leader can achieve all of these without necessary reference to

anyone or anybody outside the government. Indeed a leader will find this to be an established tradition in government as a rational and sensible system to check and control human errors, because men are not perfect or infallible. This is without prejudice to the transformation of the instruments into collaboration with the system of corruption by the operatives. It is therefore now a common culture not to see auditors as guides. The auditors pose as police officers to opportune optimal share from abuses of trust that had taken place or is opportune. The external agents like special appointees for visitation are not differently exposed.

The second is two-faced, between the leader and his lieutenants. The first option is that of opening genuine and free access to every and all citizens for reaching him through a structure manned by his aides. This is akin to the arrangement for the president of the United States. The aides have the burden of classifying all entries to suite his governance definitions. In this case, while the aides will further evaluate and forward a defined number to him for attention, he is at liberty to visit them randomly from time to time. This will enable him maximize the quality of inputs for his governance. He will also be able to assess the honesty and commitment of the aides, to his leadership. The other face is depending entirely on the inputs from the sieving by the aides. In both cases, the aides require to be sincere and committed to the society in the interest of the leader. This is why where the aides adjust commitment to the psychological challenges of the leader, like his group, relatives, critiques etc. he will be enjoying false safety in the face of rascality. The commonest abuse is to refuse to admit or record what they believe will annoy his person. The peak of such rascality is to ignore response, trivialize or play down critical issues and incidences in his governance. Therefore, where there is no personal coordination or follow up, the tendency of abuses by stifling or even closing access to critical inputs is very likely.

However, there is always another yet informal window for the leader. This is often generated by his close associates that cannot be safely obstructed or denied

direct access by the aides Ordinarily. If, when and where they are, is ALWAYS with the tacit APPROVAL of the leader. And this reveals the kind of person the leader is and the logical kind of leadership to expect. The crystal proof of this is that the leader does NOT remember or care to ask after or invite such associates when he does not meet them for a long time and especially when he has challenges. The basis for this window is usually a revelation of the kind of values he shares with the associates. This sharing can be as a leader in the discipline of the values, as a fellow or indeed as a pun, because in every group there are puns.

And a conscientious leader has yet another potential for adding value to his governance. Given the position of his office, he can invite, befriend or summon any knowledgeable and disciplined member of the society, intermittently to support his governance. The best leaders ‘form’ their kitchen supporters from across these openings DEPENDING UPON THEIR PERSONAL COMPETENCE AND COMMITMENT.

WHAT IS THE BEST UNPLEASANT CHALLENGE FOR LEADERSHIP INVESTMENT? CRITICISM OR SHEEPISH FOLLOWING?

Rightly, leadership should always be an investment because it should be building on what is on the ground, which amounts to growth and development of the society. In history, the frightening but true crystal reference is the submission that WITHOUT the iron rule of Joseph Stalin, the Soviet Union wouldn’t have been. Consequently, the later break and especially the present Russia will not be probable.

Back home here, Nigeria is unthinkable without colonialism and the struggles against it, just as the history, time of acquisition, establishing effective control and management would have been different from improbable to difficult, without the organized political settings in the western and northern Nigeria. In essence,

just as the immediate past is the critical determinant of what is feasible in the present, the present is the logical foundation for the future.

And the goal of a conscious responsible leadership is to make the present better than yesterday or at least sustain the achievements. This is historically possible on the wheel of open and free relationships between the leadership and the followers.

The first and normal leg of this wheel is defined by conservation of what is on the ground, including the rights and the wrongs. The supporters of the leader from this angle or on this wheel will be defensive or explanatory of the wrongs or mistakes. They will logically and sensibly distance the qualification of those who enabled or committed them from strict deserving sanctions.

The second leg or wheel is a multiple of colours or sides. What is however common to all of them is **DISAGREEMENT** with simple flowing, along with the conservatives. The first face is defined by outright dismissal of even obvious basic achievements of the past. The leader and leadership should be able to discern this drawback and make the society better by **ENLIGHTENMENT** or **EDUCATION**. This will enable the appreciation of the limits of rightness applicable to the conservatives just as the blind and outright condemnation of the past will get adjusted to a rational and sensible plane. The leader and leadership that lacks the competence for this or fails in this identification and redirecting would have lost the first goal. This is because a leader has equal responsibility for **ALL** parties.

The second face is made of those who will selectively and rightly condemn the wrongs and mistakes but have no solutions or the ways out, to offer. The value of this class of supporters is that they offer positive responsible alerts. They are superior to the separate earlier classes because of their discipline in limiting themselves to unacceptable or questionable wrongs and mistakes. Any leader who

is unable or fails to appreciate this positive capacity is not likely to be able to complete his affair with fifty percent assistance. This further means that he may not be able to initiate self-critique of his affairs. And it is always easier to support a leader who is appreciative of what he has not or capable of producing. The superior status is to support a leader who is able to define his challenges by self-critique, with a solution.

The third face of the same second leg or wheel is made of very often very few of the people, who lay out criticisms and provide the solutions, regardless of how weak they may be. The weakness will be revealed by a summary of the end definitions without a layout of the process to lead to it. It is only in a few exceptional cases, the layout will certainly be perfect in the first presentation, where transformation of the entire society is involved. This is because the TRANSITION can possibly take different forms. Building a sane society doesn't have to go the way of Joseph Stalin. If that is abominable because the cost of human lives was gruesome, the Mafioso option may not be better. Indeed the option of slavery is not different from all of them. And considering depopulation is the most daft and inhuman option.

An intelligent leader will always court such people with love, care, respect and humility and more. This is because they are the real leaders to be given the way to move history forward. Therefore, in any leadership history, if this class of people are not available, it is unlikely to make any strides. In any leadership history, if this class of people are not discovered or sought for, the leader and indeed the society are the losers. And in any leadership history, if this class of people are ignored or fought, the leader is a fool.

This is the necessary positive relationship between any leadership and loyalists and critiques. This is the possible value of opposition, where the leader is intelligent and conscientious.

WHAT IS THE USEFUL CONNECTION BETWEEN A FAITHFUL WITH THE TOOL OF PRAYER(S) AND PRODUCING MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL PROSPERITY? IS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL OR DISCIPLINE FOR LIVELIHOOD NEGATIVELY RELATED TO MATERIAL PROSPERITY THAT BOTH BELIEVERS, UNBELIEVERS AND THE DOUBTERS SEEK TO ACHIEVE?

There is no disputing the fact that basic livelihood needs, wants and fancies are of constant need of attention by every individual, group or society. These include food, drink, shelter, health and education. In Islam, the primary responsibility of leadership is to ENSURE that EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS NOT JUST ACCESS BUT POSSESSES THESE TO THE LEVEL OF SECURE LIVING. In the event of a crisis, the adjustment WILL NOT EXCLUDE ANY SINGLE PERSON EXCEPT IT EQUALLY CUTS ACROSS ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY. This means that the concept of poverty relates to the difference in the types, forms, quantum and quality of PROVISIONS but NOT TOTAL LACK.

For example, NO ONE will lack food to eat that is healthy or nutritious, three times a day EXCEPT BY PERSONAL CHOICE or condition. For reason of fasting or asceticism or ill health of doctor's instruction, variation can be admitted. And this applies to any member of the society regardless of the class of provisions. People who eat either in portions or courses are not exempted. The very same applies to clean water. It will not matter whether it is pipe borne, borehole, well, spring or bottled water. This is because like food, it connects to nutrition and health directly. The most irresponsible concept or approach to health is to measure a society by the amount and quality of health institutions and facilities before the measure of the need for them. This is why prevention is superior to cure and maintenance falls in between. If a society is threatened by malaria, environmental sanitation and clean water is a greater priority for curtailing the number of people that are vulnerable to infection that will require

treatment. Anti-malaria drugs, insecticides, treated nets are not the priority. The more records of treating malaria is established, the greater the indication of leadership failure. The popularity of canned foods, fast foods and soft drinks are therefore a corruption or superfluous provisions EXCEPT the basics and evidently SUFFICIENTLY PROVIDED. The screams of food security policies are proof of the intellectual and disciplinary failure of leadership.

The very same applies to shelter in the forms of clothing and housing. No individual is to LACK an accommodation, except temporarily like, for reason of the requirement of duty. With clothing, NUDITY is out of question because even the insane will be arrested and kept safe. In this case the personal or group choice or freedom is completely out. Like food and drink this aspect also requires changing though at a longer time than the need for food and drink. No one deserves to be in rags. Housing is a bit different except for furnishings. Personnel on essential service may justifiably be on the move or on duty while most of the people are resting in their homes. The leadership that fails to provide this for EVERYBODY is bankrupt. And it cannot take more than eight years to achieve this responsibly in our country. The hinging of the capacity to do this on budgetary provisions, procurement, architects, quantity surveyors etc. and the looks of United States or United Kingdom is most unintelligent. This is because NO ONE deserves TO WAIT UNTIL THE PACKAGE CAN REACH HIM. The justification for this is that, the moment any child comes into this world and is a Nigerian, he is ENTITLED to live his best with basic minimum provisions. Sleeping outside of a secure roofing is out of question. Indeed, not even insurgency can excuse this. The concept of transitional camps does not intelligently fit into our beliefs. For, are the victims not part of us or is their population beyond the capacity of believers to absorb? Ironically, it is in the centre of believers that these holes of new corruption are being built.

And education is the same. In the case of believers, the education for disciplined or compliance orientation to keep connected to God is a MUST. While it must commence at the family level, public leadership must ensure that it RULES the driving of governance to safety and prosperity in all aspects of studies, research, socializing, politics etc. A beautiful example is the history of the State of Israel. Security is a rational and sensible responsibility of every citizen. Military education and training is therefore compulsory. In our case, the concept of the operation of the National Youths Service has degenerated from strengthening the civil unification of Nigeria to a seeming pastime burden. This informed the embarrassing idea of scraping it by some people who are concerned about the waste of resources and distance from the objective.

These are meeting points for every and all Nigerians. No leader will ask and come on board without relating to these day-to-day challenges that are characterized by UNCEASING NEED and the NEED TO BUILD ON WHAT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED. If there is any difference between the leadership of a believer and the leader that is not a believer, it is in the LIMITS of the forms and types of prosperity to be pursued. And in Nigeria, this cannot be a challenge because believers are indeed the problem and have the responsibility to change for a solution.

The special place and grace of prayer or connection with God, is the reserve and bonus for a leader who is a believer. This is not currently common in our governance experience because most of us and especially our leaders, have been connected to God like a rote. This is when it is not active or fully alive to function. It is like a robot. The meaning, like emotions and sensibilities are lost. Like being partially paralyzed. For example, where a leader is faced with an evaluation challenge, seeking for the guidance of God is open. Prayer is a tool. Fasting can accompany it. Fellow believers can support this. However, the face of God cannot be easily reached with Dishonesty, Insincerity, Hypocrisy or Gambling. This is

critical because even clean believers from major sins constantly ask for forgiveness. It is therefore ONLY when the leader is responsibly connected to God that the bonus is probable. And he does not require to be a saint in this regard. Saints are not attracted to politics or asking to bear the burden of others.

In Islam, there is a specific prayer for such guidance. It is called *Istikhara*. How many Muslims who are leaders use it? Indeed between Muslims, how many can easily confirm that it has served their direction? If the aides and followers know that he is neither a liar, one who betrays nor abuses trust in his relationship with men and witness the benefits of his connection with God , THEY WILL HESITATE TO APPROACH HIM WITH WHAT IS WRONG OR DOUBTFUL. This would have been experienced in the propaganda for polio vaccines. The laboratory verification would have been better admissible and not requiring fellow faithfuls to be the ones to conduct it. They can be corrupted. They may not have the skills or competence to do it. But our best is to have a leader having his household members or followers vaccinated in the public eye. But it is NOT ENOUGH. When the Council of Bishops in South Africa raised alarm, the discovery was that some batches of the vaccine were safe but there were unsafe batches. We also had a recent experience where the leader of a government complained that he was approached to collaborate on discrediting his homemade support against corona virus for a pay. These mix ups are not improbable because there are evil and over ambitious people among us. A leader without God is vulnerable to falling easy victim and destroying his own society. It is therefore not enough that a leader is not corrupt or a public participation is safe. His responsibility is for EVERY AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY. With God it is better and best.

As a result, a leader who is spiritually bankrupt or backward can really only achieve LESS than he can because even material prosperity will be with risks of exceeding the boundaries of compliance.

HOW AND WHY IS TIMELINESS A CRITICAL CHALLENGE IN OUR GENERAL LIVELIHOOD? IS IT INEVITABLE OR A DELIBERATE STRATEGY FOR KEEPING THE RULED DOWN, BY THE LEADERS?

The phenomenon of time is the envelope in which we necessarily live in. There is a beginning for us and anything that we may consider. There is also an end to it in our contextual capacity. People are born and die. Without any direct compulsion, men age, fall ill and die as an inescapable experiential process. It is unintelligible to hold that what you do not know and can possibly not know of its beginning, has no beginning. It is equally foolhardy to hold that anything has no end, simply because those before you recorded its existence and you equally found it. The only intelligent means to establish this are two. The one is to be the one who witnessed the before of the beginning and after the end of the beginning. The second is for the witness to inform whoever, what the phenomenal experience of time is.

This is settled for believers. God created time, space and all creations. He enables their livelihood according to his irresistible plan. And the summary of this plan is that an end shall apply to this establishment at His discretion. He will revive all of us for a new, eternal livelihood through the process of certification of compliance with His guidance. The concept of timeliness connotes BEING, REMAINING or KEEPING in compliance for AS MUCH OF THE TIME available to one and all. And the measure of the COMPLIANCE or the SCALE, is the guidance defined, provided, directed in the revealed SCRIPTURE. For Nigerians, the Qur'an and Bible are applicable. We have consequently produced a Constitution for ourselves, which is consistent, BECAUSE it must not be allowed to contradict them.

Any individual, group or especially leader, who Ignores or abuses this setting is on his own, are on their own or is driving his people to foolish or deliberate

destruction. This is why a leader is the last and worst person to be an Ignorant, a Hypocrite or an Unbeliever – for believers. And because believing in God is universal and older than Disbelief, NO SOCIETY prohibits it proudly. The relationship is always hypocritical. One method is to declare its allowance or permit or freedom and live with it like ants feeding on the pillars of the canopy shading them. The other method is by boldly dealing with the bearers of faith, by structuring the age of practice or making regulations on the content of the scripture or subtly cutting down the population of believers.

Any individual, group or people who have a clear purpose of life like believers and is conscious of it, will logically live in pursuit of it, to the best of their ability, for the time at their disposal. And because the entire aspects of their livelihood WILL remain or keep in COMPLIANCE only AS MUCH AND AS LONG AS IT IS NOT IN ABUSE OF GUIDANCE, every aspect and step of decision, action, method etc. REQUIRE TO BE SUBJECTED TO EVALUATION BY THAT CONSCIOUSNESS AND ORIENTATION.

This is why and how it can become inevitable. It can therefore become otherwise where the belief is dead or in comma or strangulation.

The relationship between the society and the abuse or strangulation of timeliness as it affects believers or in societies that deregulate belief in God or the believers, rests on the head of the type of leader. It is unexpected of a leader who is not a believer to drive the society in a timely fashion of safety and prosperity with conscientious reference to the scripture. He will intelligently stick to the constitution WHICH BY UNIVERSAL STANDARD OF UNBELIEF is free to explore ANYTHING for the comfort and security of the followers. And by leadership, which inevitably involves admitting additional value promptings or guidance, suppressing or eliminating others for their comfort and security will logically not be inconsistent. After all they are the ones that matter and civility

stops with their members. It is only with God and believers that racial, language, religious and physical boundaries do not matter. This is why the fashion of competition to make the world a democracy or communist is withering. The human creators of these options and successive masters are confused by the revealing challenges. The reversal to the guidance of the maker of all things and affairs appears and sounds disgraceful. This is for example evident in the handling of fellow humans at the levels of marriage and the family, family planning, sexuality, and the crisis of increasing aged persons, crave for male children and depopulation.

Hence, irrespective of the type of leadership, be it of believers of the unbelievers, IF there is a CARELESS attitude or orientation in the timely drive of the affairs of the society, it is IRRESPONSIBLE. It can only become so and still qualify as condemnable if the leader is Insensitive, Ignorant or Hypocritical. Leadership requires to be timely and consistent. But a leader or leadership in comma cannot be conscientious because it is not conscious.

A leader or leadership that DELIBERATELY ignores timeliness in the governance of society is worse than wicked. A leader or leadership that is deliberately so, is worse than unfortunate. And in Islam, it applies to all levels of leaders, in the family, in the neighbourhood, between friends, in the group, in the profession, in organizations, in the public, in governance – where a believer is involved. And it does not matter, whether it is in the relationship with fellow believers or not. That is Justice and fairness.

HOW AND WHY IS NOT KEEPING TO RESPONSIBLE LIMITS IN OUR PROSPERITY PURSUITS A GROWING AND EXPANDING CHALLENGE TO OUR SINCERE BELIEFS? IS FREEDOM EVIL?

The basic standard for orderliness is the combination of consistency and keeping within the relevant boundaries. For example, it is not evil to hug a beloved and

even kiss. However, if the parties are son and mother, it may not exceed a hug. Between a husband and wife, a kiss can be inclusive. Between two male friends, a kiss will be absurd. Fuelling a Diesel engine with petrol will be both inconsistent and in abuse of the setting.

To be sure, it is not different with writing an academic paper. One will continue doing this to earn the status of a professor. When creativity is involved, the standard may suffer but not to be point of disposal of the entire standard. Not even in the arts. To do so will make one lose being understood. Standards are therefore critical for both communication and advancement.

It is the limits that make a form of freedom responsible or disciplinary. Since belief in God and what consists of faith have limits clearly defined, deviation in the course of freedom will not only amount to evident abuse but will generate whatever the limits are guarding against. For example, it is improbable in our setting, where fornication and adultery are strictly prohibited, to expect that orphans from these sources can be accommodated, without increasing fornication and adultery. The abandonment of marriage or making it difficult along with excusing the sanctions for them are the abuses of the limits. And the replacement of these with our discretionary expansion cannot save us from a confusing concept of the guidance. This is because in real practice, we have expanded the scope of freedom. An example of an inevitable window or implication is that, the mother of such a child born outside wedlock may be capable and caring to avoid the orphanage and keep the child. This is single parenting. And a magnetic product of this is the independence or freedom to deliberately choose to be an open and proud parent. We cannot possibly break the limits and not embarrass ourselves.

Like a free woman not interested in the implications of marriage ties but decides to have a child or children, a man can exercise freedom by breaking the same limits by having a doll that will not complain or make demands. But these

practices are not possible without the ideas and facilities being generated. The building of the materials and non-material blocks and thus the culture is actually generated by breaking the limits.

And because every believer is by compliance required to keep within the limits THAT ARE COMPULSORY TO BE KNOWN, the different spheres of life we are engaged in with different competencies exposes or challenges our keeping to the limits. Of course, because we live and work with those who do not have or share such limits to keep, our choices of supporting them is another level of challenge. For example, a believer scientist is unlikely to consider a human and animal hybrid. A non-believer can tolerate and work on the idea with the seeming good or innocent objective of raising easy and safe availability of human organs for transplant. The concern is that many genuinely sick people are in need and waiting and should not be allowed to just die. This has to be funded, laboratories have to be used and the successful products have to be used. In this chain, believers are not expected to partake. But if any does, it boosts the culture. This is why the Prophet said, the producer of alcoholic drink, the marketer, the consumer, etc. are all involved in the sin.

Sincere beliefs are thus not in isolation of upholding them in our livelihood. Take another example in the relationship between a public leader and an aide who handles his handset. The duty of the aide is to record calls and keep the leader informed for deciding on answering or making a return call. But if the aide blocks a contact number without the instruction of the leader, he has exceeded his limits. If it is with the express consent of the leader, he has broken the requirement of him to be plain and transparent. And it is worse where the leader personally lacks the skill to do the blocking. This is because if by chance the contact reaches the leader with another number and it gets blocked again, the aide may be evil but the leader has double responsibility.

INDISPUTABLE INDICATORS OF THE ‘LIVING GAP’ TO BE FILLED

Our present generation of believers heavily suffers from a connected belief in God with our livelihood. Our beliefs are generally often isolated from our livelihood because we hold and live separately for immediate convenience. We identify with the belief in God but it does not reasonably and sensibly drive our well-being.

Not necessarily All believers, but most certainly most leaders who are believers are proofs of this Reserved or Limited belief in God and His Living attributes. The majority who are excluded from this identity of POVERTY are the NEEDY against those who either have the responsibility or choice of GIVING.

The scope of leaders here cover any and all levels of relationships where the Need, Want or Fancy of the other party rests on the responsibility or choice of the other. It may be between two persons like husband and wife, wife and husband, parent and children, siblings, friends, neighbours, associates, acquaintances, teacher and student, employer and employee, travellers, in an association, a group, private organization, public organization or between a public leader and the members of the society.

The modest and considerable calculation here is that, in the ranks of leaders, it is probable that out of every hundred, three may be exceptions. That is, the three will be ‘dead’ in this Living death pervasive among believers. One of these is the one that will be ready to make a commitment, limited to expression, consistent with belief in God, but is not possibly true or cannot be realized, because he may have this ability only because he actually lacks what to commit to God or for the sake of God. This is common among those who have had the means but no more. And it is easier with those who have nothing or obligations to give.

For example, in real livelihood, it is more intelligent to rate an honest person only when he is entrusted with what he can choose to abuse. The person who has passed through such process and passed is therefore more qualified to make rational and sensible evaluation and give guidance. That is, by giving or on giving. This is why employers harp on cognate experience. This means that the weight of evaluation or capacity and rulings by those who lack such exposure is of limited value. Thus it is very possible for such persons to condemn the failure or inability of a leader in giving easily. And it can rise to the level of rascality where one who had similarly failed earlier, is eager to condemn the same failure by another person. It is not different, where the person submits that a failure or inability is absolutely or unacceptably irresponsible and the very same person is given the opportunity or burden and fails to fail less. He can even fail more. The weakness of this rank of belief is that it is over ambitious. Its rightness is almost always, subject to a further reference or evaluation. This is why an accused is held to be innocent until convicted. As a result, the combination of belief and wishful giving is soothing and positive only because it is harmless BUT does not serve.

The second is the one who will go beyond verbal or express commitment. He will act out the commitment with more than safe security. The superiority of this rank of faithful is that he is responsive within easy limits. For instance, one party is in need of food or provisions for a household at a cost of ten thousand and the party asked for has a means of regular one hundred thousand. It is safe and secure for the giver. He can and will indeed give. This middle status qualifies him to reliably evaluate others and make superior commitment and actually oblige. It is ordinarily expected that one who can care for a few voluntarily is possibly reliable to care for more and more as a responsibility. However, the drawback of this rank is that, they may also fail even though they are clearly better than the first. The failure can be moderate or tolerable and it can be hazardous. Consequently the

combination of belief and giving for the sake of Allah is positively expressed and experienced at this level between a leader who is a believer and any person that is the other party. This one or percentage clearly differs from the earlier one, out of every hundred.

The third, is the one who will go headlong to make reasonable and sensible commitment and put it behind as a sacrifice or for a return benefit. The characteristics of this class of believers is that, they are more than contented with whatever level of provisions in their possessions or really have more than reasonable surpluses at their disposal for discretionary adventures. And those that belong here are not necessarily materially rich. It is their belief in God that drives their scope or level of responsiveness. The best example is the case of the Prophet who was given a piece of clothen. He put it on and liked it. A companion then asked for it and he gladly gave it to him.

In effect, it is the second and third that are really of useful belief, for the material prosperity of our livelihood. The first is of spiritual value to himself and safety value to the society. On them or their shoulders rest the bearing of the burden of ALL others. The extent to which they can responsibly carry out their historical role is defined by two factors. The first is what they are OBLIGED to make available. In Islam this is covered by the science of Zakat. This reasonably and sensibly checks our inclinations of greed, selfishness, etc. The second is covered by what is VOLUNTARILY made available. This is charity. And there is reward for both by investment and cleansing of sins.

This is what brings in AUTHORITY. The informal or unwritten and the formal, in the forms of rules, regulations and laws, whether statutory or not. The purpose of authority is to ENSURE that the very same Needs, Wants and Fancies are met TO BASIC LEVEL ACROSS EVERY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER of those to be catered for. Differences above the basic level is the management of poverty. The

public leader who therefore symbolizes the entire society as a Trustee is accordingly vested with the POWERS of necessary adjustments, rewards and sanctions to enable achievement of our collective safety and prosperity.

THE PRESENT BELIEFS STATUS IN OUR LEADERSHIP

All believers are satisfied that God is real and submitting to Him is the standard of livelihood for safety and prosperity in this world and in the hereafter. This very same God is the Originator of space, time, all things and the Enabler of any feasible processes. For that reason, to Him belongs the singular and absolute RIGHT of worship. This worship is characterized by submission to His Guidance for our preferred good. In Islam, the summary is in Knowing the attributes of God and acting them out as applicable between a believer and other creations. It reaffirms that man is privileged to act as a positive vicegerent of his Creator. For instance, he is to be compassionate, merciful, and generous just as he will be firm and just, inside out or overtly and covertly, with himself and in his relationship with God and others – covering all creations.

However, in our relationships, the status and seriousness of our beliefs and submission is degenerating to the level of a caricature. This is revealing for example, in our employment of *In Shaa Allahu*. Whereas, the provision or instruction is to Remind the believer that along with his best efforts, the permission of Allah will ENABLE, it is often a deliberate escapist excuse. I personally observed a public leader using it in response to a scholar who asked to meet him. Maybe he thought that the scholar was in need of him. He never reverted and actually lost the guidance he could have gotten to make bearing of his burden lighter. This is the least price of arrogance, to the society. The responsible requirement is for the leader who had the burden of reaching back to make earliest and utmost effort. The general orientation of leaders at any level in the abuse of the practice of this principle, has built up two negative attributes

among believers (the majority) who fall into need relationships with such leaders, who are dangerously playful with the guidance of Allah. First, it is gradually imbibed as an unserious principle for practice and becomes so popularly transformed. Secondly, attachment of God to an affair is wilfully employed for deceit. How can a society of believers that are milled or driven in this way make either improving believers or their getting closer to Allah?

The indication of this cultural and spiritual degeneration is evident in the relationship between beggars and other citizens. A beggar approaches a believer and asks for help or charity FOR THE SAKE OF ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER. Because, they are the pillar of a Muslim's belief and worship, he is logically expected to suspend or abandon everything and attend to the beggar, to his utmost. This is the standard. But what is our culture on this? If the beggars get this kind of required response, will they be reducing in number? Do we not see fake beggars moving from one point and even Mosque, to another? This dangerous carelessness has generated two negative implications. The first is not being moved by the connection of the need for help and God. The second is the dangerous implication of ignoring whoever so asks on personal discretion because God should be out of it. This trade of begging is not accommodated by Islam. The danger is evident, from the experiential relationship defined above. But these people have evolved because of the failure of leaders to carry out their responsibilities as required. Hence it is a self-embarrassment of the leaders to write laws of banning them or arresting for keeps, only to be away from major streets. They are EQUAL members of the society deserving attention and organization for meeting basic needs, wants and fancies.

Indeed, it is not different with swearing. Committing an oath, using the name of Allah is now an issue only if it will be after performing ablution. This rascality is popular with the lowly – those in trading relationships. And there are worse people who swear without even the need to cheat or tell the truth. It has become

like BELIEVE ME or an exclamatory remark of OH GOD by an unbeliever. The negative implications are the same, in our human relationship and the spiritual fall, in relation to God.

The promises made for each other or between ourselves and especially by a leader are NO LESS DESTRUCTIVE. This is because Allah is the witness and believers are greatly prohibited against telling lies, breaking promises and betrayals. It is these three that qualify such believer to be a hypocrite. But in our times, a careless leader can be so dangerously lowly as to even express to someone he had told lies twice and betrayed, that if he tops it with another, he will qualify for a hypocrite. This does not stop him from committing another lie. The cumulative implications of this, is shredding mutual trust between men and distancing from the mercies of Allah.

With these sample characteristics of our belief in God, that is the topmost and final, it is only logical or consequential that the thread of unity for strengthening one another will not only weaken but will cut into pieces and begin to lose out. And this is unfortunately pervasive across the believers. It has affected knowledge seeking or its teaching, the foundation for a decent society.

The knowledge and discipline of what is right and true, that is COMPULSORY for the guidance of every believer is NO MORE FREE. It has been monetized. And the spirit is, in the name of Allah. This has been coloured with certifications, based on curricula and literature. The consequential window of establishing new or additional schools according to availability of money by the rich, to whoever they find attractive, has promoted literature evaluated in disconnect of the unity of studies and learning in the Ummah. The claimed intention and objective is FOR THE SAKE OF GOD. One God, different leaders and can even restrict members from following Imams in prayer that is not of one. And nobody is

making any effort to enlighten believers on this JUST AS no believers care about this bastardization process.

If knowledge is corrupted, what will be the fate of leaders who are believers and are entrusted with authority? With this culture of nominal belief in God supported with convenient compliance in different shades, how is the Unity of Allah affirmed? As a result, it is not uncommon or uneasy for leaders who are believers to turn into rogues with resources entrusted to them. Where they are not rogues, they could be so prejudiced laced with audacity or even combine it with roguery. And it does not matter whether they do so in their name, those of family members or distant fronts. Indeed, the master strategy of turning away from cautioning an abusive lieutenant and later ENJOYING the fruits of the permitted corruption is no less unfaithful. It makes leadership trend towards oppression and the followers getting hopeless. One who abandons God and has no lesser option will certainly be worse than a non-believer. This is because he will be unpredictable.

The same culture of playing with the belief and misuse of the name of God shreds the material enforcement of believers. It is close to unlikely to have a believer who is endowed to easily support ANYTHING for the real sake of Allah, which will necessarily benefit or serve humanity. Indeed, the clearest indicator is the orientation of NOT supporting or investing in knowledge matters. Like the believers who are in public leadership, building knowledge is not a priority. Indeed, how many of them read? Writing is a closed expectation. But leaders who have been model leaders have often written books. If our leaders who are believers have not written books, how many of them have supported the writing of books or publication of books? This is because with time, enlightenment on new developments in society is necessarily required. It is the principles that are constant. The closest they may get is to grace the launching of a book. And they are stronger with biographies of one of them. It is therefore out of the way to assert that knowledge has been completed. When knowledge is not supported,

what will be the fate of inter personal material needs? They will be more or better responded to, but not connected to the belief since it is cheaper, easier, immediate, and NOT bordering on knowledge development. The rascal disposition is that, religious knowledge is for scholars. Indeed, religion is reduced to the rites, rituals and cannons, with a growing specialists assuming the status of religious leaders.

This is why and how we have been losing compassion, mercy, discipline, Justice, etc. even when the leader is a believer. But a new culture is developing. Believers who are careless, corrupt and indulgent in the major sins are evidently seen to be materially prospering. They even compete and beat unbelievers. The commoners gradually get their perception and faith transformed into something different. The leaders inevitably aid the destruction of the faith because all promotions and ‘supports’ to ‘religion’ by ways of building mosques or sponsoring pilgrims are done with the proceeds from the abuse of trust. This complex weaving of a new standard is what hypocrisy and confusion thrive on.

This Living Gap in our practice of our beliefs is **WHAT WE NEED TO KILL**. It is the killer of our faith and igniter of our failures and conflicts.

We must know that faith is a gift and not our creation. We have the choice or option to accept and live it as given. We also have the direct opposite choice of rejection and answering for it. To tamper with the gift to suit us may ‘serve’ us but will not qualify as the faith. It will hence amount to self-deceit to expect that any adjusted version will give the promised safety and prosperity in this world and in the hereafter. The present general orientation of ‘careful’ living with belief in the omnipotence of God and our submitting to our convenience is both our making by failure and the generator of the increasing threat to those who are still in position of such careful connection. Therefore when a needy is avoided, promised and betrayed or out rightly sent away, the confusion and distaste that follows it is a micro reflection of our collective leadership failure. The popularity

of blocking contacts, switching of phones off, security barricades, etc. are logical or inevitable products of overweight on the informal as a result of the failure of public leadership.

The loose explanations of fate and end times is grossly inconsistent and irresponsible because the basic POSSIBLE ACTIONS have not been committed. The required CONSCIOUSNESS is not there, the connectivity between belief and livelihood is now a game of chance or convenience.

And it does not change Allah or His Guidance.

PART III

TEACHERS' QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In the opening of your website on Leading Us For All Of Us, you introduced the idea of saving ourselves from the negative repeat of our leadership crisis by avoiding another REPLACEMENT. Can you highlight on this?

Fine. We cannot dispute that we have been having leaders in this country. And we have never resisted any of them by a nation-wide protest. Each had been responsibly welcomed. And it did not matter whether by the ballot box or by the gun. Specifically, whatever disagreements or reservations anyone, group or sections had, it got buried in the greater or overwhelming approval. Not even the leadership of Abacha that some may want to make an exception is right. Abacha was not resisted like Ojukwu, and he died in office. He was effectively succeeded.

None of these failed to ‘achieve’ additional projects and services during his tenure. The records of our history cannot deny them these, regardless of how scanty or little. Indeed some of them are respected for non-physical projects that are rated as outstanding just as some are condemned for failing in similar respect. For example, Gowon takes reconciliation credit for the unity of this country. Obasanjo and Abubakar for handing over to civilians. Goodluck for saving bloodshed against his personal ambition and accepting defeat before it was formally announced. Ibrahim for dis-enabling the realization of June 12 results after a fruitful election.

But we are increasingly failing or dropping in our satisfaction with our leaders. The popular definition of our history is the presentation of the past as better and that the solution lies in returning to the past. But this is clumsy because it is suggestive of starting with eliminating any positive differences. It is therefore extremely difficult or even impossible.

However, we have inevitably consistently dressed the leaders with the failures because they are the symbols that personified the respective leaderships. Sometimes we define the material drawbacks like the volume of indebtedness,

cost of living, the number of facilities, competencies or the maintenance and improvement of these. At other times (that is more regular), we express regrets and pains with personal evident betrayals, characterized by unexplainable or unforgivable post-leadership material status, enabled by TAKING ADVANTAGE. Indeed, it does not excuse projects that can serve people. For example, Ota farm, the presidential library and Bells university are identified with Obasanjo along with the institution of ‘drops’ or ‘ghana must go’ monetary gestures. Ibrahim’s is more colourful. The high turn-over of ministers, Minna drainage heaven, saving Federal University of Technology from being merged like many others, from the onset, the parcel bomb, the culture of consuming financial gestures, risks of death and Mafioso network funded by a mysterious system. Abubakar has the bearings of keeping the promise of returning to civil rule along with the mysterious logistics of containers alleged to be stocked with currency. Jonathan has the scratch of takeaway suit cases alleged to be stocked with currency along with a smooth transition of power to the opposition. Abacha has the most darkly painted picture, perhaps because he had to manage the stiffest transition process. He is a certified rogue of our resources because his family resisted accepting that they cannot inherit all that are associated with him. His close aide’s explanation that it was a strategy to avoid the corporate opposition he was facing from Europe and the United States was ‘abused’ by the stand of the family. Abacha confronted the decadence of the civil service by raising the security of its members with a more responsible funding of pension and replacing Touring Advance with Duty Allowance. This was even with resistance to intellectual civil opposition. Obasanjo ‘rested’ on these by cushioning Ibrahim Jimoh and introducing contributory pension along with a poor and costly public service reform. Abacha generated public service accommodation infrastructure in Abuja that was subsequently partly stolen away. On infrastructure, the records of the defunct Petroleum Trust Fund is clearly the most accountable in the history of Nigeria. And Abacha initiated the development of nuclear technology under

cover. The key operative suffered stroke and died because of later pretence and denial by the government.

This is the character of the history and culture Buhari has to manage, along with his similar previous records. Under Obasanjo, he has established refineries as well as the loss of billions that have not been traced to his benefit. As Head of State, it was a gruesome history of militarized Justice and War Against Indiscipline. The short duration was a saving grace from unsure life to condemn the dissatisfactory mixed experience of some achievements and corruption. Of course, Abacha recognized what he was freely and independently capable of doing. He gave him the burden of spending the Petroleum Trust Fund and his outing remains much more positive than the negative drawbacks.

For that reason, we logically and sensibly decided overwhelmingly, as decided on having Buhari lead us again. Obasanjo led the way. Soyinka gave the benefit of the doubt. Tinubu assured the Awoists. Okorochoa saw the cause of investment for dividends to be drawn by south east, in the future politics of Nigeria. Ameachi showed what Buhari and Northern leaders had done in south-south to settle the failures of Jonathan. North-east concluded that with him insurgency is closed. North-west will enjoy yet another running of the country. North-central will not mind. Goodluck made it easy. What else did Buhari require that he did not get MORE of it? But before midway to his two terms, Obasanjo tried a coalition resistance approach, which was politically naive. Along with Ibrahim, they sang THE YOUTH that continues to be a mirage. The Awoists simply reaffirmed their NO SURPRISE. Tinubu is no more believed to be useful. Amaechi concentrates on his assignment tactfully. South-east wishes that they had taken the prophetic guide of Rochas but Okorochoa is initiating a movement. The crime of Jonathan was leaving the coffers empty with some debts. The present status is both embarrassing and immoral. Insecurity is not ad hoc. There is no sincere person who will understand Buhari's cry out that: he has now learned that Nigerians are

not appreciative, because as he is doing his best some people will be looking for his faults.

IF we can slide to this woeful situation, something is critically wrong that JUST ANOTHER LEADER WILL NOT BE A SOLUTION. Changing or Replacing Buhari should thus not be an intelligent way forward. The promises of material achievements can't be the right standard or term for a fulfilling difference. It is even of greater concern, now that the drawbacks of Buhari is building the notorious belief that the likelihood of a decent leader to succeed is between hopeless and slim. This is my alert.

You strongly expressed the opinion that the authorized biography of Buhari will urgently or necessarily require to be updated, maybe before half of his second term is used up. Are you contemplating doing that?

No please. It is rather an open invitation to those who use biographies to convey messages and for their readers. This is how they can genuinely contribute to our search for solutions, beyond being part of the problem. It will also place it within the context of real history. For those of us who cared to read it, the records of the background of Buhari and what he can be associated with as a personality were fairly captured. However, the records of what were on course and the expected results were wishes that have turned out to have been ambitious. It has turned out to be as good as soothsaying. Not updating it will qualify it for right dismissal as a useful reference. For his biography to serve us, the records he has made must be related to our dashed expectations, in order to seek for an understanding of why and how he has failed, in order to attempt a deliberate difference in the last part of his tenure. The best alternative to this will be to write an autobiography at the end of his tenure.

And he should improve on similar equal attempt by providing a system-guide as against an administrative commentary. And it needs not take eternity for obvious fear or shame of intelligent contradictions.

It will be difficult to dispute that his coming and tenure is the most critical in the history of this country since independence. He is the most welcome, the most supported with love, understanding, in pain and the most competitive with our experiential failures that surpass our understanding and acceptance. His will certainly be worth it because some of our opportune leaders have really nothing to write about.

The connection between leadership and a leader is clearly inevitable. You also appear to want the personality of the leader to rise to that of leadership as a solution to the present consequences of this disconnect. It may not be stupid to ask why it is necessary because of the experiences we are going through, but the leader has more than enough constitutional, political and institutional provisions or resources to guard even a daft from total failure.

No doubt. But this is only on the surface of it. Take the constitutional provision to have ministers from across the states and the federal capital. It is most unlikely for any elected president to constitute a PERFECT team. The factors that will come into play include the political structure, political chieftains, relationships the leader has developed, interests groups, contributors to his political success etc. But all of these are subject to two relationships process. The one is the perception of the personality of the leader by the sponsors or platforms managers and the possible respect for this. If any sponsor is ignorant of the personality of the leader, the care for respect or disrespect does not arise. And the reception of such by the leader will equally depend upon his knowledge of rating of the sponsors. Where he is equally ignorant, the question of respect and rating becomes of secondary value. This is why persons outside a political constituency

can influence choices beyond their own. You can for instance expect Buhari easily welcoming a nomination by a close ally who certifies that someone is never in a haste to spend money in trust. He will protect such to the last. This will easily add up with the few he personally knows and believe in. In the end, the degree to which he makes his team will be balanced by what he will LEAVE to another, others, etc. to determine. The personality of the leader is therefore critical in building up his general competence. So it is not impossible for a leader to pick someone from the blues and add value to his leadership, provided his personality is clear. This was what late Lawal Isa agreed with in his interaction with Abacha, when Abacha indicated that he had not worked with Buhari to know him personally, but will love to work with him. Buhari was contacted and agreed, PROVIDED his assignment will not be interfered with. Abacha accepted and kept his word, without even spying from behind. The peculiar challenge of a leader in evaluating the reliability of a relationship recommendation rests on the integrity of the person. Thus, if the person is loaded with ulterior motives or objectives, such rascality will affect whatever intention of the leader may be. And this can be strong, without being discovered by the leader except he is alerted.

Take the case of the office and authority of a leader. He finds a project or appointment in process, with all the requirements completed except execution. An impersonal leader will simply evaluate the value of benefit if executed. The spirit of continuity is therefore non-partisan. It saves the cost of abandonment and initiating another one. It also saves the time of denying the polity, the benefit of the project or appointment. It is not different with a policy, law or report. This is the explanation for the experiential difference and heavy costs of the Petroleum Industry Bill against the Abuja-Kaduna rail project. Assuming Obasanjo had made the oil and gas reform as he found the basis on the ground, the prospect of less than thirty years benefits from now would be in addition to the period between his tenure and now. And if the present government was able to do it as

it sang before assuming office, the costs will be less. However, the leaders involved, across the stakeholders, legislators, ministers, organizations, etc. have not been able because of their personality attributes, relationships and management by the leaders of the National Assembly and the President. Institutions are given life by the operators and perform according to the leadership. This was the kind of credit Fashola gave to Late Abba. That he ensured the dedicated funds from Abacha recoveries for the three legacy projects flowed. This is positive, but what is the business of the office of Abba with flow of funds?

On the political plane, the party of the leader will inevitably also relate with the opposition, whether in the legislature or outside. The leader has the responsibility of demonstrating leadership beyond partisan identity because both parties have rights of attention, participation and contributions. Opposition cannot be always evil just as allies cannot be always right. And the challenge is greater in respect of allies, especially with lieutenants who push the leader to play god, at the expense of destroying the polity.

Do we not observe, when we witness and experience that, with a good leader and leadership the other ladders of leaders and leadership exhibit good faith and practices? For example, at group or corporate level, members can easier get understanding and support for sorting themselves out on safety and prosperity at that level? Between individuals, ‘strangers’ come to the aid of one another in support of the national leader because they are personally connected to his goodly nature and leadership or because they are spiritually connected to his outlook and orientation? In a society where these collapse, everyone is ‘genuinely’ prioritizing personal and family safety and such supports are connected to advertorial invitations or publicity, the leader has failed. Even the family institution gets wounded. The leader will openly and proudly say that his children can go to the best schools because he can afford them. The one who tries to do better will take

his kid to a model public school. The leader is more isolated and different from the majority of the citizens in the opportunities and the qualities of these, that are his burden. Why should others not take advantage?

As a result the connection and even transformation is necessary for historical development. It is the height of audacity to publicize such contradictions and highest form of hypocrisy to admire it or support it by lieutenants. What is wrong and a failure cannot be right and be a success, no matter the wools of coverings.

You have given major credence to continuity between generations which may appear not to be necessary because age is not a barrier to progress just as knowledge is not attached to age. In fact, the older generation is running out of date. So why your stand, from your choice of those who write foreword to your books?

It may appear so. Chronological age is truly not sufficient. It has to have built up value. It is therefore right that useless age cuts across all generations. But this is as far as relevance for moving forward is concerned.

However, my interest and attraction relates to those with built up valuable age characterized by taste and commitment to change or innovation, something new or different that is superior to the status quo and corrective of pending mistakes. Not many people are in this class, in every generation. The advantage of age in this specific respect has to do with the living discipline of the person. This is over the young. It is not like producing a new or superior equipment. Such production is required, in this case, to be related to a GOOD EXAMPLE. And the definition of a good example cuts across FITTING into what is established as RIGHT, covers the uplift of members on FAIR AND JUST terms and builds HONOUR for respectful modelling by the young.

Every member of the society aspires for improvement. And this necessarily requires to rest on what is currently available, which may only be related or actually having the same characteristics. For instance, peace is related to economic development but is different in the way subsistence agriculture is related to mechanized farming. The knowledge required for either is a build-up over time. Innovations in the facilities employed for either are gradually recorded and transmitted as the foundation. Nevertheless, the growth and development of these is impossible without the control of how they will goodly benefit or serve people ACCORDING TO THEIR IDENTITY. A current historical example is the herdsmen and farmers conflict. The specific or peculiar process and mode of managing it without cutting down on the present level of services and absorbing the identities of the two parties is not a straight affair. While knowledge of what obtains in other places can be instructive, the ABSORPTION depends on the integrity of the leader, with the parties and other citizens. This integrity is a combination of personal knowledge, beliefs, recommended skills, tools and resources to be invested and the processes of achieving the objectives. It is consequently true that the terms of or for leadership can be learned BUT only partly, because with time the adjustments will need to be understood and admitted before the recordings will be usefully made available for fresh learning. This is what informed the struggling for independence followed by the writing of a constitution and amendment to it.

Leadership is uncommonly everybody's taste, commitment or interest even though it affects everyone. A leader who has this taste is best suitable for leadership. Where and when he happens not to be concerned or have such capacity, he deserves support.

Those who have consciously passed through their history are most fitting for such roles. Dead woods who ate, drank and slept to their optimal capacities are more beneficiaries than conscious participants. They are least useful for reference.

Their happiness, frustration, prosperity or failures rests on what the leaders are able to make out of their common history. This is comparable to the motor in the vehicle.

The hope in humanity is that such persons do not have to have been at the top. To have been with the top is very sufficient. And they do not have to aspire to be at the top, which is often attractive to fools and more attractive to the ignorant. They are usually a few number in their generation, who are undoubtedly intelligent and disciplined even if they are not geniuses. They are the best resource base for visioning and missioning the immediate end distant future. Their great attribute is OBSERVING what is wrong by expressing it. Their greater attribute that combines with the first is QUESTIONING what is wrong by explaining, defining as well as possibly avoiding or not indulging in it. Their greatest attribute tops all of these by attempting to provide a solution. They are beneficially more comprehensive because they combine reality with beliefs or ideas. They may not strictly be confined to the older generation that is most entitled. Lesser can be from the old and yet least from the young.

It is therefore true and right that leadership applies to all spheres of life, be it knowledge, skill, politics, banking, research, agriculture, philosophy, armament, etc. This is why in Islam everyone is a leader and will be answerable for what is entrusted to him. But the leadership that leads all the others is the most critical. And whereas a leader in any sphere may be opportune or burdened with this ruling leadership, suitability for it must be characterized by two attributes. The first is the committed care for tomorrow or the future of everybody. The second is that it will be rested on knowledge and discipline of what is on the ground. The least that is right for such leader is to sustain the quantum and quality levels and variety of what he met. But the expected requirement for every leader is to add value to what he met.

These have informed my success in the positive responses I got from the specific individuals. I must indicate that ALL of those in my age bracket that I reached, failed, along with a very few in the generation of Joda and Balarabe. And those in my age bracket are MORE read, MORE opportune, comparatively MORE exposed, etc. But are less committed to the future of ALL of us. Indeed, they are high readers and writers.

The essence of my choice of linkage is the quality of chronological age, on the issue or subject of leadership. If you take the connection that will serve, between a public or corporate leader and recording his activities, the age should be lower but with built up skill and competence in recording. This is easily applicable to secretarial duties. This will be different with an assistant who is required to handle the processing of the meanings of the records. While the age may be as that of the recorder by the period of schooling, it will be self-defeating if it is not topped up with experiential exposure in managing the meanings of records. The best you can get from such misplacement is physical transmission of records most suitable for a Messenger, personal entertainment that is private and massaging of dirty prejudices. Unfortunately, the real inevitable negative is, corruption by manipulating of the opportunity and betrayal, to raise personal levels of safety and prosperity. This is inevitable because the role will be consuming as it is overwhelming and his personality development in physiological needs will be defined by the environment he finds himself as against where he properly belongs. This is why accordingly, the greatest misfortune that can befall a leader who is required to be impersonal, to build up his leadership with an old man in age who is undeveloped by being in physiological needs trappings. Like a child, the rascal can make a point with informal tools like flattery or weeping, to the leader. He can satanically make the leader feel safe by cautioning him against right things to achieve a prejudicial objective. The worst misfortune that can befall a leader is to be caged by a combination these misfits. The leader will

ordinarily be most stressed to achieve little because he will be wallowing in sweet confusion.

If such combination will be destructive of governance, you can only imagine if such combination is to be the reference for knowledge generation or guidance from challenges to solutions of society. It will be worse than developing prostitution for believers in God.

You have given credit to Questioning. We all appreciate that this can be valuable and is also equal to the suspicion that it can be harmful. What is your context of rating?

The cause or root of questioning is to know, to understand, by getting clarification or answers FOR GUIDANCE, where leadership is the issue.

A leader will not only be required to differ from what is or can be considered as wrong, because his primary responsibility is to be true and right. He must also be open to being understood and carry along, those who are wrong or in the wrong. The ultimate challenge and objective is to remain true, right and keep expanding these. And he will rarely be the best fitting or suitable leader.

The fallout from these setting is that, he will require to continue improving for the benefit of all by attracting or pooling together truth and right knowledge by disciplined people and converting those who are ignorant and short of discipline to increasing good. This is the guidance leadership grants in society.

This is not possible where the leader is Closed to or Barricaded from Questions. And this can happen, where those who ask RIGHT questions are placed in a state of fear or threat by ambitious or abusive use of authority. The benefit that will be risked is making the leadership responsible. Fortunately, the collective interest of safety and prosperity is not for private discretion. The personalization of this is irresponsible even in autocratic, dictatorial or monarchical systems. What is

required to distinguish these systems and make them positively competitive with other labels is bearing of the collective identity of the society.

What is right for all is therefore not to be mistaken by both the leader and the society. Where this is not clearly or sufficiently established by knowledge and discipline, that will remain the priority of the leader and leadership. The less it is in this capacity, the more miscreants will crop up to compete with what is different or numerous variations. This is the typical definition of what we are experiencing in Nigeria. It is therefore laughable to hear an appeal like: we welcome positive criticism. There has to be enough explanations or better explanations to dwarf or drown misunderstandings, to justify ignoring them or punishing them if they are deliberately resistant. This is why merely ignoring them does not only make them thrive but weakens the leadership.

What can therefore make questioning harmful or questionable is when, where and how the question departs from achieving the improvement of common beliefs, knowledge, discipline or goal. In China questioning does not extend to what the communist party has decided. This is because they have established that it is most reasonable and sensible for every and all citizens of China to wilfully submit to the decisions of the communist party. The members of the party are sufficient to ensure the choice and guidance of their leadership. In Saudi Arabia there can be no contemplation of having freedom of nudity in any street or organization. This is because it is out of what is accepted and abuses what is established as right.

The leader and leadership is required to embody the truths that are right and pursuance of their maintenance, spread and advancement, for the collective safety and prosperity of the society without negative disadvantage or destructive discrimination, against any one individual.

There is no system or arrangement of society that excludes questioning in its historical development. The more a leadership is true and right the less useless or

unnecessary questioning will become attractive. Rather, it can generate developmental questions. It is questionable not to attend to questions or to indicate interest in being selective.

Do teachers not teach and students learn that salvation is the ultimate goal and the means or tools to attaining it are truth and practices? Do children constantly ask parents the connection between these in their daily lives? What of members or staff of organizations asking the seniors and leaders? Are the leaders questioned on the connection with the ultimate? Are there Times or Aspects of our livelihood that are Free from these connections? WILL BELIEVERS BE IN THE PRESENT STATE AND ORIENTATION if we ask this connective question ESPECIALLY on matters that we doubt or do not understand? If the family and organizations are straight, will it be as difficult or more difficult for the leader to LEAD? This is the connection between a Leader and Questioning for leadership and across the society.

How does the book A LEADERS' COMPANION contribute to the development of leadership capacities and skills?

This is an easy inclination or interest in our seeming modern times that bears ignorance, naivety or disregard for total truth. It approaches or presents possible fulfilling livelihood with a scientific template. The peculiar identity of Science is that it is as discoverable as shareable or transferable by whoever and is fairly predictable even as it is subject to change with time and new improvements. The most qualified is mathematics and understanding of societies strive to attain similar attributes in order to qualify as scientific. But even mathematics reduces the living and dynamic phenomena to the status of death before it can achieve its admirable status. And the more dead the phenomenon is the fancier the process of analysis. If the phenomenon is not absolutely reduced to variables that remain constant, the quality or status level of probability is admitted. And this is

considered STILL BETTER but without bothering to define the cost of a superior alternative understanding.

For example, politics is reduced to a SYSTEM. The parameters are structures and processes, with institutions and the definitions of the role of each in relation to the others. Like for arithmetic, additions raise the level of variables and the quality accordingly because the unit of each variable remains constant. Political parties are therefore of the same quality in composition and orientation even if they differ in approach. The votes of citizens are of the same quality by consciousness of the voters. The decisions of the delegates are therefore on the same comparable scale. As in the United Kingdom so is it in the United States and therefore in Nigeria. Rigging is battled across though in different degrees and different forms. Politics can therefore be measured as good or poor or growing, the closer it gets to those who have been in it earlier. But that is the beginning of the failure of the truth and the blindness of such Science, such arrangements and the attendant capacities and skills WHEN ROPED INTO LEADERSHIP. It is worse than prostitution. For example, the ignoring of the content of the period the earlier starters went through is FRAUDULENT. And the indicator is the common reversal or qualifications of making the success of such packaging dependent on SILENT ASSUMPTIONS. One that has become gradually recognized is LITERACY. But this also ignores attendant technology that relates to the historical or cultural development of the society. For example, do the facilities like manifesto, posters, flyers and cards consider Arabic and Hausa literacy for teaming population literate in these terms? Indeed, how clearly or efficiently can candidates who differ communicate with them? Or who does not matter? With a questionable gap between the participants in communication, how can the measure or the practices be intelligently the same? The Nigerians that have made inroads into the politics of the United Kingdom or United States couldn't have achieved such without abandoning their 'differences' with the respective

environments. How Kenyan is Obama politically in the United States to become its president? In addition to literacy, there is the more critical historical gap of IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT. This is the transformation that informs the consistent respect Obama has for same sex relationships and advancement to transgender. No Kenyan leader has ‘advanced’ to that level. The United States didn’t grow to be ruled by religion. The United Kingdom differed and is growingly pushing religion aside before behind. What such history has Nigeria? What is therefore CONSTANT about the attributes of a VOTE or VOTER in the application of the same science in Nigerian politics as in the United Kingdom and the United States?

Indeed, interestingly, we have witnessed embarrassing leadership to us from the United Kingdom and the United States. But we all practice democracy. Even more interesting is that the United States has experienced shades of embarrassing leaderships to its citizens and the world with Bush senior compared to Obama and Trump. The only consistent element across, is the discard of value for MANKINDNESS. Bush with Iran, Obama with gender and Trump with Palestine/Israel. Russia is not a playground because the risk is high for the insane. While it was clear as with China for Trump, the test-run with North Korea appeared to be in a dream when he awoken.

Leadership is therefore BEYOND the skills and capacities that will be pencilled down for guaranteed progression. This is because it is required to stand above all both rationally and sensibly – even though the leader is one out of the many. For example, security is now recognized as a paramount requirement for nationhood. I even heard Obasanjo said Buhari has no excuse to fail on security but may probably be tolerated on economy and foreign affairs. It is laughable. Firstly, uniform service is a security service IN USE but does not provide security knowledge. That is what makes the security services within them elitist. This is why retired members go for training to give security service. This is why there

can be no personal competence difference between Obasanjo and Buhari because they only have shooting to kill as their specialty. This is why the personality of Late Abacha will instruct that such a degenerate level of security is inconceivable. This is why Putin that was in the secret service can be more organized in dealing with such. This is why Benjamin and any non Mossad head of Israel can be different. This is why it is unthinkable to be an illegal immigrant into China. A leader requires more than any personal skill he had already acquired. SECURITY covers virtually EVERYTHING. Who says and how can security be isolated from economy and foreign affairs? We cry over kidnapping and insurgency. Is unemployment not a security factor? Have we not heard of food security even if we do not know what it means? Is indebtedness not abuse of financial security or independence? This is why a leader who believes that only soldiers can enable him to have a security report status will continue to face embarrassment because their capacity cannot rise above number of people that have been killed or rescued or saved from being killed.

The book is not a DO IT YOURSELF handbook of skills and practices for a leader. Leadership is a living and changing burden or challenge, for anyone who assumes that position and is ALIVE. The ingredients in the book are meant to ignite AN ORIENTATION that will enable a leader grow and prosper. It does not matter, the background training of the leader. The leader who is by background a finance expert can still fail.

One example I have highlighted for special guidance is, knowing the LIMITS TO KEEP. In a society of believers, the first step is to know whatever God has prohibited along with whatever God has instructed. This is the first and best platform for HUMANITY. Any abuse of this will introduce HUMANISM that is different. The one is according to the manual of the creator of man as against the second that is fashioned by man for himself or a group of themselves and imposed on others.

On these definitive limits, a leader is required to fashion other limits in the support and building of safety and prosperity for all. For example, everybody in Nigeria who needs shelter will continue to do so. It is only bankruptcy in a leader and leadership that will make this unattainable in a foreseeable future. China has done it. Russia has it. The limits in this case will be defined by the evaluation and operational requirements in our present circumstance. But who is the leader and what party, Legislature, Government has NOT considered HOUSING and how far have we gone? It is simply because, manifestos, budgets, parties etc. are in themselves NOT SUFFICIENT. The very same applies to EMPLOYMENT or EDUCATION. Is it for instance SUFFICIENT for a Secretary to the Government of Nigeria to say NO ONE WILL BE SAFE UNTIL THE WHOLE WORLD IS GIVEN TO CORONAVIRUS VACCINE? Is it ENOUGH to see the President and his Vice taking a shot on the screen? How much have we spent on the pandemic? How much more are we prepared to spend? What of our 'zero' capacity to help ANYONE with the symptoms or Certified infection? What about the following wave? This is one singular test of leadership.

The same applies to institutionalization. We are a country that recognizes the superiority of unity for development despite our colours or diversity. We have instituted FEDERAL CHARACTER in our constitution. But this is supposed to be a challenge to the leader as an interim or temporary means to melting into the SAFETY AND PROSPERITY OF ALL BY WHICHEVER OF THE COLOURS. Will it take for ever to achieve, IF WE START IT? Has any leader, party and government not kept to it? Have we all not been screaming between abusing it and abandoning it? This is the rascal culture of non-living leadership? Between 1999 and 2019, what have the governments achieved? We wail divisions or marginalization TOGETHER in the colours of our seeming disadvantages.

If in our public life, this character of leadership failure is painful, what of the expansion of such rascality in our beliefs or religious tenets? Do we not generate

and import the colours from across the globe to the point that the growing popular options are, to either fight within the same beliefs platform or against another? Are Boko Haram and Niger Delta Militancy not faces of the same coin of failure?

Leadership is the sign or evidence of independence. It gives and enhances the identity of the led or society. Each time and place has its own by what is sustained and built up, to enhance the identity of the society as against discard of what enhances the identity of the society.

What are the implications highlighted in the book for future planning as a leader?

These are fundamentally THREE. The first is that, the basic knowledge and discipline of what is right and true is COMPULSORY for every citizen, as a society of Muslims and Christians who are believers. It covers the entire period of livelihood from cradle to the grave. No single person or group is to be exempted or denied EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. And both the family, informal and corporate organizations are to be deliberately DRIVEN by these.

It therefore rests on the shoulders of a responsible leader to ASCERTAIN and ENSURE that the family institution is not disorganized. Anything to the contrary must be checked immediately and firmly. There is nothing like my family and THEIR families or not concerned about ‘interfering’ in family affairs. The acceptable limits for these MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND DISCIPLINE OF WHAT IS RIGHT AND TRUE. This is because no family can thrive in isolation of the society. As it cannot be allowed to be destroyed because it deserves protection, it will not be allowed to be the source of destroying others. No family shall be abandoned to be at the mercy of others just as others must not be at the mercy of one.

The second is to get this built on in and by every formal and informal organizations, for the continuous socialization of especially the young by the old and older, by increasing and transforming knowledge and discipline. While studies and books are critical, living them by orientation is the greatest and best teaching. Every and all acquisitions of skills, competences along with the respective knowledge must be seen to build the integrity of the identity of the society. Every commitment, advancement or innovation must ultimately strengthen the collective safety and prosperity of our identities.

The third is the massive and continuous education of the society to employ its identity as the mirror and standard for defining and evaluating others – individuals, groups, societies, events, issues, things, etc. And the leader is required to responsibly be AHEAD in this, in all circumstances, such that respect for him and the country will be consistently predictable.

These will be what will adjust, reform or transform every and all structures, processes, institutions, laws, policies, etc. that drive the society, Government and governance. It is this kind of status in principle and practices that makes Chinese women to walk around free and safe in the night or young girls bearing arms in Israel.

What requirements does the book emphasize that would lead to further development of the piety of a leader and his consciousness to governance?

These are two and related to each other. The first is continuous education by knowledge and discipline. And this does not mean registering for some courses to acquire some certificates. Anyone who does this will be taxing the personal time for rest and creativity. It will also inevitably cost the society waste of its resources. The simple reason is that you cannot turn into a public property and afford such luxury. It is neither impressive nor commendable.

The day to day exposure to the needs, wants and fancies challenges of the society should be the materials for his learning and teaching. With a fairly sound foundation of knowledge and discipline of what is right and true along with whatever sphere or type of knowledge and skill he has acquired competence for, a leader must not be closed to learning and teaching. One form is to be CONSCIOUS in the management of the challenges that confront him to resolve for society. A foolish one will not set the evident pace of this orientation, to instruct his lieutenants and associates of the terms for relating positively with him, in driving the society.

If this is not opportune, the leader will not possibly transform into a superior citizen in maturity even after his tenure. It will be the greatest misfortune of the society to have lost what it could have gained and unfortunate for the individual because he is the cause. This is how to measure the increased rate of aging of the leader, arising from generating optimal leadership out of the crisis, pressures and stresses of playing all the citizens in him. This is not possible when he stops or suspends reading, writing and discussing the knowledge and discipline of what is right and true OUTSIDE the routine bureaucratic machinery he operates. A leader is not a royal guard.

The difference between the public leaders who are lower in rank than him and himself is that they may still undertake training to enrich themselves, for his benefit. This is how the quality of his similar twenty four hours with every other citizen can be radically different. The more a leader is supported by strong lieutenants who have themselves stopped learning, the lower the prospect of their adding value to his governance process. This is why if his immediate lieutenants are unable or deliberately deny him such intelligent and responsible support, it will be undoing. They are either done away with or he will transform into a useless captive to them AGAINST his primary responsibility.

The second is his organized connection or association with those who are responsibly knowledgeable and disciplined. They may combine the two – of what is right and true along with their competence or just the competence BUT not a symbol of ignorance and abuse of what is right and true. As the leader of the society, he can invite or meet with these, because he needs them for the improved safety and prosperity of the society. Some of them may be very supportive by volunteering such knowledge. I recall the consistent memorandum on saving primary education that late Babs Fafunwa used to forward to the federal government. It was Babangida who took the responsible step to act on it. He invited Babs and his economist to talk to him. He weighed the fears of the economist against the costs of ignoring the messenger for primary education. He established the primary education commission and charged Fafunwa with assisting him. This is one of the most positive leadership commitments by him which subsequent leaderships failed to build and wean back to the local government levels. A leader who therefore isolates himself or is afraid of knowledgeable and disciplined people or associates will be the loser.

How can even a learned, disciplined and striving leader keep succeeding and improving on it without goodly association? Did Abubakar (RLA) at a critical point not encourage the Prophet (SAW) at *Badr*? Abubakar said Rasul should be patient as he has pleaded enough with Allah. Was Rasul not the recipient of the advice of the strategy to dig the trench? No one can see his face except through a mirror. Only a fool doomed to suffer and even fail in leadership will not care to connect with the knowledgeable and disciplined with humility. Allah who is strict, firm, accounting and is just can Rightly hold a leader for an audacity considered to be inconsequential. Only association can save the leader from destroying his trust by a goodly reminder, guidance or even warning. And a herd of ignoramus cannot do it. Recall when the Prophet (SAW) was being guided, by not assigning his ability to answer a question to Allah. He did not see Jibril (AS).

He was then told that he should always assign commitment, by the grace of Allah. Then he lost seeing him again. And he was advised that they are prohibited from entering abodes with life-like things as Allah has created. He then instructed that the door blind of his wife with pictures of a bird be taken away. What if a leader is emotionally touched by the cost of living or level of employment and promises to revert things? What if a leader who has tried severally and failed and then wins beyond imagination, and assigns it to his deserving victory by Allah? What do these mean, to a believer? If he has no one to ASK him on a serious note, and it was actually bored by belief in self, will he not be doomed? Or does he not believe that all affairs belong to Allah in their origin, process and end? What is the character of his belief in Qadr?

And this is often characterized by audacity, the combination of ignorance and arrogance. His actions will constantly be hypocritical and confusing, to himself and to the polity against the commendations of the foolish and wicked around him. One indicator is that of knowing it all. Thus, he will be blind, deaf and dumb to anything and anyone that is not pleasing to him.

The second indicator is that, in the circumstance where he reluctantly welcomes such persons, it will not be with honour and humility. It is as if he is doing the person a favour. Unfortunately, it is him who is more in need and should court such persons. This completely blocks out those who may either consider volunteering or accept the invitation or encouragement by others to do so. The inevitable costs of such isolation or pretentious relationships are **NON TRANSPARENCY, HYPOCRISY, INCONSISTENCIES AND WICKEDNESS** actually driven by Selfishness, Ignorance and Arrogance. He will accordingly become **UNPREDICTABLE** and **CONFUSING**, regardless of whatever goodly people he associates with. He resists knowledge and guidance in his seeming association because he does not **REALLY** believe. He wants to see Allah or an

Angel sent to him, to dissuade him from evil. Knowledge is superior to power except power is ruled by knowledge.

What might be the different achievements or expectations on the leadership of Politicians, Traditional and Religious leaders to ensure that the citizens experience a consistently high quality of national achievements and human developments?

To be impersonal. To be ruled by common discipline. To prioritize collective safety and prosperity informed by knowledge and discipline of what is right and true.

The first twin or related implications of leadership is that privacy is not to be extinguished but transparency need be sufficient for application to every and all members of the society. This implies that the liberty or privilege of ‘abuse’ of difference by the leader can be tolerated TO ACHIEVE A SUPERIOR OBJECTIVE. This means that discipline will not be abandoned because personal advantage is not being taken. This is why an approved leader in a restive environment can be granted more than ordinary security cover. This is different from where the leader is of a group that is trained and paid to resist disorder. The examples will be heads of oil companies working in Niger Delta, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Chief of Army Staff. The national leader is not to see them as competing with him.

The second is making private activities having ‘public’ value. This is why a leader will not see his friend walking by the road as he is driven passed and instruct the driver to park in order to pick the friend. It will accordingly be inconsistent to make abysmal gesture levels as a leader, in comparison to lower leaders, simply because your psyche aches with generosity. And it will be laughable to reward a distant person extremely higher, in comparison to a nearby person for the same kind of service. This is because a leader’s actions cannot be secret. There is no

way Nigeria, Ghana, Niger Republic, Senegal or Morocco will be disconnected from one another. Even without internet, people move further by interaction of trade or learning. A leader will be self-undoing by not being consistent in his personal relationship of responsibility with people. This is not to talk of making promises and not keeping, over and over or keeping with one and not with another. Leadership is not consistent with building two faces.

The essence of these is that, while strictly private or personal matters will suffer from moderation, the reward will get more than better pay IF he is not hypocritical. This explains the rational and sensible expression by the wife of Obama that, the GOOD of the presidency is enough. It will be different if the husband was after thieves selectively and grooming new thieves. The open democracy of the United States will discover the wounded and the president will lose his integrity before leaving office. In that case, the desire to complete his tenure and retire will neither be impressive nor count.

The greater part of the livelihood of a leader is to be more attracted to and genuinely committed to whatever is to enhance collective safety and prosperity, regardless of his personal trappings. In our case, it will not be funny, for a President to fall unconscious because he is required to approve payment of billions to someone he doesn't like, who has done a certified job for this country. It will be worse where a beneficial project will not be supported because it will cost more than what he believes should become the entitlement of the proposer. Indeed, it is not forgivable where he even restrains from offering his goodwill to enable the realization of the project for public good. If he wants to OWN all the resources that will add value to his governance in improving collective safety and prosperity, before he supports any projects, he has fallen asleep. Indeed, if he will only do so IF the originator or proposer is his relative in any closed terms of party membership, language, alumni, marriage, clan, he cannot achieve what is optimally possible.

The variation in degrees of requirements is according to the level of leadership one is occupying or burdened with. The family level is extremely critical, not because of its size but because of its foundation role in nursing and building good members. The ones at informal group level fall below those of corporate level. And the examples of political or traditional leaders fall in, all below the national leader. The religious leader is really a misnomer. Every person who is a believer has the personal responsibility of religious development. This means that the institutionalization of such is one of the burdens we have created and imposed on ourselves with inflictions. It is more appropriate to look at leaders in knowledge and discipline, leaders in authority and discipline, leaders in business and discipline. The proof is what we have as traditional leaders today that neither the people nor those so classified will welcome being mistaken for traditionalists, because we are believers.

The Question of APPLICATION. How do you go about institutionalizing the contents of these booklets as a template so that we can bring about changes into the system? In other words how do we develop a curriculum that will be implemented at different strata of our education system in this country?

I believe that the acceptance of the submissions is responsible for the taste to have the ideas in tangible experiential reality. Practices can get institutionalized over time if consistently stuck to. They can then get supportive structures and processes.

In this particular case, we are dealing with ALERTS or GUIDE POSTS that should fashion livelihood or personal orientation. Because it is a living package, the specifics can be changing from time to time. For example, teaching and learning can involve reproduction of study materials. This can be most blessed in the form of manual recopying of the original material, between a teacher and student. With time, writers can increase when they commit the original

manuscript to memory. With errors and additions or subtractions, editing evolves. The technology of mass production blows open the entire scenario. The skills and knowledge of these changes are to be SUBJECTED to the alerts in the course of their progression. For example, blood will not be accepted for use as ink. While animal skin and bones may be used, those of carnivorous animals will be excluded. The materials committed to memory by those known to understand the language of the material and live honest life will be most admissible as reliable.

As a result, it will take some reasonable time of consistent building up commitment across the board of all generations and all levels of leadership relationships. But the very first step is making the materials available as widely as possible and possibly even freely. This is what will enable a wide scope of reading and the increase of this, including discussions and criticisms. The best follow up will be supportive writings. Right now it is not that printing hard copies to make it available freely for some fifteen thousand individuals in every state and Abuja is too expensive to bear by one or a few leaders. The leaders will not read it or appoint their own to read them and advise them. The will of discretion to commit the resources is therefore latent. Indeed those who have read them do not yet have the zeal to commit their time and effort to engage those with the resources who will not read. And there are inhibitive factors like, those who should sponsor it have been subjected to criticism or the author is not one of us or will overshadow us, etc.

Indeed, a few of those who have cared to read them that I know, can decide to serialize the publication of the materials in the print media for conservative circulation. But they lack the will because they do not have the required taste for the tomorrow of all of us. Indeed they either do not believe in it or place restricted value to the safety and prosperity of their immediate families. This is the qualitative character of most of our leaders today, who have the capacity to enable

this. But, this will remain the foundation requirement, before admission into a curriculum.

Unbelievers take planning into the future most seriously. But our leaders who believe in the hereafter do not care about investing for it. They will prefer launching for publicity and money raising schemes as alternative shortcuts. They know that book publishers are driven by profiteering and will protect their resources with Recommended Textbooks – even in the faces of poor reading culture and miserable commitment of public resources for books, because of poverty and competing handouts by teachers for students. The charity of continuous knowledge and guidance is not attractive. Because they are ruled by ignorance, inordinate greed and selfishness, they fail to even understand that from charity profits can be ignited. And in inevitable contradiction, they are always complaining of poverty, insecurity and backwardness. They want to attain and offer or propel safety and prosperity of themselves and the society WITHOUT knowledge and discipline. This is why Research is badly funded and researchers help themselves. Knowledge and discipline cannot be separated to achieve results.

The backwardness of our education professionals is defined by their blankness in reflecting that the works of William Shakespeare provided the terms for what can be admissible rather than a set of ahistorical terms determining what William Shakespeare will fittingly write. This is part of our underdevelopment intellectually and professionally. The concept and content of curriculum along with the methodology are historically gradual developments to preserve, protect and build on what knowledge have been admitted. But our ‘empty’ specialists are seeking for fittingness WITHOUT A HISTORICAL FOUNDATION. For that reason, it is not just the dismissal of local efforts to provide solution to the Coronavirus infection that is backward. The character is across board. The very same leaders who say it has no cure announce numbers of positive tested persons

to have recovered. Any efforts not certified by the gods of health is wrong and not potent. Then, when the products of the gods are reported as having been harmful, the rascals offer that it is not abnormal and more people have not died.

Thus as believers, the first step is personal, individual, at the family level. A reader should make the effort to connect with his members at all the levels of relationships he is involved in. But because, you have indicated a template and what is involved here is a process or an orientation THAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EXAMINABLE COURSES, I will give a sample scenario. Between parents and children, the ultimate purpose of life and prosperity, which is to serve Allah and attain paradise must be constantly alive. When it is time for Salat, the invitation will be COME LETS GO AND SERVE ALLAH IN A SPECIAL WAY, SO THAT HE WILL LISTEN TO US WHEN WE CALL UPON HIM AND COME TO OUR AID BEFORE WE CALL ON HIM, IN DIFFICULT TIMES. When a need or challenge comes up, the invitation will be, this is the time for meeting Allah and we must tell Him.

On return from Salat or in between, the following questions can be asked at different times:

- Did you remember to ask for the good things in this life and the good things in the hereafter and safety from the fire? The Prophet prayed this most commonly. At a time, the provisions in *Jannah* can be highlighted. At another, those of *Jahannam* can be highlighted. These can be at weekends, Fridays or whatever.
- Did you specifically ask for safety from the *Fitna* and torment of the grave and Fire? What of the *Fitna* of this world, poverty and *Dajjal*? At a time, these can be broken down and followed by highlights.

- Has anyone who loves dates cared to plant some in heaven for eternity for himself? I love them. I love fruits. You all know. I recited *Subhana Rabil Azeem wa bi hamdihi* ten times.
- I love jewellery, ornaments, diamond and really good things. Something better than Dubai, that will not change or get destroyed and for ever. And all Allah asks of me for treasures that I do not even know is to recite *La haula wa la quwata illa bilLahi Aliyul Azeem* ten times. Is anyone interested like me?
- On the way to the mosque, walking is preferred if the distance is not unreasonable, for the enormous rewards of stepping. And arriving on time is superior followed by listening to the sermon. So, on return, *ALHAMDU LILAH* is expressed severally. Do you know for what? I was able to prepare, to walk, get registered by the Angels for arriving and the reward. Presenting what I want for this family when the Imam sat down to rise to complete the *khutbah*. And I hope that Allah has forgiven me my minor sins from last week. I will top it up with reciting The Cave (*Suratul Kahf*).
- A fellow believer dies. Let's pray for him. Like he cannot acquire rewards again and didn't know when he will be called, we are not going to be different. But let me use the opportunity for one or two *Qirats* of rewards, equivalent to gold, of the size of mount Uhud.
- Do you try to send Salam to the Prophet even out of Salat? Well, I do reasonably especially on Fridays. I will want to drink from his *kauthar* specially given to him by Allah. In fact, I will love to be his neighbour, but it is not easy. In addition to sending him Salam one needs to pray non obligatory prayers/night prayer much.
- Your friend is sick. Let's pray for his quick recovery and shedding of his sins. My daughter has given birth to a baby, let's pray for the family. My teacher who taught me *Tauhid* gave me the greatest gift. I pray for the

mercy of Allah for him. The Angels always ask similarly for whoever does so.

- Sleeping is temporary death. Who will not submit to Allah, just in case Allah decides to keep his soul?
- I love to be loved by Allah for His special gifts. He is holy and does not like uncleanness. This is why I bath, perform ablution, avoid prohibited foods, drinks, talks, places, behaviours and do His commands.

The True stories from the Qur'an and Hadith will be taught in their right context and similar reference are made to the experiences of models in knowledge and discipline and connecting the learnings to immediate personal, family or society experiences. This will strengthen the build-up of both consciousness in livelihood commitments and analysing issues, actions, methods and ambitions **IN THE NAME OF ALLAH.**

These are sample highlights of building an orientation based on knowledge and discipline of what is right and true. The primary schools and the teachers will build on this. It is inconceivable that the parents, the children, the school administration and teachers will have indecent dressing to worry about or make special laws about it, where and when everyone is milled through this. Indeed, the limits of differences will be set **TOGETHER** with knowledge as against fighting. This is how Guidance is to be lived. There is **NO PASSING** but the challenge or requirements for **CONTINUOUS PASSING**. Fellow humans will be witnesses and it is for Allah to issue the Certificate.

It is on top of this orientation that a curriculum can be generated to **MAKE THE LEARNING OF REAL TOTAL LIVELIHOOD** easier. But tying it to a Certificate or some terminal score may not appear necessary. I mean, the **ORIENTATION** as against specialist knowledge like the knowledge of Inheritance and its practice.

In essence, as much as possible, believers (given this example with Muslims), will be Guidance Alive in all facets of their livelihood regardless of the kind of knowledge and skills they will be exposed to or undertake. In consequence, a leader from among them will not place non-Muslims and unbelievers at any irresponsible risk, while the Faith of believers will be protected along with common safety and prosperity needs, wants and fancies of all.

How can the present crop of leadership who are blinded by their corrupt practices, immoral over-indulgence and impunity agree to adopt and introduce these materials into our system for a possible change to come into effect?

It may not be too right to clamp on each and every one of them to be wickedly refusing or unwilling. Corrupt practices including immoral excesses and impunity may be common attributes with the leaders that drive us. But are they aware of their drawbacks? This is because, one cannot give what one does not have. It is unfair and over ambitious to expect that you can discuss human sociological, political, social, economic, scientific, cultural challenges with an ‘intelligent’ animal like a dog or horse, simply because it is dressed as a human being. Have we not seen such elite/ceremonial animals? For horses that ‘smoke’ weed before performance in games, are there laws to arrest them? NO.

Ignorance in my opinion is a greater definition of their common characteristics. When this combines with logical indiscipline the capability for good is reasonably eroded. And a few indications will suffice.

The first is the disregard of the scope of necessary responsibility. A leader is NOT for only those that voted him. Shutting them out of critical contributions can possibly only add minuses to the capacity of the leader. Opposition or criticism must be accommodated in any society and especially Leadership that seeks to be responsible. There is no society that has no problems. However understandable

problems are those that can arise above the provision or satisfaction of the **BASICS OF LIVELIHOOD**. In a society where there is corruption, the punishment for corruption should be without discrimination **BUT** it is even more intelligent to focus and deal with the **ROOT CAUSE**. This is because whereas wrong doings may not be totally eliminated, the scope of those who cannot keep away should be negligible. And the third is that since everyone is subject to **TIME** in our livelihood, no leader has right to ordinarily waste another's or that of a section or the entire society. Every one seeks to achieve his utmost in life. A responsible leader cannot choose to take his time because he has been more than reasonably secured. The privilege is to empower him to minimize the waste of time in enabling every member of the society improves. The fourth characteristic that emanates from this attitudinal drawback is **WAITING TO ALLOW PROBLEMS SORT THEMSELVES OUT**. This is close to either irresponsiveness that produces irresponsibility or negative neutrality that is careless about positive achievements or outcome. It is most irresponsible for the reason that it permits **JUST ANY KIND OR FORM OF SOLUTION TO ARISE**. And the opportunity for standard rules that sets fair limits is closed or strangled.

Ignorance is this dark and dangerous for driving society. A leader who is ruled by ignorance is so evil because he may claim and even express **BELIEF** in Allah or what is of **COMMON GOOD**. However, as knowledge or faith is inconsequential if not lived or acted and consistently too, to be discipline, it is empty and of no value. This is why the worst human being that is ahead of wickedness is a hypocrite. This is the rascal who knows and admits that he has heard and understood the truth but acts to the contrary. His tools and style are **Lies, Betrayal, Promise-breaking**, in his relationship with one person or more, on an issue or some other person.

It is then a Herculean task to have or get someone or people with these attributes of the Ignorant and worse more if they are also arrogant, to voluntarily welcome

or bear this kind of trust. It does not matter if the person is called and accepts that he is a leader in politics, in society, in business, in knowledge, in government or in religion. But it does not rule out even a slim chance or possibility. Not ALL are these and not ALL are required for the change. Indeed only a very few need to start it as a magnet for others. The situation is realistically difficult but not absolutely hopeless. And the challenge of history is to expand good, by reducing evil, by conversion.

Another immediate option can be, having one or a few non-partisan people who believe and have strong taste for the future to sponsor three to five patriotic youths, to read these materials and come up with a DIRECTION for 2023 politics REGARDLESS OF PARTISAN LEANINGS for the Education of Nigerians. It will be both explanatory and a program. This can be circulated as a Pullout in one to three newspapers. Printed copies can be made ready for leadership of the top seven political parties by the rating of Independent National Electoral Commission; National, States and Universities libraries across the country.

A miracle will be for the present leadership of the ruling party and government to sponsor such or better still, the opposition. The key requirement is the Belief and open, sincere and responsible commitment to our collective safety and prosperity based on knowledge.

It is not absolutely and completely impossible and hopeless, even in the present circumstance. The Compassion of Allah outweighs and supersedes His anger. His mercy can appear or reach us from where and when or how we do not expect. It is only with challenges that the windows of solutions open up. He makes the dead out of the living just as He makes the living out of the dead. For a believer, Guidance rests with Allah. Our part is to strive to know, attain understanding with discipline that has to be effortful.

You have not bothered to attend to critical issues like party structures, open or secret ballot, direct or indirect election, powers of political party leaders in relation to members in government, allocation of offices, rotating leadership, etc. Are these not important for Education?

Indeed, they are all important, including issues like gender, tenure of office, remuneration for political officers, funding of political parties, the structure and sizes of the legislature, executive and more. However, in my consideration, the establishment of what is right about these or wrong, in their forms and operation SQUARELY rests on the QUALITY OF THE CITIZENS AND MEMBERS. The size, forms, types and costs of churches and mosques are secondary to the quality of the believers or members AND especially the leaders. If it is not so, Angels will be bothering God to physically appear in Nigeria and deal with evil. But even ordinary reasonable and sensible men are scared – given our common guidance by the same God, against our inter and intra wars, poverty and crisis.

Let me refer to a few issues and the greater connection with leadership, which indicates that a good leader should hold on mistakes and correct them with knowledge of what is right and true along with discipline.

We have been ‘struggling’ with the principles and practices of Federal Character along with Rotation of Leadership. At best, it is colourful because you will get a reflection of our mix. However, it has been a problem since leaderships have consistently failed to know and manage them for increasing positive results over time, with the DISCIPLINE FOR OUR COLLECTIVE SAFETY AND PROSPERITY. If you take a Federal Organization in any part of the country, a chunk of low ranking employees that are required to be fed from the location of the organization and adjoining states often defined as catchment areas is not impressive. It is the beginning of the failure. Indeed, in a given state, the local government areas are rarely covered. And the worse and worst applies to the

higher levels. But the frightening is that of the Chief Executive. Why must he always come from the location? To achieve the admired mix without abuse or sacrificing quality, Two deliberate policies have to be adopted. One is that, the present level of continual separatist trend has to be deliberately stopped BY MOVING PERSONNEL OUT OF THE LOCATION OF GROWTH TO A SIMILAR ROLE ON QUALIFYING TO BE A DIRECTOR or AFTER RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT AS A CHIEF EXECUTIVE. In addition, retirement housing accommodation will be provided by the last port of engagement to the officer, in that locality. With this second policy that will follow, after a decade of establishing the first, both the character and leadership operational challenges will fizzle out. Government and the civil service will set the pace for increasing national mix of the elite – who constitute the real problem to our nationhood. For those who will LIVE the policy after retirement, the following generation will be starting on a different footing from that of the old. The nativity of living all of a public servant's life between Lagos and Ibadan or within Kano or Port Harcourt or Enugu will begin to reduce. Appreciation of others, regardless of the differences will be built up. This is how knowledge of unity in diversity can evolve into a discipline to be lived. The examples of returning to Ota, Minna, Jos, Daura, Otuoke or Shagari is not very positive. This is why Abuja is getting heated up for NO POSITIVE JUSTIFICATION.

What we all undeniably seek to achieve is getting the right service for everyone that is entitled or qualified. What does it matter, WHO gets it done, provided limits of identity are recognized and kept for the integrity of all? The corrupt and irresponsible notion that unless and until MINE or OURS is the one entrusted, our safety and prosperity is at risk is for the Ignorant, the Insincere and Hypocrite. The rascality of LETS GO BY MERITS FOR ASSURED RESULTS have consistently not proved any better without discipline. For example, we often have very competent leaders who engage or surround themselves with lieutenants that

are their relatives by blood, marriage, language, religious sect, alumni, etc. Some strive to colour it with almost inconsequential appointment of others. But IF they are qualified and deliver the service THEY FAIL IN THE SUPERIOR OBJECTIVE OF NATIONAL MIX. Unfortunately, they doubly fail most of the times because IT IS CORRUPTION IN TURNS. The following sets of rascals try to outdo the preceding set of rascals. Indeed, the leader never considers the irresponsible legacy he will leave behind but is urged to do more by the surrounding satans because his successor will surely do the same.

Take the consistent greater failure than success in attending to corruption. In a country where our financial and economic power rests on the oil and gas sector AND the Government is virtually responsible for calling the shots, WILL IT EVER WORK OR BETTER WITH THESE TWO EMBEDDED IN CORRUPTION? It is certainly irrational. But then, WILL IT BE EXPECTED THAT THESE TRUSTEES OF OUR COMMONWEALTH WILL FAITHFULLY RESIGN TO POVERTY AFTER SERVICE? It is certainly senseless. Then why do leaders believe or deceive us (into believing) that investigations, probes, visitations, audits, prosecutions, oaths ARE SUFFICIENT TO TURN THE TABLE AROUND? This is surely informed by the combination of ignorance and hypocrisy. Do leaders consistently not see that UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, POVERTY AND CRIME are related? Refusing to listen to Guidance is arrogance. And to worsen matters, what right or justification has a leader NOT TO TAP FROM THE OPPOSITION OR TO SERVE THE OPPOSITION? Leadership is a far more serious affair than having aides write speeches or speak for one or receiving reports, recommendations or making approvals. This is why the structures, the machinery and processes are not enough EVEN IF A LEADER FINDS THEM WORKING FINE. His role is to build on the Good and add value to it. And this value is NOT

THE ONES JUST CONVERTIBLE TO NAIRA but in the WELFARE AND RELATIONSHIPS OF NIGERIANS.

In leadership, there is rarely IMPOSSIBILITY in improving the state of humans and the environment EXCEPT the leader is a QUADRUPLE FAILURE. In this most unfortunate situation, he is personally IGNORANT, he DISSOCIATES from the knowledgeable and disciplined, his drunkenness with the consciousness of power makes him ARROGANT in actions even if his expressions sound to convey humility, he will know and be seen to be HYPOCRITICAL and CONFUSED by the sincere.

And so, it is a big failure to care or worry about thuggery and rigging by making stiff sanctions for offenders TERM IN TERM OUT without raising the level of eliminating total lack. This is because so long as poverty is measured with total lack of basics as one of the indices, those who can pay will have employees and those who will further guarantee the safety of the offenders will score high. How do you deal with electoral fraud by the electoral officials or delegates or security covers or a combination of these? The closer our leaders and leadership gets responsive and drive our affairs with knowledge and discipline of what is right and true, the more prospective we have, to reduce the stubborn increasing gaps between peace and insecurity or poverty and prosperity.

Leadership is less likely with selfishness or marked enemies even if there is knowledge. This can be the case where a source of knowledge of the solution to a challenge is known but wilfully avoided or ignored. Leadership is impossible without combining knowledge and discipline along with responsible association with such persons. Confusion and pains are inevitable when a leader is really hypocritical.

For that reason, where a leader is right and true for the burden on him, he will attract the right and true even as the wrong will be interested in changing or be afraid of its safety.

The present pervasive discontent we commonly witness and experience, like a leader who believes saying and actively governing us on the pretence of neutrality, that makes him prosperous along with only those he selects should not blind us. Gangsterism will not achieve anything if members have no overriding rules and consistently stick to them. It is impossible to have a leader, leadership and followers on a transparent, consistent and common rules and discipline without making success that will be welcome and predictable. In the same vein, we cannot be admitting and be comfortable with the present NEITHER STRAIGHT NOR CROOKED and expect a welcome culture. Structures, processes, institutions must submit to our ruling identity and objectives WITH CLEAR LIMITS IN STRIVING FORWARD.

What value do you place on a political solution like a National Conference or Review of our Constitution?

They can be very valuable, depending upon what issues are involved and in what state of our nationhood. Very fundamental is the fact that settled principles which are absolutely positive and have been established or achieved or on course, need not be part of it. That will amount to disrespect to our common history and indeed turning backward. Secondly, yet to be attained goals as a result of consistent failure must not make the principles wrong. That will amount to sealing any prospect of adjusting or improving. Unless such incapacity is established to be absolute, it will be mischievous of the sponsors against the Nigerian polity. The failure of one or a few cannot amount to impossibility.

The embarrassing note that is common with the callings is two-faced. The champions have either been part of our built up failures or are less informed about

the intricacies of the persistent failures. Those who are resistant, hesitant or afraid of the callings are either suspicious of the objective or do not want to lose some advantages they now feed fat on. Neither of the parties has displayed the required knowledge and discipline of the present set of principles and practices, to be reliable for leading us on these. And the risk of fraud or at least resource waste along with further confusion is always revealing in the composition of those recommended to 'right' the 'wrongs'.

I sincerely find it to be as problematic as writing a manifesto for any one of our political parties by its elite. What has been different from the implementation of any one that has gotten some level of mandate from any of the other ones? Sometimes some people even tout with associating with the concept of Ideology. It is only in our hypocritical setting you will find a difference of the so labelled ideology between political parties and the polity or at least the polity is ignorant of it.

There is this closing submission, sentence or warning: AND IT DOES NOT CHANGE ALLAH OR HIS GUIDANCE. Can you elaborate on this please?

Well. My focus is on those who believe. In the specific case of Muslims, everyone is a leader since he or she will be accountable for his trust. This is because all affairs belong to Allah as a trust/trial and is informed by God ALONE deserving worship and the purpose of our creation. This absolutely means keeping out of His boundaries of prohibitions and building on His permits.

As an individual, it is prohibited to commit suicide for an example. The same individual is required to offer thanks giving for his limbs and senses by Salat while they must not be employed in evil or towards evil. This safe individual must in relationships with tying a knot for marriage meet the rules; not put any residential partner, neighbour or at work at risk of life or property or prospering. But leadership at family, group and public levels are most critical. This is why

my greatest concern is given to public leadership. It does not matter whether it is by knowledge, skills, business, authority or servitude.

The tie for a believer with Allah is that the message and guidance has been completed and available. If he does not seek to know and live by it, it is entirely his burden for the reason that he will account for himself and his life on the terms of the message and guidance. If you therefore bear the declaration of Faith, identify yourself as a believer and enter into agreements, contracts, promises or take oath FOR LEADERSHIP one will be an animal, not to worryingly care. It will be worse than being foolish.

Consequently the best approach to public leadership is by being allotted or invited or imposed by EVIDENTLY RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE OF CLEAR IDENTITY. And such a leader, in modesty, fear of Allah and utmost strive, will attract the guidance and mercy of Allah, by connecting him to the Sincere. Asking, competing or fighting for it is lower because of the possible minus of being left alone. Indeed, it is not fairer where he prides with winning over another person. The spirit is only comparable with the loser who insists against available evidence by topping it up with concocted lies.

This is why the issue or challenge of hypocrisy is the greatest for, before or in respect of believers and especially the leaders. It is characterized by untruth or telling lies; betrayal or abuse of trust and personal inconsistency or not upholding a commitment. The three-face decadence covers the principle, application in relation to others and application to self. The individual as a leader will not be exonerated from two faces. But the public leader will bear the three levels.

And the entirety of livelihood relationships at these levels revolves around the applicable scope of knowledge and discipline of what is right and true. For example, a public leader who is a failure or careless at personal level by eating and drinking what are prohibited is personally accountable. Where the same is

married and is similarly a failure or careless by not being a responsible guardian to the members, it will be foolhardy to resign to: I HAVE DONE MY BEST OR IS THE MEMBER'S BUSINESS. The standard for managing whatever challenges must be pursued and exhausted. If these are done an IMPOSSIBLE or DISGRACEFUL status will not be accommodated. For instance, you cannot hold a partner guilty of adultery without evidence or allege same and live with it. The leader will inevitably be frustrated even if he appears not to care. The very same leader must be in self-destructive deceit to make a personal promise to a non-family member or in directing the affairs of a society and believe that his failure is inconsequential for one and not the other. And there is no excuse such as he has been led into it. The burden or credit is his. The fool must not lose sight of the expectation that Satan and his agents will DENY him in the hereafter the very same way he denied Allah. Allah will send him to them, the spiritual ones will ask: WHEN, WHERE AND HOW WAS I RESPONSIBLE? The humans will only be accountable as INDIVIDUALS for the mislead but the FULL RESPONSIBILITY remains that of the rascal.

An illustration will suffice. An individual promises Allah to stop committing a sin that is personal. He returns to it again and again. He asks for forgiveness again and again. By the rules, it does not cover idolatry. Indeed not major sins, even though the discretion is that of Allah. The matter is more serious where and when another person is involved. It is against Allah because it is crossing the limits like the first and topped up by the entitlement of the person involved to claim his right. For example, asking someone to leave his engagement for livelihood to assist you and failing to connect with him for three years. It will be irresponsible to advance forgetfulness as an excuse or to assign him a duty without adequate compensation. Or are you expecting him to help himself? What of the provision of basic amenities to the society? This leader will be FINISHED by self-failures if the people adopt 'other' means. For example, people opting for what is not

discouraging or even illegal, to rightly or wrongly survive. Criminals praying for their conviction to be delayed or thwarted as Civil offenders pray for the same. Women offering or submitting themselves to make ends meet or employees of government and public appointees helping themselves or one another. This is because their faith and the protection and strengthening of this is NOT outside what he will account for. The scope covers in our circumstance, all of those who voted for and against him and their dependents because his trust and authority is over all of them. Do we not appreciate that when a leader steals public funds and returns it by prosecution, he has been helped? If he does it himself is it not better? Is the best not avoiding stealing, because the time and value of misusing the funds is an account that remains outstanding? What of the leader who accepts to uplift the word of Allah in a specific way or give service to Allah in a specific way and hesitates or fails? Is he failing the means he made the promise to, the act, Allah or all? This is what the Qur'an defines as the steep path, requiring sincere faith informed and driven by knowledge and discipline of what is right and true, to attain success. Only the pain of sacrifice, patience and perseverance in what is right and true because of the belief in the hereafter, can enable this. This is not the path of and for the ignorant, the arrogant, the hypocrite. Those who will take personal offense for being reminded or guided. Those who will opt for mischief by delay of time in acting or avoidance of the means in order to kill or change what is right and true to serve their selfish preference or tender apologetic excuse shamefully.

In all of these faces, IF the true and right guidance is upheld and the believers yield the benefits in this world and in the hereafter, it is for their own good. It does not add or reduce anything from Allah or His Will. Does an irresponsible and careless leader think that those who suffer through or by his hands will not get the rewards of patience in adversity or that he will not be accountable? IF the believers opt for disobedience as thick and wide as Satan, do we suspect that we

shall not be accountable? IF believers decide to COLOUR MIX, who will be harmed or benefitted? Certainly not Allah. The earlier believers wake up to this, the better in our real interest. Hypocrites are not fitting for *Jannatul Firdaus* for themselves, less asking Allah for it to others. Islam is not a game of chance, not a gamble. Belief in God is not a fun.

It is thus worth knowing that IF Allah had Willed that no one shall transgress, like the angels lack the will to do so, there cannot not be sinners. And in absolute terms, Allah can definitely overcome a hypocritical leader, but He is Just and has set standards for guidance to what is right and true. It is not completely wrong to pray for straying leaders. But it is even a greater responsibility to remind them, alert them, question them, advise them. It is the second level of faith. And for the unfortunate who remains blind, deaf and dumb, his bearing will be greater because he would have qualified for refusing assistance. And the escape route from the wrath of Allah will be dissociation by those who know the truth and stick to it. Therefore, whatever way we choose or condone or get trapped in, it does not change Allah or His Guidance. If we obey it is for our own good. If we turn away or admix right and wrong we shall account for it.

Those who know Allah fear Him. Only the hypocrites are sure of their final fate in exclusion of His Mercy, which is absolutely discretional.

Considering the public leadership challenges we are enmeshed in, what basic transition recommendations do you believe deserve priority attention, in order to breathe fresh air for energized positive progression?

Well. I believe that at least the following can be deduced from my submissions:

- a) Compulsory and continuous religious education and discipline across all generations FREE FROM MONETIZATION and Certification. This should be more than reasonably attainable within a period of five years.

- b) Basic and continuous political education for a culture of assisting a good leader or questioning a poor leader, based on our clear COMMON IDENTITIES. If the incumbent government cares enough, it can be more than reasonably achieved before it leaves office.
- c) Transforming the Civil Service to free it from tribalistic, religious or sectional drives and build national mix across the country (by retirement settlement) to foster unity and douse divisive courses. A law assigning the sanction of execution for abuse by any person in authority and five years hard labour in construction works at a distance of at least seven hundred kilometres from the place of commission for any outsider, without option to appeal or fine WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF ABUSES AND INTERFERING OR COLLABORATION. Do we not appreciate that wrongful or bias engagement of an officer in the public service is a double cost? The beneficiary will build the culture of doing the same and more. Where incompetence or the engagement is needless, the costs of his engagement, advancement and retirement is a building waste to the efficient use of our trusts and resources. Is the engagement of ten of such not worse than pilfering one hundred million naira from the budget?
- d) Taking responsibility for all citizens by a leader, not excluding his critics or even enemies because the ultimate objective of leadership is to widen the scope of good by converting some willing and credible members found to be languishing in evil. This will be leadership by example, where EVERYONE matters EQUALLY. The adjustment of this to be limited to a 'safe' scope is what drops from party to locations, to language group or family. Those asking for changing the presidential structure or the legislative structure are no less backward and corrupt. You cannot fail in sanitation in village settings and think that moving the residents to a Government Reserved Area in the city will make health costs less. In our setting, are tertiary health institutions not overwhelmed by primary and

secondary services? And we are now wasting more and more resources to ‘upgrade’ to handling a pandemic.

- e) To draw a thick and sharp line for sanctioning WHOSOEVER is associated with corruption, as against the present unwritten safety valve for presidents and chiefs of Army Staff. This is undoubtedly part of the stinking legacy of military rule. Unfortunately, at least heads of public institutions and governance are learning fast, not to expose one another. The governors are following too, for reciprocal security and burden against the society. A president should be expected to account for excesses including sexual harassment and misappropriation of resources. Probing, recoveries and convictions are not the centre of governance. Has the implementation or application of the Procurement Act not served as a problematic teller?
- f) Make a deliberate arrangement to get unemployment reduced to one digit percentage as well as literacy and housing within a decade.
- g) Strengthening the principle of Executive President by responsible leadership to the States Governors, contrary to the robot copying of JUST ANYTHING from the political culture of any presidency in the world. It is WRONG for a leader of all to initiate separation where companionship is positive and not giving the party that opts to stay apart any material disadvantage. After elections IT IS THE BEST FOR EVERYONE.
- h) Greater governance with less money as a guiding principle, by building a more responsible and committed private sector to the immediate priority challenges of Nigeria.
- i) The leader should personally be LEADING in the recasting of tenure development and commitment program to ensure responsible continuity to add value to bureaucratic leads.
- j) To be clearly, strongly and consistently VALUE-IDENTITY driven in OVERHAULING OUR MATERIAL ARRANGEMENTS, TO SET A POINT FROM WHICH THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR SOCIETY

AND PROSPERITY CAN COLLECTIVELY SET OUT. This can be reasonably achieved by identifying the worst failures of the predecessor, understanding why and how they occurred and defining the solutions and methods to stop reoccurrence against flaring condemnation and committing worse. IF Obasanjo had done this on Buhari/Badamosi/Abacha/Abubakar, Umaru/Jonathan would have had a more responsible pack of challenges to manage and build on. The chants of the preceding damages by Buhari should have been put aside to make sense of the delay in constituting his team. Knowledge and understanding of history given records of experiences should have produced a more VALUE-IDENTITY driven solution than a simple bureaucratic pluses. This is why a lot appears to be happening that reach less than the previous scope.

- k) To have both the legislature and executive making the connective laws the priority for governance against going into leadership EMPTY of what to contribute, until daily challenges arise. For example, why can't schooling be tampered with for national assignment like literacy and education? Have we not learned to adjust with the pandemic? Can't we be proactive with laws to achieve superior things? Imagine the price of rascal unionism and Government insensitivity and corruption in our history?

The key guard for all of these and more is that Genuine or Sincere Identity defined by knowledge and discipline of what is right and true must be the primary embodiment of the leader and his supporters. If he is not superior in this respect, those who differ from him will not respect his limits and those who share his identity on the lips will be manipulative. The consequence of this is that he will not attract relevant and quality hands, supporters and critics or he will lose them as quickly as they discover that he is a hypocrite or he will in fact distant himself from them, for his likes. This means that the sponsors of a leader at all levels need

to as much as possible prop up the person(s) with a decent record of NOT JUST HIS SKILL OR OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY, but that the record was achieved by the Identity attributes that he bears. In our case, he will not be a NEUTRAL believer who does not care about values he is conscious about accounting for before God. It is therefore not enough to be a member of a beliefs group and worse still a rascal propagator, a bigot of his group or sect. And there may inevitably be MISTAKES at lower levels, which the overall leader will check or correct by REORIENTATION as he works with them. The greatest self-infliction will be to deliberately, carelessly or foolishly make such corpse the leader of the living.

Public leadership is more than being good in a skill, trade, schooling or training. It is NOT ENOUGH to be an architect, engineer, professor or soldier. Because the primary purpose and objective of leadership is to REACH AND TOUCH ALL only the attributes of selflessness, justice, compassion, transparency, accountability to God in the hereafter and to fellow men before death will be relevant, for believers.

REFLECTIONS

The faithful are penitent, devout, celebrators of Allah's praise, wayfarers, who bow (and) prostrate (in prayer), bid what is right and forbid what is wrong, and **keep Allah's bounds** – and *give* good news to the faithful. (Qur'an 9:112)

Indeed, Allah does not like the transgressors. (Qur'an 5:87)

Then, wherein shall an ignorant and uncultured person(s) fit into volunteering or to be elected or appointed or nominated or in assisting for governance, by leadership or management or administration? And how can anyone or a bunch of determining ignorants and uncultured people produce and maintain knowledgeable and disciplined levels of leaders, managers or administrators, for good governance or collective safety and prosperity?