

**IDENTITY CONSCIOUSNESS AND DISCIPLINE ARE THE
BEST DRIVERS OF HISTORY**



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IDENTITY CONSCIOUSNESS AND DISCIPLINE ARE THE BEST DRIVERS OF HISTORY

By History, I am not referring to any stories recorded by anyone opportune to do so, that becomes available for everyone to access, whether with an evaluative mind or not. This is because the most popular records are by the rulers in any particular time, regardless of whether they were leaders or oppressors.

From the experience of Nigeria, the extreme presentation of our past by colonialists later became so, as Nigerians started representing the history. If the history was consistent with what is both **true and right**, there wouldn't have been any reason and sense or justification for anti-colonialism or Independence struggles. However, as much as both colonialists and nationalists fairly agreed on the content of the presentation as true, the nationalists discovered that it was not right. And because Truth needs to be Right, to be **meaningful and serving**, the colonialists eventually admitted that the nationalists were indeed right.

But this never meant and will never mean that colonialism was **not right to the colonialists**. It was, remains and may continue to be right to them. This is the basis for understanding **neocolonialism and imperialism**. And the transformation of the same and indeed expansion, is what has characterized the so called global village concept in contemporary history. Examples are international currencies, the world bank, the International Monetary Fund, making Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Identity an issue, in determining international relationships, sponsoring of arms trafficking, wars, etc.

Unfortunately, post-independence period has not received a common nationalistic recording that is **both true and right**, for all Nigerians. Every government we have had, has positive recordings for itself in the form of achievements. But we have

continuously and increasingly established that, our state of security and prosperity in livelihood has been worsening. Many economists will say it is growth against development.

It is therefore crystal clear that we are suffering from **identity crisis**. We either do not know who we are or do not care about who we are. The simple indicator is that we have failed to develop national interests in spite of our human and material resources.

The goals are not the challenge. These are well spelt out in chapter two of our constitution as **Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy**. Interestingly, applied to us Nigerians, as elaborately defined in chapter three of the same constitution, **all and more of our variety of wears** can fit into realizing the goals, safely and responsibly. Examples of these bodies are tribes, religion, geographical location. Thus, the wears of aim provided are **the Constitution, National Anthem, National Flag**, and a National Motto of **Unity and Faith, Peace and Progress**. But any student of Political theory, History and Philosophy will understand and affirm that these are universal attributes that can enable most nations fit into. This means that no society will deliberately seek to and pursue the negation of the goals of unity, faith, peace and progress. However, the procedure or terms often differ from one nation to another. In our specific case, the **format is unity in diversity**. This is why specifically; a State Religion is out.

However, the **misinterpretation of the format of pursuing and realizing the unity and faith as well as peace and progress, is our greatest misfortune**. The indicator of this, is the various amount of energy, time and resources committed to using either tribe or geographical location or the combination of these as the format. These ignoramus invoke the concept of federalism to stamp on their commitment. The

essential defect of such definitions is that, the references of successful operation of such structures **ignores the true and right identity, which knowledge, consciousness and discipline drives the federation.** Unless the unique character and status of this identity is appreciated and admitted, the basis for the success of the structures will not be understood. In the same vein, Our federalism cannot **become** in isolation of our true and right identity characteristics. And **the state of our history** is critical in determining this. It is both unreasonable and senseless to expect that a society that was formed through slavery, barbarism and wars will serve as a suitable reference for free and independent kingdoms that collapsed to become one. It is like kingdoms seeking to ‘advance’ like a stateless society.

Moreover, the identities of tribe and geography are absolutely incapable of providing the elements or characteristics for any meaningful unity both within its confines and beyond. It is absolutely incapable of doing so, beyond its realms. The proof of this, is the collapse and reformation or transformation of tribal and isolated societies. However, wherever such societies have superior identity attributes, the identity always made it and definitely makes it easier for a reformation or transformation that is more positive. This is achievable because the intruding Identity will not meet a people in a vacuum to simply swallow or sweep away. The historical process will be a responsible struggle. And the superior attributes or characteristics or identity will eventually establish its dominance. This is goodly reflected in the history of Usumanu Jihad in Hausa land. The Jihad took over with superior identity without tampering with the language. And because of the principles of the Jihad, it was needless to engage Borno kingdom. In the same vein, colonialists met with kingdoms that had identity characteristics or attributes beyond tribe and geography which led to being overcome by superior arms **but not livelihood identity.** Those who had nothing, or less, had nothing to lose or what was lost did not **really** matter.

In the case of Nigeria, the **NIGERIAN** Identity is the pursuit and realization of our goals, driven by the **ETHICS**. The constitution defines the ethics as **DISCIPLINE, Integrity, Dignity of Labour, Social Justice, Religious Tolerance, Self-Reliance and Patriotism**.

In Nigeria, Muslims and Christians have **given ethical standards that cater for all of these and more, provided our beliefs are based on the knowledge, consciousness and discipline prescribed or guided by the Qur'an or the Bible**. It is a fact that most Nigerians identify ourselves as either and are identified as such. It is also a fact that **for all the time Nigeria has been, most leaders at all levels have been either of the two**. In other words, Muslims and Christians have been specifically more responsible for our collective suffering and undoing, even though they have the best tested standards for the realization of our collective peace and prosperity, through unity and faith. The beginning of our patriotism is therefore to accept that it is a big shame on us, more than the others. For Muslims, it is most regrettable because we possess the complete and final guidance that can enable us to be the best model for mankind.

The greatest misfortune of Nigeria is therefore the majority of Nigerians **that have failed or refused to be Nigerian**. Those who either have nothing to offer or have inferior things to offer are not the most blamable. It is only expected that if, when and where the right things are ignored, the doubtful and wrong will take positions. The Muslims and Christians are the most blamable.

If you have Muslims who build a Mosque and pray between their homes, work places and the Mosque five times daily, it will be factually wrong to deny them the **wears** of Islam. This is because of the right structure and canonical rite. In the same vein, it will be factually wrong to deny Nigeria, the wears of democracy, when we have

political parties, manifestos, campaigns, elections, the executive, legislature, judiciary, the press and pressure groups in our politics and governance. But here we are, with both not working. We are even beginning to consider that, **there is no necessary positive relationship between the two.** Indeed, there is the worse consideration that either Islam or Muslims are a bad effect on democracy because the two are different and must not be mixed up. And because the wears are legal and constitutional, it can get really complex. You can have appointed religious leaders said to be **involving** themselves in politics as if it is illegal or unconstitutional. You can also have religious leadership **gowns wearers** blessing or anointing a **fellow wearer** of the identity. This summary of Muslims, Christians or believers' political rascality in the politics and governance of Nigeria will be incomplete, without the intra and inter religious rascality.

What Muslims in particular must take note of is that, we cannot be the **Nigerians** the constitution has defined for us, by isolating Islam from livelihood and be of optimal value to our collective goals. This is absolutely the position because Allah has said: "And I did not create the Jinn and mankind except to worship Me" (Qur'an 51:56). And He is "Sovereign of the Day of Recompense" (Qur'an 1:4). The livelihood in this world is **right** only if in **total submission to Him.** And it is this that will be **accounted** for, on the **Day of Judgement.**

From the pillar of *Iman*, knowledge, consciousness and discipline of submitting to Allah **alone, secures oneself, others and our collective identity, without discrimination or compulsion.** This is because the rules of compulsory and commendable submission **are for the benefits of humanity.** For example, non-association of anything with Allah translates into truthfulness to oneself and others without compromise. This will amount to **SELFLESSNESS.** Belief in the Hereafter has the effect of transparency, fairness and justice since **every iota of commitment**

will be accounted for to qualify one for salvation or otherwise. Thus, every commitment **is an investment.** Belief in the revealed scriptures **demands for tolerance, because there is no compulsion in Islam.** Belief in the Angels has meaning only if the activities of a Muslim translates to being **shy or ashamed** to have one's wrong doings recorded. The believer in *Qadr* or final determination of affairs resting with Allah, will be humble and modest in all of his affairs, as he strives **rightly** to his utmost. In Islam and therefore for Muslims, *Iman* is not a bookish or mere lips expression. It is a **Living** affair. If it is not lived, the bearer is dead.

Where are the parents, the teachers, the scholars and leaders, who are Muslims, that pronouncedly LIVE these elements of this article of faith, for the children, students, learners and followers, who are Muslims, to be socialized?

The implication of this is that, the Mosques will be patronized by more of the dead than the living. It means that the canonical prayers may not be quite beneficial to both the livelihood of the believer and even less so, to others. This is because *Salat* is the key symbol of a Muslim. From *Salat*, a believer is required to develop the attributes of timeliness because each prayer has its time, and the best worshippers are those who keep to the first part. Before Prayer, a Muslim learns the connection between purity and cleanliness. Personal and environmental health responsibilities are for that reason not new for a Muslim. A Muslim who does not learn orderliness and consistency from performing ablution and prayer is incomplete. Similarly, a believer will learn to correct mistakes by commission, omission or forgetfulness. A Muslim is required to learn concentration from these. When all of these that are obligatory in the daily interaction between a Muslim and Allah, five times, and they fail to be alive in the relationships of a Muslim to others, at work and every aspect of livelihood, **the Salat of the Muslim is of minimal value for active participation**

in the requirements of our constitution. One can only imagine, the kind of creature that wears the garb of Islam without a **lively *Iman* and *Salat*.**

Where are the parents, the teachers, the scholars and leaders, who are Muslims, that pronouncedly LIVE these elements of this article of faith, for the children, students, learners and followers, who are Muslims, to be socialized?

The **acquisition and commitments** of a Muslim's personal or entrusted resources are not left out in Islam. This is because both have to be true and right. These requirements qualify them for rewards because both levels are **investments**. The personal physical resource of being healthy and exchanging greetings of peace or visiting the sick or taking a harmful object away from the road are of no less value to legal monetary earnings and sharing with others, including those who are not Muslims. And if you are able to generate surpluses that have remained for a year or agricultural yields for a season, Allah has prescribed His due to defined beneficiaries. How can someone of this orientation plunder resources entrusted to him, without fear and shame? How can an errand boy become an airline operator or a hair stylist think of establishing a university? How can their leaders, families and communities be less blamable?

Where are the parents, the teachers, the scholars and leaders, who are Muslims, that pronouncedly LIVE these elements of this article of faith, for the children, students, learners and followers, who are Muslims, to be socialized?

The **Nigerian Citizens** as defined and required of the constitution **cannot be realized with Muslims that are unconscious or dead, to impact positively on the general wellbeing of themselves and fellow Citizens.**

Like the Muslims can be, so can other citizens be, in relation to our political, economic, social and intellectual livelihood. The structures are there. The processes

are constantly activated, but the results continue to be **questionable and unfulfilling**. Take our educational system. That Muslims and Christians have special institutions from Nursery to University levels, should have ignited a light in our tunnel of crisis, frustration and confusion. But it is not helpful because they are not alive responsibly. Take most of our disciplines or courses, we are in the same trap. For example, with the Professors, Doctors, Masters of Political Science and the Associations, why are we in the present political quagmire? What is the meaning of having Senior Advocates of Nigeria in Law, and establishing the winner of a presidential election will take months of gamble? Do the members of the Bench train in different laws? In both cases, it is simply **the bankruptcy in identity knowledge, consciousness and discipline that drives them. This is why their services to Nigeria have not been of increasing positive impact**. It is therefore more unfortunate, disgraceful, embarrassing and shameful to have a Muslim or Christian who has excelled in any of these fields, while Nigeria remains in the present state of backwardness.

When you apply this state of **identity bankruptcy and crisis** to leadership, it is easier to appreciate our hollowness and the magnitude of our challenges or be hopeless. We are now witnesses to the impact of Muhammadu Buhari eight years of achievements. The angel of death to corruption failed woefully to make enough positive impact to warrant booing and stoning in his home state and political strong base, Kano, at the end of his tenure. It is on this worse than Peoples Democratic Party Leadership foundation that Ahmed Bola Tinubu is dreaming of making **a difficult to discern difference**. This is because Buhari was not driven by his identity to serve Nigeria. While Tinubu is not different, he has **boldly** ignored the attribute of **corruption taint and exposed corrupt persons in forming his team**.

Given the present identity bankruptcy and crisis status of our polity, the following implications can be deducted:

a) Tinubu does not have much choice than making the frightening option, because it is more realistic. The Buhari option was only fanciful but got revealed in the end. The problem with this approach is that it is seriously careless about corruption, though not totally. It cannot afford to be totally careless, because that will be clearly irresponsible. The Path is Governance with what is available, with minimum stress. This certainly does not fit into the garb identity of Tinubu, Muslims and Christians. The government will not be predictable and will certainly not cater for the **hereafter interests of believers**.

b) Majority of Nigeria's Muslims and Christians are **really fake**. It is not worth any further pretence. Let the few who genuinely care for their identity **spice** the main course. Moreover, many countries have developed and are advancing, without the headaches of all the good things religious sincerity can offer. This is why Lagos has opened up to the envy of all and attractive to all. This is reasonably related to Tinubu. Let him give what he has. It is much much better than what Buhari has offered. This perception is essentially the same with the first. The difference is that it is more direct. The difficulty with this is that, the time it will require for fake Muslims and Christians to give up and develop faith and commitment to our goals, **with tolerable or manageable corruption as in other countries**, is not easily in sight because the character of the fakes is **selective consciousness**. Muslims and Christians can give their time, energy and lives to an identity subject, regardless of how foolish and dangerous, since it is based on ignorance. The last presidential election is a shameful example. This is why Marxist or Socialist ideologues have been evidently failing. The so called capitalists have only appeared to be succeeding because capitalism is

free corruption for the opportune. It is not because it has been progressive. Even the reference capitalist societies have checkered the mess with welfarist policies.

The trap indicator of the difficulty related to the leadership package presently on course, is the **gamble with the principle and practice of selflessness.** Firstly, since the leader does not have a definite platform of identity, the aides, assistants and associates **are free to roam with their trusts, provided it fits into his perception or keep away enough, in order not to be discovered.** This is tied up by making him **inaccessible,** especially to critics. Unfortunately, in the case of a true and right Islamic or Christian faithful, God's Guidance is the measure **for both the leader and others.** He is clearly not perfect. It is obligatory for him to open up, in order that he may benefit from the valuable guidance of those that are better knowledgeable, conscious and disciplined than him. Criticism is for the leader to responsibly evaluate. An ignorant person is for that reason not suitable in the first place. Where and when this is not the case, the lieutenants, aides and associates are inclined to destroy his psyche by making a hero out of him. Then he can only lose his humility for audacity. His person becomes the definition of what is right.

The cumulative dividend of this disastrous characteristics is the simple explanation and inevitable consequences of **making a lot of inputs into the packaging and not getting results.** The adjudication of disputed results has not made any difference with an affirmed winner. With the Legislature, in 2010, a total of 28 amendments were made to the constitution; in the same year, 10 out of the amendments were altered; and another 15 were made. The electoral law has been amended. These have not made any positive marked difference in the general livelihood of Nigerians. The most effective is the taxation regime. This is also negative because the economy is not better and instruments of extraction are sharpened. And no achievements of any government has been upheld as satisfactory.

The secret is that **men** should be the focus of governance, beyond presentations or claims, and **the right men** should be the **drivers** of our history. This is impossible without **identity knowledge, consciousness and discipline.**

The Education for positive reorientation of all of us, with clear and rich identity, is the first and continuous requirement, for making any reliable and lasting difference. All levels of leadership have this responsibility. Both Muslims and Christians have this obligation to make the majority of Nigerians Nigerian. The logical and sensible justification for this is that **if Muslims and Christians get better, Nigeria will be made better, because we are the principal problem.** Even anti-graft institutions, correctional institutions, drugs monitoring institutions, investigation institutions require the right men to man and run them. And the variety or size of these, like number and specialist variety of hospitals, **do not indicate better citizenry or health.**

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