

**THE GRANDIOSITY OF OUR ELITE SHAMES:
A CULTURAL HANDBOOK FOR PUBLIC PALACES' TRANSIT
OCCUPANTS**



MUHAMMAD SA'IDU JIMADA

COPYRIGHT © SAD-TAYY FOUNDATION, 2017

Copyright is hereby granted to any interested body or person to circulate, transmit or reproduce this book on NON-PROFIT basis in whatever form (hard or soft copy), provided it will be in this form and content of presentation.

First Published: November, 2017

Published by
SADAQATU TAYYIBATUN FOUNDATION
Post Office Box 2630,
Minna, Nigeria.

www.sadtayyfoundation.org

THE UNIVERSAL BASIS THAT PROP UP THE ELITE

To begin from the end, every and all societies are paddled by an elite. This is inevitable because they define those that have succeeded by orderliness, hook or crookedness, to become so positioned and happen to play such role. The implication of this is that **NO SINGLE MEMBER** of this group that may be organized or not is so, sacredly. It arose out of a historical process that may be straight or crooked. Individual members may therefore fall out just as they fell in.

It is therefore undoubtedly a superior status of occupation by those who belong. With them is the highest amount, level, best or collection of the three principal valuables that make men and history produce a meaning that can be positive, more positive, negative or more negative. The first of these valuables is **KNOWLEDGE**. It is the most superior valuable because through it or with it, Consciousness becomes alive. In comparison, the Ignorant are logically and sensibly dead. It is also unique, given its intrinsic nature of being capable of limitless or infinite discovery, creation or realization. And it is a valuable that can be shared without the giver losing his possession. Indeed the elimination of the possessor does not make the valuable available to the eliminator. It is therefore behind the making and changing of history. There is **ABSOLUTELY NOTHING** that is devoid of any role of Knowledge. It can also be of as much beneficial use or effect as it can be of evil. This means that, **ONLY ETHICS OR MORALITY IS INDISPUTABLY SUPERIOR TO EMPTY OR NAKED KNOWLEDGE**. And this is both logically and sensibly so because knowledge is of no **USE** if it fails to **SERVE THE** needs, wants and fancies of Men **GOODLY**, better than previously or best at every point in time. If it serves only the least number of men or just most men, that will be less than its utmost purpose. The ultimate challenge of knowledge is therefore twin faced. One is to provide maximum and best facilities for use by men and secondly for the benefits of all men **EVEN IF AGAINST SOME MEN WHO ARE AGAINST FELLOW OR**

ALL OTHER MEN. Prisons are therefore of some good, with the provision of accommodation for all citizens outstandingly superior.

Next to Knowledge is the valuable POWER, in the form of AUTHORITY. This relates to the crass, innate capacity and ability to encourage, impose or deter TO ENJOY, FALL IN LINE to realize or establish what Knowledge has CERTIFIED and is for the BENEFIT OF EACH AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY. Unlike Knowledge, its possessor requires to have been so ENTRUSTED by members of the society. And the holder can be physically dispossessed of such trust and placement and have it EFFECTIVELY TRANSFERRED to another person. Even where a few rascals self-appoint themselves for such role, they will make efforts to legitimize it. Thus, by implication, it is in itself of no benefit, if not properly based and directed by beneficial knowledge. Out of this, it is dangerously risky, in the hands of ignoramus and worse, if they are ambitious. This state is easily possible when EVEN a Knowledgeable person entrusted with power distant himself from knowledgeable persons because, knowledge is constantly improved by transformation or affirmation with competing knowledge. It is therefore only imaginable when a leader poses to be All-knowing or is in the captivity of ambitious ignoramus.

Least of these valuables are riches or wealth, which is CLOSEST by Beneficial availability to men. It is like the bus stop for the experience of knowledge and power by men. For example with knowledge and skill that are related because their difference is in form, farming produces the foods we need. Safety in the transportation of the produce to the market and the economic relationship between the sellers and buyers. When the produce meets hunger, for the survival and health of an individual, it is knowledge and power that have directed the opportunity and use to which riches or wealth are both created and made useful to men. Thus, regardless of how flashy or mind blowing pure riches or wealth or resources may affect in their quantum, weight, volume or whatever, they and the owners are inferior in REAL COMPARATIVE VALUE to Power and those entrusted with it for

goodly use. This is in spite of the fact that production and the use of this is what all men need for sustenance. This is because without organizing the producers, the production and ordering the process that will enable the benefit for men, life will be beastly. And both Power and Resources are inferior to Knowledge because it is the REAL SOURCE OR GENERATOR of the spiritual content that enabled both the existence and livelihood of power and Resources.

These are the principal elements that NO INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP CAN LAY ORIGINAL CLAIM TO. It is with them or by them, properly or otherwise, that enable the emanation of claims, by individuals and groups. And after the claim, the very same elements have to be in continual use to maintain, adjust or change the claim. In every human society and endeavor, these are inevitable. The absolute independence of these from the naked helpless baby that all men start from IS THE INEVITABLE ROOT OF THE EQUAL ENTITLEMENT OF EVERYONE AND ALL MEN TO MINIMUM, SAFE AND RESPECTABLE LIVELIHOOD. It is the root for QUESTIONING every and all material acquisition ABOVE minimum, safe and respectable livelihood by ANY INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, GROUP, etc.

THE ELITE

This is made up of individuals or groups that may be so identified because they are organized and even if they are not organized, with evident ordinary possession of any or a combination of these elements ABOVE the common average level, in the society. It is therefore possible to belong by riches/wealth, position of recognized authority, recognized profession of knowledge or the combination of these or any two. This is why the non-real possessors who share the same vicinity with the possessors even have the tendency of belongingness by psych. Indeed there are false members who may not be evident contributors to society with either knowledge; entrusted authority or justifiable resources. The Tics in most of the traditional palaces fit badly into this. This is most recognizable with palaces that received the

flag and guidance reminder from Usumanu *ibn* Fodio on the burdens of leadership and have been discarded.

This class also covers individuals and groups that have evident capacity to take up the status and role of becoming one shade of the possessors. For instance university professors and students, political leaders and politicians or manufacturers and distributors are closely related.

However, at the level or for history making, the ELITE of reference are those members as individuals and groups who CONNECT or are CONNECTED to the active WELLBEING of the entire society as ONE. The intellectuals are those who offer and are given audience or are actually engaged in the Explanations or Interpretation of the State of Affairs arising from what was and the DESIRABLE DIRECTION for committing Entrusted Authority FOR BETTER REPRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES to serve all men. They may be academic professors or dropouts from school. They may come from the ranks of political leaders, politicians or the electorate. They may be from industrialists, service champions, small scale business people or inventors. The specific difference they share against the other ordinary members is CONNECTION to the WELLBEING of the entire society. Therefore, it is necessarily often less than five percent of the general elite population and likely to be less than two percent of the entire society.

And here is the point. The Elite do NOT have to be doing exactly what their responsibility and purpose is. But because they ALWAYS claim this, they stand to be so evaluated. The objective of this contribution is to attempt this evaluation for their proper consciousness and enlightenment of the electorate for our general improved direction.

THE POST COLONIAL ELITE

That elder Nigerians fought for and succeeded in securing independence from Great Britain remains a history that we often refer to with some pride and satisfaction. Indeed half cultured minds get easily inclined to think and suggest that RETURNING to those terms is more assuring for our general

prosperity. But their misfortune is that it is not only the structures that have undergone changes, the human relationships in operating the transformed structures have even transformed the most. The crisis has been with the effects or benefits of the two points of transformation for the generality of Nigerians. This is why the only intelligent approach to dealing with the crisis is by focusing on WHY AND WHAT HAVE DISABLED OPTIMAL BENEFITS FROM THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE STRUCTURES AND RELATIONSHIPS. Anything different is either deliberately diversionary or illogical and senseless. The reason and sense basis for this is that, human relationship is the superior element that generates the structures that give benefits. It is the more dynamic aspect of the two factors. Thus, the existing relationship base in colonial times was admitted for a new structure the base can fit into. The regions fairly defined this.

But this was not a fixed affair, such that the structures dictated by imprisonment, the relationships. The superiority of relationships for instance generated transitional superior structures like the Parliamentary System, Universities, Federal Government, etc. to connect with Nigeria Railways. This setting is the nucleus revelation of the superiority of a larger entity over a collection of entities.

The prosperity of this phase of our history was informed essentially by a reasonably clear general society concept and commitment to making it a unit of common value for equal attention. The Northern region elite were able to do this in principle and practice ABOVE the numerous languages in its jurisdiction, effectively and satisfactorily. The identity of the elite being largely Muslims or Hausa/Fulani was regardless and a non threat. In the western region, language was NOT a challenge for principle and practice acculturation. Indeed it served as an advantage for mobilization and little resistance. The Ijebus, Egbas, Oyos were easily submitted to by others with more than average benefit of the doubt for equal progress. Religion was inconsequential. On a lower scale was the exposure of the Eastern region.

The prosperity across was driven by what the elite had and could offer. Above all, members were safe in the hands of the elite.

THE TRANSFORMATION ELITE

Nigeria then experienced the effect of the culture of unity with the regimental servants of this country. Their brains could recognize wrongs and they had both arms and the authority to use them for correcting the wrongs. They gave the much they could offer. By leading or being led, they offered unity, evidently stronger than what they took over, including the cost of withdrawal attempt through a civil war. Although it is often loosely identified as military because of the identity of the leaders and their order of operation, civilians remained the engine room and motor of ALL THE GOVERNMENTS they headed. And the singular best opportunist of this was General Ibrahim Badamosi. His tenure remains the most intellectualized and at worst he remains the best evidence of brushing beneficiary of the academic elite.

Thus, what we had was a newly transformed elite. The link of the permanent secretaries separately or further identified as the musketeers is an indication of this. The experience of late General Hassan Usman who was serving as a Governor and withdrew his request for a plot of land on the advice of his Secretary to the Government was another. Indeed even General Abdulsalam as Head of State for the transitional months he remained had a 'Prime Minister'. It is therefore more reasonable and sensible to focus on the elite rather than the Military.

This class of elite, after the exiting of the first generation, either by gun or ballot, has consistently told us and we have seen them associating themselves with our general unity and prosperity. This is for all the intervening period between the close of the first republic and May, 2015. We can not dispute the fact that land and men have grown and even developed. Indeed even relationships have transformed. For instance it will remain to the credit of the club that enabled our building refineries, after which we have been struggling to move further. The approach of reaching the populace better through the

creation of new states is also admissible as a credit. The innovation of having Parastatals to enable special impacts is another credit. These structural developments were necessitated by relationships that defined the superiority of togetherness over powerful many.

This singular perception of what is best for all of us continues to be what is most superior and the driving force of all civil minds. The development of the United Nations to deal with cross boarder or even national inhuman rascality has proved to be less effective than a club of members dealing with such, except for charity gestures of routine human and physical development projects or programs. Thus, a few countries will go against a country. Regional organizations are more expressive and make better impact. The European Union is one. The physical proximity of member's relationship has enabled its superiority in performance effect over the Commonwealth of Great Britain. The United Arab Emirate is another. The African Union can easily compare with Economic Community of West Africa. In essence, the larger or bigger the members and the authority, the better. This singular feat in elite offer or creation is an unquestionable credit.

FACETS OF THESE ELITE CHALLENGES

The Elite have more than reasonably failed in the reproduction or expansion of the necessary ideological and cultural orientation for maintaining and improving on the unity of this country, which will sustain the transformations that are taking place. The much it has inevitably not failed to do is to have a commendable Constitution, National Anthem, National Pledge and statement of Oath. This will not doubt for a long time continue to suffice for Nigeria. This is without reference to the current efforts at watering down the opportunities for the development of the cultural wealth to realize the principles. The elite have not started moving away from the identity of tribe and region or state. The educational institutions that have grown across the land have failed to deliberately serve as windows for this ideological and cultural orientation. If one takes the case of the universities for simple evaluation, the federal universities are NOT a saving reference. The staffing

of most of these universities does not present a close to national picture. Indeed most of the universities machinery is resistant to the possibility of this. The picture of student's intake is not fairer. The leadership of a university is bastardized by partisan processes devoid of national orientation. The head is guided to come from within or the region. It is difficult to expect that a Vice Chancellor will become so preferred because of his intellectual and cultural or national orientation. He will no doubt be a certified academic. Most universities therefore have very negligible capacity for making available materials that can equally serve as better role models or guardians of the society. The disgraceful evidence is the prominent roles the leaders in the academia were opportune to play in the government of Ibrahim Badamosi. Further than this, they have, through regulatory powers destroyed this fundamental bedrock for building the necessary ideological and cultural orientation for national development. The number of universities and the manner in which they are serviced by running part time lecturers who are the best in their home universities abuses the quality of life of the teachers, the quality of attention to students within and outside their home universities and ultimately EDUCATION as against schooling. While at the post primary level most students roam to school at the university level the best teachers roam around tertiary institutions. The rate and level of literature generation, journals, books, their printing and publication by the academia is regrettable the undevelopment of today. We frown at the civility of cattle herders and expect to build civilized minds with either roaming students or teachers. The elite have failed to manage the challenge of increasing population, needs, and available resources for national development. Schooling at lower levels is a worse scenario. An observer then begins to wonder over the credibility of external supervision meant to check falling of standard when suitable members of the same world cannot easily FIT IN in any of the arms. For a clearer picture of the rottenness of elite failure in this respect, the competition by state governments to establish own universities and the irresistible inordinate greed of money bags find a meeting point with eager to become Vice Chancellors or achievement reports by regulatory bodies. When one

merges the negligible prospect that unity schools of the federal government can provide for this orientation, it gets consumed by the university structural arrangement and operation. In the end knowledge is undeniably somehow produced and on the increase BUT the capacity of producing living ideologues to join in the transformational leadership of this country, to realize the tenets of the constitution is negligible.

Because knowledge is in itself power, when it is badly produced, managed and undirected it has the high capacity of serving the contrary objective. This is why the elite still use the vehicle of tribe for service. Thus, while it can easily fit into geopolitical southwest, it ignites crisis for national development. The first reason is that geopolitical southwest houses are close to the largest chunk of the schooled citizens. It therefore has the highest and best 'destructive capacity' that WILL at worst not fail to serve itself. The second reason is that it has logically been in the lead of reproducing this 'rottenness'. The structure of the crisis is defined by the comparatively more difficult feasibility in using tribe in the three northern geopolitical zones that have not disentangled from the identity of the north. And it is less in the southeast or south-south geopolitical regions. Thus, the upcoming weaker elite in these other regions may intelligently resist the package of nationalism by withdrawal from the strong knot of tie, even as inevitable beneficiaries sing that nationalism by togetherness has not been working. If however they unintelligently submit to such dubious direction that may be sponsored by ignorant or naive stronger elite, they may only have more opportunities for raping their non-elite of collective resources. And they will still require the services of the stronger elite for operations. If for example, devolution of powers to the states is considered, the present slim and accidental opportunities for personnel development in the insurance industry for the other regions will be worsened. And of course the investment of the resources will be more committedly directed to the base of the owners. This is the sense though not totally reasonable to fight for locating the headquarters of oil companies in the oil producing communities.

This failure of the elite in generating a national philosophy and orientation can be perceived in the greatest wide or scope of interactions in elite circles. They rarely discuss ideas. When they do, the ideas are rarely about tomorrow and beyond in terms of WHAT AUGHT. And when it is this, it relates to the Use or Benefit of Power or Resources. And because it is spirit bankrupt, it is like technicians, technologists without science. Structurally most of them are over fed, over dressed, very well-schooled and in the prison of comforts. Any ideas therefore start and end in serving self-best. Anything to the contrary is almost considered to be either a sacrifice or a kind gesture. This is why they subtly transform into thieves consciously. No one of their collection or meetings will discuss food for everyone is a MUST and has to be made possible Now or in a Year. Once theirs will be met daily for the next five years, further feasible efforts can continue at careless rate. In fact because of this unwillingness, the matter is closed with ONLY GOD CAN PROVIDE SUFFICIENTLY FOR ALL. There was, now late, a governor of Niger State who complained that, no matter the amount of drugs provided to hospitals, the masses will quickly use them up. This was his experience out of the inability or failure to care for providing disease prevention measures and facilities along with drugs, to properly evaluate the relationship between his mandate and available resources. It really amounted to the unexpressed position either that some citizens do not deserve medical or health attention or that they are in excess of what he was elected to serve. In tertiary institutions, the same elite are now preferring skills development orientation and even discouraging studies like philosophy, classics and literature. In post university life for leadership, they posit that the best leader for health is a physician. But how many leaders or heads of tertiary institutions are Educationists with good records?

Beyond this, it is clearly shameful that the elite have failed to harness the greatest elements that we share. With almost all of Nigerians identifying with Christianity and the Bible or Islam and the Qur'an, they have failed to explore the advantages. It is 'impossible' for the elite to even list the common DOS and DONTs between these related identities for the fulfilling livelihood

of the members because of their bankruptcy and hypocrisy. The cultural orientation of religion being an Explosive has grown and developed over time because of this elite bankruptcy and hypocrisy. The practical carelessness has generated identities that most members are ashamed of. An example is the Boko haram. Another product is intra and interreligious conflicts. We now have religious leaders as distinct from leaders that must pretend not to care for any worthy religious status. And most dangerous inevitable dimension is that matters that can be most offensive to us all can sneak into our identities. The example of legalizing prostitution for health and revenue reasons is not a hidden pressure. It took Senate President David Mark an exceptional courage to process the law against same sex. The shame is that the elite intellectual failure that is the source of these is hidden. But the members include the religious seniors. When it happens, they can not impress anyone by commending it or condemning it. The air of transgender has started blowing. Thus, even common standards like condemnable premarital sex, occultism has become admittedly tolerable. Today we have orphanages that are serving as escape outlets for unwanted children or pregnancy by mistake, isolated by runaway parents. These out of wedlock products have basic human rights because it was not their choice to follow this means. But the producers are either Muslims, Christians, of elite status or background. And it is the elite that build, support and take them. Those who do so in the name of charity, corporate work of mercy or adoption to have a child or an heir HAVE THOUSANDS OF RELATIVES AND NON RELATIVES FROM PROPER WEDLOCK RELATIONSHIPS THEY HAVE IGNORED. This formation of check-faithful's that no faithful can submit or defend as blessed is the additional harm caused by the elite failure and hypocrisy. Whether with Muslims or Christians, across all the geopolitical zones, we are genuinely failing IN SPITE OF ALL THE EVANGELISM AND STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT by us. In simple terms, we admit and cherish Rome and Mecca which we must steer away from and have reservations about the FREE United States. This is the creature our wicked and hopeless elite are making out of us.

Because of this characteristic failure at the level of knowledge, we have failed in building institutions with national orientation and nationalists. The public service is the most embarrassing example. The pioneer opportune elite have failed to live the principle and practice of Federal Character as a transitional thing OVER AND ABOVE the failure of establishing a system where those who exit from the service will be honorably secure with regular and timely pension, accommodation and further consistent positive engagement. This is unfortunate because citizens who get milled through the public service remain a superior resource in terms of competences. Unfortunately, the failure to establish the public service as a positive system and instrument by sharp practices like nepotism and over establishment have bastardized the public service. The further negative consequences of this include the psychological trap of struggling to become a stranger in the place you have worked if it is not your permanent home or preparing to start reliving a new life at the person's permanent home, after spending his work life outside. Additionally, the elite foolishly strive to 'train' prospective retirees to acquire new skills for living. As much as they make it appear sensible it rarely serves its purpose. One factor is that it is always time bad. The second is that the challenge of accommodation becomes uppermost. The trick of mortgage housing fails to serve. Thus in between, depending upon the opportunities available to those milling the governance of Nigeria, they are either effectively engaged in side businesses or manipulate the system to financially provide for their future security. This orientation explains decreasing commitment to service and increasing roguery competence. This easily gets perfected with willing collaborators who exit and return as experts or consultants. This is the root explanation for governance appearing to be the publicized activities of anti-graft agencies at a time we are all claiming to fight corruption. But there is no place it is possible to have a genuinely thriving private sector with a bastardized public machinery as the coordinator. This is why our achievements are service heavy and goods production weak. MOST OF THE ELITE LEADING THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND MOST OF THE OPERATORS EITHER DO NOT

BELIEVE IN THE SANCTITY OF THE SERVICE OR DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT AS A NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. This situation is unfortunately reasonably and sensibly justified by the **TRAPPINGS** of the service and members. It is therefore either self-deceptive, incompetence or deceiving to place Nigeria on the course of transformation without **TRANSFORMING THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND ITS SOLDIERS.**

With faulty concept or knowledge as the competence and offer it is only logical that an ineffective and even destructive powerful instrument or machinery will be built. The devils and criminals it will produce are only consequential. Their primary and ultimate focus will be the improvement of their material being to the point of a burst. Therefore the capacity to produce material needs for the general society will be unsystematic. The best facilities will be for the elite members themselves. A leader will therefore be able to build a solid and well finished home for himself but a structurally defective office or staff quarters for officials. Costs for works, services, and constructions are well overinflated – including those that are not even done. The standard of records keeping and checking becomes a window for initiating or recruiting similar but lesser devils and criminals from among inspectors like auditors, to cover up the past and commit more and greater harm to the trust with them **BUT** for themselves.

This is what our elite have been able to do and are continuing to do, to our misfortune. This is the nature or character of what our elite have to be apportioned or burdened with.

THE HISTORICITY OF THE ELITE

The most possible and probable members should be easily identifiable by the characteristic of above average advantage or placement in society, in politics, in the economy or in public service.

The core elite that can be held responsible for a span of history will spread between those in direct public trust holding positions across government and non-governmental structures – with the connection of **ENABLING** the

history of the society, by principal commitments of IDEAS, POWER OR AUTHORITY AND RESOURCES.

This means that the members will always be mostly among those that are visible by their greater involvement. This involvement is characterized by MAKING THINGS HAPPEN.

The Knowledgeable or the Scholars are necessarily the torch bearers that define and give directions to others on the PATH TO PROSPERITY. And those who do so consciously are the most responsible. They can come from Teachers, Students, Politicians, Businessmen, and Technocrats. Indeed the sponsors of the ideas may come from others but require the recognition and admission of the visible ones, to matter. The status of a society is therefore the necessary making of the quality of Knowledgeable or Scholars it produces and cares for. And this responsibility falls on the deliberate actions of the other classes of the elite, fellow members of the same class of scholars and indeed the larger non elite members. A peculiar attribute of such members is that they rarely eat to fill, drink to fill, overclothe etc. Those who are full are less capable of serious consistent positive thinking FOR OTHERS. This sacrificial modesty is rarely combinable with affluence and arrogance. Wherever and whenever the affluent, the arrogant or the greedy are the champions of ideas, the commitment and direction CANNOT be for the larger society COMING FIRST. The spirit of sacrifice for others is ignored or suppressed. One cannot give what he does not have. Thus the former can generate systems to serve all while the latter can generate systems to serve self-first. Others can wait or be patient, until their turn comes up.

Consequently, every generation inevitably lives by its elite. And if there will be any possible changes, it can be by the elite volunteering to improve, adjust or change. It can also be by changing the elite. Indeed the two direction processes inevitably always take place. However, the difference that is required is the pronounced evidence of either. And the factor that influences those who join together to produce this evidence or otherwise, is the scope of knowing, feeling, sharing and commitment to what is different from the

status quo, as the solution. The elite can lead or champion the course. But this is rarely feasible where they are deeply buried in the questionable benefits of the misgivings they have generated, are sustaining and even developing. It has therefore been more commonly experienced, to have the non-elite being led by the repentant members of the core elite or even the weak but remorseful members to redress the excesses, adjust the bends and change the unacceptable. In some cases, where this form of transition is further resisted, a drastic upturn is compelled to ensure the change. Inevitably some members of the proper and oppressive elite or weak but ambitious members for general societal wellbeing have to be involved. And at the tip of this leadership must be those with Knowledge or intellectual power of removing the wool across common understanding that may be seemingly right. This is because of the superiority of the role of knowledge in directing power and resources for good or evil. One can therefore appreciate the risk of having ignorance or wrong knowledge or a combination of these two, to be in greater steering of a society or governance. It is also indicative of the foolishness of stupid leaders that are suspicious, disrespectful or avoid scholars. Either of these and the one that believes or pretends to either know everything or better than any other, share audacity in their style and irresponsible in the results they largely give because of their irresponsiveness.

The safety of this transformation and the justification for it is resting in its sociological nature. The conditions involved or in existence and the ones preferred are both relating to men, in their relationship to or with one another. The entire ideas of definitions, values and identities belong to the history of the given society. Those who sponsor the change in perspectives are the men and same men are necessarily required for executing the realization of the change. This fundamental nature is what justifies questioning differences that generate, permit, tolerate or sustain elements or prospect of bad being with any member of the society against varied wellbeing of all members – above basic survival that is minimally affordable in that society. For instance, some cannot live in fifty-bedroom palaces while some live under bridges – even if they are sick or criminals. Some members cannot eat whatever they desire at

any time, in any form and for as many times as they wish – even if their doctors prescribe so, while some cannot be sure of three healthy meals in a day – even if they choose to fast regularly. Some cannot justify having their children attend highbrow institutions simply because they believe they can afford it. Such belief will be truncated if there are children of members of the society that cannot attend standard public schools.

THE ORDER OF REASONABLE AND SENSIBLE CHALLENGES EXECUTION

The assumption, expectation here is that, although humans can turn into behaving like animals, we, Nigerians have enormous civil outlets or means for sociological transformation today. Indeed, we can even save ourselves from a revolution, which appears fanciful and often promising but it is certainly more challenging to succeed or differentiate from aimless and very costly violence. For instance the overthrow of the Shah of Iran was a complicated highly defined process like the overthrow of the Czars of Russia. It is completely out of reason and sense, and therefore disorderly to consider an approach like destroying collective resources, just to oppose the elite in power. That will be properly irresponsible because it is unintelligent, anti society and akin to war on oneself. The elite that have to be necessarily behind this either by commitment, negative neutrality or prospective ambitions to exploit the fallout from the crisis and damages needs to be marked as the worst creatures in the society. This is because they have enabled a worse condition compared to what the status quo elite have imposed on the general society that deserves checking.

The first order will connect or rest on the incumbent elite in Great, Greater and Greatest control of the matters of trust across all levels. These will cover the top echelon members of the bureaucracy, with which the core elite mill the Affairs of Nigeria. They will need to give the political elite the benefit of considering and confronting the decadence of the public service. Those of them in this phase of the elite who have the knowledge and care will remain the hope for igniting the necessary basic understanding for majority of the

members that are definitely either ignorant or careless because the status quo is self-serving. The political elite in government along with the leaders of the platforms of politics will be the best initiators of this transformation because they hold the trust of final calling in decisions making. Their move will compel members of the bureaucratic elite to necessarily oblige as much goodly supportive response as possible. And the elite members in the private sector will logically get attracted for contributions. The sleeping intellectual capacities in the academia and beyond will get awoken. And the legislative arm will robustly contribute and enable the realization of results. It will therefore be appreciated that the production of the 1999 constitution is a commendable example of such effort. The few national Conferences were deliberate attempts of such requirements. However, the drawback of such conferences has been the poverty or bankruptcy of the concept of ALL NIGERIANS coming first. The elite have rather fostered all Nigerians FROM SELF. And that Self has been either, State, Region, Religion, Office or Profession. At the end of the day, the Masters among them pushed most and best OVER whatever others may have offered, regardless of the quality. This was best played by late Yusuf and Osoba MINORITY REPORT, from their constitutional debate. The report was no doubt a very imperfect replacement for the main report BUT it remains the best attempt in the right opportunity. The point here is that IT IS POSSIBLE FROM AND THROUGH THE EXISTING ROT.

It is even more possible now, under democratic setting because then under the military the elite scared the leaders that democracy is a game of numbers. And it will be worse of the leadership that is in power by gun to ignore the main report supported by majority elite for the minority by two difficult to accommodate university ramblers from universities of Ahmadu Bello and Obafemi Awolowo. The progressive or all-caring elite that will generate and sponsor this desirable transformation can make attempts or ignite the light with the necessary ideas through the bureaucracy, when and where they are in political leadership, in the legislature, in the media and through pressure groups and indeed as individuals in their relationship with others, in groups

and in forums. It can be by speech or in writing. It will be foolhardy to expect that this ignition, this leadership will necessarily come from the academia that is materially secure in the present rot arrangement and is trapped within its decaying structure and system. This is why teachers have become over unionized and are always in confrontation with the political elite for really, MORE SHARE, with wool covers like funds for research, higher pay and infrastructure. This explains why lots of them have other jobs for making competitive money with the elite members outside the academia that have no positive bearing on their primary assignment. Those of them that have had above reasonable exposure to governance process and have consciously resisted being destructively fully consumed stand on a fair pedestal for MODEST or TOLERABLE TRANSITION for the general transformation of both the currently oppressed and the oppressors. Civility dictates that change or transformation is not meant to simply displace the oppressors to be replaced with the oppressed. It will be more of replacing the unsuitable and the stubborn with the suitable.

Therefore, the beginning, regular and continuous challenge of the all-caring or progressive elite is EDUCATION FOR POSITIVE ORIENTATION to keep every member of the society responsible for the wellbeing of ALL that covers every one. This is distinct from SCHOOLING even though schooling can enhance it. But one does not have to be schooled or literate to be educated. Most of our schooled citizens are therefore easily capable of getting educated. The elite in any society that ignores, is careless or nonchalant about EDUCATION cannot be RESPONSIVE enough to real wellbeing challenges NO MATTER HOW BEST INTENDED the leadership may be. It will inevitably find itself most untimely in taking decisions and in acting out. Even when it succeeds, it will really be less satisfactory. This was why a past conscious President of the United States went to the electorate to educate them on his DISAGREEMENT with the Senate and Congress he was governing with.

THE CHALLENGE THE ALL-CARING ELITE MUST OVERCOME

The challenge of cooperation and selfless support is paramount. It is impossible for ideas to move round without leadership and resources. And it is uncommon in history to have especially this specie of elite members commanding the knowledge, power or influence and resources in one person or already existing group **OUTSIDE THE CORE ELITE MEMBERS**. This spirit and culture is most demanding especially in the relationship between those with the ideas and those who share or sympathize with the ideas and have to contribute their influence or material resources. The investment is not measurable in terms of returns and when to get it. But it is not **IMPOSSIBLE**. Good example is the comparative development of the private media outfits in the geopolitical southwest, the den of the Masters of the elite against the several failed attempts in the three geopolitical regions in the North. While a few good ones failed in the Southwest many have survived it. And today it is part of their instruments for directing or influencing or sustaining their ideas. Even those who disagree are reached and cannot be countered easily **BECAUSE** you require their opportunity to be heard or read.

The common logical and sensible scenario is that the members who have the ideas and are developing them are materially and influentially handicapped. Those who have the influence and associate fear their loss of influence just like those with resources power see how they can get depleted. This is because the possessors of ideas do not lose by sharing. But they require the losable possessions to survive. If they do not survive, the time for the possible germination of the ideas and societal transformation is postponed. It is therefore not uncommon for the possessors of losable to encourage the possessors of ideas to either join them and attend to ideas later or simply abandon the course. This can be expressed directly or by keeping away from the bearers of ideas. And it is very understandable because their level of commitment depends upon the quantum of resources or level of influence in the command of these members, along with their level of interest in the general society wellbeing. Some level of respect and patience therefore need

be constantly exercised in the relationship between the parties especially because it is more difficult to understand that intellectual work requires some level of physical and psychological security to blossom. While crisis can inject some spice in the person or process it must not be the standard. Where it is, it may best produce immediate or ad hoc solutions. In the circumstances where these elite members are unable to get along for the reason and sense that is superior to them all, each party will go his way and the status quo is enforced.

THE KERNEL OF THE IDEOLOGICAL CHALLENGE

To be sure, the elite that will ignite this transformation through education require providing a paradigm that will give security and satisfaction to our best identities. For example, if we are mostly Muslims and Christians, it will be a great shortcoming to be neutrally negative to what will ease our qualification for SALVATION after death. Thus, the Ten Commandments and *Kabaair* (major sins) should be firstly or given utmost protection. Politics or democracy is NOT the destruction of the best identities of the members. And only fools treat and respect humans without values or morals. While humans can choose to be like animals in a democracy, that freedom must be limited to the extent of protecting humans who prefer to remain human. For example, people require the knowledge and orientation of going to Sharia court in all matters of dispute involving Muslims. If this is ignored, the law will not develop in the sphere where the dispute also involves a non believer. And if a self-declared Muslim will neither submit nor be compelled to go to Shari'ah court, the leadership (whether Muslim, Christian or Non-believer) is not protective and not serving the Muslims properly. However, if we choose the contrary, neither the leadership will be to blame nor those whose identities we eventually put on. And we can have no justification to complain about losing a benefit like BLESSINGS which are necessarily tied to compliance.

This is distinct from intervening identities that must be admissible to our best identities. No identity is inhibited from becoming a professor of academic

discipline, a political leader etc. But all laws made by organizations, local authorities, state governments are of no effect if and where they contradict federal laws, to the extent that they do. Our constitution of this superior identity must therefore be most protective of our respective identities. And this is especially applicable where the standard is not negotiable. If Christians and Muslims cannot keep and foster their identities, they must admit abuse of the identities by others and themselves. For example, a court received a woman plaintiff reporting her husband for impregnating their biological daughter. When the husband appeared he protested against the possible prejudice of the Judge. He enlightened the judge. That his wife was only jealous. That, the woman in question is his own daughter. And that, where they come from, churches and mosques are not known. So, she is being brainwashed and has come to the court that cannot do justice to them. The Judge advised the wife to go to a customary court. This was to protect their identity. Do we not have Christian and Islamic studies in our schools? Is that undemocratic? But because of the backwardness and bankruptcy of our elite, we have recorded the fear and resistance to Islamizing school children. In response there were denials. Indeed there was the diversion that it was during the time of Jonathan (a Christian), civic studies was introduced. But the leadership of Christians and Muslims only needed to connect to CORRECT whatever wrong. And like democracy by half humans introduced civic studies to replace religious studies we got social studies introduced, which has now attracted return of studying our history. What a shame to our elite? The Education must therefore strive and be directed against making us half of what we identify with and half of what we will be ashamed to relate to our declared identities. This is not impossible and is the challenge to our elite.

With this Education, the electorate will be more equipped in evaluating political contestants for office, questioning them while in office and rating them at the end of their tenure. The machinery of governance will get more responsively directed to be responsible to the polity. This will check the common freedom from one's best identity to escape into what is contradictory because it is permissible and safe. If for example a Christian approaches a

non believer for sex before marriage and he or she says NO, unless we get married, according to your creed, our democracy will be serving us. In the event it happens and is discovered, the non-believer should be able to report, to make Nigeria better. If the person is a Muslim he or she should be ready for sanctions. But because the elite have failed, we are not just careless about personal morals but resources trust. However, if we prefer Resources security along with personal moral looseness we must not complain about the consequences. Whatever form of Education we give or fail to give will be the determinant of the kind of leadership and resources package that we must live with. Then, if more and more of the elected are real reflections of the educated electorate, audacity will be cut short. Responsiveness and responsibility will increase. Representation will transform to becoming a task or burden rather than an opportunity. And leadership will become a real test. The culture of the electorate seeking for and requesting competent or fitting persons to contest will outweigh well fed people offering themselves to 'serve'. It will be the electorate who will connect to re certify candidates, between those that know him directly and those in the same constituency but far away. In consequence, the formation of political parties, the manifesto, their leadership etc. will have to properly situate the identities that will give any of them, the mandate for governance. It will not just be THINGS by people that are values neutral. Where anything goes good things have no certainty because bad things are always easier.

TO STATE HOUSES MASTERS

The first civil, honorable and responsible step to be taken must be by Chief Executives at government levels because they cannot claim other than to be committed to the general wellbeing of the entire members of Nigeria. And it does not matter whether they know what it means or not.

The specific step will be by making deliberate efforts to Educate themselves by constantly asking themselves, what they are considering to decide, their aides and proposals to them - HOW WILL THIS SERVE AND PROTECT every Nigerian? This is critical because it goes beyond NOT HARMING.

Governance today often may not directly harm most of the electorate BUT it fails to serve them and because it serves only SOME. And there is no defense in serving self or some only first. This is especially so if those to be served next or further are not clear about the reason and sense of doing so. This can be enhanced by respect, association and invitation of scholars from across the board of supporters and critics. But one must beware of those with tags, because they are often short of modesty. Leadership is a burden beyond any bearer of a certificate of award to serve as a license for rightness. Many of them should only be an advantage in the fora of the awards.

This has to connect with span of time and resources available to the Masters. Any leader that governs as if time is waiting for him or her to tick is disrespectful to the electorate that gave him the mandate. This is because if right things can wait to any time, governance will be unnecessary. It logically admits that the wrong can continue until the leader wakes up. More damaging will be that the leader is indecisive. And this may have been informed by either ignorance, unwillingness to consult, hesitation to take advice or simple stupidity mistaken for stubbornness.

For this class of transitory Masters, as regrettable as our present history is, we do not deserve to be wiped away or better still, wipe out the leading elite members we can associate our circumstances with MORE. They must therefore build on the rights that we are certain of. And because the very misleading elite do not have to continue to be so, they may not be barred from open access. Their admission and attention will however be subject to relevance to the new course. And nothing in this process will inhibit the Masters from optimizing material benefits to the electorate because they have never had ideas for our best identities but lists of infrastructure to use our resources for.