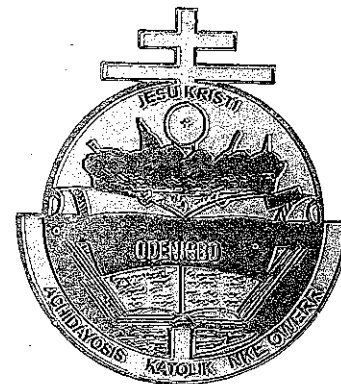


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# ODENIGBO



## ECHI DI IME: TAA BU GBOO

*Ode*  
Prof. Chinua Achebe

Achidayosis Katolik Nke Owerri

Frances W. Pritchett  
Rec'd 10-26-99 from  
B. O. N. Osuagwu

# ODENIGBO 1999

**ECHI DI IME:  
TAA BU GBOO**

**SETEMBA, 4, 1999**

**N'OBIRI ODENIGBO  
VILLA ASSUMPTA  
OWERRI**

**Odee:**

Prof. Chinua Achebe

# NDINAYA

*types, arrangements,  
styles*

## Nkọwa Usoro Edemede Abuo eji biputa "Echi di ime"

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I lezie anya n'ime akwukwo Odenigbo nke i ji n'aka ugbu a, i ga-ahụ na ebiputara nkuzi nke "Echi di ime: Taa bu gboo," n'usoro edemede abuo. Usoro nke mbu bu etu okammuta Chinua Achebe siri dee nkuzi ya. Usoro nke abuo bu etu ndi okammuta n'asusu Igbo si ede Igbo nke ha na-akpo Igbo izugbe, ma o bu asusu ozuru-Igbo <sup>central</sup>onu.

E kpebiri m ka ebiputa "Echi di ime" n'usoro edemede abuo ndi a iji mee ka ndi Igbo ghotu njem asusu Igbo na aka mgba chere otuto na oganihu ya.

Chinua Achebe ga-eji usoro nke o jiri dee "Echi di ime" wee nye nkuzi Odenigbo. I choo igu ya bu nkuzi n'usoro edemede Igbo Izugbe sata ebe o di n'akwukwo a.

Ya gazie!

**Amarachi A.J.V. Obinna.**

## MBEM ODENIGBO

Jeso-Odenigbo, Kristi - Odenigbo

<sup>Abide</sup> Nonyere anyi bu umu Igbo

K'anyi jiri anuri na ihunanya

<sup>confess</sup> kwuputa Gi- Nnukwu Odenigbo anyi

Chukwu kenyerere anyi asusu Igbo

<sup>broadcast</sup> Iji fee ya, ma kwusaa Ozioma

N'ime Kristi na n'aha Kristi Nwa ya

<sup>save</sup> Onye bu Nzoputa nke mmadu niile

Ya bu k'anyi suo, guo ma dee Igbo

K'Igbo na Ozioma debanye n'ime anyi

<sup>fruit</sup> Na-edeputa ezi mkpuru na Kristi

Odenigbo Nzoputa anyi

Olu Igbo towe Chukwu Nna

Olu Igbo towe Chukwu Nwa

<sup>wise</sup> Olu Igbo towe Muo Nso - Chi amamihe

Ugbu a na mgbe ebighi ebi - Amen.

## ODENIGBO: NKUZI OHA NA EZE OKWU NKOWA

<sup>lecture?</sup> ODENIGBO bu aha nkuzi oha na eze, nke <sup>congreg.</sup> nzuko Katolik di <sup>support</sup> n'Owerri Achidayosis hiwere make otito nke Chineke na ezi <sup>advance</sup> nkwalite mmuo ndi Igbo site n'igbasa ozioma, ihe oma, ezi omume na ezi mmuta n'etiti oha mmadu nwere <sup>pleasure</sup> mmasi maka asusu Igbo.

<sup>Tenets</sup> Ihe o ji buru "ODENIGBO" di uzo ano:

1. E nwere otutu ihe oma di n'ala Igbo na ndi nke si n'ala ndi ozo <sup>gain</sup> bia, <sup>support</sup> tosiri nkwalite na nnabata n'etiti anyi okacha n' ihe gbasara ezi omume na ezi mmuta. Ime ka ihe oma ndi a na-abawanye, <sup>grow</sup> na-azubanye na-ewu ewu na-akpotu n'etiti ndi Igbo bu ime ka ha na-edede. Ya bu, ODENIGBO bu nkuzi na-eme ka ihe oma na-edede, na-ewu, na-akpotu. <sup>advertise</sup>
2. Asusu Igbo enwechabeghi ugwu, <sup>respect</sup> nsopuru na nkwalite nke o <sup>advice</sup> tosiri inwe n'etiti ndi Igbo Isu, ikowa na tapia ebumnuche ndi Igbo jiri asusu Igbo na-eme nke a, nkea bu ihe otutu umu Igbo na-eleda anya ma o bu leghara anya kpam kpam. Ya mere ODENIGBO jiri buru ezi agamnihu na iji asusu Igbo tapia echiche umu mmadu. A na-eme nke a, ODENIGBO ga-akpalite mmasi iji asusu Igbo na-eme ihe n'etiti ndi Igbo. Uto <sup>joy</sup> na uju di n'asusu Igbo ga na-aputa. <sup>abundance</sup>
3. N'uwa ugbu a, ide na igu asusu Igbo aburula aka mgba chere ndi nwe asusu Igbo. <sup>enjoy</sup> Ozughi iji asusu Igbo kwuo okwu ma o bu kowaa ihe. Ya mere osu Igbo gaabukwa Ogu Igbo burukwa Ode Igbo.
4. Nzuko Kristi no n'ala Igbo bu otu ebe ejiri asusu Igbo <sup>adopt</sup> kporo nnukwu ihe. Ya mere asusu Igbo jiri buru isi asusu n'ife Chineke n'ala Igbo niile. N'ih i onodu ejima <sup>twins</sup> jikoro ofufe Chukwu na asusu, Nzuko Kristi bu Katolik di n'ala Igbo ji <sup>waiting</sup>

nnukwu obi uto na-akwalite asusu Igbo site na-ime ka Ozioma nke nzoputa nke uwa na nkowa niile di n'ime ya na-aga n'ihu n'asusu Igbo. Ka a na-eme nke a, Jesu Kristi bu onye nzoputa nke uwa niile ga na-azoputa ndi igbo na njo ha, na-azoputa ihe oma di n'etiti anyi na-azoputakwa asusu Igbo na nleli ochichi nwabekee butebuuru ya. Ebe o na-azoputa ndi Igbo a na-etu ya: ODENIGBO, EZI ODENIGBO, ODENUWA.

**EKPERE NA OLILEANYA**

*mature? / ammi'noting*  
O teela aguu ji na-agu otutu umu Igbo ka e nwee nkuzi oha na eze chara acha nke a ga na-eme n'asusu Igbo. ODENIGBO bu mmejuputa aguu ahu. Ka Chineke, onye amamihe niile si n'aka ya aputa, gozie atumatu nkuzi ODENIGBO.

*plans*

Aririo anyi na-ario bu ka umu Igbo niile nabata ma kwadokwa egwu ohuru a anyi na-eboputa bu ODENIGBO, nkuzi oha na eze.

Olileanya anyi bu, n'oge na-adighi anya, otutu umu Igbo ga-eji obi uto na-asu, na-agu, na-edede Igbo, jiri ya na-akwalite mmuta na nkuzi ma n'ulo mmuta ndi ntakiri ma n'ulo mmuta ndi nke ukwu.

*elementary*

*NT*  
*OTITO*  
Otito diiri Chineke n'elu kacha elu, n'uwa udo diiri ndi mmadu, ndi ihe ha na-aso Chukwu.

**NDI NLEKOTA ODENIGBO**

*plans*  
Nhazi na nlekota ODENIGBO di n'aka Achbishopu nke Owerri Achidayosis na ndi o hoputara inyere ya aka. O bu ya na ha ka o diiri ihoputa isiokwu na onye nkuzi ODENIGBO nke afo o bula.

**OGE O GA-ABU**

A na-eme Odenigbo - nkuzi oha na eze n'onwa Septemba obula. Ubochi o ga naadanye bu Satode nke mbu n'onwa Septemba.

Maka mmalite ya n'afo 1996, ubochi o danyere bu mgbe onwa itolu gbara abali asaa. (Sept. 7)

Odenigbo - Nkuzi oha na eze nke afo garaga buru Satode mgbe

onwa Septemba gbara abali ise. (Sept. 9)  
Ebe nke afo a ga abu Satode mgbe onwa Septemba gbara abali ano. (Sept. 4)

Ebe a ga-eme ya bu - *Maria Assumpta Cathedral Owerri, N'obiri ODENIGBO*  
**ODENIGBO NA-AKPO, - KA ANYI GAA NU!**

*Search assistance?*

**NTUZI AKA**

*call*  
I choo imatakwu ihe banyere ODENIGBO nkuzi oha na eze kpotu ma o bu dega akwukwo n'ebe a:

Onye Isi Nhazi, ODENIGBO,  
Villa Assumpta Box 85, Owerri,  
Imo State, Nigeria. Tel: 083-230-115.

Account

# NKOWA BANYERE NDU PROFESO CHINUA ACHEBE

- Ezenwa Ohaeto Ph.D.

## OKWU MMALITE

Gen. public  
People + leaders

Oha na eze -ekele m unu.

A si na enyi abughi anu oha mmadu na-asi na o di ka o nwere ihe gafere n'otu ntabi anya. Onye huru enyi kwuo ihe o huru. A ga-ahota onye anubeghi aha onyenkuzi Odenigbo 1999 n'ala Igbo anyi. O buru na o bu mmanwu ka anyi na-etiputa taa, o bu, IJELE. Ijele bu nnukwu mmanwu a na-eji afo ise akwado. Mana taa o bu dike di na mmadu, oka minuta a ma ama, wuchiri n'etiti anyi, n'obiri Odenigbo. Naani Achibishop Obinna maara ihe o were ya iji kpolatara anyi oke nwanne anyi a maka nnukwu emume Odenigbo nke afo a.

in person

## OMUMU NANTOLITE ACHEBE

N'ubochi iri na isii nke onwa Novemba 1930 ka Isaiah Okafo Achebe na nwunye ya (bu) Janet mutara nwa ha nke ise. Aha ha kporo nwa ahụ bu Chinualumogu; Chinua na nkenke. Nne na nna ya marala ebumnobi ha kpatara ha jiri nye nwa ha nwoke udi aha a. Chinua toputara buru onye e ji eme onu n'obodo Ogidi. O guru akwukwo osooso na Praimari Skul Ogidi'si ebe ahụ banye Government College Umuahia ebe o jiri naani afo ano gurikoo ihe ibe ya ji afo ise na-agu. Ozugbo ahụ, o banyere University College Ibadan n'afọ 1948. Ejirimara Chinua n'elementiri na koleeji bu idi ocha na igba onye mbu n'uleakwukwo. Nke a mere otu onyenkuzi jiri si nna ya "Kee aji n'ume maka na akwukwo nwa gi nwoke ga-agu agaghi ebi na Naijiria".

finish reading all

Reputation?

Tighten your belt

end, be cut off

O bu eziokwu na Chinua Achebe banyere igu maka ibu dibia Bekee na mahadum, ma o hapuru echiche ibu dibia Bekee tikpuo igu Arts (ya bu igu maka Nka). N'ebe ahụ ka o noro guta nzere B.A. (Hons) n'afọ 1953.

embrace

degree

game 6

## ACHEBE ONYE ORU

neto

tried his hand

Odogwu nwoke anyi, na oru di iche-iche ekweela n'aka. O ruola oru na Igbo ebe e jiri idi uchu n'oru mara ya. A ga-agu ote ghara ole?

foreign lands

dedication

he was known for ded. to his work

O jiri oru nkuzi malite n'afọ 1953 n'obodo Oba. Naani onwa asaa ka o ruru nke a tupu ndi Nigerian Broadcasting Service akporo ya nye ya oru n'afọ 1954. O ruru oru a nke oma mere e ji zipu ya ka o gaa guo akwukwo n'obodo England. Na nlotu ya, e buliri ya n'okwa nke onye nhazi okwu na Redio. E mechara o buruzie onye nlekota Nigerian Broadcasting Service na mpaghara owuwa anyanwu.

breakfast director

Na 1961, e mere ya onye-isi na Voice of Nigeria. N'ebe a ka o siri gbaa oso ndu lota n'afọ 1966; mgbe njinji jiri jikwuo anyi n'ala Naijiria.

trouble? darkness?

Mahadum Naijiria di na Nsuka wee kporo ya nye ya oru 'Research Fellow' nke bu oso eme-nchoputa. O ruru oru a ruo n'afọ 1973 mgbe e mere ya Profeso nke English. Biko tuonu ya Prof!!

discovery

N'otu oge ahụ, Prof Achebe na-akuzikwa na Mahadum nke Massachusetts di n'Amerika. O mechara norozie na Mahadum Naijiria di na Nsuka ebe o no na-akuzi ruo mgbe o ji aka ya kwusi nkuzi n'afọ 1981; ka o wee nwee ike na-eede akwukwo. Ebe ndi ozo Prof Achebe kuzirila gunyere Mahadum ndi digasi na USA di ka Storrs, Connecticut, Guelph, New York, California nakwa na Mahadum di na Canada, wee rue mgbe o zutere ihe mberede okporo uzo n'afọ 1990. Chi ya mu anya wee luro ya ogu zota ndu ya.

voluntarily?

<sup>treated</sup>  
Anyị wee na-ekele ndị dibia Bekee gworo ya, na nwunye ya Christie Chinwe lekotara ya nke oma. Ka Chinua <sup>recovering</sup>gbakere, ndi Bard College nke di Amerika biara rioro Prof Achebe ka o na-akuziri ha ihe. O bu ebe o siri lota inye anyi nkuzi Odenigbo nke afo 1999.

### PROFACHEBE ODEAKWUKWO

<sup>famed for</sup>  
<sup>work?</sup>  
A naghị agutacha akwukwo Prof Achebe dere onu. Ha juru eju bara abara. Bikonu, ka m kpoputaturu unu ufodu. Akwukwo o derela <sup>include</sup>gunyere *Things Fall Apart*-(1958) nnukwu njiri mara ya, nke a tugharirila n'asusu mba uwa kariri iri isii: *Igbo Kwenu!!!*; *No Longer At Ease* (1960); *Arrow of God* (1964); *A man of the People* (1966); *Anthills of the Savannah* (1987). Akwukwo abu Prof Achebe gunyere *Beware Soul Brother*; *Christmas in Biafra*. O dekwara *Girls At War*; *Morning Yet on Creation Day*; *Hopes and Impediments*. Akwukwo ndi Prof Achebe huru maka <sup>edited</sup>ndezi <sup>and so on</sup>ma ha gunyere *African Short Stories*; *Contemporary African Stories*; *Don't Let him Die*; *The Umuahian*; *Aka Weta*, *Egwu aguluagu na egwu edeluode*; *Africa*; *The Drum and the Flute*; *The Trouble with Nigeria* <sup>wdg/ggz.</sup> Dika anyi si <sup>nuta</sup>akwukwo ohuru ndi Chinua dekwara ga-aputa oge na-adighi anya. O di egwu. Ekele diri Chukwu.

### PROFACHEBE NA ONYINYE AKARANZERE

<sup>honorary?</sup>  
Mba di iche iche di n'awa etoola Prof Achebe maka akwukwo o dere. Mahadum iri abuo na asaa enyela ya onyinye akara nzere Dokita iji kwanyere ya ugwu. Na Naijiria, Mahadum Ibadan, Port Harcourt. Ife na Nsuka enyela ya, ya bu nzere dokita. Na mba ofesi, ufodu mahadum nyere Prof Achebe Nzere Dokita gunyere Havard, <sup>foreign countries</sup>

City University New York, na New Brunswick di na Canada. Open University nke Kent di n'England, Georgetown di na Washington, Westfield di na Massachusetts na ndi ozogasi nyechara ya nzere dokita. A guwachaa ha onu, o ga-erikwu oge. <sup>enumerate</sup>

### Prof Achebe Na Nchikota Umụ Mmadu.

<sup>fame?</sup>  
Prof Achebe bu ezigbo nna n'ezinaulo ya. Umụ ya nwechara nkwo ya wee guputachaa akwukwo na Mahadum di iche iche. Ya na nwunye ya ebizuola afo iri ato na asato n'obiuto.

Ka Chinua si achị ezi na ulo ya bu ka o si elekota oha na eze. O bu ya bidoro otu ndi Nigerian Authors; o bidokwara Jonal a na-akpo *Okike, Uwa ndi Igbo* na akwukwo <sup>magazine?</sup>ogugu a na-akpo *African Commentary*. O butula Pro-Chancellor na onyeisi Kansul Anambra State University of Science and Technology, burukwa President General Ogidi Town Union. Nke a putara na o chiala ezi na ulo ya, chia obodo ya, chia ndi ode akwukwo ibe ya wee chiakwa ndi Mahadum. Ndi be anyi, <sup>one who is sought</sup>onye a na-acho nwere ihe o na-eme!! Prof-dee emee! <sup>something he does</sup>

### PROFESOACHEBE, NWOKE NA-EWU EWU N'UWA

<sup>famous</sup>  
Prof Achebe abughi naani nwoke e ji aga mba na nwoke Igbo ji eme onu, o bukwa nwoke aha ya na-ewu ewu n'awa niile. <sup>mentions?</sup>  
A kpohaa *Things Fall Apart*, *No Longer at Ease* na *Arrow of God*, onye obula amarala aka kwere nkwa ndi a, <sup>isi</sup>sepu nti.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) weere Prof Achebe ka o buru <sup>health</sup>onu na-ekwuru ha okwu n'ihe gbasara ahuike na <sup>spokesman?</sup>ubara mmadu n'awa. A si na onye tara odudu <sup>bean?</sup>ga-anu mmiri, ya mere e jiri nye ya ihe nrita Margaret Wrong

Memorial Prize n'afọ 1959; Nigerian National Trophy n'afọ 1961; Jack Campbell Prize n'afọ 1964; Onyeisioche National Guidance Committee n'afọ 1969; Commonwealth Poetry Prize n'afọ 1972; Honorary Fellow nke Modern Language Association nke Amerika n'afọ 1975; Nigerian National Merit Award na Officer of the Federal Republic 1979; Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature nke London n'afọ 1981; Fellow American Academy of Arts and Letters; Osote onyeisioche Peoples Redemption Party 1983.

Ndi be anyi, nrita Prof Achebe kariri akari.

Ibe anyi, unu ahuna n'ezikwu na Prof Achebe nwanna anyi, bu nwoke aha ya n-ewu ewu n'uwa.

Chaa!! Igbo mmamma nu!! *Thanks, blessings*

Onye a uwa niile na-eto, o bu umunne na umunna ya ga-agbachi nkiti? Mba-nu! Igbo kwenu!

*keep quiet*

Oku Mkpopta *bringing out present*

Umunne m onye anyi na-eche k'anyi nu olu ya ugbo a bu oji akuko edu uwa, oji edemedede egbuho uzo, oji echiche kporo ihe. *blaze a trail*

Ejizi m-ugwu na nsopuru na-ario nna anyi Achibishop ka o jiri aka ya kpoputara anyi okammuta anyi a, a ma ama n'uwa, bu ezi nwaafọ Igbo o jere mba ofesi kpolotara anyi ka o topee ngwugwu echiche nke Odenigbo 1999.

*open plg.*

Ibe anyi- k'odee - e - n'Igbo! *4/22*

## ECHI DI-IME: TAA BU GBOO

Ndi-Igbo, ekenem unu! Ndi-Igbo, unu gadi! *Paradise lands* Olu bu agbataobi unu gadikwu-o! Igbo no n'uno na igbo pulu ije, fa nine gadisio! Ebe nwa anona, nya puta ula. Ora-na-eze, ekenem unu! Nze-na-ozo, ekenem! Nke onye chili, nya zelu!

Archbishop Obinna, ka mkene gi nke akamkpa maka nnukwu ugwu inyelum n'iroputam ka mbulu odee Odenigbo 1999.

Alọ gi na ndi-otu gi tuputalu wee bido Odenigbo Lectures malu mma rinne. Afa unu bal'ya di mma mmaji-mmaji. *Portian* Odi ka ugo belu n'oji; enenekata ugo, enenebe oji. Etua ka Odenigbo si di n'anyam - ife na-ewu ewu, na ofu akuku, ife edelu n'igbo na akuku nke ozo. Ekpelem bu ka edemakwukwo n'igbo si n'onodu ngwulo onọ n'ya kita, kunie, setia, kpaba ike. *pull out?*

Ubosi Archbishop Obinna si Owerri, *shot 7 leopards?* gbaa agu-nasaa, gwue mmili-nasaa, we bata ebe m'zolu na ofu obele obodo anakpo Annandale, New York, obi mapulum. Mwe sia odikwo mma. Osim welu oso wel'ije na Igbo no na-echem na Owerri Archdiocese ka m'gwa fa okwu. Igbo kwenu! Kwezuenu! Unu ga-adi. Archbishop Obinna amago na Chinua Achebe ejiro Igbo egwu *lightly* egwu, na asim na Igbo no na-eche, na iwu bu na agamabialili. Sooso uche na-echem bu na ife m'ji bia amaelu okala ife unu ga n'atu anya n'akam. Egwu n'atum bu na m'ngolu na nnukwu oche unu ga-akwadebelum na ukwum ga-efekolu n'enu. Mwe na-ayo ka unu welum etu m'ra. Elotalum ubosi ofu oyim dugalum ndi na-edozi moto, we gwa onyeisi fa onye m'bu. Owe si oyim:



Ogwusia fu? Nke ozo di k'ya bulu ubosi m'pukwulu ofu okenye oyim n'Ogidi, owe gwa onye nyan'ya no onye m'bu, owe tie na anu na-ewu ewu ada-eju ukpa. Obu mak'ya ka mji yo unu, bikonu welum oke m'ra.

Aro iteghete-na-uma gal'aga ka mpul'ijea anakwadoro akwado na obodo-oyibo na America, we nodu afugh ani Igbo anya buna ofu mkpulu ubosi. Ewu na-esukwonu osusoo, kama aji ekwero ka-amalu. Mana ife na-agba ayi ume-mu na nwunyem na umu ayi - bu ekpele ayi maalụ na unu na-ekpel'ayi.

Obu Archbishop Obinna bu onye loputalu ka akpoo okwu m'ga-ekwu ta *Eche di ime*. Mwe neneb'ye nenesia fu na odabalu nke oma, kama ka m'kponyel'ya aka, mezier'ya; ka oghalu ikwu soos'ya, makana ife kwulu soos'ya oyi aagbue nya. Kpatalu na ife kwulu, ife akwudeb'ye; obunadi na ife kwudebel'ye bu sooso ife-onu oyi n'onu. Kpatalu na ajo-ife na-enwero atu na ayi na-akpo ya ajo ife-na-onu-oto!

Mwe choba ife nya na *echi* ga-akwu we fu na achoter'ya aka, na obu *taa* ayi no nim'ya. Mwe golie we si nwokem Obinna: kedu maka *Echi di ime Taa bu gboo?* Osim na-odi mma. Ayi we kua nya stamp.

Onwero onye obuna uche di n'afu na-amaro na *echi* di nnukwu mkpa. *Echi nine*, ma onye choo ikpozu ya afa ya, di omimi, di egwu makana Chukwu enyero ayi amamife ga-agwa ayi etu ayi na ife ga-esi je ubosi di n'iru.

Onwelu nnukwu mmanwu na-aputa na Ogidi ka nnam di na nwata. Ife eji mal'ya bu ajuju onadi na-aju ndi okenye ma fan'ya kenesia:

"Ne-em anya n'isi ka igwam nke kanu: ife m'bu n'iru isim,

kaobu nke m'bu n'azu isi".

Etu nyabu mmanwu si di, <sup>obvious</sup> owolu ewu na okuku anya na ife obu n'azu isi'ye kalili nke obu n'iru mmaji-mmaji. Onye ajulu ajuju ewee za si: Nna-ayi, Egwugwu na Egwulegwu, nke di n'azu ka".

Mmanwu akwachalia amu, <sup>laughter</sup> wee kenee gi, si gi: "Inego anya etu mmadu si ene, wee fu uzo etu mmadu si afu. Uta adirolo gi. Mana obulu n'inelum anya n'isi etu mmoo si ene, m'ifu na nke di n'iru ka. Nya ka mmoo ji si na Nkiruka!"

Nkiruka bu uzo ozo ayi si ekwu na echi di ime. Ekpele ayi na-ekpe na ofo ayi n'asu bu ka echi mua na aru-ike na ndokwa; ka nke di n'iru ghalu ika n'afufu, kama ka oka na ezi ife na anuli.

Ofu ukwe ndi CMS na-ekwe ebe madu nwulu na-asi:

Site na ike nke Jesu

Ogadi mma

Ayi n'atu anya na echi

Ogadi mma.

Nnayifa <sup>at all</sup> ebee nke fa ichafu, si *Ozoemena!* Mana obu ofu ekpele ka ana-ekpe, ofu ofo ka ana-asu.

Ajuju m'cholụ ka ayi jua onwe-ayi bu nke-a: Onwelu ife ayi ga-neme wee neche ife echi ga-amu? Ayi ga-eji okwukwe na-ekpe ekpele. Mana onye nwunyie di ime-omumu ama-ewelu akwukwo-ekpele nodeb'ye ututu, efie na anyasi. Okpee ka oga-ekpe ojee choba ife aga-eji je unogwu, na-acho ife oga-eji ne omugwo - azu asa aga-eji te ofe nsala.

Etua ka odili ayi nine mgbe ayi na-ekwu na echi di ime. Ayi ama-achili aka nabo wunye na mpata na-eche ka omua. Ayi ga-apua, choba ife ayi ga-naemetu aka wee na-eche. Makana Baijul

gwal'ayi na okwukwe, maobu ekpele na-enwero olu melu gini? Nwulu anwu! (James 1<sup>20</sup>).

Udi olu di n'iche n'iche: olu aka, olu obi, olu echiche na ndi ozo-ga. Nke m'cholu ka ayi tinye anya tata bu olu echiche. Ka ayi chekene nwantinti echiche maka onodu na-ejuro afo nchancha asusu Igbo no n'ya tata. Ewelu onodu Igbo tunyelu onodu Yoruba maobu Hausa na Nigeria, na Africa, na uwa nine, onwero afa ozo ayi nwelu ike ikpo nke Igbo na-aburo onodu ifele na anyammili. How are the mighty fallen! Kedu ka Igbo eji ama atu iga n'iru n'uwa nine ga-esizi etua dachigha azu na ife mbu eji amalụ mba - asusu fa? Ife otutu mmadu ga-aza ma ajua fa ajujua bu na umu Igbo na-agbaso ife ndi oyibo, uwa wee gba fa ghalii - oyibo fa abuu, nke fa n'abu Igbo.

Ife di etua, ndi Igbo na-asi ka eje jua ase, na ifea agbaro aka. Obu nyabu ase ka m'nayo unu ka ayi bido ebea tata juba. Mana ka m'gwa unu na onwero dibia maobu afa kalili Igbo zukotalu ebea tata. Igbo ekenem unu! Echi di ime, mana taa bu gboo.

Obu eziokwu na oge aganarigo ayi; obu ezie na senchuri gafu agwusi na onwa one-na-one di n'iru dika onal'ayi n'iyi, makana ndi ayi na fa bidolu oso agbafelusigo. Mana iti aka n'obi na ita ikikele-eze ama-enyezili ayi aka n'uzo obuna. Sooso ife di mkpa bu ichoputa ife mel'ayi, ebe mmili no maba ayi. Mgbe ayi mesili nkea ogadili ayi ofele iloputa ife ayi ga-eme n'odiniru.

Ka mgwazia unu ife bu uchem maka nsogbua ayi no nim'ya taa. Obidolu ogu aro ise gal'aga mgbe ndi C. M. S. ziputalu ofu nwokolobia ukochukwu anakpo T. J. Dennis ka osonyelu ndi na-ezisa Ozioma na Onitsha. Dennis lutelu Onitsha na aro 1894 we banye n'olu ndi CMS bidolu na ani Igbo na aro 1857. Nyabu na

uka CMS anogo belu-ito n'oguaronabo mgbe nwokea bu Dennis ji bia inyelu fa aka.

Dennis bu mmadu Ozioma Jisus na-anu oku n'obi, bulukwa onye ike-olu di rinne. Ezinuuno osi puta na obodo oyibo aburo ndi nwelu aka, nke melu ka Dennis ghalu igusi akwukwo ife bu uch'ye. Mana fa bu ndi n'agba mbo, bulu ndi na-esochi uzo Kraist anya.

Amulu Dennis na 1869. Ubozi odi oru aro dam ka owelu onw'ye nye ndi CMS maka olu igbasa ozioma na Africa. Ndi CMS we nal'ya, zua ya aro ino na college ndi ukochukwu, chie ya deacon na 1893, zipu ya Freetown Sierra Leone, ebe onolu ofu aro tupu ojebe Onitsha na 1894.

Dennis amaro asusu Igbo mgbe obialu Onitsha mana od'ya mkpa rinne imut'ya. Mana ife okwulu ka ofu aro gasili bu na nya enwero ike ghotu ofu mkpulu okwu nime ogu-abua-n'ili n'okwuchukwu ekwulu n'Igbo. Ikekwu na ololu na nya zoraa ukwu n'Onitsha nya asuba Igbo ka ndi-nwe ani; omaro na Igbo aburo egwu achi utaba n'aka wel'agba. Mana Dennis aburo dibia akpotalu ka ochua mmo, mmo biazili chuba.

Ofu ife di nnukwu mkpa n'olu igbasa Ozioma bu itinye Baijul na akwukwo ndi ozo so'ye n'asusu ndi an'ezizi. Ndi Niger Mission (dika e si akpo ndi CMS n'Onitsha na mbu) ebidogo nwayo-nwayo n'olu. Onye bidolu olu bu nwoke anakpo J. C. Taylor nke nya na Crowther yi bia Onitsha na 1857. Taylor bu onye Sierra Leone mana nn'ye na nn'ya bu ndi Igbo agbalu n'oru. Taylor amaro Igbo ofuma oge obialu Onitsha mana obu onye Igbo na mmo nya. Ife ozo nyel'ye aka bu na onwelu nwoke onye Sierra Leone ozo anakpo Jonas nke n'asu Igbo ofuma so Crowther

na Taylor wee bia.

Ọbụ Taylor ka aga-asi tolu nto-ani ọka CMS n'Onitsha. Ọbụ akwukwo one-na-one na Agba-Ofuu otinyelu n'Igbo ka Niger Mission ji aka ọka mgbe Dennis bialu Onitsha na 1894.

Ọwero Dennis otutu oge iji kwu na ntapi Taylor tapili adabaro maka ifi na omasiro oyibo ofuma. Mana nkea bu k'obulu ife okwulu. Ife Dennis na-acho bu ka nya-n'onw'ye bulu onye ga-atapi Baibul n'asusu Igbo.

Dika m'si kwu Dennis di ike olu rinne. Owee kee aji n'ume banye imeghali, maobu igbazi, (dika osi chee) ife ufodu ndi mbu melu. Ka oneme nkea ka onatapikwa akwukwo ndi fodulu na Baibul. Olu n'aro 1910 ndi na-ebi Baibul n'obodo-oyibo weputa Agba-Ofuu zulu ezu n'onu Onitsha; ife akpol'ya n'onu oyibo bulu Niger Ibo New Testament. Ayi lota na-obu sooso aro isii gal'aga ka Dennis zolu ukwu n'ani Igbo ejigh ofu mkpul'okwu, ayi gae kweta na nyabu nwoke bu oku na-agba ozala. Mana nkea ka bu mbido. Onye mgbanu obu, Dennis wenie Agba-Ochie, tapia, zipu, ebie, weputa, 1906! Na ezie Dennis bu onye-okika-agba.

Obulu na akuko Dennis jedebelu ebea ase aye n'aju ta, aloa ayi zulu n'atu, akadigh mkpa. Mana Dennis yili nwanyi Ugwuoba asili na on'ebioka ede ochili ukwu nabo wui n'oku, maobu nwanyi Asaba asili na nw'ya amaka, osi n'ya adika awuya aru. Obu aru Dennis wulu Igbo ka Igbo no n'ukpoko nya tata.

Dennis choputalu na Igbo n'asu n'onu-n'onu, wee fu olu ozo oga-alu. Mana Igbo amago, eri uwatuwa, na mba n'asu n'onu-n'onu. Mba ana-ekwu aburukwo Hausa maobu Yoruba, kama akuku Igbo ndi ozo. Mba n'asu n'onu mana ndi kwaa ukwala ibe fa amago ife obu. Mana Dennis aghotarọ obele amamifea.

Onu di iche-iche Igbo n'asu we bido chube Dennis ula. Kedu ife aga-eme asusua bu Igbo ka owee bulu ezigbo ngwa-olu aga- eji gbasa ozioma Kraist na ani Igbo nine? Ife oloputalu bu ka nya kpokota mmadu one-na-one site na Bonny, na Onitsha, na Unwana (Afikpo) na Owerri ka fa nodu n'Egbu Owerri cheputa Igbo ofuu na-ama-abu nke onye obuna iche, ma-bulu nke fa nine n'ofu - nya bu Union Igbo, Igbo njiko-aka.

Etu m'si ako akukoa, ikekwo unu ana-elo na obu sooso Dennis no na CMS na Niger Mission. Ndi ozo no, ma ndi-ocha ma ndi- oji. Onye-isi CMS na Onitsha bu Archdeacon Dobinson, onye nogolu ani Igbo otutu aro; Uko-chukwu Smith na Basden, Miss Warner onye bidolu Saint Monica, unu akwukwo izizi umunwanyi na ani Igbo, na ndi ozo-ga. Ndi-oji nokwuye, ma ka ayi rapugodu fa makana oburo fa nwe uka. Kedu ife ndi-ocha ndi ozo lolu maka alo Dennis na-atu maka Union Igbo. Onye dika Basden bidolu gboo kwube na oworokw'ya anya; nke ona-ewo Miss Warner na Smith. Mana nkea enyero Dennis nsogbu, tumadi ebe onye-isi kpatakpata bu Bishop Tugwell bi na Lagos kwadolu Dennis. Mana obulugodu na bishop akwadoro Dennis, Chukwu kwadol'ye, etu uch'ye si gw'ya.

Anam elo na ofu ife kasi ndi ozo nine oji di ndi CMS mkpa ikwado union Igbo bu na oka ofele inwe ofu Baibul madu nine n'agu kalia-ma inwe ito maobu ino. Ogadikwu onu-ani na ego. Owolum anya na oburo odiniru maobu oganiru asusu Igbo ka fa na-elo mak'ya.

Ofu ngadaba CMS di na Bonny anakpo Niger Delta Pastorate (NDP) na onye-isi fa bu diokpala Crowther ekwenyero na ntapi Baibul ana-eme na Onitsha. Fa we bido tapiba nke fa n'onu

Isuama. Dennis na Bishop Tugwell na-akwado ya we bido igba fa mgba okpulu site n'ijekwu ndi na-ebi Baiḅul si fa chelugodu ka anosia nzuko ndi uka di iche-iche ndi NDP, ndi Methodist, ndi Presbyterian, na ndi Qua Ibo - na-agbasa Ozi-oma na-akuku Igbo nine. Akpulu nzuko na August 1904 mana Dennis enwero ike inatalu Onitsha mak'ya. Ndi nzuko wee kwekolita na ntapi Baiḅul n'onu Onitsha nakwa n'onu Isuama bu ife di mma. Mana Dennis akago aru nke nnukwu kita; obulugo ekwusie-ma-onoghia-obata-ekwughalia. Na 1905 okpulu nzuko ozo na Asaba; kpachapu anya na nkwado ya, fu na Bishop Tugwell n'onw'ye ga-abia, nodu n'isi oche.

Ife nine galu dika Dennis si kwadobe. Obu ezie na oburo ndi nine no na nzuko Asaba kwenyezulu n'ife Dennis nakwado, mana fa gbazili nkiti makana ndi ka n'onu-ogu kwunyelu Dennis.

Ebe Dennis roputalu iji me isi-onodu bu Egbu Owerri. Olue na Oktoba 1906 orapu Onitsha gaba Egbu ebe nya na ndi nenyel'ya aka bidolu itinye Baiḅul na asusu okpulu Union Igbo nke Dennis nwelu nchekwube na ndi Igbo ga-asu na odi-n'iru. Ife Dennis melu bu ojee n'ofu akuku Igbo weta ofu okwu, ojee n'akuku ozo welu okwu neso ya, ojee n'ebe nke ito weta nke neso. Akuku ito fa nekwasili anya kalisia bu Onitsha, Bonny na Unwana maka na-enwego mbido itapi Baiḅul n'onu ndia.

Acholum ka onye obuna ghota na abiarom ebea ikoto Dennis ma-obu olu ya. Ife m'cholulugbolu unu bu na asusu aburo igwe uzu ga-ewelu tinye n'oku, weputa kuzibe ma-obu kugoba etu sol'ya. Asusu di nso, di omimi, di egwu. Odi ndu, na-eku ume. Obu ya bu ife kewaputalu mmadu na ora anumanu. Nya kewaputalu ndi na ibe fa; mba na agbataobi fa. Nya ka onye-obia

si ani-nnam-fa-ji-ugwo-efi ga-abata nalum asusum fikwaa, wusa, si na ogabalum ulu n'odiniru.

Aro 1913 kwesili ka anyi na-elot'ya dika ubosi Archdeacon Dennis ralu mmili na-ama asusu Igbo ta. Obu na aro afu ka ndi na-ebi Baiḅul na London weputalu onye-okika-agba anakpo Union Igbo Bible. Mana okwu ebero na ebe-afu. Odi mkpa iju ajuju: kedu ebe ndi Igbo no? Kedu onye nwe akwa ewu na-ata? Kedu ebe Anyaegbunam-onye izizi echili ukochukwu na ani Igbo - kedu ebe ono? Kedu maka A.C. Onyeabo - onye izizi emelu Bishop na ani Igbo? Obu ezie na ndia no na nzuko, mana onu eluro fa n'okwu. Fa ajugo ekwensu na olu ya nine, mana oburo fa nwe ozi-oma.

Na aro 1918 G.T. Basden bu ode-akwukwo ndi CMS na Onitsha zisalu ajuju maka Union Igbo Bible, iji mata echiche ndi olu CMS - ndi ocha, ndi ukochukwu ndi Igbo, ndi West Indies. Dika Basden si kwu, ndi ocha nine zachighalu ajuju afu... Ka m kwue ndi ozo na oyibo: "Of the native clergy the three youngest answered.... The reason why the Native clergy have not answered is that they are afraid to state their opinions on paper".

Obu sooso Basden bu onye kwusili ike megide Union Igbo. Mana etu anyi si fu, Dennis melili Basden. Mana onye emelili aburo Basden, kama emelili asusu Igbo.

Nime aro nine anagbagha union-si-union-asiro ofu ife Dennis na ndi otu ya kwedolu aka bu *nghota*. Ndi Onitsha fa ghotalu union Igbo; ndi Owerri fa ghotalu Isuama. Onwero oge obuna Dennis na-aju: kedu ka osi ada fa na nti? Onwero mgbe ona-aju: Iga-ejinwu asusua gu egwu anuli ma-obu kwaa akwa alili? Ajujua adiro Dennis mkpa. Mana Basden ghotalu ife oga-eweta na odiniru:

"Bible reading becomes a burden, rather than a duty and a pleasure... One cannot find Lancashire, Devonshire, Cornish and Somerset dialects mixed up in our Bible. Why should such a system be inflicted upon a poor, uneducated people...."

Rapuzia ma ndi Igbo fa bu "poor uneducated people" ma fa aburo. Ezi-okwu di na ife Basden na-ekwu bu na ife Dennis ji asusu Igbo me bu afunene - Onwero ebe ozo emenul'ye. Odi mkpa rinne na ayi nine ghotalu nkea ofuma - na ife emelu na asusu Igbo na 1913 bu afunene.

Ndi na-aghotaro ife ana-ekwu na-eji baijul Yoruba, ma-obu baijul Efik ama atu. Fa na-aju si: Kedu ife Yoruba ga-eji nwe ofu ofu baijul makana onye no n'isi ozioma na Yoruba bu Samuel Adjayi Crowther, bu nwa-afu Yoruba. Owee tinye aka rolu ofu onu Yoruba na etiti onu di iche iche. Onu Crowther ropotalu bu nke Oyo. Gekwanum nti ofuma. Crowther ejero mubagodu Yoruba aro ise maobu isii, ojero kpozo nzuko ofu onye Ijebu, ofu onye Lagos, ofu onye Owo, ofu onye Ogbomosho na ndi ozo na-asu onu di iche-iche na ani Yoruba, si fa wetaba ofu okwu, ofu okwu ka ewe kee okwu ofuu fa nine gana-aghota. Crowther maalu n'ime mmọ ya na asusu aburo aka-melu, nke onabu ngwo-ngwo, ebute atui.

Ife Dennis mefielu, maobu uzo ojefielu aburo icho ofu onu Igbo aga-etinye baijul n'ya, kama obu ngala na nneni onye obia batalu mba ra ka Igbo si fa na ginaonwegi bu uzu-asusu bialu ikpulu fa asusu ofuu ka mma kalia ife fa na-asu, nke nna fa sulu, na nna-nna fa uwatuwa.

Onwero ife obuna m'gutalu maobu mutalu maka Dennis na-

agwam na obu ajo mmadu. Obu nnukwu dike n'olu, bulu onye ji obi ya nine bia inyelu ndi Igbo aka, kpolu nwunye ya na nwanne ya nwoke na nwanne ya nwanyi bia olu afu. Mana nkea anapuro Dennis ineda ndi Igbo anya maobu ineni asusu fa. Gee nti ife odelu maka Igbo:

*"Our translational difficulties were two-fold, viz, firstly, those arising from the poverty of the Igbo language, and secondly, such as arose from differences of dialect. The former are, of course largely chronic in character, and are common not only to all the Ibo dialects, but also, many of them, to all barbarous languages"* (Church Missionary Review 1912).

Okwu n'abo na-amani enu, na-alu onwe fa aka bu poverty na barbarous. Asusu Igbo enwero aku-n'uba; odalu ubiam. Obu asusu ndi anazuro azu, ndi di ka anuofia na-enwegh nghota. Gwaziam, onye ji echiche di etua wee biakwute asusu oga-eji nsopulu na-emeso ya, ka oga-eji mkpali?

Okwua aburo sooso Dennis ka ometulu. Ometulu mmekolita oyibo na oji site na mgbe ochie. Ogu aro ilinise (nyabu nari ito) ka oyibo ji si na okeorimili na-aligota ofu-nzo-ukwu, ofu-nzo-ukwu na enu-ani Africa. Agha fa bu abia enwero atu. Obu egbe, tulu mma, kpulu oku n'onu.

Oyibo anuro nyabu ugu na onwefa, kama fa nyopotalu ndi ofo-ogoli na ndi amakekwu di be ndi-ojii, bunye fa ngwa-agma, nye fa mmanya oku, si fa baa, mesue obodo; fa nwude ma nwoke ma nwanyi, ma umuaka chidata ka egolu. Afia oru we bido etua, nwayo-nwayo, na-ebu na-abami, kwa-ubosi, kwa-aro we lue na Africa nine enwulu oku, wee gbaa ugu-aro-ilinise (300 years).

Ife ayi nulu agha Biafra eluro aro ito, ma nee ka iru-na anya di

ayi ka anụsil'ya! Lozie maka oḡu-arọ-ilinise! Oḡu Biafra mmaji mmaji, oḡu-mmaji-ise! *One hundred times.*

Ife melu Africa aburo ife anakolu mmadu. Onye na-ekwero na aru nwulu enwe sili ike, nya jee nenee ka anya di atani na-afulu enwe oku!

Mgbe ozioma ji bialute Ani Igbo na 1857 ndi Igbo amarozi onwe fa. Afufu ebeebe edebego fa elegh-wenata. Ndi ocha, na akuku nke fa, akporo Igbo ife obuna maka ifi aro-kwulu-arọ oyibo ji ndi oji azuli afia oru. Oburo na nkiti ka ofu ikenye na Onitsha oge afu kwulu si na nya ga-abia uwa ozo na nya ama-abiazi ka mmadu, na nya ga-abia dika okwute. Kedu ife ozo mmadu ga-anu we malu na ubosi adiro mma na Ani Igbo?

Obulu na onodu Igbo di njo etua, ayi ga-ata ndi wetalu ozioma uta maka nneni fa ji bia? Uta diya bu na nneni adiro na nkuzi Kraist; nke ozo bu na aka oyibo di n'ife debelu Igbo na onodu ono.

Mgbe ufodu, na njeghalim na obodo ndi ocha, ajuju ndi gulu akwukwom na-aju bu: obibia ozioma bialu Africa, odi mma ka odi njo? Ajujua bu mkpakana. Etu m'si aza ya bu na ozioma, dika afa ya si di, malu mma nke ukwu. Mana ozioma bialu Africa aburo sooso ya di na akpa eji weta ya.

*Nneni* oyibo nelili ndi oji di na ofu akpa afu. Obu nnenia melu ka Dennis loo na nya bu chi ga-ekelu Igbo asusu ofuu; loo na ndi Igbo Arochukwu amaro ife fa na-ekwu mgbe fa sili na union Igbo kwelu fa ghota kama na odiro utu na nti; loo na ndi ozo nine na-ekwu ka ewelu nwanyo sobe union Igbo bu ndi ujo. Afa ndi Onitsha balu Dennis bu Ozojili-ogwe. Ndi Igbo na-asi na afa abalu mmadu na-achoke ya.

Ajugom ajujua mbu: Kedu ebe ndi Igbo no oge ifea nine na-

eme; mwee za si na fa no kama na onu eluro fa n'okwu. Mana nya bu aziza ejusiro afo. Okwesili ka ayi neb'ya anya ofuma malu ife ayi nwelu ike imuta maka tata na echi. Nwata anwu gbalu na-agbalu ijiji oso. Obu ezie na onu eluro ndi Igbo n'okwu na mbido uka be fa, mana onwelu etu onye onu na-eluro n'okwu ga-esi debe iru, mmadu ncha amalụ ozigbo na osoro n'ife ana-ekwu. Ndi Igbo akwukoro onu gosi na fa esoro. Ufodu gosili, ufodu egosiroo. Ndi ocha no na akuku Igbo di iche iche anaro oge n'iyi iji okwua kewaba Igbo: Onitsha, Owerri, Isuama, Bende, Arochukwu, wee gabazia Ajuju kwesili ka ayi jua onweayi maka tata na echi bu nkea: Kedu ife oji adili ayi ofele inu oḡu-ime-uno, oḡu mbubo-ede, rapu agha nke bu agha no n'eziamama?

Ndi CMS meghelu Awka College maka izu ndi nkuzi na mbido senchuria. Na aro 1919 ofu nwoke kwadolu Dennis ene-anya-n'azu, jelu jua ndi college afu ife fa lolu. Etu nwokea si kwu, fa melu vote nke gosili na madu ili-na-iteghete kwadolu union Baibul, ebe ili-na-ise na-akwadoro. Nwokea si na British and Foreign Bible Society na London wee bia. Vote ndi Awka nyelu ya mmukwu anuli. Ma gee nti ife nwokea anakpo Banfield kwulu na report ya maka ndi Igbo ndi na-akwadoro union Bible: "You know as well as I do that the native has little stability of his own and moves and thinks as his superiors do." Kedu ife ayi kpolu ya? *Nneni!*

Mana ife m'cholu ilutu aka bu echiche umu-kolej ga-agbasa Ozioma na amamife na ani Igbo. Ife ofu n'ime fa gwalu Banfield bu: "It would be good for us to learn to read the Union Bible and then we can be understood wherever we are stationed." Nwata nwokea no na Awka College, mana omaro na Awka na-apu ije n'akuku Igbo nine, na-ejeh mugodu asusu ofuu anakpo union?

Omaro na nna-nnem anakpo Iloegbunam, bu nne-uzu, pulu ije na Okigwe, nua nwanyi ebe afu muta umu. Ojelu mu union Igbo tupu osi Awka puba ije? Atarom nwanyi Ogidi sili na akwukwo dika onye gukat'ya, ogupue akpa nzuzu! Ka ayi bezia okwu Dennis na ebea. Omerago. Sooso ife ayi nwelu ike ime kita bu idinaata aka n'eze na'asi: "odi ka nya bulu mgba, ka agbanwee". Onwelu nghotafie ibua maobu ito ana-enwe maka union Baibul. Nke mbu bu na ndi Yoruba nwelu union Baibul fa nine na-agu. Nkea bu nnukwu nghotafie. Ife Bishop Crowther melu bu iwelu ofu dialect (onu) Yoruba ana-asu na Oyo ka obulu asusu Baibul na igbasa ozioma. Ojeru tinkaba Ijebu na Ibadan na Owu na Akure na Ogbomoshu na ndi ozo ka owe nweta union Yoruba. Oweleu onu di ndu, ana-asu asu; onu nwelu be. Onye choo ima mak'ya, ojee be ya jua.

Nghotafie nke ibua bu ilo na ife Dennis melu na Igbo bu ife asusu na-emelu onwe fa ma arapu fa. D. Westerman delu na 1929 na ife Dennis melu Igbo bu ife umu-obebe asusu Europe ji aka fa melu onwe fa mgbe gboo. Sooso ife di iche bu na nke Dennis melu "was done by one person within a definite time, and not by slow and natural development." Dr Westerman nwelu otutu nzele akwukwo, keduzi ka osi agwa ayi na onwero ife di iche na etiti osisi di ndu na nke kpolu nku? Nezie amamife na nzuzu bu agbataobi!

Archdeacon T. J. Dennis nwulu na orimili na 1917 ka nya na nwunye ya na-ana izu ike na etiti agha German nke izizi. Dika m'si kwu na mbu, afurom'ya ajo mmadu. Kama nwoke sili ike na okwukwe ka obu. Olu obialu ilu na ani Igbo wolu ya anya ofuma. Otufuro oge obuna we zoba na olu afu ka dimkpa. Mana nneni oji sodo

asusu Igbo, nandi nwe asusu afu, dubalu ya n'imebi ife.

Oburu sooso Dennis bu ntupo-a. Fa julue-ju balu-abalu bu ndi bu ya. Ofu nwoke na-ewu ewu na uwa nine anakpo Albert Schweitzer - philosopher, theologian, musician, medical missionary - no agwo ndi oya, na kwa agbasa ozioma na Gabon mgbe Dennis no na Onitsha na Egbu Owerri. Ka olu Schweitzer si putaka ife enyelu ya Nobel Peace Prize maka etu olu ya si wenite nwanne-na-nwanne na obodo nine (brotherhood of nations). Mana ife ndia nine anararo Schweitzer isaghe onu si na ndi ojii bu umunne ya, kama na fa bu umun'ye-nta (obebe umunne ya). Ifugo ntupo nneni afu ayi kwugolu maka ya. Neaman bu onye-isi usuu-ndi-agma eze Siria... buru kwa onye anahu iru-oma, nihi na obu na aka ya ka Jehova nyere Siria nzoputa; nwoke ahu bu kwa dike nke bu dimkpa, ma obu onye ekpenta (2 Kings 5:1). *Nneni* ndi ana-ewegalu ozioma di ka ntupo ekpenta na aru ndi-ozu Chineke. Omelu nka, mee nka; obu nka bulu nke ozo, *ma* oji nneni bata.

Akuko Dennis na union Baibul bulum nnukwu ife n'wute na uzọ di iche iche. Mana nke kasi fa nine bu etu esi tufu awele baibul Igbo nwelu ibu isi-mmili edemakwukwo na Igbo. Atufulu awelea ka Dennis wee nwee efe ime experiment na asusu onye ozo. Nke kasi njo bu na emesia nyabu experiment jee kwusi ndi na-ebi Baibul iweputakwa Baibul nke mbu ozo. Nyabu enyero ndi Igbo efe igosi maobu nke mbu, maobu nke ofuu di fa mma. Kama ife egosili Igbo bu na oyibo ji mma, jide ji.

Obu ifea melu na Niger Mission ogu aro ise galu-aga debelu edemakwukwo n'Igbo na onodu ono taa. Archdeacon Dennis tolu ukpulu ayi na-eso, nke bu na ofu mmadu nwelu ike nodu be ya, sie aka n'imi, kwue ka ndi Igbo ga-esi na-asu, ma-obu na-ede,

asusu fa. Ochoziali ime ebele, okpokoba nzuko mmadu one-na-one fa eweputa okwu ofu di iche iche. Onye nuzia ka akpolu ifenwa mahadum, jua kedụ ife obu, asi ya na odika obiaro nzuko enwelu na March!

Biko gbaghalunum. Achorom imejo onye obuna. Aka ayi nabifieli taa bu ifea melu ayi gboo. Onwero onye uta diili.

Ife nyekalisili nsogbu bu ikuzili umuaka Igbo n'uno-akwukwo. Ayi esigo union Igbo baa central, si ebe afu puta baa standard. Mana ife na-ebenu na-ebelili. Maka gini? Maka Dennis. Obu iwu Dennis julu ayi isi. Iwu Dennis bu na mmadu nine ga-asulili ma-obu delili ofu onu Igbo, nya lie nku, lie mmili!

Ife okwua ji sie ajo ike bu na ndi cholu nkuzi aburo umuaka, kama ndi nkuzi na-onwe-fa. Unu ga-elota ndi nkuzi ana-azu na Awka na 1919 ndi kwulu na union Igbo ga-abalu fa ulu ma fa lue na "station" fa. Amarom ma-obu soosom na-anu onu nwa-DC n'onu ndi nkuzia. Sooso ife fa na-nelo bu ife ga-eme ka olu fa di nfe.

Ofu ife m'cholu ka ayi nu, ghota ofuma bu na ofu mmadu, ama-ka-ora, ada-etili asusu iwu. Ogu-madu-ise enwero ike inye asusu oda, osokwo ya ka isi fa na-emetu enu-igwe. Asusu nwelu owala osi aga. Oge ufodu owo ayi anya; oge-ufodu ogbagwojue ayi anya. Onye welu anya ike sobe asusu, ofunari ya kpam-kpam.

Ife na-eme n'uno -akwukwo kita bu inapu umuaka ufodu Igbo fa na-asu be nne fa na nna fa. Nkea bu nnukwu ajo ife n'enwero atu; ajo-ife-na-onu-oto. Keduzi onye ibu iga-eji si nwa mmadu na asusu amunyelu ya n'ya esorozi; na oga-echefu ya, suba nke ndi na-eso-uzo-Dennis weputalu? Nwata dezia fa, asi ya kagbue, dee ha.

Odim ka ayi agupusigo akpa nzuzu. Mana taa kabu gboo.

Obu ezie na otutu oge agafenarigo ayi, ka ayi kee nkwucha, gbabido itufu ugu aro ise ozo. Maka na agadi nwanyi daa nda ada naabo, agua ife obu n'ukpa onu. Agbaa mbu, otua n'ogwe; agbaa abo otua n'ogwe, obulu ogwe ka ayi na-apili aku.

Ndi na-akuzi Igbo ga-anokoo tua alo etu fa ga-esi gbanwee nkuzi asusu Igbo ka obulu ife anuli, rapu ibu ibu alo. Oge umuaka ayi disi obele, anam-elota etu iru fa si ekewapu ka anwu ma m'si fa bia ka m'kolu fa akuko iro. Ife ndi na-akuzi Igbo ganagba mbo iweputa n'iru umuaka bu anyanwu-a di nime obi fa. Ife Dennis na umu-azu ya wetalu Igbo bu aluluu na-agbachi iru-anyanwu dika ochichii.

Asusu nwata putalu uwa nuba bu asusu chie, etu afa chie si bulu afa ubosi amulu ya. Oyibo na-akpo ya "mother tongue" - onu nne. Inapu nwata onu nne ya no odu ka inapu ya ala nne ya, isepu ya onu na ala.

Ufodu na otu ndi kwelu na aga-eme madu nine ka fa suba, debe standard Igbo ekwugo si na ife kpatalu Chinua Achebe ji emegide standard Igbo bu na oburo asusu Ogidi ka-eji mee standard. Ka mzaa fa n'iru Igbo nine ebea taa. Achorom ka ewelu. Unu ghotalu ife m'na-ekwu? Asilim na achorom ka e-welu! Unu ma onye bu e? E bu ndi oke education, ndi umu-azu Dennis, ndi na-elo na asusu bu *engineering*. Asusu bu onyinye Chukwu. Achorom inapu onye obuna nke ya; achorom ka e napum nkem. Ikekwu ufodu ana-elo na Chinua Achebe afuro Igbo nanya etu osi fu Ogidi. Nkea bu asi, ugha, ashi! Onye na-afuro Igbo nanya bu onye weelu mma-oge na-egbusisi nganaba ya nine. Afulum Igbo nanya, fu Ogidi nanya.

Ekpelem bu ka ayi zuputa igwe ndi-olu ga-eji asusu ayi donite



n'iru umu mmadu anyanwu-ututu Chukwu tinyelu n'obi fa, site na ide-akwukwo amamife na nchoputa di iche-iche, na akwukwo egwu, na akuko-ani na akuko iro, abu-akwa ma-obu abu oma, nke gboo na nke-ofuu.

Ndi na-acho ka ayi nine saba ofu onu na-ekwu na oge adirozi iche asusu Igbo ka owelu aka ya kwue ife ga-abu standard. Mana fa na-elozo na obu icho standard ka Dennis ji nye ayi union Igbo, nke mutalu central Igbo nke mutalu standard. Ime mgbanu kita enyerosi aka. Odi ka okokpolo putalu ula ofu-mbosi si ka achobalu ya nwunye nke-ta-nke-echi, ona-elo na nwanyi bu akwaa-ekobe? Unyafu agago, ka ayi welu nkenke oge fodulu taa gbazie onweayi iga niru ma chi foo.

Kedu ife m'gagwa unu maka onodu Igbo na Nigeria unu na-amaro makaliam? Ka m'sikene na akuku lachaba nya bu ofe di oku. Ebo nine na mba nine nwelu ife eji malu fa, nya bu ife ndi ozo ji malu fa. Mana nke kasi mkpa bu ife ndi ji malu onwe fa.

Obulu na enwelu ike ichigha azu na history je juu ndi ocha ndi zulu afia oru na Africa kedu ife fa lolu maka ndi Igbo, fa ga-asi gi gbabakwo, na fa ada-ekwe ekwe, na kama onye Igbo ga-abu oru, odaba mili. Nyabu na fa abarou ulu obuna. Fa ga-agwa gi na onwelu ofu oge ndi esi n'ugbo-mmili kpogota na enu-ani na South Carolina, chighalu azu - fa nine, ma nwoke, ma nwanyi, ma nwata, ma okenye - chighalu azu ka fa ra, banye na orimili, naa ego eji go fa n'iyi. Afa anakpo ebe njinjia jili bu *Ibo-Landing*, we lue ta. Onwelu abu-akwa ndi ojii America ana-akpo *Walking in the Water*, ana-abu lue ta, maka ifea melu mgbe gboo.

Irapu *Ibo Landing* gbagota nwantinti na *history* kwusi ogu-arou ili gal'aga, iga-afu nwoke anakpo Ekweano, onye Iseke na Orlu

Division (dika munonwem si choputa) adoolu na agha ka odi aro ili-na-ofu, welu ya tuba mgbele na West Indies, na America, ma n'enu-ani ma n'ugbo-mili, wee lue na-obulu okolobia. Oji igba mbou ndi Igbo kuzielu onwe ya akwukwo, luta ego oji gbalu onwe ya n'oru, wee dee akwukwo wulu ewu na aro 1789, kpo ya *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olauda Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, Written by Himself*.

Ekweano bu onye Igbo izizi delu akwukwo iji gwa uwa na nya esiro n'ofia puta, na nya bu nwa-amadi afia oru kpulu na apiti. Onye Igbo obuna kwesili igu akwukwo Ekweano. Ariize ndi na-ebi akwukwo onye obuna nwelu ike igota ya ta. Akwukwo a bu unu-aku ife mmuta maka Igbo na oyibo na umu-mmadu. Otutu ife Ekweanu delu ga-emetu onye obuna na-obi; mana onwero nke gafelu afulu onwelu mgbe ogbaputalu onwe ya na onodu oru, wee na-awuni enu, na-ebe: "I am my own master!" ogu aru ili tupu Martin Luther King, Jr ebe "Free at last!"

Ife m'ji ekwu udi okwua bu na akuko ufodu n'nulu banyelu ife na-eme na ani Igbo gosilim na ndi be-anyi ufodu amaro, ma-obu na fa elozogo, ife eji malu Igbo. Mwe si ka m'kolulu unu ma-obu lotalu unu. Ndi Igbo achoro onye fa ga-akpo, *namukwu* ma-obu *master*. Igbo achoro onye ga-agba fa oru; onye ga-eji fa me *boy-boy*. Obulu na onye Igbo afu onwe ya na onodu oru ma-obu boy-boy, ogananu, na-agbani ka-osi na ya puta, nwelu onwe ya. Keduzi ubosi ayi mutalu na nwoke bizulu unu ga-arapu be ya jebe Abuja igu egwu na eze gadi ndu rue mgbe ebigh ebi?

Unu ma ife bu na Igbo enwero eze? Oburokwonu na Igbo amaro ife ana-akpo eze. Lota na Igbo na Benin gbalu agbata-obi, na *Oba n'Idu* jululu akuko iro ndi Igbo. Lota na Igalla na Igbo

gbalu agbata-obi na akuku nke ozo.

Na Igbo enwero eze abia-buro na onye Igbo achoro ibu eze. Onye Igbo obuna ifulu cholu ibu eze; mana ochoro ka onye ozo bulu eze ka nyanwa nodu n'okpulu onye afu. Nya ka Igbo ji si "Odi mma, onye obuna nabazia be ya, je chibe eze na ngwulu be ya" Ndi anthropology ada-abiakebe ani Igbo imu maka fa, makana Igbo maalụ ife ndi-afu maalụ. Mana onwelụ ofu onye America jelụ Onitsha je mua omenani fa ogu-aro-nabo gal'aga. Akwukwo odelu maka ife ochoputalu okpolu ya *The King in Every Man*. Onwero ife ana-ekwu maka ndi Igbo dabalụ kalia nke-a. Kedu ubosi ayi mutazili na onwero onye Igbo di mma ichi Nigeria, na-obu sooso ndi mba ozo ka eze kwesili?

Kedu ubosi ndi Igbo choputalu na ife di Nigeria mma bu ochichi aka-ike, ochichi ndi obi di na-azu? Mu na ofu enyim, onye be anyi, na-alulita uka banyelu ya n'oge na-etero aka, na bem na America. Ife enyim na-ekwu bu na democracy aburo maka ayi, na ife ayi cholu bu "a strong man" di ka Abacha, onye ndi ochagana-atu egwu. M'si ya biko ekwuzinaa! Ogea ka ojizi kwue nke bu nke. Osim na ya aghotaro ife m'na-ekwu. Obuzikwom delu *Things Fall Apart*. Okonkwo oburo "a strong man", oburo udi mmadu ndi Igbo na-eweputa ka ochia fa?

Ifea biazia ka oliem onu, mana oliro makana oburo izizi m'nafu onye ghotalielu *Things Fall Apart*. Otutu aro gal'aga ofu scholar si Germany bia ifum. Ajuju ojulum abusiro ajuju; kama obu igwam etu ife si kwulu: Osim ma Okonkwo obu *representative* ndi Igbo? M'wee si ya na-obu, mana oburo-o ifea we gbakasia nwokea isi; ofozia nya ma nya babalum mba. M'mubazia amu nime obim maka na aghotalum nsogbu m'tinyelu nwoke-a nime ya; nwoke desigolu thesis ya na Okonkwo bu *representative* ndi Igbo, biazia

ka onata confirmation, mwe na-ekponyelu ya aja na garri!

Echiche ndi Igbo ada-ese na-enu mmili, odi omimi rinne. Oburu egwu achi utaba n'aka agba. Enyim onye Igbo bialu bem aghotaro onodu Okonkwo, onye-oke mmuta si Germany bia bem, aghotaro ya. Mana, nke ka nke, bu na Okonkwo na-onwe-ya aghotakwuro ya!

Okonkwo sili ike, di uchu, na-agba mbo, na-ekwu eziokwu, kpata aku, chie echichi. Fa nine bu ife Igbo kwulu ka ana-eme. Oburo sooso na-okwulu etua, okwulu ya n'onu uda. Okonkwo wee nu, wee mebe. Mana onwelụ ife ozo Igbo takwunyelu ayi na nti. Osi na ife kwulu, ife akwudebe ya; ayi wenata aka na egbe na mma, ayi akotona oja na ogene na aja-mbene na izu umunwanyi na ndi obi nlo Okonkwo anuro ozia ezili na obele onu. Umuofia wee gbakuta ya azu mbose otijili ukwu minye n'oku.

Igbo na-akuzi na nwoke ada-esi eziama nwoke ibe ya anaba. Nkea bu ezigbo nkuzi. Mana onye ghotalie nkuzia, onwelụ ike na-elo na madu nine ra, na onyinye di iche Chukwu na-enye. Obodo ana-elo etua enwero iga-n'iru.

Onye na-asi na democracy adiro Igbo mma aghotaro Igbo nke onaghota democracy. Ndi Igbo na-achi onwe fa n'obodo n'obodo. Onwee ife di mkpa ka obodo kwue, amaa egugo, umu-nwoke nine onu lugolu n'okwu agarube n'ilo obodo; ekwue okwu afu n'iru ora. Ndi Igbo ada-eziga "representative" - onye ga-ekwulu fa onu fa. Owolu anya na ifea Igbo na-eme mgbe-gboo no odu ka isi mbido democracy, maobu nna democracy. Ayi enwero ike si ka ayi chigha, sobe uzo ndi gboo makana oburozi sooso ayi nwe obodo ayi. Mana ama-eji maka nkea si na democracy kalili ayi, maobu nyili ayi. Kama alo ayi gana-atu, na-atusi ike, bu etu ayi

ga-esi muta iroputa ndi ozi gana-ejel'ayi uno-nzuko-etiti di iche iche, na-ekwu onu ayi nezie ma fa lue ebe afu. Mgbe politics independence na-ebido na Nigeria ofu nwata-okolobia ona-enwu oku n'obi jelu Awka ime campaign maka ibanye House of Assembly. Oge afu, udi okwu eji eme politics aka-amaluro otutu mmadu aru. Nwata okolobia bialu ije ezisizia ozi agha-na-ogu oji bia -- etu aga-esi chu ndi ocha okpa-delelem, welu okwa fa kesaalu umu ayi -- ofu agadi nwoke wee jua nya ajujua: Ika nwa unu jije, obudi ndi-ala ka acholu n'ya, ka obu ndi anya dolu?

Ife di ayi mkpa tata bu ochichi ndi anya dolu. Ayi achoro ochichi ndi ofogoli. Obu ezie na afufu na aguu di n'obodo ayi ta. Mana obu n'oge di etua ka obodo ji adaba na onya ndi ofogoli. Nya bu ka ayi kee nkwucha n'iroputa ndi ayi ga-ezipu ka fa bulu anya ayi na nti ayi. Onye ofogoli ama-abu anya na nti ayi, kama obulu afo ayi, na-eli ma nke ya ma nke ayi. Ode-akwukwo Chinweizu ji udi mmadu-a tunyelu oke mmanwu eji udo adochigha azu, putazili n'ilo chusasia umu okolobia na-ejide ya; egwu wee di!

Oge m'di na ezigbo nwata onwelu ofu dimkpa n'obodo ayi na-ewu ewu. Otopulu mmadu, di mma anya, malu na-ekwu okwu, mana ona-eme aka nabo. Kama na oda-eme ya na ani-uno; ona-ejepu ejepu. Ife ona-eme bu na etiti mgbaachi, mgbe mmadu nine jebesili ugbo, obaa obodo ayi na fa gbalu agbataobi bulu ewu naba. Omekatazia, ndi obodo-a wee kwadebelụ ya. Obiazia bulukwa ka-osi ebu, okolobia isato puta, gaa nya okilikili, welu ntu six inches kunye ya n'isi, rapu ya; ogbaluzia onwu-onwu naputa, dachie uzo.

Ndi nwe nwoke-a jee bulu ya, dozisia, doba ya odu etu esi eme oge-afu, welu okpu mmee kpube ya n'isi, gwa ndi obodo na

onwulu onwu chi ya. Ewee gbaba uno onwu, gbakatazia, ntu di nwokea n'ubulu, dika oga-asi nya nodu ebea eme gini, wee gbaa ka-tum, gbalu okpu-mmee tupu n'ogbo. Ndi bialu uno-onwu, onye gbatazia ogbaghaa ibe ya.

Akuko-a aburo ezi akuko, mana ife m'ji koo nya bu ka ayi lota na ofogoli aburo ife ofuu. Nke ozo, na obu mmadu nwe ofogoli; na umunna na-ekpuchi ajo ife nwa fa na-eme na-ana oge fa n'iyi, maka na-ejiro obu-aka ekpuchi afo ime.

Ofoogoli di na politics ayi bu ndi obodo fa ka odili igwa umu fa okwu, tupu ajo ife agbaa tum, chiputa madu nine okpa ezi. Adamekwu na onwero isi na fa na-aga ofuma na ani Igbo. Otutu ife di, mmadu nwelu ike isi na fa na-aga ofuma. Etu Dr. Alex Ekwueme si welu ife galu na nroputa president, gosili omume nwa-amadi. Politics nke *obughim na isi ejide*, all or nothing, bu ife ana-afu na obodo anamaro ife, obodo ndi aguu, obodo ndi amakekwu.

Ka ayi rapukene obughim-na-isi-ejide, jikoo aka bunita Ani Igbo, ka ona-egbukupu dika ona-edo n'owuwa-anyanwu.

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## EKELE

*Otutu ihe m kwuru banyere oru T.J. Dennis n'Onitsha, si n'akwukwo ohuru John Goodchild dere no na mbiputa nke o kporo "Dennis and the Ibo Bible". A nam ekele ya maka enyemaka nkea.*