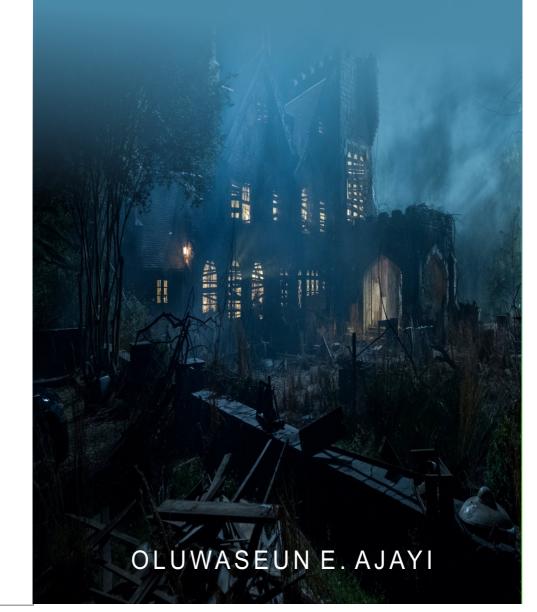
JEZEBEL'S ABODE

SEASON 1





SPECIAL THANKS

My everlasting gratitude goes to God, the Author and Administrator of all men, may His holy name be praised, Amen.

I'd like to appreciate my Friends and Family.

Ayeola Joshua.

Ajeigbe Temitayo.

Ms. Adebonojo Christiana.

Alikor Akwundah Treasure.

Mummy C.O. Olukanni.

Adelaja Regional Secretariat, Kano State, Nigeria.

For as many that will read this novel, "I really appreciate you..."

DISCLAIMER

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Some unknown languages were used in this novel to portray some actions, if they are of any land or tribe, it's coincidental, and it's not meant to hurt any sect and set of good humans.

Jezebel's Abode season 1.

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"HELP THIS WORK O LORD! AND MAKE IT FRUITFUL AS I DEDICATE IT TO THE GROWTH OF YOUR KINGDOM AND FOR THE GROWTH OF MY SEEDLING BESIDE YOUR RIVER OF LIFE..." **EBENEZER**

He woke up suddenly, and he ran out of his bed. He stood beside his desk and he was breathing heavily; he looked confused as if he's failing to choose his best out of glittering objects. With his looks like that of cattle in abattoir, one can easily tell, about his encounter in the dreamland. He sighed and left the same position he had been for almost twenty minutes. He stepped out of his bedroom and went to his dining room and took he a bottle of chilled water out of refrigerator; not bothering himself to pour in a cup, he raised his hand and poured the water into his wide throat. Within a minute, he drank the water in the bottle and threw the bottle somewhere around the corner of the refrigerator. "What is this?" He asked; "I don't know!" He answered himself. "God, I'm now a dead man, I am finished. How will I be able to bear the burden you're putting on me? Will my neck be able to bear it? Please God, don't this much punish me, I know I am a fool, but don't punish me for it." He said this and sat on a chair in his living room.

He had lost it to imagination, until a sound from the kitchen resuscitated him, and he rushed down to the kitchen to see what's going on. As he stepped his feet into the kitchen, the voice was much clearer now and it was reverberating. "For you have gone back to your vomit to eat, I'll send you to a strange land, among foes and great enemies, to a deep and tough desert, where you won't be able to breathe without me." He was only looking confused at the move of the red zobo drinks that's flowing on the ground. "Lord Please!" He shouted, "I have said it and nothing will change my word. I'll send you to where you will find it loving to cleave on me, and if not that, your enemies will suck you to total dryness." The voice repeated. "Show mercy Lord, don't bring much havoc upon me, don't

let the devil glory over me, don't let the enemy of my soul rejoice over me, you said unto Moses that you will have mercy on whom you will have mercy, and compassion on whom you'll have it. Please, have mercy on me." He said as he was crying heavily.

"Mercy you said! If I have not shown mercy, you'll not come back to life from your dreamland. The arrow was pointed at your heart, to thrust; I stopped it for the sake of my name. No amount of plea will make me reverse what I have professed. It's for my glory and for your benefit. The day might tarry but surely will it come. I will send you out of your comfort zone." The voice said. "Ah! I'm done for this, I shouldn't have done this again, I shouldn't have allowed any negligence to take over me. If God is angry at me, who will I send to Him to make plea on my behalf? I have grieved God once more, despite His love for me." He said. He didn't know anything until his phone beeped. Before he slept last night, he set his phone alarm to wake him up by 6:00am. He had been awake for almost three hours now. His plan last night was that he would wake up by 6:00am, have his thirty-minute quiet time, then make a cup of coffee and go out for a walk, with his new friend.

"I don't think I need anything right now; I can't go out throughout today, in fact I don't think I am a living soul right now." He said. The allocated thirty minutes for quiet time was over and it's already 6:40am a call came in. He looked at his phone, he didn't want to answer the call, but for the sake of his new friend, who was the caller, he answered the call and they both got talking.

"Bro Steve! What do you mean? Why are you saying this to yourself? I don't think I understand everything you're saying on the phone right now." The voice on the phone said; "Bro Shalom! I don't find it fit to tell you what has befallen me. I am as heavy as a dead elephant

now, and who will be able to carry me?" Steve said; "God! Yes, God! He's a Father I believe you know. He has already told us, who are heavy laden to come to Him; why all this cumbersomeness about yourself that I can't really figure out? It's the impression you gave me yesterday that really made me present myself as a brother. What you said in the bus yesterday was directly meant for me. It's as if God has opened your eyes to see what I have been going through in life and your message of peace brings a testimony that my mouth can't tell all. Why are you talking as if you're not the same person I met yesterday? Bro Steve, don't allow the devil to weigh you down. Shall we talk about the issue? A problem rightly shared is half-solved." Shalom replied.

The agenda for workout was cancelled as they were both seen under a tree by the roadside. Steve's countenance was not really looking nice, his eyes were red and bulgy, they both looked like they're about to fall out of their sockets.

"So, Bro Steve, can we at least talk about it?" Shalom asked after some minutes of silence. Steve opened his mouth and wanted to talk, but he couldn't utter a word, he rather began to shed pitiful tears. "I think I need a pastor, a true minister of God; I can't trust just only you on this, sincerely speaking, I might die soon, as I don't know what the implication of what I have done could be." Steve managed to say. Shalom raised his eyebrow and looked so dismayed at him, but he comforted himself and held his peace.

"Bro Shalom, do you have a reliable and God-fearing man?" Steve asked; "yes! I do. My pastor is a father figure and he's a very reliable man of God. God had used him for me most of the time, if that will ease your burden, and if it will make you speak out at least, I would

have no other option than to take you to him" Shalom replied. "Thanks so much, and I'm sorry for the trouble, the second impression I am giving you now is troublesome and worrisome, I think?" Steve said as he smiled; "my God! So, you're this cute? I couldn't believe the creature I'm beholding. You need to smile often in the hospital, maybe all my patients will be well without a dosage" Shalom replied as he laughed uncontrollably. "Your joke is a nice one anyways, thanks for easing my burden." Steve said; "you don't have to mention. It's so early now, I'll put a call through to my pastor and tell him about our coming, if he doesn't have anything he'll be attending to by that time, I'll come and pick you up, then we'd both go to him. Just relax ok!" Shalom replied. "Okay sir, thanks for your concern. I'll be expecting you." Steve said. They both bade each other farewell and departed.

Steve got back home, he headed towards the kitchen to make a cup of tea, he was putting a kettle full of water on fire to boil and then the voice came again. "For you have gone back to your vomit to eat, I'll send you to a strange land, among foes and great enemies, to a deep and tough desert, where you won't be able to breathe without me." "Lord! I think I have made pleas. Why will you not let my mind rest? You know I love you; you know I love keeping every other commandment, aside this. Please! I beg you. Don't punish your child for his offense, kindly forgive me." Steve said and he was expecting to hear from God, but nothing was said after his speech. "Lord! Are you silent with me?" Steve said, but he heard nothing.

"I thought you're a merciful Father? Alright! Let's say I erred and you don't want with me what will not befit you, but the moment I asked you to forgive me and that you have passed your judgement on me, I supposed you will bring your peace and sedate my heart once

again like the days of old? Why repeating what you have professed? So that I can fear you, right? So that I can begin to carry the burden up and down? At this junction, you don't want me to believe you for whom I know you to be. Ah! Ahn! Should I require of my life by myself, just because I sinned against your order? You have said you will send me away from my comfort zone to where I won't find it easy not to love, why are you repeating this same thing again? Lord! I don't seem to understand you. There are some people out there that they will do beyond what I have done, yes, and you won't as a result of that kill them? Will you? Why so being harsh on me? Why?" Steve was talking to himself, asking God those questions.

The moment he came back to his normal self, the water he was boiling had already dried up in the kettle, it had boiled and dried.

"Did I just finish talking to my Father in that manner? Ah! I'm doomed; please forgive me, I don't mean to say those things out to you, I won't be that stupid. Don't allow the devil to use me against myself; my Father!" Steve shouted as he flung the cup he held. He continued to cry and he had nobody around to console him.

Lights off

I didn't know what to call this. It's beyond description; my words can't express it, if I should at all try to talk about it. We were many and all of us were running for our dear lives. The reason we were all running, no one could say, all I knew was that we were all running away from what we didn't know. It got to a point that we were all stuck, as we met a very large river ahead of our path and we decided to find another route to run through, but all was to no avail. I mean we couldn't locate anything; we were all dead as we were hearing the horrible and hissing sound, coming towards us.

"Look at yourself, you are all carrying the same dirt on you, that's the reason the creature is chasing you. Don't be afraid of the large river but rather jump into it and cleanse yourself from all dirt, then cross to the other side and go your way safely and calmly." A voice from nowhere instructed us; but nobody would do instantly as the voice ordered, we all rather questioned the voice. Some angry men began to rain curses on the voice. "Can't you see that the river is large and deep?" Most of us asked the voice; "but the river will not sink nor drown you." The voice answered gently. We were all grumpy at his order, but the fear of the unseen tormentor is greater than the worse the river can do to any.

We jumped into the river and to a very light amazement, the river didn't sink us, rather we floated on the river surface and we all began to wash our body. The better we were trying to cleanse our body, the more the mob that were coming towards the river and with the fear of the unseen tormentor, they would jump into the river with us and we were all having a good time. To my greatest surprise, the more some were leaving the riverside and were moving ahead with their journey, the more uncountable people were

jumping into the river, where they had their bath for cleansing. It was out of a great shock I remembered that I had a place to go and this made me hurriedly cleanse my body and was set to leave.

I was about leaving the riverside when I perceived some foul odour from my body. "I just finished taking my bath in the river" I concluded, but when I looked at my clothes, I saw shit all over. I jumped back into the river, remembering the words that came from the voice that, "it's only when there's no dirt on you the unseen creature can stop chasing us." As I was washing my body, people that met me at the river were done with cleansing and they left, none of them turned back to have another wash again. The second time, I stepped out of the river and was set to leave but the same occurrence that happened at first happened again. With much annoyance, I asked myself, "Where is this mess coming from?" When did I shit on myself that I didn't know? Is the river full of mess? These were the questions I was asking myself; when I heard the horrible voice coming towards me, out of great fear; I quickly jumped into the river again and had another cleansing. Some new set of people who met me there had themselves washed and left again.

As they were leaving, I was checking if any of them would turn back into the river like me, but to my greatest surprise, none turned back. This time, I made my mind up that, regardless of the dirt on me, I would continue with my journey. I had another cleansing and I was ready to leave the riverside, the moment I stepped out of the river, one of the people that just arrived at the river shouted and called my attention to the dirt on me. "Again?" I shouted. This last time, I didn't mind, I left the riverside and I was going. I didn't hear any voice from either this side or the side I was heading to. "So, it was all lies?" I asked myself, since I didn't hear the sound of the unseen creature. I hissed grouchily and I continued with my journey. I was seeing

my destination from afar, about few metres to get there, the whole thing changed suddenly. He was sobbing and couldn't stop himself. "Bro Steve, please stop crying and tell me more about what later happened." Shalom said; Steve wiped his face and he continued narrating the experience.

This time, the unseen creature was seen. It was very big and on its body was an inscription, it was written in a language I could neither read nor understand. It was long like a serpent but more like a woman as it had a head like that of a woman and her hair was braided. Coming out of its mouth was a destructive flame of fire. Its face was so ugly that it could make any man that saw it scream. Let me leave the description because I can't describe what the creature looked like exactly. It just surfaced from the side I was heading to and maybe what it's telling me was to start running back to where I was coming from. The flame that was coming out of its mouth was a great torment. "The more I ran, the more audible I heard its sound. I ran with much zeal just to see the river I left the other time so that I could jump into it without any hesitation. I was looking at the river from afar and within me I was thanking God for the river, I put up more courage as I ran speedily and it was just about a minute to get to the riverside; I didn't know, for some strange reasons that I couldn't tell, I slumped and I fell flat. I couldn't move and I was shouting for help, as I raised my head up to look around, I saw its raging eyes, I was tensed and my pant was wet already, as it opened its mouth and wanted to swallow me, I heard a beeping sound and I woke up" Steve said.

"My goodness! This is a strange dream and seriously, it needs urgent attention." Shalom said as he was shivering on the chair he sat on. Shalom's restless movements made Steve have more hysteria. "All I

thank God for was your call, if not for your call; I don't know what the story would have been." Steve said. "Are you saying we won't go to see my pastor anymore, minding this as well? Bro Steve, you need intercession, you need fatherly advice, you need in fact everything; we would have to go to my pastor right away, please I beseech you in the name of God." Shalom replied.

"I wish am not this heavy myself, I don't just know what's wrong with me; Bro Shalom, I think I am dying, my soul will stop functioning soon, I am not alright, I am terribly sick, I don't know what will happen to me soon." Steve said; "Bro Steve! You're a child of God regardless of any drastic change in your life, you will not die in Jesus name; let's go to my pastor, I believe with his time with us, things will get better." Shalom replied.

"Alright! Please, let me make a cup of coffee at least; I have no appetite for anything." Steve said; "I have no problem with that, please take your time, I'm not in a hurry," Shalom replied. Steve went to the kitchen and made a cup of coffee, he offered Shalom a cup as well, but he rejected it. Some minutes later, they both left for the pastor's place.

Lights off

"Have you noticed the girl that just joined our class?" a boy asked; "Loveth, which girl are you talking about?" Ah-ah! Why are you behaving like a new comer? Lawrence, will you tell me that you have not noticed that a gentle girl just joined this class? Loveth said; "truthfully, I am telling you that I have not noticed." Lawrence replied; "let me show you the girl if truly you have not noticed her." Loveth said; "I'll like you to do that." Lawrence replied.

Ever since they were in the senior secondary one, Loveth and Lawrence had been known for bullying and trouble-making in the history of the Digital institute. They were known by all the students and even teachers, for their delinquencies, their parents had been called urgently to the school to hear about their crimes severally. They won't stop bullying their fellow students, even teachers. Loveth pointed towards the new girl's direction while Lawrence gazed at her with much curiosity. Lawrence could not hold his peace as he jumped on Loveth and he asked him much about the girl.

"Eh Loveth! The girl is cute, isn't she?" Lawrence asked and made it succinct; "she is, I must confess: in fact, in the history of this school, she's the first little innocent face I'll ever behold. I think we need to make a move before some nuisances do" Loveth replied. "What's her name? Do you know yet?" Lawrence asked. "I don't know, but we'd know very soon" Loveth replied. "How are we going to do that?" Lawrence asked. "You don't need to worry yourself about that, just look and watch out for my first moves" Loveth replied.

Loveth stood to his feet and he was heading towards the new little girl, while Lawrence and other class mates were looking at him.

"Eh vou! Where is the biro vou stole from my desk?" Loveth said, every student in the class was shocked to hear that and they all paid total attention to the scenario. "Where is my biro? I asked you." Loveth repeated himself; out of much fear, the little girl responded with an innocent voice, "I don't know what you're talking about. I have sat all this while and I haven't left where I have been since I have arrived this class. I didn't take your biro for any reason." "Are you saying I'm lying against you? Lawrence, didn't we see him from outside when she was passing by my desk and took my biro?" Loveth asked. For Lawrence not to embarrass his intimate friend he joined the evil part of the story and he supported the allegation levelled against the girl. "What's even her name?" Lawrence asked; "are you saying you don't know her name? Her name is thief, kleptomania" Loveth replied. With uncontrollable tears rolling off her cheeks, she replied "my name is not thief or kleptomania, I'm Deborah by name." The moment she mentioned her name, Loveth instructed all the students to begin to echo "Deborah is a thief!" Almost immediately, all the students began to chorus that. Their noise attracted the attention of other students and teachers to their class and Deborah was losing her consciousness; she was going to the ground, the thud sound that they all heard made them stop chorusing "Deborah is a thief."

She was on the ground, rolling to sides; her face was as hard as a zombie's face. She was vomiting white foam; nobody understood what was wrong with her. You caused it, every other student was accusing Loveth and he'd been blaming himself for the occurrence. Loveth thought within himself that if anything should happen to the girl, he would be in for it. She was not going to stop thudding on the floor and the attention of the Principal and the Vice Principal of the school had been drawn to the situation. They both

ran to the scene and met Deborah on the floor, with her mouth stained with white foam. The Vice Principal shouted and he asked all the students to move away from her. "She's suffering from epilepsy." The Vice Principal concluded.

"Epilepsy! Deborah! I don't believe what you're telling me sir. I'm his father, her mother and I had been nurturing her, and not even for once what you are saying about her has occurred to her in our presence. She's not suffering from epilepsy, maybe she's under duress or something, my daughter is not suffering from anything of such," Deborah's father denied what was said of his daughter. "Well! I won't want to argue with you as regards this, but we would like you to please look further into that and observe her from now on and if anything of such repeats itself, we'd not hesitate to call on you again", the principal said. "Thank you so much sir, but I don't believe anything of such, I don't know when that started."

The scene faded, Deborah and her dad were seen, discussing in the living room...

"You don't know when that started you said about ten years ago daddy, when will this stop happening to me?" Deborah asked. "Deborah, the same way I was confused that day when the principal of your school told me about the ailment, so also, I am still confused now and I keep on asking God the reason He'd been allowing the devil to rejoice over us. I have prayed and almost everything I supposed to do as a parent I have done, yet, the ailment is not going to leave. I don't just know how bitter I was today when I heard that the thing is over you again. Deborah, we have to keep on trusting God regardless of whatever, let's keep all hope alive that, one day, the Lord will break this yoke off your shoulders. Please, just let's be still, I'll be expecting

a visitor soon; you can leave the living room for your room," Deborah's Dad replied.

About five minutes after Deborah had left for her room, her dad heard the doorbell and he went to the door to release the lock. "You can come in!" Deborah's Dad said. "Thank you so much daddy for allowing us. Good evening sir, how are mom and Sister Debby?" Shalom said; "They are all doing well, they are in their rooms," Pastor Ben replied. Steve bent his head as a sign of respect and greeted the Pastor. "What's your name, sir?" Pastor Ben asked; "my name is Adeife Steven sir." Steve replied. "Bro Shalom had earlier informed me that you would be coming to have a discussion with me, but I'll like to make a request, the moment it's 6:30pm, you'll allow me to have a session with the Church Board of Trustees." Pastor Ben said, "There's no problem about that sir, Shalom and Steve both replied. So, can we go to my office and talk about it? Pastor Ben asked. His office is just a minute walk from his living room; he doesn't like discussing in his living room with any visitor that comes for counselling.

"So Mr. Steve, can't you tell me about it?" Pastor Ben asked; "Sure!" Steve replied.

Lights off

I didn't want to believe whatever was called occurrence before I was born or when I was much younger, I have had a belief that anything that is not meant to be believed in is a norm; I wouldn't have wanted to call anyone any name in my family, but a mysterious event started occurring in my life at the age of twelve that left me astonished. My mom told me many stories about my family, my background and some other things that were attached to my birth. Out of the many things she told me, one has always left me devastated any moment I dash out to it; despite my confession of Jesus Christ, the story never stopped frightening me. My name in full is Adeife Adegbayi Owolabi Iyiola according to what my mom told me. My father died in his 40s, he didn't die an easy death; mom told me about his loving lifestyle, gentleness and accommodating spirit, however, he didn't die any easy death.

His name was Adetiba Adekambi Adekanmi; he was born to a family of King Esamoye Adetiba and Queen Adebimpe Ademorewa. My grandpa and grandma were once the rulers of Owo kingdom, one of the ancient towns in Ondo State. My grandfather died at the age of 43, while his queen died at the age of 35. The story wouldn't have repeated itself anymore but the thread that held my father's life was squeezed and cut suddenly without any sympathy. He never lived in that town; until he was called upon one evening that it was his turn to rule as the king of Owo kingdom as it was the turn of his family to rule again as a king. The poor man thought the throne was truly his and that if he didn't recognize or appreciate the call, it was possible that the dynasty may be eradicated from his entire family history. Not to bother you much with my long story, some men went against my dad and killed him with diabolical powers; he died in his 40s. All his

businesses, wealth and fame in Benin City where he lived before he was called for the kingship were all swept away by the fiery occurrence. I was just a year old when this happened.

Although the chapter of my grandpa and father had closed, the real thing started in my life, so many things started happening to me. There was a time my mom thought I had died, she nearly released my body to be buried but she noticed I was breathing again. There was a time when I was about the age of five, mom told me my hair was barbed unknowingly and till now, she couldn't explain how it happened. So many people came to threaten us about one thing or the other when I was a young boy. Life was almost snuffed out of my mom until she met Christ Jesus in 1990, about six years after the death of my father and to the glory of the God; no threat means anything to mom anymore. I was taught few things to say with the Lord when I was young, I love prayers and I also love to sing songs of praise. All my friends called me pastor, but there was a woman in the house we lived then who never wanted to hear the word "Adeife the pastor." She warned her children often not to call me the name that others have attached to my real name.

Many things I don't want to talk about Pastor, but I will say a few things of the old that led to my current life. When I was twelve years old in 1996, I began to have strange dreams every night. There was always this aged woman that I never knew, who would show up from nowhere and stop people from crowning me. This dream always kept me wondering all night.

I didn't want to tell my mom at first, until one night this woman threatened me much that I would die like my father and fore-fathers if I ever bend my head to take any kingship or rulership in life. I woke up from bed and ran towards my mom and I was crying like a kid. She didn't want to believe

me, but my unrelenting cry made her to believe and as a prayer warrior, she started praying in the Holy Ghost, rebuking every dark force. The woman stopped coming in my dreams for a while and afterwards, I would see myself in a costly white attire and a crown would be placed on my head. Anytime I saw myself like this in my dream, I was always happy. In the year 2007, I saw her again, this time, she promised never to do anything stupid to me and that I should come towards her, with her persuasive voice, as I went towards her, she made her moves to speedily take the crown off my head, with much zeal, I jumped aside like a monkey and she fell to the ground; I was laughing, mimicking her, while she was crying in regrets and much pain. She threatened to come back, but in a difficult manner that I won't be able to resist her and that she will take away that rulership from me. I didn't mind her threat as per what my mom told me when I told her about the dream.

Late in September 2007, a new pastor was transferred to our church, for the closeness of my family to any minister of God in our church, I began to interact with the pastor as well, and he loved me because I was diligent and hardworking. His wife was not opportuned to join him at our place immediately just because her transfer was not approved on time at her place of work. I was the one with the pastor day and night. Two months later, which is already in the year 2008, his wife came around, and this day, she gave me a plate of rice and beans to eat, and I could say this was the beginning of my entire problem. The same day I ate the food, I saw many mysterious things in my dream, but when I woke up, I couldn't remember anything about the dream. From then, I would sleep and have as many dreams I supposed, but I would never remember any when I wake up. I complained to my mom and she took it so seriously, she prayed and in the course of her prayer sessions with me, she warned me never to take

anything from anyone unreasonably anymore, regardless of how close they are to me. I heeded her warning. Three days later, my dreams came back and I could remember everything.

One night, I had a dream that I ate a sacrifice that was placed at a junction, when I woke up I couldn't understand anything but I knew it was not a good one. I told my mom about it and we prayed and nothing happened. I was a brilliant child then, and I was known in my school. With the love of God that had been grown in my heart by my mom, I disliked every form of wayward life. I didn't mingle with a lot of students because of their lifestyle. Many female students wanted to attach themselves to me but I never for once gave any of them attention. Some months to my Senior Secondary School certificate exams, I went to a house beside ours to greet a friend, and there a girl stood beside me, we were all watching a movie together, but as it was becoming dark, I noticed that the girl had changed her position feeling somehow tensed and she began communicating with me with her body, for some strange reasons that I couldn't explain, I moved closer to her and we went somewhere dark, we started doing some sorts of rubbish. It was going deep and the girl couldn't control herself, I held myself back and I felt ashamed of myself; how do I tell my mom about this? "That night I slept, but a strange thing happened to me", Steve said and paused. "It is 6:30pm already sir." Shalom said; "don't worry, I am interested in the story, I might not go for the meeting anymore, let me put a call through to one of them and inform them to reschedule the meeting." Pastor Ben replied.

Pastor Ben took his phone, and he was talking on the phone...

Lights off

The discussion between Steve and Pastor Ben continued while Deborah was in her room. She was pressing her phone and it dropped from her hand, as she had dozed off.

"You have brought this strange meal again?" Deborah asked; "if I don't bring it for you, who else will I take it to? You'll have to eat it in the same manner you have been eating it. Have it and eat" a woman that her face was veiled replied. She brought a meal for Deborah to eat in a broken clay plate. Deborah collected the broken clay plate from the woman, dipped her hand into the plate, and as she was about to put the food into her mouth to eat, she heard a voice behind her; "don't eat it" the voice called on her.

"It's my natural and usual meal, please let me eat" Deborah insisted; "no way, you can't eat this. It's a lizard you are about to eat, and here on this land, people don't eat lizards; Deborah, please don't eat it. I believe you know if you eat it, it will have a negative effect on you" the voice said; "yes I know, but she has threatened that any moment I stopped eating from her, she would kill me" Deborah replied; "you won't die any sudden death, she's a liar. You will not eat this meal this time around" the voice replied. "Who are you, gentle man?" Deborah asked; "knowing about me is not the essence of this meeting, I only came to stop you from eating this meal" the voice objected to tell about his identity. "Tell me something about yourself at least" Deborah insisted. "Just take a look at me, when next you see me, you'll recognize me, and maybe by then I'll make a short introduction about myself" the voice replied, he took the lizard from Deborah and threw it away.

"Jesus!" Deborah shouted on her bed. With much joy that filled her heart, she wanted to rush to her daddy and inform him that she didn't eat the meal this time around, but she remembered that her daddy is having a session with some visitors, and she held her peace. She stayed in her room, praising God, as well thinking about the face of his strange saviour.

Meanwhile, the story of Steve had brought much curiosity into the heart of Pastor Ben and Shalom. Steve continued his story...

"That night I had a blue dream, the same girl we were doing rubbish together last night came and we had the real one, oops! Lest I forget; before she appeared in my dream, I was oppressed twice in my dream, to extent that I couldn't move my body on the bed. In the course of having intercourse with her in my dream, I ejaculated for the first time, and I was conscious of myself after I ejaculated. I woke up and I felt my pant soaked and wet. Did I pee? That was the question on my mind, and out of much curiosity, I dipped my hand into my pant to know what was wrong, what I met down there left me worried. My pant was soaked with some slippery liquid; immediately, I remembered my Biology teacher and what he taught us on reproduction. I was very much afraid to tell my mom, and also, that morning was a heck on me because everything I did just fell on the wrong side of everyone."

I went to school and I returned home, from that day, I became wayward and I started having lustful affection towards girls in my area; though my mom didn't notice this, all she said then was that, I was becoming too close to all the neighbours on the street. I made so many attempts to have sex with some of my female friends on the street, but none was successful; I stopped making the moves, until one day that he came to our street, Steve said. "Who came?" Shalom asked. "There was a man who was always coming to my street then, he was not that stable but was jovial. One

evening, he gathered all the little ones on the street, and he began to play with his manhood, about some minutes later, he ejaculated; and almost immediately, I remembered my dream; we all left the scene but I was not comfortable as I thought of doing the same thing the man did", Steve said. "Did you do it?" Pastor Ben asked; "yes, I did it, and that was how my real problem started till yesterday."

My mom was out this afternoon, when I returned from school; I remembered what the man did yesterday, then I laid down, I put off my trouser and pant and I began to stroke my genitals; it was fun to me and I was loving it. I began to imagine all the evil moments with the girl in my dream and I continued until I ejaculated. I watched my semen poured on my bedspread. After the first round, I did another till I became dizzy. I had to wash the bedspread so that my mom wouldn't notice anything. Though she came in later and asked why I washed my bedspread, and for the first time, I told her a blatant lie, she believed me; because I have never lied to her.

Had I known what I did would cost me so many things, I wouldn't have done it; or maybe I was not myself anymore. The evil act continued, until I became addicted to it. So many times, I would use my phone to download adult materials from the internet and watch, so that I would be triggered. It continued until I became prey to my oppressors. For uncountable times, I was oppressed in my dream.

I remember a night my mom asked me to lead the night devotion, I couldn't just believe what I went through in my heart as my conscience dealt with me. I needed no pastor to tell me then that I was neck-dip in sin. Any moment I was planning for things that would benefit my life, masturbation would end it, and that thing would never be mine. The devil caged me and I wallowed in the pit of iniquity and shame. People called me pastor still,

but they knew nothing about what was going on in my life; I appeared to be okay before all men, including my mom, but I knew I was terribly sick. In the whole thing that was happening to me, one thing I don't understand till date was why my mom couldn't sense the evil in me. Despite her deep relationship with the Lord, nothing was revealed about me to her from God; but my mom could say things that she perceived about others.

The first attempt of the devil to terminate me came. I was in the dreamland and I saw a group of cows pursuing me, I was running for my dear life and the route I was running along, I met some giants coming with full rage, pointing at me to be killed; I turned and I kept running to sides. When I could no longer run, I stopped and as I was having some moment of rest before I would be killed, they all (the giants) caught up with me on the spot and I told them that I was no longer running from them. "Come and kill me, if you really want to" that was what I told them, one of them took his spear and threw it at me. The pointed part of the spear hit my chest and I fell to the ground, I bled so much and they laughed at me. Jesus! I shouted on my bed. I quickly put on the light and I pointed a torch to my chest to check if it's not true. To my greatest surprise, the spot was there, I shouted and ran to my mom. I explained everything to her, and she began to pray, that was the last thing I knew.

It was three weeks later that I was conscious of myself; my mom ran to me when she heard my mutters, "oh thank God!" she said; "what happened to me?" I asked, but she told me to be calm and that she would explain everything to me later. I was bedridden for three weeks, while other students were preparing for Senior Secondary School certificate exams. When I heard that exams would be starting the following day, I wept my eyes out and I asked myself if I would pass the exams if I sit for it. I wrote the exams anyways, but the results were not good. I failed my best subject,

Mathematics and this left my mom astonished. I thought of another way round to my life, I enrolled in another school, the following year but I still failed the same Mathematics woefully. The third year, I failed the same subject again. I was tired of life and I began to blame God for everything. I hated Church and other things that had to do with God, but God never hated me.

My mom was really a mother; she didn't stop praying for me. Any time I heard that some of my friends gained admission into any tertiary institution, I would feel very bad, but what could I do? The tormentor tormented me really and I could not achieve anything good in life. Despite all this ill-luck in my life, masturbation never stopped. Steve said and sighed. "I wouldn't want you to stop narrating this story but you would have to go home, it is dark already" Pastor Ben said. "Daddy, what about waiting after the church service tomorrow to discuss with you?" Shalom asked. "That's a good one though, only if he wouldn't mind coming with you to our Church tomorrow, if that won't affect him worshipping in his church tomorrow" Pastor Ben replied. "Oh! Daddy, I didn't even tell you very well on the phone when I was telling you about him. He was just transferred here from Abuja. He used to be in Abuja before; he has not located any church here yet. In fact, he arrived in Ibadan some days ago" Shalom said. "If that is the case, I am welcoming him to our Church, if he doesn't mind" Pastor Ben replied. "That's not a problem sir" Steve replied.

They both thanked Pastor Ben, bade him farewell and left.

Lights off.

"You can hear many evil things about many powerful and sound men of God; many men like to criticize men that God had once used for them in one way or the other, they tend to talk much about their lapses, but my question is that, how many men have gone to their knees and to call on Jesus on behalf of their shepherds? Have you ever prayed for that brother that God had used or is using for you? What about your spiritual sisters? Do you pray for them? Or do you think they don't need your prayers? Even if they don't, pray for them; nobody knows their trying times." The voice of the Television set fainted and a woman called.

"Collins, come up to the dining table and let's have dinner" the woman said. "Mom, please permit me as I am listening to the preacher on the television" Collins replied. "If that's the case, let me join you, we can listen to the preacher together" Collins' mother said. Thanks mom! They both listened to the preacher as he continued with his message.

"Pray as much as you can for people that feed you with the word of God, pray for as many people that have helped your spiritual growth; you don't know what they are going through. As I am wrapping this message this evening, think about that man or woman, or brother or sister of yours that had fed you with the word of God, then pray for such a person; will you pray for them?" The preacher said and ended his message with a prayer and the program ended.

"Mom, I think the preacher really spoke the truth. Many of us are so quick to judge people of God as if they are not humans like us; if we have been praying for them in the manner we have been accusing them, we would have helped them in one way or the other" Collins

said. "That is very true Collins, the Apostles of then even encouraged the church to pray for them. We are always quick to see the wrong deeds of men of God. The preacher has said the truth", Collins' mother added. "Mom, I think I need to pray for Bro. Steve. God really used him for me while I was in school, and even after. I owe him much prayer; will you join me to pray for him this night before we go to bed?" Collins asked his mom; "that should not be a problem, we will pray for him" Collins' mother replied. They both left for the dining table to take their meal.

Pastor Ben had been thinking about what had befallen Steve and what the next line of his story would be. He was in the living room thinking while his wife returned from the event she went to. "Daddy Pastor, I am back. I believe I met you in peace?" Mummy Ben asked. "Yes, I am fine. You are welcome, and how was the event?" Pastor Ben replied. "The event was great, Daddy! You need to see men and women that graced the occasion today, it was indeed a great one" Mummy Ben said. "That is so good to hear" Pastor Ben replied. "Daddy, you look worried, I hope all is well with you, where is Deborah? Hope she didn't fall ill today?" Mummy Ben asked. "There was a little thing that left me thinking; Deborah is in her room, she is fine and she didn't fall ill today at all" Pastor Ben replied. "What could that be if Deborah is fine? I hope you will tell me about it as soon as I relax" Mummy Ben asked. "Sure! We will need to help the situation together" Pastor Ben replied as his wife headed towards the bedroom.

Steve couldn't do anything meaningful as he looked miserable. He thought about both dreams. He didn't know what to do; he later picked up his phone and called Shalom; he asked him if he was at home and Shalom told him he was at home, he reminded him about Church service the

following day, they both talked further and he later hung up.

Collins and his mom started praying for Steve; it was as if Collins' mother knew what was wrong with Steve, she began to plead for mercy for him. "Lord, you're a merciful God and you have said in your word that you will show mercy and compassion on whomsoever you wish; please, in your gracious name, please have mercy on brother Steve. Help him lift every burden that the devil might want to put upon his neck. Don't allow the devil to overcome him and don't be angry with him. Lord, show him your mercy; he's your child and he has blessed so many lives, bless and heal him, Collins also prayed."

Steve was on his bed still thinking, he felt a strange breeze blowing towards him. He stood up, took his phone and he felt like listening to Lawrence Oyor song, titled "OH LOVER." He tapped the play button and the song started playing. He wouldn't believe it as he had the same feeling as of old, he became light and his room became illuminated. The glory of God filled the room; he went on his face down and he began to weep. He felt a pat on him and he heard the voice of the gentle lamb. "Steve!" The gentle lamb and Lion of the tribe of Judah called on him. Steve raised his head and he was beholding the glowing standing stave. He couldn't believe that it wasn't a dream, but Jesus told him that it was not a dream but a revelation.

"Why are you here, despite the fact that I ate my vomit again?" Steve asked. "I am a God that never leaves His children. Some voices pleaded on your behalf, they raised their voices of prayer and I heard them. I have forgiven you all your sins once again. I'll purge you again from the vomit, but what I have said I'll not reverse; I am sending you to a strange land where you will have no time for negligence, and there I will make myself known much in your life. Come towards my throne and worship among my

angels, I have set you free" Jesus said and He left. It was like a lightning; his entire body was shaking and he was conscious of himself.

"Jesus, you're so good to me, in all circumstances. Why this much love? And who were those that prayed for me? I bless your days and nights; you'll never know any sorrow in all your endeavours. I might not know what you have told Jesus about me, but I pray that Jesus will pray for you" Steve said. He became light and all the burden was lifted from him. He could have the sense of himself. He rushed to the dining table, took a drink from the freezer and he drank. He picked his phone and dialled Shalom's line; it rang and later got connected. He explained what happened in his room to Shalom and Shalom gave all the glory to God. They bade each other farewell and he hung up.

The lizard was brought to Deborah again to eat, as she dipped her hand into the broken clay plate, she took the lizard out to eat; the same man who stopped her from eating the lizard the other day came again, and he stopped her from eating again this time. "Why are you obstructing me, young man?" The woman that comes to feed her with lizard asked. "I have been sent to come and deliver her from your hedge and captivity", the man replied. "I won't permit that; I'll do every possible thing to fight you. You have put another's man battle upon yourself?" the woman threatened. "Whether you like it or not, I have been sent by God to deliver her, and I must do the work of He, who sent me" the man said.

"I must do the work of He, who sent me!" This was reverberating and Deborah woke up from her dream. Again! Thanks to God. But who is this man? How can I locate him? Deborah said.

Lights off.

It was exactly 5:00am on Sunday; Steve woke up from sleep and had a thirty-minute quiet time with the Lord. In his prayer, he was teleported into the spirit realm and he saw a young girl that was chained down, a lady stood by her and beside this lady was a man who stood and was feeding the young girl. Steve was confused as he couldn't understand what the revelation was all about. "God, what could this mean?" Steve asked, "I will explain it to you in details soon. The girl you saw is the only daughter of Pastor Ben that was born by his late wife. Her name is Deborah and she is suffering from epilepsy; many times, I have shown her father what he needed to do, but there is someone that is very close to him who is a wolf in sheep's clothing, this stranger-like friend had been the cause of Deborah's problem. This is one of the reasons I brought you to Ibadan, so that through you, my wonders can be wrought" a voice said.

"Lord! How can I be of help in this situation? You just delivered me from my own problem; why committing me into the assignment that is not even clear to me? I don't know her; I only met her father yesterday; what exactly am I going to do?" Steve asked, "Why are you in such haste? Am I not the God that forgives and pardons? I have forgiven you of your iniquities and I have washed you clean. Will anyone tell me when I need to commit any assignment to a man? I am God; I can decide to send any man to carry out my assignment, anytime I want. Just rest your ears and listen to my voice" the voice said, "I am sorry, Lord. I'll do anything you want me to do" Steve said and kept quiet.

Shalom dialled Steve's line, so that he could hasten him for Church. "Hello Bro. Steve, how was the night?" Shalom said; "my night was good, thanks so much for all your kind gestures yesterday, may God

bless you. I hope you had a good night as well?" Steve replied, "Yes, I had a good night. I called to remind you of Church. I'll be on my way in the next thirty minutes. We will go to Church in your car, but I will come to your area with mine, I don't want to go by commercial vehicle, so that we don't waste much time, looking for one" Shalom said; "it's good by me; more so, I am already prepared, when you get here, we will leave for Church" Steve replied. They said some other things on the phone, and later hung up.

Deborah was on her way to Church with her dad and mum, she remembered her saviour, and she sighed. "God, I wish I don't go unconscious today. Perfect your work that you have started" Deborah said in her mind. Deborah cannot withstand the sound of speakers because the sounds make her fall down unconsciously and for that reason, a seat had been placed for her in front of the church where no loud or harsh sound can reach to trigger the ailment in her. Meanwhile, as Steve and Shalom were on their way to Church, Steve suddenly called on Shalom, "Bro Shalom, is Pastor Ben's daughter called Deborah?" Steve asked; "Yes, but how did you know? Did you hear her dad mention anything about her yesterday?" Shalom replied with much curiosity, "her dad didn't tell me anything about her, but her Dad did" Steve said.

"Her dad didn't tell you anything about her, but her Dad did? What do you mean by that?" Shalom asked, "What I am saying is that, God told me something about her?" Steve replied; "God told you something about her? What did God tell you about her?" Shalom asked; "God told me this morning that she's suffering from epilepsy, and that He had told her dad what he needed to do as regards that, but someone around him had been obstructing him from doing it" Steve replied. "Well! I can't be surprised that God revealed that to you, for

He had once revealed about me to you, and within a minute, your revelation about me changed my life. I can't doubt it. Yes, sister Deborah is really suffering from epilepsy. In fact, the ailment has brought enough shame on Daddy Ben's family. He had really done much, but the ailment has refused to leave. Regardless of how far her seat is always to the congregation, she falls unconsciously every Sunday, and that is no more news to anyone in the Church. Despite her beauty, you will hardly see a brother around her, she has no single friend. Even sisters are afraid to be friends with her, as some have said that the ailment could affect others if the foam from her mouth touches them. I always pity her but what can I do? Did God tell you what her dad needs to do? Because I'll really be happy if she can be delivered from the ailment" Shalom said. Steve sighed and replied him "no, God didn't tell me, but He told me He will tell me more about Pastor Ben and his family."

"While meeting with him this afternoon, why don't you please tell him about what the Lord told you?" Shalom said, "Don't you think that's too close?" Steve replied, "Do you know how many years they have been in this? He must have been waiting to hear something of such as well. Please, tell him the moment we get to him this afternoon" Shalom said; "okay, I will" Steve replied.

They both arrived in the Church compound; Steve wheeled his car to the right hand side and wound up. They stepped out of the car, took their Bibles and entered the Church. Deborah who was already seated on her special seat saw a tall dark man from afar, who happened to have appeared somewhere in her life somehow; she gazed at the man as he approached where she was seated. "Good morning and happy Sunday, Sister Debby" Shalom greeted; "same wishes from this side", Deborah

answered as she was still staring at Steve. Steve bent his head as a sign of respect and greeted Deborah. They passed by her; Steve said within himself "God is great! She looks just as I saw her in my revelation; You are such a secret revealer." Deborah on the other side was still having the belief in her mind that she was dreaming. She was only waiting for what would wake her up from her dreams. Everything became so real to her as many people were entering the Church. "What is happening to me?" Deborah asked herself. If not that her dad won't attend to her as the service had started, she would have loved to tell her dad about that. She was waiting patiently for when the service would be over, so that she could inform her dad about it.

Service started with enough praise session. Everything went on, but the whole congregation was waiting for when they will hear people muttering that Deborah is down again. The ushers that had been assigned to stay around her were there, should it happen again. Everyone was waiting for it to happen, but to their greatest surprise, nothing of such happened till the last second of the service. "What is the sudden miracle?" People began to ask themselves. They were passing by her as they were leaving the church, but they greeted her as they walked past her. The ushers that were by her glorified the Lord as well. Deborah thought she was still dreaming and she was waiting for when she would be awake from her dream. Mummy Ben was so happy to see Deborah standing after the long service they had in the church today. Mummy Ben told Deborah that her dad would be having a long meeting with the church Board of Trustees that day. "Are we not going to wait for him?" Deborah asked her mom. "We don't know when the meeting will be over, we have to go with Mummy Adenike, so that she could give us a ride home", Mummy Ben said. Deborah nodded her head in agreement to what her mom just said. She had

stopped telling her mom her privacy when she was in the final year in Federal University of Technology, Akure. An occurrence built in her a barricade to any private discussion with her mom; concerning her dreams and the brother she just saw, she kept everything to herself, waiting for her dad to return from Church.

Steve and Shalom were in one corner of the Church, waiting for Pastor Ben to come. When they did not see him coming, they started a preamble to the discussion. "Bro Shalom, you won't believe that Sister Deborah is just as I saw her in my dream this morning" Steve said. "God can't lie" Shalom replied; "did Pastor Ben re-marry?" Steve asked, "Remarry! No, Mummy Ben is his only wife and the mother of sister Debby" Shalom replied. "But...!" Steve skipped, "But what?" Shalom asked; "never mind! I think I didn't get God right" Steve replied; "you didn't get what God said right? About what?" Shalom asked; "God told me that, the mother of sister Deborah is no more, and that Pastor Ben re-married" Steve said. Shalom almost laughed himself out. "The revelation was mixed up somehow, don't even think about that" Shalom amusingly said. The thing was sounding confusing to Steve, he then kept quiet and they both waited for Pastor Ben.

"Debby baby! I am happy for you. Thank God, at last the battle is over and we won. But how did it happen? I feel like you had an encounter that you hid from me; I believe my instinct is not wrong. I have also noticed that, for some time now, you have not been telling me anything anymore about yourself. Have I offended you and why are you hiding things from me? Ahn baby! What wrong did I do?" Mummy Ben was talking to Deborah, whose countenance had changed to that of a hungry Lion. "Mummy! I don't lie and I don't know how to hide feelings, I just feel like I should let it be. Everything you did, I know. You know sometimes, I feel like you are not my mom; as in, like seriously I do have the feeling", Deborah said and mummy Ben made an amusing gesture. "Oh really!" Mummy Ben exclaimed. "Yes! I mean yes. You're the cause of my loneliness, every male and female friend that left my life, you caused it. Yeah! Fine! I have an ailment that made people run away from me, but mum, it would have been better if they run away on their own, and that it was not through you; I mean you, mom. How could you tell Victor on the phone to get rid of me? Why will you tell Uncle Nelson that I am suffering from epilepsy? Labake, Tolu, Jide, Sister Hannah, Florence, to mention but a few; all of them said you told them that my ailment is not curable and it is a transmittable one, you asked them all to run for their lives. I became a lonely soul all because of this predicament. Is it my fault that I'm suffering from the ailment? Ahn mom! Is it mine?" Deborah, whose neck had reserved enough tears replied.

"Debby baby! I am your mother. I don't hate you for any reason; I am only trying to protect others, and curbing the evil your ailment could

bring on them. If they are affected by it, won't our name be mentioned and referenced? I was only trying to protect you and them" Mummy Ben said. "Protecting them? Trying to save our name? Are these things reasonable? I just want you to know, regardless of your excuses, I know I am living my lonely life, at least I know I am a burden just to my father alone and to nobody else" Deborah replied and left angrily to her room. Mummy Ben couldn't believe what Deborah just did, that was the first time she would walk out on her, and that she would talk rude to her. Mummy Ben was so pained, she sat unconsciously on one of the chairs in the living room and she was crying. Anybody that sees her reaction towards what Deborah did to her would have sympathy for her. She folded her arms, rested her head on one of the sides of the chair and was shedding tears like a chef cutting onions.

Deborah didn't mind whatever she had said to her mother, all she felt was that, at least she had spoken her mind. She was on the bed, pressing her phone, and she began to hear a sob. "Is she crying?" Deborah asked herself. She peeped from her door side and she saw her shedding tears. She was moved with much compassion; "oh no! Poor Deborah, you hurt your mom" Deborah told herself and she ran to her mom. "Mom! I am sorry. I don't mean to talk rudely to you, I just expressed my feelings. I am sorry, please stop crying and don't count anything I have said. Forgive me, mom!" Deborah said. Mummy Ben, who managed to talk, opened her mouth and said, "Well! I am not your mother, to clear your doubt. When your father is back, tell him to take you to your mother, who has been caring for you all this while." She wiped tears off her face, and left Deborah sitting down, looking like a dunce. "I don't mind whatever you said; all I know is that I have said my mind. If you like, go and hire another woman and call her my mother, I don't care"

Deborah said and left for the Kitchen.

Meanwhile, Steve and Shalom had been sitting for about an hour, waiting for Pastor Ben to complete his session with the church Board of Trustees. Shalom had been dozing where he was seated. Steve tapped him and apologized for the inconveniences.

A man was talking to himself. "They are all bunch of fools! Whenever you asked them where God is living, they will end up with their stupid quote from their deceptive book that, it is only a fool that says there is no God. If on this course I am a fool, I will accept the fact that I am a fool. Where is the God while my parents died at my tender age? Was God living while I was trying all my possible means to survive at age of twelve, and I was implicated? Is there a God and I went through all those things in the prison? Let them tell me what the God was doing and left me to it all alone at the age of twenty-five. My wife and my two children died the same night, what is their God doing then? After the whole incident, one stupid fellow told me that God loves me still; where is the love? Does He know what love is all about?" "Oga Boss! Don't by much word sin against your God; though, life might have been unfair to you, but that shouldn't make you think that, there's no God. I might not be a Christian, I might not preach to you like those gentlemen you just sent away aggressively, but I do believe that, there is a God somewhere, who watches over the affairs of the entire world. All these things can't be like this" a man replied him. Oga Boss was his popular name but his real was Adeitan. From his narration, life had not treated him well at all. He's a drunkard and he's also known for gambling. "Wale! You too have started having a belief like those fools; you had better not. There's no God anywhere and if there is, what offence have I committed that could have made Him treat me so wickedly? If He is

God and He's listening to me, He should come and confront me and tell me reasons He had been treating me so bad" Adeitan replied. In a snap, a fence beside them that they rested their back on, in the arena where they used to drink alcohol cracked and fell. Everyone there survived the shock, including Adeitan. After the incident there was a resounding thunderclap in the sky. "Oga Boss! You called for God; can you see what happened just now? Wale said. Adeitan was so confused and he thought he was not alive anymore. The wall of the fence fell apart, yet, not a single stone or crack fell on the people beside it. Everyone was thanking God, at the same time accusing Adeitan for the incident. All of them left the scene and left Adeitan to it alone.

"God! Is it true that you exist? If you are, why have you been treating me bad? How can I know you? How can I know where you live? I want to really discuss a lot about my life with you. I am a confused person, God; show me yourself" Adeitan said and he became sober. He is conscious of himself now. He left all the drinks he had bought and left for his place without a word with anyone.

"Mom! I have prepared lunch, and I have also set the dining table. Please, come and eat" Deborah said. Mummy Ben looked at her angrily and she said, "thank you, I am not hungry; and if I am, I will go to the kitchen myself and prepare something, or better still call on my child that I have elsewhere. I don't eat meals prepared by another woman's daughter". This really got Deborah mad, she muttered some words that mummy Ben couldn't hear and she left her room; "you don't know how big things you have said to me are" mummy Ben said and she continued to press her phone.

Finally, Pastor Ben was through with the meeting he had with the Church Board of Trustees. "Happy Sunday" pleasantry that shalom heard made him become conscious of himself. "Daddy! Happy Sunday sir" Shalom said; "I wish you all the best of it, my brother. Brother Steve, I hope you don't mind our order of service, it's kind of old papas and mamas" Pastor Ben said and he giggled; "not at all sir; in fact, it's a blessing all through" Steve replied. "Sigh! Back to our discussion, I don't mind taking all your time today, I really want to know where the story is starting from" Pastor Ben said; "starting from, you said sir?" Steve replied; "yes! Once a man is still alive, his story starts from a point he is, until the day he breaths his last breath" Pastor Ben said; "oh! That's so amazing. I don't know it was coming from that angle" Shalom replied.

"Sir, I am actually relieved from my burden; in fact, God ministered to me last night, and even this morning; however, I will still tell you my story, so that you can help me in your prayers, and as well refer to my life and use it as a case study for others. I remember where I stopped narrating my story, the last time we met with you, and I will continue from there. My life became miserable and any moment I tried to go forward, I would just see a minor barricade or discouragement, and this was how the trail of my life continued. My mom never stopped charging my spirit up. She would tell me to keep my faith alive in God, but did I believe in any God then? Maybe not. The most fearful part of my tragedy was that, I masturbated each night, despite all these going on in my life. I became irrelevant as young ones on the street left me behind, and I became everyone's topic here and there. I nearly committed suicide, but God didn't allow any of the attempts

to be successful.

About two years later, I was charged a bit in my spirit and I began to come nearer to God. I began praying at night and in the morning, and from there I was becoming conscious of my life. "What's happening to me" that was what I asked myself one evening; I cried out to God and I told Him to help me, and that if He could do that, I'll give my life to Him completely. He took over my life, that year I registered for Senior Secondary school certificate exams once again and I sat for other exams into the University, God heard my prayers and I cleared my results. I got beyond the cut off mark into the University and my name appeared on the Admission list. It was as if the Heavens would fall on me, I was very happy and I appreciated God for everything. I remember the song that my mom and I sang that evening. That same day, I remembered my friend Posi; he is a Pastor's son and he lived around my street. He was a prayer warrior, I knew him through that, and I developed interest in him. He prayed along with me some days before my results came out and he assured me that God had done it already. I quickly called him when my results came out and I thanked God in his life. I asked how he was coping with school life; he told me all was well. I remember I just spoke out from nowhere that, don't stray from God, so that you would be His Ambassador forever. He told me some things about his current lifestyle which I won't be able to disclose.

I finally got admission into a University, and that thought never left my mind. I gathered my things, mom got enough for me, she prayed and advised me dearly before I left for school. When I got to school, it was a different world. I began seeing different things in fact, I was amazed. I mingled with other students and school life started. Mom would call each night and tell me to move closer to God, and I remember, I always assured her. God took over my life, and for the whole of my first year in school, I

did very well in my academics and with God. But one night! Steve said, "One night! What happed in the night?" Pastor Ben asked. "I was in my room, preparing for the test I was having the following day when I began to hear a faint moaning sound. I couldn't get it right, but I decided to ignore it, since it was not clear enough for one to know what it was all about. I continued with the reading, and the sound became louder. It was a lady that was moaning in the course of sexual intercourse I was hearing. I couldn't bear it, the temptation came again, I couldn't control myself, I didn't know what to do; I ran back to my unseen girlfriend and I masturbated again. I didn't believe I did it, the urge and everything disappeared and I became heavy that same moment. I couldn't even pray before I slept and that night, something happened" Steve said and he paused; "what happened?" Shalom asked.

"Oppression is not what any Christian should play with; if after God had delivered one, and one entangled oneself, ah! It'll be a bitter experience. Exactly 12:00am, I began to hear the "meow" sound of a cat; I asked myself, "Do we have students who also keep cats as pets? I left the whole sound to itself, changed my sleeping position, and I closed my eyes. I was sleeping but I could hear the sound coming closer as if the cat was in my room already, I wanted to wake up and check, I couldn't move myself; I was oppressed for almost two hours. When it was exactly 3:35am, I was relieved. I woke up from bed, and I was not feeling well any longer. I had headache, catarrh and I also felt I had running stomach; in fact, that night was a terrible one. I was terribly shaking on the bed; I picked my phone and I called my mom. She answered my call, and out of a great fear, she called out to me, "what have you done wrong?" I couldn't say anything, I just stammered that she should pray for mercy on my behalf, as my mom prayed, I felt relieved and I slept off.

It was a knock at my door that woke me up from bed with much fear. "Bro Steve, I thought you said you were having a test today?" one of my hostel mates asked. I rushed to my phone and checked for the time, I was thirty minutes late for the test already. Ah! I heard an evil laughter of defeat in my ears, I couldn't take my bath, I only washed my face and brushed, and then I ran to school, hoping to meet up with the test. To my greatest surprise, I saw my course mates outside the lecture theatre, when I asked them why they were all outside, they told me that all the lecturers were having a meeting; when I heard this, I was very happy and I thanked God. I promised Him not to do it again. After everything that day, I branched in Church, and I asked for forgiveness. I told God that I would not do it again. It was as if God saw what I would go through later, I went to the fellowship that evening and the message of the Bible Coordinator that evening left me into a deep thought. I didn't eat anything that night.

When the devil knew it that I would not masturbate again, he brought Feranmi my way. Each student in the hostel had either a school son or daughter, but I didn't like that idea, until a day Feranmi, the newly admitted student in my hostel decided to make herself my school daughter. Anyways, I was a nice brother to everyone in the hostel, I was accessible and kind and this made everyone loved me. To cut the long story short, I began to love Feranmi beyond the normal pace of school father-daughter relationship. One evening, she came to my room, and she complained about lunch, I asked her to make noodles for herself, which she did. As she ate the noodles, she asked me to feed her, I declined her request. She got angry, took the plate of noodles and was about leaving for her room. I don't like people's mood turning sad because of me. I held her leg as I was reading on my bed and told her not to leave and that I would do what she asked. She stepped back and she sat beside me and she stared at

me while I ate the noodles. She moved towards me and she gave me a warm peck and I became confused, before I would realise what was happening, we left the noodles aside, and we began to eat iniquity. In the process of romance, I ejaculated on myself. I hated myself once again, Feranmi and I couldn't look at each other's face, she packed her things and left, hmm! Steve said and sighed! **So, what happened later?** Pastor Ben asked.

"Pastor, I thought that was all, until the memory of what we did started disturbing me; I thought of calling Feranmi back in order to really have it with her. My second thought started to flog me, I was down and I didn't know what to do. I picked my phone, and I decided to dial her number in order to invite her over, but "she" got me" Steve said and sipped his saliva. "Who got you?" Shalom asked. "My mom's call interrupted my call to Feranmi."

He flashed back...

"Hello mum!" Steve said; "my son, I believe you are doing fine and that everything is going well with you over there?" Steve's mother asked; "yes mom, everything is good here, what about your side? Steve replied; "I'm fine, just that I am having an odd feeling about you, and I decided to call you. Hope you're not into anything evil? Are you going to rebel against God? Steve's mother asked.

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Daddy, I rebelled against God, despite my mom's critical question to me. It was like that was not enough, Feranmi came back to my room and was talking about a course; I did not respond to her question but I was staring at her. She blinked severally and asked what was wrong with me. "I need a warm kiss" I told Feranmi and she smiled at me, then we began again. I nearly did it, but my phone rang and it was my mom that called back. "Don't forget to have vigil today" my mom said and she hung up. "Could she be monitoring me? That was the question on my mind. What she told me to do made me become terrified. "How will I face God this night with what I am doing right now?" I asked myself. I later shunned Feranmi, I excused myself from my room and I went to a friend that lived

beside my hostel. I had the most shocking encounter of my life! I have heard so many things, I have watched Africa magic movies, but this happened and it left me crazy throughout the night.

"At exactly 12:00am, I stood up and I tried to pray. All of a sudden, I felt a strong breeze in my room and in it Feranmi came out, she slapped me thrice and I fell to the bed. It was 7:00am in the morning and I understood that it was not a dream as her four fingers were on my face." The giggles of Shalom and Pastor Ben made Steve pause and he sipped his saliva. What **happened later?** Pastor Ben asked; that was the last time Feranmi and I related in the hostel. Everybody asked about us and they even tried to settle the score, but they didn't succeed. I went back to God and I was coming to my feet once again. About three months later, I told God that I would like to lay off every burden on my neck, and I slept that night. It was like Feranmi knew what was on my mind, she came to me in my dream to challenge me, the moment she appeared, I rushed at her and made her life miserable. When I woke up that morning, I felt the superman spirit all over me. I laughed so much in my room that everybody asked why the uncontrollable laughter, I didn't mind them, I was only waiting for Feranmi to come out of her room, when I didn't see her, I made up my mind to pay Posi an uninvited visit. If you are following the line of my story, you would remember that Posi was the only one I related with in my town, his life really motivated me as a prayer warrior, and he had helped me in prayers severally.

That day was a Saturday, so I packed some of my things and left for Posi's school in order to spend the weekend with him, but on getting to his place, what I met there was the biggest blow I would receive in my life. When I got to his area, I heard people crying in front of his hostel, and I tried to ask the people that gathered, when they narrated what happened, I was so

shocked and nearly fainted. Posi gave up the ghost! What caused his sudden death? I asked. I was told that he died in the course of having intercourse with a girl that he likely met a week ago. I couldn't believe my ears, I managed to gather myself, and I left the town and went back to my place. I was in my room quiet throughout the day, I was thinking about a prayer warrior that I knew, I was thinking about a brother that I spoke with some weeks back; I began to imagine what could have made him stray. "If this is how the devil makes mess of lives, I would tell Jesus to take my life completely today, and I will never ask for it back; whether it pleases me or not, I'll always do the will of God" that I told myself that night and I stood for God for five years without any compromise, until some days ago.

I was putting things in order in the apartment that my company secured for me, and there I saw a torn newspaper that has a picture of a popular female singer, with half of her breast exposed. I quickly threw it away, but for some silly reasons, I took the newspaper again and I began to stare at it. Before I knew what was happening, I already fell into my vomit again, and I did what I had left five years ago. I was so bitter and I didn't know what to do. God told me that as a result of what I did, He would send me to a land full of thorns, and in the thorns I would live, and that by then, I would have no reason not to serve Him. In the land, He would exalt His name in my life. When I was trying to make a plea, He told me He had forgiven me, but He would not reverse anything He had said. "This is my short story, starting from the day I was born till three days ago" Steve concluded his story, Pastor Ben sighed, Shalom wiped his face.

"Well, Bro Steve! Let us thank God that He had restored you, and that He even made known what He was trying to do to you" Pastor Ben said; "lest I forget sir, God told me something about you" Steve said;

"please don't hesitate to tell me, I'm all ears" Pastor Ben replied. Steve looked into Shalom's eyes and made gesture, if he should say it still; Shalom reacted to the gesture that he should go on.

"Sir, God told me about your only daughter. He told me she is suffering from epilepsy" Steve said and he wanted to continue, but the countenance of Pastor Ben he saw made him stop. "Bro Shalom, I am so disappointed in you, within just two days, you have told a stranger everything about my family? Thank you so much, I really appreciate it" Pastor Ben said angrily. Sir, I don't seem to understand what you are talking about. Do you think I will do that? Shalom said; "spare me your silly excuse. If God will reveal things about me, He would not see anyone else to reveal it to; it would now be this friend of yours that is still struggling to balance his life that He would reveal my life to? That is your doing and I dislike what you did" Pastor Ben replied; "sir, please don't get it wrong, he didn't tell me anything of such, God revealed that to me" Steve said; God revealed that to you? Pastor Ben asked amusingly. He then packed his things and left them seated.

Steve and Shalom felt bad about it. "It was like I knew this would happen eventually, that was why I asked you if it was right to tell him" Steve said; "please, don't blame yourself for anything" Shalom replied. They picked their Bibles and left.

I killed your parents; I made your life miserable, I caused disorderliness in your life; I killed your wife and your kids; are all these not what you allegedly accused Me on? I am He that made both good and evil; however, everything I made has always been good. I don't tempt My creations with evil. It is in fact My pleasure to see my head work, living a peaceful life. Can I make a man and make his life miserable? No! Everything happens for a purpose, known or unknown. You humans have eyes, but you can't see and this has made you accused Me on many grounds, and it will not belittle Me; for I am awesome beyond what any of your words can describe. Your description about Me makes your life alone, if you see Me as a good Father and God, goodness and mercy will never depart from you: otherwise, you have exalted the other side of Me. Anyone who seeks Me shall find Me, you have challenged Me already, but I am a God that doesn't go for a debate or contest with anyone, how can I begin to run? I don't run, I am always lifted. Since you have decided to know the reasons, I have been unfair to you, I will tell you, but have a mind to bear my explanation. I am sending my son your way, he would pray with you, and from there, you will be lightened up, and your spirit will be able to receive, awake! A voice said, and it began to faint, and he woke up from bed with much fear.

Adeitan, who is popularly called "Oga Boss" had challenged God at some moments, he had said God should show Himself if truly He is God. When men pray to see God, God has diverse ways to appear to men. Adeitan began to scream, after he woke up from bed; his voice attracted his neighbours' attention, and they all ran to him. What happened to you? That was all his neighbours were asking him. Adeitan was being paralysed, he couldn't move his body. People began to rain comments on his current situation. "He is a drunkard and that is the result of alcohol. We have warned him severally but he won't heed, can we all see how he has ended his life" one person said this. "His friend told me about an incident that happened at the junction they used to have their leisure.

I was told he challenged God and almost immediately, a strange thing happened, since the day his friend told me about this, I have been hearing Oga Boss calling on God to show Himself, I believe this is a contest between God and him" another person said.

The whole environment had been filled with a mob, people were crying up and down. Adeitan later died. Meanwhile, Steve and Shalom were still on their way home from Church. Adeitan's place happened to be three buildings away from Shalom's place. Steve and Shalom arrived at Shalom's place after he had gone to Steve's place to pick his car. Nobody knows the reason Steve followed Shalom down home. Shalom was so shocked when he heard that Adeitan had died that afternoon. He started talking to himself. **Shalom! You should have come to meet this man yesterday and tell him about Jesus, maybe he would have become born again before he died"** Shalom accused himself and he was crying. "He's not dead yet", a voice told Steve. **God, what do you mean?** Steve asked. You and Shalom should go to where his body is laid; I will exalt My Name, as well save him. He has been praying to see me, he really wanted to know the reasons I have been unfair to him, and that I am revealing to him right now. Just go there and pray for him" the voice said and faints.

"Bro Shalom, we would need to go to his place, God said he is not dead yet. God instructed us to go and pray for him" Steve said; "you mean pray for the dead man? He's not sick anymore, he is dead, D E A D" Shalom stressed; "if you believe, you will see what the Lord will do today" Steve said and he asked Shalom to lead him to Adeitan's place. Many thoughts began to run through Shalom's mind. Though, God can do it, but what if we get there and we prayed for the dead man, and he's not resuscitated? What will people say to us? I have heard people of God raising the dead, but I don't think I can do that with anyone;

Shalom was saying all these within himself, and Steve cut in, what if God uses you this morning; will anything change in your room? How did you hear what I asked myself? Shalom asked; "God told me your intention" Steve replied.

They got to Adeitan's place and the neighbours allowed them in. Everybody there didn't understand the reason they were there. Shalom told the people that they will like to pray for the dead man, and everyone began to ask questions. So that what would happen? "We thought Christians don't pray for people that are dead already." "I believe prayer after one's death can't erase one's past sin, anything he had done, he will meet in heaven." These were what the people present there were telling Shalom. "Well! We are not here to pray for him, so that God can forgive his sins, he's not dead yet, he will be back to life" Steve said and everyone became quiet, and at a time, they all burst into a serious and laudable laughter. "This is a joke, right? It met us unawares" a man said; "everything might be too difficult for men to understand, but all things are possible for God to do, if you will wait and see, you will see the goodness of the Lord" Steve replied. At this point, Shalom had already begun with his thought of unbelief again. Steve told him to leave the scene and go out, as he could be a barricade to what the Lord wanted to do. Shalom heeded and left the scene, as he was leaving the room, everyone was so patient and calm to see the miracle this slim man would perform.

I believe in your power, Lord! Exalt Your Name. Amen. Please, what is his name" Steve asked the people around; "Oga boss" a man said. "You are always stupid, is Oga boss his real name?" another man replied and hissed. "His name is Adeitan" he replied. Shalom was outside and his heart was pounding as if it would fall off. "Mr Adeitan, your God told

the entire world about Him. Rise up and go into the world to start with His work" Steve said; everyone stared at Adeitan, expecting his dead body to rise up, but another thing happened eventually. His Aunt that was living in another street came around when she heard that he was no more. At the point of Steve's prayer for the dead, the Aunt began to act strangely as she was saying unusual things, like she already became mentally unstable. She was dragged out of the place, so that the people would concentrate on the miracle they were expecting to see. "I am sorry" that was what everyone heard from Adeitan's mouth. This made the people begin to shout in amazement. The shout of joy made Shalom run to the scene, when he saw the body being raised up, Shalom began to weep. He wept for his mind of unbelief.

Everyone brought Adeitan out of his apartment and in a twinkle of an eye; the whole place was filled up. The shout of joy went down, and everywhere was calm as everyone wanted to hear what Adeitan would say. **Lights off.**

"Had I known the God I have been rebelling against loves me this much, I would have devoted all my time for Him. While God was busy, seeing what He could do to help me, I was busy accusing and showing hatred for Him. If this incident had not happened, I wouldn't have known what had been going right or wrong in my life" Adeitan said, and everyone was so anxious to hear the story of his life. People kept coming from all over the street, just to come and listen to the words of a man that was already dead but came back to life. A large crowd had already gathered, wanted to see and hear for themselves. Some doubted at first, saying he only fainted, but when the whole story was narrated to them, they all believed and became restive, so as to hear his testimony. Adeitan continued with his testimony, "everything that had been happening from the day I was born to this day; God had just shown to me. I will like anyone who still doubts the existence of God to pay rapt attention to me. As regards what the Lord revealed to me about myself, I was born on October 1st at exactly 5:00am, in the year 1960. The announcement made my dad very happy and this made him sell a larger percentage of his farm produce in order to prepare for my christening. After my father had discussed and planned with his junior sister concerning the christening ceremony, my aunt went into a dark room to make enquiries about my future and some other things about me; she discovered that I would be a great and well-respected person in the future, she was so furious at this discovery, and she vowed to do all she could to make sure that this discovery would not come to reality. She made so many attempts to kill me but she did not succeed. When I was five years, she came to challenge my dad that he had not been showing concern for her anymore, ever since I

have been born, my dad told her he had lots to cater for, most importantly, his child. She got very angry and left, but two days later, I saw aunt Adeife cast a spell on my parents and they both died the same night.

My aunt was the most concerned of the bad occurrence as she was busy shedding crocodile tears. Everyone consoled her, not knowing she was responsible for the incident. She later took me in as her child. She knew that her only son might not be as successful as I would be; she hated me more because she couldn't kill me. When she couldn't kill me, she cast a spell of fornication on me and I slept with one of my cousins when I was twenty years. The incest made her gain access into my life, so she manipulated my destiny and I became miserable. When I was twentynine, a man took me to Lagos where I had the chance of turning my life around, though I came back to our village for a purpose, but left some years later. I got an apartment for myself and in 1989, I married my wife Elizabeth. After a year, we both went to my hometown to greet my aunt. What a terrible world! After the visit, aunt Adeife cast an evil eye on my wife, and the thoughts and behaviour of my wife changed towards me.

When my son, Adeola became ten years old, that was in the year 2000, My wife decided to use me for money rituals; she travelled to a very far village to collect some fetish materials that she will use on me for the money rituals, but on her way back from the village, she had an accident with our son and they both died. I couldn't bear the shock, and since that year, I had been challenging God, not knowing that, He really loves me. Five years later, I got back to my feet, and I came to Ibadan in Oyo State to settle down. I had already started doing well for myself, I was even able to build a mansion; but when I told my aunt of my progress and achievements, she cast a spell of drunkenness on me and I began to spend my savings on alcoholic drinks to the extent that I became very poor, I even had to put my

house on lease when I didn't have anything more on me, I later sold my house, but the man that bought the house from me didn't evict me from the house, he is a Christian. Despite his goodness towards me, I hated him, just because he believed in God and I hated God then; but he was always good to me, in spite of my ill manners towards his family. "You wouldn't believe me" Adeitan swallowed his saliva.

"No, I can't believe you", Mummy Ben said. Meanwhile, Pastor Ben had narrated what Steve told him to his wife. So, a man whose salvation is unstable can be telling the spiritual secrets of another man? All these our youths of nowadays, they think they can manifest spiritual gifts while they are not yet saved? So, he is saying that God can't speak to you, or maybe God has left you, to the extent that He will be discussing your matter with him; I believe that was what he was saying to you indirectly. What did you now tell him, what was your reaction to what he said? Mummy Ben said. "I was so disappointed in Bro Shalom and I expressed how I felt to him. I know he was the one that told that man about Deborah's ailment. I even thank God that these days, the ailment is not showing up, but seriously, I hate people discussing what they know about others with a stranger" Pastor Ben replied. "Daddy! It means you have to be very careful with the man, don't let him come from nowhere to destroy your ministry. Don't listen to anything he tells you. Moreover, I will like to report Deborah to you, there is nothing she didn't accuse me of today, she accused me of many things, she even said that sometimes she feels I am not her mother" Mummy Ben explained. "You don't mean what you just said? When did all these start, where are the good values I am teaching her? I don't believe it. Deborah!!! Pastor Ben replied and called on his daughter.

Yes daddy! Deborah replied his call with smiles. "What is your mother

telling me here?

Just tell me that everything is not true right now, when did you become a rebel to your parents? Tomorrow, you will come and confront me as well that I might not be your father, how insolent! You better go now and apologize to your mother" Pastor Ben said. With all quietness, Deborah knelt before her mother, and apologized for all she had said to her mother earlier. "That's alright Debby Baby, go and bring me my food" Mummy Ben said. "I thought you said you won't eat my food, I guess you are famished already!" Deborah said as she laughed and ran towards the kitchen. They all laughed. "What will you do now?" Mummy Ben asked. "About what?" Pastor Ben replied.

What will you do regarding your aunt that has gone insane? The mob asked Adeitan; "That's her reward, it has been long she had been doing evil, she must reap everything she had sown. The most painful part of this is that I was the one that brought her to Ibadan and rented an apartment for her when her son abandoned her. Yet, she kept following me with evil. Is it my fault that I will be richer than her son? Why are people so wicked? Dear listeners, even as you will be leaving here today, I want to tell you that there is a God who watches over all the affairs of the whole world, accept Him through the Lordship of His Son, Jesus Christ. That was what God told me to tell you. Everything going on in the world today is evil, it is only as many that God protects that are safe. Believe and receive Him into your life. I will like to appreciate this gentleman, who made himself available for God to use to bring me back to life, thank you so much. Adeitan concluded his conversation and about fifty people gave their lives to Jesus immediately. Steve prayed for them and in the course of his prayers, many miracles happened and they all glorified God.

Shalom got to his place, despite his tiredness, he was on his feet throughout, thinking. "Lord, it has been long, I have been hearing about your wonders, but this is more than what I can say. I have heard of people like Kenneth Hagin and Reinhard Bonnke as well, but I have never witnessed it in my life that a dead man would be brought back to life! This is too awesome! God, you will have to forgive me of my unbelief and help my sick soul. Who knows what would have happened, if I tarry with him with this my heart of unbelief? Maybe I would have been a hindrance, and the man of God would have looked fake and false to the crowd. God, use me mightily as well, I am ready, use me" Shalom prayed.

Steve as well continued with another serious prayer session at his place. He was raining much prayer into the atmosphere; the language he was speaking was not of here. At the end of his prayer session, he gave all glory to the Lord, and he headed to the kitchen.

Adeitan was still under the influence of God, he couldn't believe he had wasted much of his life, fighting against He, who loves him so much. He wept profusely, everyone tried to console him, but he wept the more. "Can I become a Puny? Is it possible to start all over again? God, will you please use this remaining time of mine anyhow you want? I had fought you in the past, now it's your turn, fight me, break me and remould me" Adeitan said.

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"Deborah, will you discuss it with me now?" Pastor Ben asked his daughter; "yes dad. I would have loved to discuss it with you before our devotion, I just felt like I should heed to your word, and wait till

everything is over for today" Deborah replied, as she walked towards the door to check if her mom was not eavesdropping. "You mean, you don't want her to hear about it again?" Pastor Ben asked; "yes dad" Deborah replied and lowered her voice to extent that her dad could not even hear what she was saying clearly. "You know dad, I don't mean to be rude. From my tender age, up till this moment, I have never disappointed nor lowered my regards for you" Deborah said, and Pastor Ben nodded his head in agreement to what she said. Dad, I must not lie to you, for quite a while now, I have been having this feeling. I feel mom is not my mom" Deborah said and looked at her dad. "Well! I will like to erase your doubt. You have no other mother elsewhere but her, unless you don't see me as your father as well" Pastor Ben replied.

"No, you are my father. I always feel right with you, but for mom's reactions towards my life, I feel like she is not my mom" Deborah said again. "And I am still repeating it that, she is your only mother" Pastor Ben replied with a harsh voice. "Okay, that aside. It was not even the reason I wanted this discussion. Dad, I beg you in the name of God, don't tell her about this. I know she will ask you, but don't tell her. Promise!" Deborah said; "okay! I promise you." Pastor Ben replied. Dad, do you notice that for some days now, I have not fallen sick as usual? Deborah asked; "That's true. I have wanted to ask you; the most amazing part of it was that I didn't hear of any noise in the Church today about you, and I was very much happy. So, tell me; is there anything to that? Pastor Ben replied and asked.

"Dad, some days ago, I had the same dream I do tell you of, ever since I was in my teenage years, but this time around, it was a different one. A man came in my dream and he stopped me from eating the food. He had come twice now, and I know the reason the ailment stopped

coming could be traced to the dream" Deborah said; "God had come in the image of a man in your dream to heal you. He has eventually answered our prayers" Pastor Ben replied. "Well! Dad! It might be God's doing but there is a man that something strange is happening to me for his sake" Deborah said; "A man? Strange thing about him? Who is he and where did you meet him? Pastor Ben asked. "Yes, a man. I only saw him today for the first time, and he actually was to be the man that stopped me from eating that horrible food in my dream" Deborah replied, and Pastor Ben changed his sitting position.

"You don't mean it! A man in your dream, who happened to be your helper and here in reality, you saw him? This is a strange one indeed. Did you talk with him? Who is he and where did you see him?" Pastor Ben asked with much worry. "No, we didn't talk at all; I only stared at him while he bent his head as a sign of regards. He came along with Bro Shalom that is in the ushering department and from the way I am seeing things, I think he is new in town" Deborah replied. This is a joke, right? Ah-ah! Is that not Steve? Pastor Ben said; so, you know him dad? Deborah asked; I knew him through Bro Shalom, and they were both here vesterday, but you were inside this place" Pastor Ben replied. Are you really serious about this? My God! What could this mean? Deborah asked; I don't seem to understand anything right now. So, what he was telling me today was nothing but the truth, I really insulted both of them today. I thought Shalom was the one that told him about us; the man met with me this afternoon, and he told me about your illness, and he as well said God sent him to me, but I didn't wait to hear anything further because I walked out on them" Pastor Ben said.

Ah! Dad you shouldn't have reacted that way to the person you were

meeting for the first time, even if he is lying, you should have listened to him at least and leave him for God to deal with. Ah! You have to find a way of making things right; first impressions last longer. Who knows where you are going to meet again? Deborah said. "You are right, my daughter. It was when I came back home that I realized that I didn't act well. I know what to do; I will reach out to him and apologize for my poor manners", Pastor Ben said; "That's why you are my father. You are always a reasonable father. Dad, could it mean that there's something common between us, I mean that brother and I? Deborah asked; "Well! For now, I wouldn't lie to you, I don't have anything reasonable to say, let God explain Himself better. May you never fall sick anymore" Pastor Ben replied, and wished Deborah happy night rest. "Thanks dad, for your time. Sleep well" Deborah said and her father left.

Pastor Ben paused on his way to his bedroom, and he was contemplating on everything Deborah had discussed with him. Deborah as well had been thinking much about Steve. "Who could he be in my life?" She asked herself. Pastor Ben got to his room, he met Mummy Ben asleep already, but the moment he laid down to sleep, mum Ben woke up and they started another discussion. "What was your discussion all about?" Mummy Ben asked. Pastor Ben wanted to tell her, but he remembered the promise he made already. "Errrrm! Nothing really, she told me about a man that she loves and that's all" Pastor Ben managed to reply. "And who is the man? Mummy Ben asked. "Mummy, we will talk about it tomorrow, please let us get some sleep" Pastor Ben replied, and mummy Ben agreed to what he said.

5:00am, Monday.

Mummy Ben tapped Pastor Ben to wake him up from bed. Mummy! What's that, and why did you wake me up? Pastor Ben asked, as he was rubbing his eyes for a clearer vision; I am sorry, but I just had a nightmare and it's all about Debby baby" Mummy Ben replied. The moment Pastor Ben heard Mummy Ben talking about Deborah, he changed his position on the bed, and he sat up. So, what's the dream all about? He asked; "I saw many giant elephants running after Debby baby as she was heading towards a direction, they nearly caught up with her to attack her but I was calling on her to come towards our direction, I mean you and I, but she didn't listen. She saw a man who she beckoned on to come to her aid, the man ran to her and held her hands, though they both ran as much as they could but the giant elephants eventually caught up with them and attacked both of them, then I saw Debby baby dead" Mummy Ben narrated her dream; God forbid! Pastor Ben said. There was a minute silence as both of them buried their heads in a deep thought.

So, what could the dream mean? Mummy Ben asked; "I can't really figure out, but it's a warning that we must not let Deborah go into the hand of a person that will lead her away from us into death, that's all I could say about that" Pastor Ben replied; exactly what I am thinking of. We must be vigilant and keep our watch over her, lest she rebels and leaves us aside to go with a person that could lead her to destruction" Mummy Ben replied. Their discussion was a long one but eventually, they wrapped it up and left for the living room for morning devotion. They got to the living room but they didn't meet Deborah, who

has always been the first person to come to the living room for morning devotion.

What could have happened to her? Pastor Ben asked; this is unusual, let me go and check up on her" Mummy Ben replied; "you won't go alone, let's both go" Pastor Ben said, and they both left for her room, they knocked, and opened her door, but what they met was not really a nice one. Debby baby! Mummy Ben shouted and rushed to her; Deborah! Pastor Ben shouted as well and held her hand; "what is it? What happened, Daddy! Please say something" Mummy Ben said, with much curiosity; "Deborah, please sit properly and tell us what happened" Pastor Ben said. Deborah managed to look at them, she wiped tears off her face and sat up, as she opened her mouth to talk, she started sobbing.

"Daddy, mummy, it has happened again" Deborah said; "it has happened again? Her mum asked; what has happened again? Her dad asked as well. "My ailment has started again" Deborah said; "Oh my God! Not again. I have appreciated God for this victory and deliverance, why is it coming back again?" Pastor Ben said with an expression of empathy; "But there was no sound or voice coming from anywhere at this time of the day" Mummy Ben said; "That's true mummy, that baffles me as well" Pastor Ben added. "Well! I didn't go unconscious and there wasn't any foamy substance from my mouth, but it all happened in my dream" Deborah replied; "In your dream?" Pastor Ben asked; "What happened in your dream?" Mummy Ben added

Daddy, it all happened in my dream. I was at the spot where I normally eat this evil meal, but this time around, I couldn't see the woman, as I was wondering where she could be, I saw the man that stopped me from taking her meals coming towards me, he was holding this same meal, but this

time, it was not in a clay plate. He handed the food to me and asked me to eat but I declined his offer, I challenged him that he had once told me about the influence of the meal on me and why he would come himself with the same meal he had warned me about? He couldn't say a word until I instigated him with words and he started chasing me. As I was running, I heard a voice I recognized calling me to run towards where she was calling from, as I heeded and ran towards the direction of the voice, I saw a small hut and ran into it. I was in the hut expecting the person that was pursuing me to show up, but he didn't, and I thought I was safe where I was. The woman that was calling me came out from the inner room where she was, with food and water for me to refresh myself. Her structure was like that of a person I once loved, she looked so familiar but I didn't know that exact place where I knew her. I took the food and water from her and I began to eat, when I was almost done eating the meal, I took the boiled egg in the plate and I ate, I also saw a piece of dried meat that looked like a lizard, but I was not sure; so, I asked about the meat and she told me it's dried fish, I later ate it, finished the meal and drank the chilled water she brought with the food.

She laughed devilishly when I was done with the food; I asked myself why she could have laughed like that. All of a sudden, she turned to the evil woman that normally feeds me with a lizard and she was laughing mockingly at me. I felt so angry and deceived and then I ran out of the hut. As I ran out of the hut, I saw my saviour, who turned my enemy some minutes earlier, holding nothing and was smiling at me, he called me to come to him, but I couldn't. I was thinking he could as well force me to eat another lizard. The evil woman appeared from my side and she patted me on the back, I was afraid of her touch and I moved a bit away from her. I didn't know where to go, whether to the side of my friend that turned my

enemy, or to the side of my long-time oppressor.

"Deborah!" the man called; "Don't answer him" the evil woman said; "I am your friend and not who you think I am" he said again; "Was he not the one chasing you the other time? The evil woman said; "I have not been around all this while, it was when I returned from my journey that I thought it needful to come looking for you. I am telling you the truth. I quite know that somebody must have done evil to you using my image, but I was not the one you thought you saw some minutes ago" he said. The moment he said that, the evil woman laughed again and she turned to the image of my saviour. I was confused to the extent that I could not differentiate the real person from the fake and it was then I believed that my saviour had not been around and some imposter had taken his image.

"You think you are free? Yes, you might be free from oppression, but not from deception. It is a thing to be free from oppression and it is another thing to be away from deception, for deception kills faster that oppression. The moment you people think you are enjoying freedom and that you can discern between a voice that is right from another voice that is wrong, you can't be set free. I lured you into it again. You are caught now and your ailment will be back in a moment. I have done it" the woman said. "The moment she was done with her speech, something happened" Deborah said and swallowed her saliva; "what happened?" Her dad asked.

Steve was trying to settle a quarrel between Deborah and a woman but it was as if the harder he tried, the more difficult the contention was becoming. The woman had an upper hand over Deborah as she threw strong blows at her face and Deborah was bleeding already. When Steve knew that Deborah could be knocked off as a result of the contention, he stood to his feet and fought back at the woman. Steve beat the woman in defence of Deborah and the woman was really embarrassed, but with the look on her face, she was not going to concede defeat. She braced up again and charged at them; when she knew she couldn't do anything to them, she decided to resort to biting. She gnashed her teeth and wanted to bite Steve but Steve held her head and asked Deborah to look for a club. Deborah brought a club and Steve shoved the club into the woman's throat and hit her lower and upper jaw; the woman's tongue got cut off and it fell to the ground, she was bleeding. Steve and Deborah ran away from the scene, and Steve woke up from his dream.

What could this mean, God? Steve said. It is 6:45am; his quiet time had passed a little, as he woke up late from bed. God, I am sorry. I supposed to have got up from bed, maybe the dream was the barricade to this world. I thank You anyways for the morning" Steve said and he started praying. He stood to his feet and he wanted to be praying, going up and down but the first trail left him confused, as there were droplets of blood on the ground. He was afraid at first as he didn't have any clue to what had happened. He traced the blood to the right side of the bed; he discovered that the blood stains started from his bed. He also traced the droplets of blood to the left side of the bed where the blood stains ended and then he followed the blood traces to his kitchen where he met a big snake that was

already dead on the ground in the pool of its own blood.

Jesus! Snake? In my kitchen? It climbed on my bed? To bite me, maybe? So, what killed it? All these were the questions Steve asked himself and when he could not answer the questions as to when, what, how and where, he called his mother and explained everything to her. His mother thanked God for His watch over him the she told him not to stop moving closer to God. Steve appreciated his mother and later hung up. He looked for a big stick and he took the snake out of the kitchen, then he set it ablaze. The thought of the dead snake couldn't make him rest; eventually, he set out for work.

Since that day was a public holiday for all government workers, Mummy Ben, who is teacher in a public secondary school and Deborah, a lecturer in the University of Ibadan, will not go to work. Their discussion continued. Deborah told them that after the meal that she took, she fell unconscious in her dream, and that she suffered from Epilepsy. Her dad told her not to think about it and that it was only a nightmare. Her mom prayed for her as well that the dream will not come to pass. After the discussion, Deborah wanted to know if the ailment was back or not. So, she decided to go to their living room to put on the home theatre and increase the player volume to the loudest, maybe the sound would make her go unconscious like before. She did that, but to her surprise, nothing happened to her.

She later left for the kitchen to start preparing breakfast. It was the smashing sound of the plates that fell from one of the cabinets in the kitchen that made both her parents run to the kitchen. They met her on the ground, turning to sides and foaming out some white liquid from her mouth. Her parents were very sad as they waited for her to regain her consciousness.

Steve had a break at his place of work; he went to a restaurant to get himself lunch. He met a lady at the entrance of the restaurant, one of the attendants called on the lady that she forgot her wallet. While she looked back towards the direction of the attendant, Steve's arm hit her arm and the package she was carrying fell to the ground. Oosh! The lady exclaimed and she bent down to pick her things that were already scattered on the floor. "I am so sorry ma'am" Steve said, waiting for the lady to respond. Sister Deborah! Steve said, Oh my God! You are Bro Errrrm! Errrrm! Steve" Deborah finally said. "I'm sorry for what happened" Steve said; "it's my fault" Deborah replied.

"I have loved to see you before this time and I thank God who brought you my way today" Steve said; "Really! Hope it's not too serious" Deborah replied and asked, "it's not something difficult anyways, but we will need some time to discuss" Steve replied, why don't we exchange numbers and do some minutes on WhatsApp call? Deborah suggested, "That's a nice idea". They exchanged numbers and confirmed each other's number by dialling the numbers. "I will be expecting your call" Deborah said; "I'll call you definitely, take care of yourself" Steve replied and left.

Adeitan immediately got himself a Bible and he didn't for once leave the Redeem Church, close to his house that he has started attending. The Pastor of the Parish had taken his time to pray with him and Adeitan himself kept meditating in the word of God day and night. Two months after his conversion, he became a Kingdom crier. He preached day and night, he was seen at every corner of every street, preaching about Jesus. His life kept challenging others, multitudes kept asking if he was still the

Adeitan they knew or not. With the simplicity of his evangelism, he had twenty souls won for Jesus Christ. This evening, he was at a junction, preaching the name and wonders of Jesus; an old man, who people believed to be a fraternity member, came to him. The man told Adeitan to take the preaching of his Jesus off his street; else he will be dealt with. Adeitan laughed and replied the man, "Baba, I have no fear of what any man can do to me. I am crucified with Christ Jesus and I bear His mark upon my body, let no man trouble me. When the Scribes and Pharisees and the government officials of then, asked Peter and other disciples to shut their mouths and never talk about Jesus Christ that had been raised from the dead, they said they would rather die than to live and not preach the gospel. I have sworn in the name of God that the remaining life I am living, I will live to proclaim Jesus Christ; therefore Baba, I will admonish you to find a place to sit and listen to the word of Jesus" Adeitan replied. With much fury, the man left his side and went into his house. Adeitan continued to preach about the gospel of Jesus Christ and people were paying attention to him as he was narrating the story of himself. Suddenly, everyone around started running away and Adeitan was imagining what could have made the crowd disperse suddenly.

The old man that left Adeitan not quite long after they exchanged words suddenly returned with so many charms and fetish materials. "I have told you to leave this arena, but I can see that you are stubborn and I will show you that irrelevant people like you have no life to live" the man said, he raised a charm up and hit Adeitan with it. Fall down and die! The man said. Everyone was expecting Adeitan to fall down but to their amazement, he stood on his feet still and he was praying. The man was so embarrassed and he went back into his house to bring another charm. The

moment he got to where Adeitan was, an unnoticeable rain started. The old man fell to his feet and started shouting. It must not see rain! Rain must not touch it! Eh! I'm doomed" the man became paralysed and continued to shout, then the rain stopped. Everyone on the street came to the scene to see a powerful man, sobbing like a little boy.

"Who are you?" the man asked; "I am a redeemed fellow, a child of God and Jesus of now. Whosoever fights me shall injure himself and whosoever I fight has known his destruction. "It is a deadly thing to fight your maker, it is, indeed!" Adeitan said. They were still at the scene and the news had reached everywhere; all Adeitan's neighbours came to confirm the news they have been hearing. The Redeem Church Pastor that had been mentoring Adeitan as well came to the scene and they were all amazed to see what was going on. "Please, you should all beg him on my behalf. I know I have sinned against his God and I know my punishment is what I am having already" the old man said. Do you believe that Jesus can save you? Adeitan asked the old man; "if He can save you from my charms and diabolic power, He can save me too, I believe; help me beg your Jesus to please forgive me; I will not do it again" the old man replied. Adeitan called on Pastor Reuben of the Redeem Church he attends to pray for the old man. They both joined their faith and made plea to God on his behalf, his paralysed body came back to normal and everyone glorified the name of God.

Adeitan seized the avenue to preach the word of God further; ten souls gave their lives to Jesus Christ.

Lights off.

"Bro Steve, I can't comprehend what the Lord has been doing around me, maybe my wrong deeds haven't stopped pursuing me or the love of God is bringing confusion towards me further, but I remember a portion of the scripture that says "God is not an author of confusion" "I think that should be 1 Corinthians 14:33" Adeitan said; yes, that's 1 Corinthians 14:33, you're right. Well! I don't know what the present situation is, if you tell me, I will be able to know what I can say. Will you like to tell me about it? Steve replied and asked, Adeitan sighed and he began to narrate his current situation.

I returned from Evangelism yesterday and the moment I got back to my compound, one of my neighbours pointed at me and she was saying something with a woman and a young lady that I couldn't hear. When I got to where they were, they greeted me with much courtesy and I was looking at the woman, her face looked familiar but I didn't want to believe that. I was leaving for my apartment when the woman said "we are here to discuss with you" I looked back and I asked if they were talking to me to erase any doubt, "yes, you" the woman replied. I asked them to come in but I immediately sent for the man I sold my building to. I don't want to under-estimate what the devil can do or not do; I remembered many stories I have heard people narrating about how men of God fell into traps. The man arrived after some minutes, I ushered him in and informed him about the ladies who would like to see me. He had his seat and we waited for them to talk.

How about your children and wife, sir? The young lady asked. I was confused and I didn't know what to tell her; "**they're no more**" I replied eventually. "**I am sorry to bring back the memory**" the damsel said,

"don't mind" I replied her. "I guess you two are mother and daughter?" I asked them, "yes, we are and that is the reason we are here. We had an issue and we need to seek an advice from you, as a man and as a father. My problem started twenty-six years ago; I met a man, a very caring man who loved me so much to the extent that there was nothing he didn't give me; we planned to get married and I could remember the last night we spent together before my parents left our hometown. The memory is always fresh, I was together with him under a full moon, planning things to come in the nearest future unknown to me that my parents would be leaving for another State. We sang together, and eventually we mated, and we parted ways.

When I later heard that we would be leaving the town, I was very confused, I pleaded with my parents to let me go and at least inform my man about it but they didn't permit me and that was how I was not able to see him before we left. Each night, I remembered him and every promise I made to him that I would never allow any other man into my life and that it was only him my heart would long for. We were in Abia State, the distance was not what I could just take a rope and measure to our town, if that was possible, I would have loved to sneak away at night and come back in the morning, just to go away and see my man. I knew that my man would not be alright. After three weeks that we left the town, news reached my parents that I was pregnant, they felt bad about it but I was happy about it. I began to dial the numbers that I had once been dialling, so as to reach my man, but none was reachable. I couldn't sleep and I continued dialling the numbers until I was tired about it. My parents encouraged me, they kept loving caring for me, they promised that whenever they would be going back to the south-western part of the country, they would take me along and they would go back to look for my man so as to inform him about the

pregnancy. They fulfilled their promise, we went back to the town after we left the event they went for in another south-western State; I thought that day would be my day of joy but it turned out to be something else. The news I heard about him left me confused, I was told he got married the previous week and that he had moved out of the town with his wife. I was embittered and didn't know what to do but that day I made a promise to myself that I would never marry any other man and that I would nurture the child myself. I never believed he was out of my life. I thought he would call me one day, but till date he hasn't called me.

Our child is grown and she has been disturbing me that she wanted to know her father, I searched every location that people gave me about him, but I couldn't, until three days ago that a friend told me about him, that he is here in Ibadan where I have been living for the past fifteen years. I was happy to hear that and I went out today to check where I was told he is living and I couldn't hold my tears when I saw him seated in front of me" the woman said and paused as she was shedding tears. Daddy Lucas, so you had a wife to be, before you married your wife? I accused my landlord; "a wife to be? No, I don't think I understand what the lady is talking about. My thought was, you are the one she was referring to, but with the way you directed it to me now, I am lost" my landlord replied. "Woman, who are you talking about? You can see that we are both confused here now, we cannot comprehend your story" I said.

The woman didn't bother to reply us, she opened her bag and brought out some envelopes, she began to take out photos out of the envelopes. She handed the photos over to my landlord; my landlord looked at the photos and he nodded his head in disagreement. "I don't know who this is" he said. The pictures were handed over to me and the first one I checked brought back the memory of plus thirty-years ago. I remembered that

evening that one of her Aunties came with her "Oyinbo" husband. We had some snapshots together and some copies were given to me but I always told her to keep every photo we had together with herself because of my Aunt. I pointed at my head and I was trying to remember her name. Suddenly, her name came to my memory and I shouted "**Dorcas!**"

She looked up and her eyes were filled with tears; the young lady beside her smiled and my landlord was just looking astonished. I was destabilized and I became sunken in fear. I began to cry out loud and I was looking like a traitor. "Is that the child?" I asked, she nodded her head in agreement. "Adeola, that's your father" Dorcas said and the damsel left where she was and ran towards me; she hugged me with much tears flowing off her cheeks. "Daddy, why did you go away from me? I miss you. I always feel that you are not at fault, I always see you in my dream. I know you can't hate me because you do pray for me in my dreams. Please, come home" The young lady said. I became dumbfounded and I didn't know what to say. I was shedding tears like a baby, but everyone was petting me.

Adeitan, with tears rolling off his cheeks said and he paused; "Sir, tell me about what you said to it" Steve asked. "I managed to say something at least" Adeitan replied as he continued with the narration.

Dorcas, I looked everywhere for you but nobody told me anything about you. My thought was that you lied to me and that you fled without notifying me, which was the reason I decided to marry another lady, in order to forget about you. For the first few months, it was not easy for me, I was down and I looked everywhere for you. I was troubled about you before I finally decided to marry, I even drugged myself one evening and it was after three days I woke up in the hospital. I consented to marrying another woman so that I could stop thinking about you, this I managed to

say" Adeitan said, Steve wanted to say something further, but Adeitan's phone rang and that made them to pause the discussion.

Lights off.

Adeitan ran to his phone which he had placed on one of the studs in his living room; when he checked the identity of the caller, he knew it was Dorcas. He paused and looked at Steve. "What's that, why don't you pick the call?" Steve asked; "She is the one and I don't know what to tell her" Adeitan replied, "Who are you talking about? Steve asked; "The Dorcas that I was telling you about" Adeitan replied, "Then pick the call and let's hear what she has to say" Steve said. Adeitan sighed as he swiped the call notification up and they got talking.

"Hello, good afternoon" Dorcas said from the other end; "Good afternoon and happy weekend" Adeitan replied; "Same here. Trust you had a good day today?" Dorcas asked; "Yes, I did. I believe Adeola is doing well too?" Adeitan replied asked. "Daddy good evening! How are you today, it's me, Adeola" a voice jumped in on Adeitan; he knew that was his daughter, but he was afraid and he didn't know how to relate with her. When Adeola noticed that her dad was cold on the phone, she patted her mother and handed the phone to her, then, both Adeitan and Deborah continued with their discussion.

"So, have you thought about anything yet? Ade! I am not persuading you that you let me come back into your life, that is late already of which you know yourself; just allow my daughter to have a father, at least for these few days she has left to her wedding day. Let her have a father's love and discipline at least. Every child needs a father, I have been playing both father and mother roles in her life for almost twenty-five years, let her have you for these few days" Dorcas said and paused. Adeitan sighed and he managed to reply her. "Well! I have not decided anything yet; I am confused; how will I face a daughter that

has lived twenty-five years without me? I'm not feeling right; my conscience is not at rest. Please, just give me some days, I will ponder much on it and get back to you," "Alright! I understand every bit of what you have said; we will be waiting for your decision" Dorcas said. They bade each other farewell and the call was hung up.

"Bro Steve, this is what I am telling you still, I don't know what to do. What a father do I want to be now, after twenty-five years? What love can I show to her within this short period of time? What do I do? Adeitan murmured; "Well! This is a critical matter, with an exact solution. You don't have to bother yourself over this. God has brought back what you thought you have lost. You lost your family many years back and you have lived a desolated life before this day, now that your God is at the wheel of your life, everything becomes new, including your marital life. I will advise you to let them become your family, even as God is telling me now, she is your wife, just go and marry her legally now because all your past sins have been forgiven" Steve said and he prayed with him.

Adeitan was so happy, he appreciated Steve. I feel very light now, I don't just know why, I think I am really happy. I bless the day I met you, you are indeed a God-sent. Bro Steve, what about you? Are you married or engaged? Adeitan asked, "God told me to be patient and to continue to do His work, He had promised to give me the best I can ever understand. I am single but I am not searching" Steve replied and he laughed. "I will like you to take your leave now, you have indeed tried today. You almost spent three hours with me with all patience, thank you so much. Extend my greetings to Bro Shalom" Adeitan said. Steve appreciated him as well, he bade him farewell and he left.

"I thought I had lost everything but God gave me a complete family.

This God is so loving and only Him will I serve till the end of my life" Adeitan said.

Lights off.

Deborah was just laughing as she was going up and down in the living room and her parents were wondering who it could be. She went to her room eventually and she lay down on the bed and was still talking on the phone.

Ahhhhhh! You don't mean it! Are you are saying we Ibadan indigenes don't have any other meals aside Amala (flour meal)? Deborah said; "I mean it hundred times. There is no route you will get to here in Ibadan that you won't perceive it" the voice on the other end said, "Bro Steve, this can't be true. Can you tell me that you have not eaten another meal apart from Amala (flour meal) since you arrived in Ibadan? Deborah asked, "I am joking anyways. Sister Debby, where do you work?" Steve asked; "I lecture in the University here, History to be precise" Deborah replied, "wow! That's nice" Steve said. "What about you, where do you work?" Deborah asked, "I work in one of the Access Bank branches, a Managing Director to be precise" Steve replied. "So good, I don't know I have been speaking with the Managing Director of a bank here since" Deborah said stylishly, "had I known I have been conversing with a Lecturer of the great citadel of learning, I would have been on my feet all through" Steve replied and they both laughed over it.

"Bro Steve, I would like to ask you a question, if you don't mind" Deborah said; "I mind, let me hear about it" Steve replied, "have you ever dreamt about me, maybe you have once seen me in your dreams somehow?" Deborah asked and Steve skipped. "Well, I have seen you in my dreams about four times, even before I knew about you" Steve replied. "Okay, can you tell me what you first saw me doing in your

dream?" Deborah asked, I hope there is nothing to your questions? Steve asked, "Not at all, I just want to know; if you don't want to mention it, then it is fine, let's skip it" Deborah said with her voice tensed.

"Okay! I will spill it out. The first time I saw you in my dream, you were devastated, confused and in much sorrow. I saw a woman figure punishing you much with affliction. I was so bitter to see you going through that. When I woke up from the dream, the Lord told me about the ailment you are suffering from and since then, I have been praying to God about you and He told me He had told your Dad a way out, maybe he has not done what the Lord had told him to do" Steve replied her, "Oh my God! I don't know if you noticed how much I stared at you in church, the first time I saw you and Bro Shalom entering the church. I have been seeing you in my dreams, countless times and you have been appearing like a saviour. You have been stopping me from eating the evil meal I normally eat that leads to the ailment; it is what you just told me today that made me see the reason the ailment has not been really disturbing like before. Thanks so much for praying for me, when you don't even know me and sincerely, your prayer has been working for me" Deborah said.

"You don't need to thank me; at least you are a friend. If I pray for you, I am doing it for a friend" Steve said, "Hmm! I wish all Christians can intercede for one another. God bless you" Deborah replied. "I believe you are coming to Church tomorrow? Deborah asked, "Not at all, I am going to the Mosque" Steve replied and he laughed out, "Oops! He got me. I'll do mine and don't be angry at me, if I do" Deborah said, "Tit for tat is not good. Take care of yourself, sleep well" Steve said, "I really appreciate your time, God bless you" Deborah replied. They both

bade each other farewell and the call was later hung up.

Deborah!!! Pastor Ben called, "Yes dad!" Deborah answered. "That would be the third time I called you, what were you doing that didn't allow you hear me? Pastor Ben asked, "Actually dad, I was listening to songs on my phone and that didn't make me hear you" Deborah replied. "That is by the way, what is going on?" Pastor Ben asked, "I don't seem to understand you dad" Deborah replied, "Who was making you laugh on the phone? Pastor Ben asked while he cleared his throat, "Daddy!" Deborah exclaimed and looked at her mother coyly.

"With all sincerity, I was talking with Bro Steve" Deborah said, "Bro Steve! A brother that just came to the Church not quite long. How well have you known him? Uhm! You better don't fall his prey! That is how they do. Open your eyes before you develop any interest in him" Mummy Ben said; "Okay! I have heard you ma" Deborah replied with a look of disagreement. "Well! You are not a kid, but let God lead you. That is all I would tell you" Pastor Ben said, "I appreciate you both for your pieces of advice. There is nothing really, we just became friends today and sincerely speaking, I do not have that intention; even if it will happen, then it should be from God" Deborah said and left to set the dining table.

Lights Off.

"I have warned you to leave Deborah to me but you are proving to be stubborn. You left your own issues aside and you are poke nosing into another man's affairs. You, a masturbator and a fornicator, have you dealt with that? Your self-indulgence has always taken the better part of you or is it because you have been free of it for some weeks now? It is coming back! You can't deal with that and here you are trying to die over the affairs of another man. Deborah has been enslaved to me so, don't interfere. Just leave us alone and let us continue with our normal lives" an old strange woman said, "Are you done talking, you deceptive woman. I know your work and I know you very well; a wailer, a liar, an accuser, a deceiver, a traitor and an oppressor you are! I know you are good at taming people with words but Jesus had made me know the truth. It is true that I masturbated and that I used to have evil feelings, Jesus sees no record of all those things you said anymore. You are only trying to use that against me and to bring me down. For this cause the son of God was made manifest so that your allegations and accusations might have no grounds to stand on. Jesus wept for me and the life that I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Check me out properly, you will see no blemish on me, Jesus has me covered. Do you have anything else to say? Steve asked the old woman.

"I might not have a say over you now, but I believe we would have a chance to tell you all back" the woman said; "You can never have any chance anymore, I am hidden in Christ and beside my shepherd I feed, so that I don't stray and I am holding Deborah with me, journey by Jesus" Steve replied and the old woman was furious. "Do you know

what her father did? The old woman asked, "Her father you said? All praise to God that you said her father. Why is she paying for what her father did? I believe you know where her father lives, why don't you go ahead and take revenge from him, why from the girl? Steve replied, "Well! That is not a discussion for today. Moreover, I have been entertaining too much of your nonsense!" the old woman said and rushed towards Steve. She raised her stave and wanted to hit Steve with it, Steve made a very sharp move, he changed his position; by this, he had an advantage over the woman and he punched her on the nose.

Jesus! Thank you" Steve shouted and woke up from bed, and he started to rain prayer into the atmosphere.

Deborah!!! A voice was faintly calling. Deborah woke up, looked for her phone and checked for time, it was just 4:45am, why should dad be calling me in that manner by this time? Deborah asked herself as she headed towards her parents' room. The voice became louder and clearer as she got closer to their room. Deborah rushed into the room and she was shouting, "Mummy! What happened? Daddy! What is the issue with her?" Deborah asked, as she was moving up and down. "I can't just explain what has happened to her, she just screamed from her sleep and I saw her nostril bleeding" Pastor Ben replied; "This would be definitely be an attack from the dream; daddy, let us begin to pray for her" Deborah said while she ran back to her room. She picked up her phone and dialled Steve's line. Steve picked up with much curiosity and Deborah explained what her mother was going through to him, he calmed her down; Deborah appreciated him and ended the call.

"Jesus! I was confused. I remembered I punched an old woman in my dream and Sister Deborah called me just now to tell me about her mother, Lord! What is going on? I don't understand?" Steve said;

"You will have to calm down, because this story you are about to write is a long one, just relax, I will tell you enough about it" a voice said; **Father, my ears are open**" Steve replied the voice.

"I'm fine now! Thank you, daddy; thank you, Debby baby" Mummy Ben said; "but what really happened? Deborah asked; "I can't really explain, but I am fine now" Mummy Ben replied. "I think we need to start preparing for Church" Pastor Ben replied. "I'll take my leave now so as to go and get prepared for Church" Deborah said and left. Lights Off.

The Church Service was in progress, it is a wonderful time this Sunday, during tithe and offering session, Deborah danced so well as she had never had such opportunity in a very long time among other people in the congregation. Everyone was so amazed to see her dance like the "top" toy; she was dancing impressively. When the Service was over, Steve heard God talking to him. "I love her but she is not redeemed yet" a voice said; "you mean she is not a Christian yet?" Steve asked; "Yes, she was born and brought up in the Church, but she has never given her life to me and that is going to be the first thing you should talk with her, in your next discussion" the voice said; "Alright Father! I will do just that" Steve said.

The service was over and everybody was leaving for their various homes. Steve was about to enter into his car and leave when he heard a voice calling him, "Sir!!!" he paused and looked back. "Good afternoon sir and happy Sunday!" Steve said; "Same here sir. Mummy Ben sent for you; she will like to meet with you" the man replied. Where is she? Steve asked him, "She is at the back of the Church" the man replied. "Okay! Just lead me to where she is" Steve said; "Okay sir" the man replied. As Steve was going with the man, he felt a car was horning for his attention, and he looked back. "Bro Shalom! Can you just wait a minute? I was sent to by Mummy Ben. I'll be back soon" Steve said; okay sir! Shalom replied as he was wondering what Mummy Ben would like to see Steve for. He skipped his thought and he waited for him to come.

"Well! I understood everything you have said about her. We have never met to sit anywhere; she is just a distant friend and we only talk on the phone" Steve said so as to counter everything Mummy Ben had said regarding Deborah; "I am only trying to protect all her friends from getting afflicted with the ailment. I don't like her to be alone, but what will happen to us, if anyone should be afflicted with the ailment through her? Won't people begin to talk about it? Henceforth, I want you to stop coming closer to her. If it is about the issue of a life partner, God will give you a good one, but not Deborah; please, don't let her inflict you. If you love your life, take my advice and leave but if you feel you can jeopardize your life for friendship, stick to her, but whatever happens should not be blamed on anybody because you have been warned. God bless you son, happy Sunday" Mummy Ben said and she left.

Steve couldn't believe what the woman told him. He was asking himself if the woman is really her mother. He was talking to himself till he got to where Shalom was, waiting for him. What is the issue? You look different" Shalom asked; "Please, let us go to your house and discuss about it" Steve said. They both agreed on that, and they left the Church premises.

"Hello Dorcas, good afternoon. Happy Sunday" Adeitan greeted; "Ademi, oops! I'm sorry. Adeitan, same here" Dorcas exchanged his pleasantry. "How is Adeola doing?" Adeitan asked, "She is not back from Church, the choristers are waiting. She will be here very soon" Dorcas replied. "Dokaasi aya Ade (Ade's wife)" Adeitan said and Dorcas was shocked to hear that. It was only when Adeitan was happy then that he used to call Dorcas that; "Ademi!" Dorcas as well called him his favourite name. "Do you know what you will do for me?" Adeitan asked; "And what is that? Dorcas asked as well; "Let us get married, so that we can make it legal" Adeitan said; "You can't be serious about this, after

twenty-five years!" Dorcas replied; "It is better late than never; if you are ready now, we could go to my Pastor and tell him about it and you as well tell your Pastor, then we get a date fixed for our marriage and you and my child will have a place to live" Adeitan said. "I know you will not want to live with us, we will come over to your place and live with you" Dorcas replied; "I won't like it that both of us will live in this small apartment; I regret ever selling my building but I have raised enough funds, I will get a better apartment that we can stay till Adeola gets married" Adeitan said. They discussed further on the phone, later the call was ended.

"So, Mummy Ben told you that as well?" Shalom asked; "Yes, she did. But what do you mean by as well?" Steve replied and at the same time asked; "If you can remember what I told you then that I was getting close to her, until one day Mummy Ben called me and some other people to discuss about the ailment. She really scared us out that day; it was from that day Sis Tolu, Bro Benjamin and I stopped being her friends. Why is the woman protecting others and talk ill of her own daughter? Oh! I remember. Maybe I should believe what you told me about what God revealed to you. Could it be true that Mummy Ben is not the mother of Sister Deborah? I think your revelation is accurate, I believe now; if not, how can a mother go about, spoiling the reputation of her own daughter? If we must know that she is sick, we should know by ourselves and not from her mother, why can't Daddy Ben do the same thing, if truly she is trying to protect her daughter? What are you going to do now? Shalom replied and asked; "I will do as the Lord will direct me. I think I have to go now; I will still like to branch at Daddy Adeitan's place" Steve replied; "It is okay then; God will help us" Shalom answered and he escorted him to Adeitan's place.

"I don't think I understand anything you are saying and all these documents I will not take from you unless you tell me the person that bought the building back for me" Adeitan told his Landlord; "I have already promised the person not to disclose this, you will hear from the person, just take everything from me please" the Landlord said; "I will not take anything from you I said, if you will not tell me" Adeitan replied. This they were both talking about when Shalom and Steve came in.

"Daddy, good afternoon sir; happy Sunday" Steve and Shalom greeted both of them and they responded. "What is going on here?" Steve asked; "He told me he is returning all the documents of the house I sold to him. He told me that somebody who has asked him not to disclose his identity had paid him double of the money he paid me then and I told him that I will not take any of the documents from him, unless he tells me the person that bought the house back" Adeitan narrated. "Daddy, "if that is the case, I will want you to tell him who the person is" Shalom said; "Well! Sirs, I have made a promise that I will never reveal that to him as the person had asked me not to" the Landlord replied. They all continued with the discussion and when it seemed that the landlord was being overpowered to reveal the identity of the house buyer, he dialled a number and he got talking with someone on the phone.

"If that is the case, tell him about it" the voice on the phone instructed; "Alright! I will do as you have said" the Landlord said and he ended the call. He turned to them and he told them all about the person. "You don't mean it that it was Adeola who paid double for the cost of this building? Adeitan asked. "Yes, she paid me back; my wife and children and I are leaving the house this week" the landlord said. Nobody knew what went wrong with Adeitan who fell to the ground with his face down

and began to cry.

Lights off.

"Do you mean a child I didn't bring up did this for me?" Adeitan asked; "Dad, you may not have brought me up but I always feel you are not at fault for everything that happened. Mom told me she heard that, you once owned the building you are now one of the tenants, living in one of the apartments, I made my enquiries to know better and I confirmed it, then I met with the man who bought the building and he told me so many things about the reason he bought it from you. I bargained on the amount he was going to give the house back, since he told me that he had built a house in Banana Island, in Lagos State and that he is even willing to sell the building, he named his price and I bought it back for you. I know you might not want to take it from me, because of the guilt you are having in your heart but Dad, you are not guilty at all. Mom had already told me about your wedding; I am hundred percent in support of that, I will even want it to be as fast as possible, so that my fiancé and I can fix a date for our wedding too. I have longed for my father's blessing me on my wedding day, this is why our wedding date has not been fixed yet, if not, I would have gotten married. I cannot marry, if you don't bless me" Adeola said; "Ademi, you were always a good man all the time we spent together, I remembered how many times you helped with my school fees, till my parents had it then. I have forgiven you for the past, in fact, you didn't offend me at all, I only got you wrong" Dorcas said.

"Bro Steve, Bro Shalom, Daddy Enoch; I didn't know I was rebelling against He, who is buying everything I had lost back for me. If somebody had convinced me really about Jesus some years back, who says I will not accept Him? Maybe my life would have been much

better than this? I regret not knowing Jesus before this time, I regret each second, I lived outside of Jesus. Bro Steve, thank you for showing me Jesus Christ. Daddy Enoch, thank you for the love you showed me throughout here. Some would have bought the house and forget about me, but you never did, when I collected an amount for the value of my house, you retained me still as a tenant; I can't thank you enough, may God bless your family. Adeola mi, how many children will understand simply in this manner? Who else can relate with a father that he or she has not seen for almost twenty-six years of his or her life, the same you have related well with me? God bless you for me. Friends and family, I am informing you that, this coming Saturday, I will be getting married to my wife legally" Adeitan said; "So quick?" Daddy Enoch said; "This man is old already; let him do it on time. No more waste of time" Shalom said jokingly. They all laughed and everything ended happily.

6:00pm, on that same Sunday.

Deborah was pacing up and down, she was not at ease. Her dad and mum were looking at her from the dining table where they sat. When none of them would ask her what the issue was all about, she went straight up to her room. "Where is he now? Why is he not picking up my calls?" Deborah asked herself. Steve on the other side was seeing her calls coming in, but he didn't want to pick up. "Why are you not picking up? You don't seem to understand your God; you have forgotten the assignment I gave to you just because of a fake threat? A voice said; "I am sorry, Lord. I don't want to cause a rift between a mother and her daughter" Steve complained; "but you want to cause a rift between you and I?" The voice asked; "No oooo! A rift? Between you and I? How will my neck bear it and who is backing me up? I will do just as you have instructed me"

Steve said, he took his phone.

Meanwhile, Deborah had decided not to call him back. Her phone was beeping, she ran to it and she answered the call hurriedly. "Hello sir, happy Sunday" Deborah said; "Happy Sunday to you ma" Steve exchanged her pleasantries; "I guess you were not with your phone, I had called four times" Deborah asked: "Errrrm!" Steve said, "Don't lie" a voice said; "Actually, I saw your calls coming in, but I didn't want to answer" Steve managed to say; "You didn't want to answer? Why? Are you ignoring me? Have I done anything wrong?" Deborah asked in haste, "You didn't offend me, the thing is, errrrm! I don't want to cause any trouble, don't mind, never mind; it is okay. You danced very well today" Steve concluded so as to do away with other reactions that could come aftermath.

"There is a reason for this and I think you are hiding something from me. It is fine if you don't want to be my friend. Many friends left me already because of my ailment; I guess she has come to tell you the same bitter story, is that not it? My mom had told you as well? Deborah said. "Please, calm down. Don't drag anything with your mom. Just let us act like mature people. Truly, she came to me after Service today and she told me about it. Please, don't tell her anything; just behave as if you don't know about what she told me. I wanted to be stupid and leave you alone, but not anymore. You are my friend henceforth" Steve said. "Really! Are you sure you will not leave me like others had done? Deborah asked, "No! I am not others, I am Steve. But there is something I want to ask you" Steve replied and then asked, "Really? Speak up, I am all ears" Deborah replied.

"Have you given your life to Jesus Christ? I mean, have you personally confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal

Saviour" Steve asked, "I don't really understand what you mean. I was born and brought up in the Church; I love God with all my heart, I fast twice in a week, I give my best offering. I do study many times and there are many other things I am doing that I don't want to tell you. With all these, am I not a child of God? I don't understand you" Deborah replied, "Hmmm! All the things you said you have been doing are indeed very good, but those things don't make you a Christian. Our good works at first is not what God is requiring of us, we need to confess our sins, shun our self-righteousness and call Jesus to take over our lives. If you have your Bible with you, kindly open to the book of Romans chapter 10, then read it carefully till the last verse, you will understand what I am talking about. Verse 10 of that same chapter says "for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made." Have you confessed the Lord with your own mouth? Though your heart loves Him, but have you confessed Him, Sister Deborah? That you were born in the Church doesn't make you a Christian, it is when you confess Jesus with own your mouth and you ask Him to come into your heart that you are genuinely born of God. Jesus said, "I am at the door, knocking; if any man hears me and opens the door of his heart to me, I will enter and dine with him and I will live with him. Jesus is telling you this time that, the good of the flesh is not good enough; it is only when you believe and confess. Sister Deborah, are you willing to let Jesus come into your heart today? Steve replied, "I am willing!" Deborah shouted and she began to cry.

Steve prayed with her and led her to Jesus. She was so happy, she appreciated him. "You are indeed a good friend. Ever since your arrival, good things have been happening to me. Nobody had called

me or sat me down to ask about this critical matter, not even my parents, who are ministers. Thank you so much" Deborah said; "Let us both appreciate God" Steve replied. The call was later ended. Lights off.

Deborah was praying in the middle of the night; she couldn't feel it comfortable not to have some words with Jesus this night. She was so hot from her inside to the extent that the mode of her prayer couldn't be explained.

"Jesus! Thank God for this amazing tool of Yours You have brought my way, I didn't know I haven't given You my life; if I had known before this time, much would I have come to release to You. It is never too late, I have You now and I need You to prove to me that You have received me; don't hide anything from me about myself, take over my life and pour on me the oil of peace from the heaven of glory. Cancel every assignment of the devil in my life, destroy every shackle that is holding me down, have mercy on my dad and mom, help my friends and family and as for your tool that you have used, I heard that the devil is used to falling mighty people, let no devil fall him from Your way, I believe You have done it all, thank You loving Jesus." Deborah said and she rounded off her prayer and she went to bed.

Push!!! A nurse was shouting at a travailing woman. The woman in her anguish pushed, a child came out, and the nurses were all eased out. Hello! Madam! Please, don't go offline. Eh! Doctor! A nurse said and rushed out of the ward to call on the doctor on duty. Pastor Ben rushed in and he met the whole ward in disorder. The Doctor rushed in and checked the pulse of the woman. He shook his head in sympathy and he said "We are sorry sir, we lost her" Nooooo! Pastor Ben said. Deborah woke up from the dream. She was troubled, stood up and ran towards her parents' room. She knocked on their door.

Some fainting voices were talking from afar... "We would make his life

miserable. He left you empty and dumped you, he thought he has a wife; he would never gain what he had laboured for and your emptiness alone will he live with for the rest of his life. Just calm down, I can't be alive and you will be wallowing in the pit of pains and sorrows; I will help you out. You will deal with him that you will be at the wheel of his life. You know how many times I have told you that the river mother needs you and you have been avoiding to be initiated. If you had been initiated before this time, would you have needed to run to me for any help now? It would have been what you could deal with vourself. Anyways, take this gourd and swallow it" an old woman said; "But mama (old woman), this thing is too big" a woman replied; "You don't know anything yet, you have every power to swallow even an elephant. Abeni, take it and swallow it" the old woman replied. Abeni collected the gourd and swallowed it. It was as if something strange came over her, she started behaving abnormally. "Yes! You have the power of the terrestrial world now, you can see anywhere from any view, his life is in your hands now, continue to deal with him" the old woman said; "Ben, you are finished!" Abeni said.

"If the danger of birth missed you, the sudden death at a young age can't pass you by, I will destroy your father's life and your life is being cut short already. I am sorry, your father offended me, but you will have a part in it. Abeni took a javelin and she wanted to thrust a baby dead, but something came out of the baby that looked terrifying. Abeni couldn't move any step near the baby. If you can't die, I will find another means to kill you. I have a day targeted, the same day you will die." Abeni said and left the baby.

A girl fell down in a classroom! This is where I will stop for now; I will show you more of it later. I will rewind the play a bit, so that you can

understand the story line, an old man was telling Steve. "But Baba (father), I don't understand the story at all" Steve said; "you will understand better later. That was what happened before and after Deborah was born. The Abeni you saw is the Mummy Ben you know, the woman that died on her travailing bed was Deborah's mother, Ben's first wife and the old woman that gave Mummy Ben a gourd to swallow was her Aunt, she is dead now" the old man replied; "The thing is becoming clearer, I await other things to know" Steve said. He woke up from his dream. "Again!" He said.

Lights off.

"Debby baby! I thought you don't dream often, why are you always encumbered with dreams these days? I don't really understand you anymore; I hope you are not into any act of occultism or anything that could cause disheartening? Daddy, do you understand your daughter at all?" Mummy Ben said; "I don't think I understand Deborah anymore, I even become more confused about many things she says these days. Well! What I will tell you is to please calm yourself down, and let your mind be at rest. The dream you had has nothing to do with either you or us, it is just a mere dream" Pastor Ben said. "A mere dream you too call it? Why didn't I have the mere dreams before this time, why is everything happening just now? Deborah said with a reaction, "That's so thoughtful of you. It's the same thing I had wanted to say. It all started happening when you began to interact with that stranger. He had begun to pollute your dreams" Mummy Ben said. "What are you talking about, mom? Anyways I will pretend as if I didn't hear you; it is not yet time, things will take proper shape very soon" Deborah said and left the living room. "Daddy! Can you see what she has started with? She will rebel against us, let us find something to do about this Steve so that he can leave our only child alone" Mummy Ben said. "Abeni! We both know the truth, we are only trying to keep it a secret, but for how long will it be hidden. This child has gotten to know the truth. Is she not the one that talked about a dream just now? She was not there that night; how did she know that? Her dream is certainly real" Pastor Ben said; "Did I just hear you call me by my first

name for the first time? You just called me "Abeni"? What happened to the "mummy" that you were used to calling me? Ahn-ahn! I think

the time is now; it is the right time for everyone to hear. If you want her to know the truth, maybe we should tell the whole world everything. Let us tell them about the pregnancies I had for you three different times that we aborted and later led to my barrenness; let us tell them how we killed Pastor Gideon, so that you can be appointed as the new and official Pastor of this Church; should we tell all these to everyone?" Mummy Ben threatened.

"I don't mean to hurt you and that is not what I am saying here. I know I have some hidden secrets with you, that shouldn't make you threaten me so much" Pastor Ben stammered; "Ehn-ehn! When you have forgotten the secret we kept together, why shouldn't I reveal the ones you have with me? We both concluded that Deborah will never know anything about her identity, why do you want us to tell her now?" Mummy Ben replied; "Alright! If that will make our secrets remain intact, I tell you that we won't tell her" Pastor Ben replied.

This went on between Pastor and Mummy Ben, in the manner they were having their discussion, not even an atmosphere can catch up with what they were discussing.

Steve's phone started beeping...

"Hello, good afternoon, this is Steve, who am I on to?" Steve said; "Good afternoon, it is I Mummy Ben. Spare me your further pleasantries and listen carefully to what I have to tell you. I have come like a mother to warn you to leave our daughter alone, she doesn't need a masturbator like you as a friend; what if a day comes, that you seduce her and take an advantage of her? Who will bear it? I am warning you for the last time; I don't want to hear you two talking on the phone anymore, I won't like to see you two together anyhow; if she discusses about you with either her dad or I, you will regret it. I

know you are strong but I will make your life miserable. Did you hear me clearly?" Mummy Ben said; "Well! I heard everything you have said, I have thought about it once, but not anymore, for I have decided that she will be my friend and not even the devil can take her away from me" Steve replied. "You lack every good manner, I don't think you have a parent at least, if you have either a father or a mother, you will know how to regard another person's parents. You are such a fool" Mummy Ben said; "Thank you so much ma, truly I don't have a father, but I have a good mother; if you don't mind, I will like to take my leave now" Steve said, and he ended the call. As soon as the call was ended, he forwarded the call record to Shalom.

Twenty minutes later...

"Man of God! I will like you to please leave the girl for a while, the woman's threat is evil and I doubt if she is a true minister's wife. Over what? You know when I was listening to the recorded phone conversation; I couldn't believe what it was all about, until I listened to it again. As it is now, it will be good to apply wisdom." Shalom said; "I truly agree with you, but light can't run away just because darkness is so thick. If we leave this girl alone to her, she will make her life miserable and God will demand for her life from us. Let us hope in God for what He would do. Lest I forget, how much are you preparing for Daddy Adeitan's solemnization?" Steve replied; "Well! Since they are not making anything big out of it, we would go together with them to Church on Saturday and that would be all. Do we need to slaughter a cow for celebration?" Shalom said and asked amusingly; "If we do, I believe people around will eat; since the celebrant is not publicising it, it will be unwise of us to make everyone know about it. We will go and dance on Saturday even though I don't believe you can dance." Steve

replied and teased Shalom; "Well! Don't let us argue too much now, let's get there on Saturday, then you will know that I am a better dancer compared to Sister Debby" Shalom said and they both laughed on the phone. The call was later ended.

Phone beeps...

"Iyiola mi (my admirer)!" A voice called on the phone; "Iya Adeife Iyiola Steve, if you like, change your voice hundred times, your voice is my voice, I will always get you. How is my mother doing? Steve replied; "Oko mi (my support)! Your mother is doing fine o. I believe you are good as well and that your work is going on very fine" Steve's mother replied; "Everything is fine as well, I bless God" Steve replied. "Iyiola, if possible, can you stop sleeping at your house or the houses of those who are close to you for about four days? Nobody can touch you, but others might be injured and killed just because of you. It is good you adhere" Steve's mother said; "I believe in what you have just said mummy, I felt it as well in my spirit this morning. God has even told me not to exchange my car with anyone or give it out for any reason; I don't have any doubt what you have said. I'll begin to sleep at the company's resort" Steve replied; "That's good enough. Whatever it may be, I know God will never leave you alone. I will continue to pray for you, take care of yourself" Steve's mother said and she ended the call.

Lights off.

"I'll like to deal with him first, before I pounce on these stupid entities. The time I am waiting for has come. I have been quietly waiting for about twenty-six years and nothing will stop this mission. There is nothing like "no repercussion" here on earth. You can't destroy a life and you think you can live yours freely, it doesn't happen that way. Life is fair in war and love" Mummy Ben was saying this in her mind. Meanwhile, they were all in the living room, watching a TV series. She left the living room and she headed towards the rest room. She looked around to see if anybody was coming towards her, when she saw that there was no one, she went straight into rest room.

My cohort! The time has come that you must avenge for me. I will like to first attack their saviour, render him powerless, make him miserable and then strike him as strong as I can, but I need your help here. We all know his weak point, he has a "but", if we can strike him hard as much, he would fall into his vomit, then we will be able to attack him before he gets back to his feet. Bead! What do you say? Shark baby said; "Well! As far as I know, he can't resist it, let us visit him with much erotic thoughts, I believe he would do it" Bead replied. "Shark baby, whatever you want us to do with him is in your hands, just tell us" another girl said. This was going on in the rest room, while Deborah and Pastor Ben were still in the living room.

"I will like you three to visit him this night and ooze out as much as you can, your erotic body scent. It will take a man a strong heart to resist the temptation that comes from your body scent. He will eventually masturbate and if he overcomes by any means, one of us will have to visit him and seduce him and make him lie with her, if he

overcomes that as well, we will combine our strength and fight him" Shark baby said. "That is a very good suggestion, I will like us to act as fast as possible, we do not have the luxury of time" Bead said.

Steve had told one of his special friends at work about him leaving his house to sleep in the office for about three days and his friend had welcomed him to his own house instead. He had as well told Steve about the prayer programme they were having in his Church that night. Steve agreed to go with him to his place and Church.

Deborah was having an odd feeling in her spirit, she left the living for her room and she began to fire enough prayer into the atmosphere. Meanwhile, Steve's mother had started a three-day prayer retreat on his behalf. Steve was in a prayer session with his friend, Deborah was praying for him. When we do not know the importance of our prayer life, events or circumstances will make us know.

"Shark baby! Why don't we check where the intruder is right now? That will make us really get prepared for him" Bead said; "That is a good suggestion, Bead" Shark baby replied. "Fern, help us make an enquiry" Shark baby said; "I will do that" Fern replied. "Hmm! This will be a bit difficult. He is among the children of the Highest. How do we do it?" Fern said; "That will not be an issue, let us check whether his soul cleave to the on-going activities" Shark baby replied. They checked and they saw that Steve's heart was connected to heaven and that there was no way they will be able to disconnect it. "I suggest we strike him in their midst" another girl said; "Ah! Don't let us try it at all; if we have nothing to hold against His children, He would never let us have a way in and if we play with His Stave, He will seriously beat us with His iron whip. I won't want us to risk it. Let us wait patiently" Bead replied; "But we don't have much time left. The man will expose me;

he has all my secrets with him. He must not get closer to Deborah beyond that, else I am finished" Shark baby said.

"Why don't we use his friend's wife to trap him? Sharon is always full of worldly activities. Her heart has never been connected to heaven. We can work through her" Bead said; "Yes!!! We will succeed. Let us invoke her spirit". Sharon was seen in one corner of the church, chewing gums and she was pressing her phone, while sermon was on going. Like a flash, a strong breeze blew towards her and she became unconscious of herself. She became horny and her hunger was towards Steve, her husband's friend.

The cohort laughed uncontrollably. Shark baby appreciated them and the meeting was dissolved. Mummy Ben came out of the rest room and she went back to the living room to join Pastor Ben. "Where is Deborah?" Mummy Ben asked; "she has gone to her room; I think she has something to attend to" Pastor Ben replied; "But this is the time for devotion, what is she doing in her room that she forgot that this is the time for devotion? Mummy Ben wailed. "Deborah!!!" Pastor Ben called. When she was not responding, Pastor Ben decided to go into her room and check up on her. When he got there, he met Deborah in a different atmosphere for the first time. She was praying aggressively in the Spirit. "Deborah! Praying in the Holy Ghost?" Pastor Ben said in his heart and he turned back.

"What was she doing?" Mummy Ben asked; "She was praying" Pastor Ben replied; "Praying! When did she start praying alone? Hmm!" Mummy Ben complained. "Let us leave that, at least we are two here, God will hear us" Pastor Ben concluded. They prayed and they left for the bed room.

The last prayer point was called at exactly 9:00pm, Steve's phone was

vibrating but he ignored it. After benediction, he brought his phone out and attended to the call he missed. "My goodness!" Steve said and he was dialling the contact. Everyone was greeting themselves after the end of the prayer session while Steve was conversing with the caller. He tapped his friend and he whispered some words into his ears. "It is dark already, why the sudden meeting for crying out loud? His friend lamented; "Don't worry, let me take my leave now. We will talk as soon as I get to office" Steve said and bade her farewell.

Steve left his friend's Church for his place of work. He has been called for an emergency meeting. Steve's friend's wife who has been under the influence of some familiar spirits asked her husband about his friend and her husband narrated everything to her; it was as if a rod landed on her head, the spirit left her body almost immediately and an emergency alert was sent to Shark baby. "What is the issue?" Shark baby asked; "He is not going with them back to the house. How do we get him? Bead asked. "Hmm! Let us send some bandits his way and have him shot. We will make sure the bullet is full of our sting and venom" Shark baby replied; "That is a good idea" Fern said.

Steve took a cab and he was heading to his office, as he nearly got to where the bandits were waiting to be used, Steve's phone beeped. He told the driver to park and give him some minutes to attend to the call. The caller had earlier told him that his next call would determine where they will meet, since it is dark already. There is a change in plans Mr. Steve, every inconvenience is regretted, let us meet at Solace Park, a place has been arranged for the meeting already. We will spare the night at least. Tomorrow is Saturday, we have all tomorrow. Where are you precisely? The caller said and asked; "I am in mile two, sir" Steve replied; "Just make a U-turn and tell the driver to take you to Solace

Park, almost everyone knows the place" the caller said; "Wait a minute sir, while I ask the driver. Do you know Solace Park, sir? Steve said and asked the driver; "Yes sir, it is a ten-minute drive from here, but I will have to make a U-turn because if we continue on this route, it will take us extra fifty minutes before we will get there" the driver replied; "I don't mind you making a U-turn sir. Sir, he knows the place, I am on my way now" Steve said to the driver and the caller.

The driver made a U-turn and headed towards Solace Park. The evil cohort shouted in regret. They informed Shark baby about the disappointment. Meanwhile, Steve was only counting on God for everything that is happening around him today.

"Shark baby! What is the next thing we are doing?" Bead asked; "Just let us make him go paralysed the moment he gets to the Solace Park. If we can't make him sin, we should be able to attack him somehow" Shark baby replied. They did all they could do, but none of their plans worked. The meeting started and ended at 1:00am; a room had been booked in a hotel nearby for each participant. They all greeted themselves and they went to their respective rooms.

As soon as it was 6:00am, Steve called Shalom and told him to help him go to his house in order to help him get the things he will need for Adeitan's wedding to his own house. As soon as he hung up his call with Shalom, Shalom went to Steve's house to get everything he had told him to get. "In the next ten minutes, I should be at Shalom's house, get yourself ready, the wedding is starting by 8:30am" Steve told Deborah on the phone. Deborah had already promised to accompany Steve to the wedding, the very first time he told her about it. Everything was set, the three of them; Steve, Shalom and Deborah were in Shalom's car, going to the wedding venue. All the vehicles in front of them halted suddenly and

Shalom also matched the car brakes. Some people were stepping down from their cars and running away for their dear lives. Steve and Shalom were talking to each other, asking themselves what could be going on. Before they would know what was happening, they just saw some men who pointed guns at them in the car asking them to wind down. They did and eventually, they abducted Steve among the three and put him inside the boot of the car and they drove off. Everyone was shouting and the whole scenario looked like a dream to them.

When it became real to them, they began to place calls across to people. It was after the wedding program, Adeitan and his family got to know about the incident. Adeife, Adeitan's daughter had called on some military personnel she knew. The day passed, nobody knew Steve's whereabouts. The second day, Steve's mother came over to Ibadan, Oyo State. Everyone that was attached to him came together to pray for him.

Lights off.

The Story continues...

Waiting for 2021...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Oluwaseun E. Ajayi was born in Igbemo Ekiti, Nigeria. He's a Computer Scientist, from Ekiti State University. He's abound in many Digital Skills such as Video Editing, Sound Production, Software Development (web and Desktop) E.t.c., and currently, he's pursuing his programming career. He has written sixteen books, eight Devotional books, and eight Novels.

As his talent is not limited to book writing alone, he is a member of Reverbnation. He has composed many songs, and many of his tracks have been recorded and released already. He is a lover of God, who is willing to mingle with other people of God to worship. "Charger of God that charges lives" he calls himself, and a popular name has been coined from the statement, and for years, he's being called **Ebencharger**, which simply means, Ebenezer, the charger. It's pronounced as E:bin:charger. He's written so many life transforming and Devotional Quotes.