

In Life, What Goes Around, Comes Around (Isaiah 3:11; Galatians 6:7-8)

But I want to share a true-life story. Perhaps someone will understand that every action, no matter how small it seems today, can leave consequences that last for generations. During the Obasanjo administration, a police officer was posted to a station in Itokin. Due to the security challenges in the area at the time, he and his colleagues were often stationed around Itokin Bridge. One night, on May 6, 2001, a woman who had just returned from the United States was travelling back to Ijebu-Ode. It was already late. As she approached Itokin Bridge, armed robbers attacked her. Her vehicle was badly damaged during the attack. Fortunately, the sound of gunshots alerted nearby police officers, who quickly rushed to the scene. On sighting the police, the robbers fled without taking anything. When the police officer leading the patrol team approached the woman, she was still alive. She was badly injured, but she could still have survived if she had been rushed to the hospital immediately. As the officer got closer, the woman pointed weakly towards a nearby bush. Inside it was a bag containing money the robbers had been unable to steal. The officer checked the bag. It was filled with dollars. At that moment, everything changed. The desire to save a dying woman suddenly gave way to

them for years. For seventeen years, life moved on. He forgot. He convinced himself it was in the past. Even after escaping the kidnapping incident weeks earlier, he never once remembered the woman. But the moment he stood over the lifeless bodies of his children, every detail came rushing back. Every choice.

Every moment. Every act of greed. Every second he chose money over a human life.

I do not know whether that is how karma works. But I know this: Every action has consequences. Maybe not today. Maybe not tomorrow. Maybe not even in ten years. But nothing truly disappears. Especially when it is built on another person's tears. If you choose to celebrate bandits, glorify kidnappers, support criminals, or benefit from the suffering of innocent people because there is money involved, I will not stop you. I only want to remind you that consequences do not always arrive immediately. Sometimes they wait. Sometimes they grow quietly in the shadows. Sometimes they come when life is finally good and you think you've gotten away with everything. And sometimes, they arrive through the people you love most. The frightening thing about evil is not that it pays today. The frightening



greed.

He deliberately sent the other officers after the fleeing robbers so they would not discover the money. The same police vehicle that should have been used to rush the woman to the hospital was instead used to chase criminals who had already escaped. And just like that, the woman died. Years passed. The police officer retired and relocated to Ijebu-Ode. In April, 2019, there was a high-profile kidnapping incident around Itokin Bridge. The officer escaped unharmed.

Grateful to be alive, he called his children abroad and told them he wanted to celebrate both his survival and his birthday together. A double celebration. But life had something else waiting for him. A few weeks later, on May 6, 2019, his two children were involved in a fatal accident close to Itokin Bridge while going to Ijebu-Ode immediately after they arrived in Nigeria. They died instantly. When he arrived at the scene and saw where it happened, he froze. It was the exact same spot where he had abandoned that woman to die on May 6, 2001. Seventeen years earlier.

The officer later shared the story himself. He said he deserved what happened. According to him, that was only one of many atrocities he committed during his years in service. Yet somehow, that particular incident never left him. He confessed that the money he stole that day was the same money he used to send his children abroad and support

thing is that the bill often comes years later, when you have forgotten the debt ever existed. Somewhere tonight, a father is still crying because he sold everything he owned to pay a ransom. Somewhere, a mother is staring at an empty chair because her child never came home. Somewhere, a family is trying to learn how to breathe again after burying someone they loved. And while they mourn, others are online laughing, joking, begging criminals for giveaways, and calling it cruise. Maybe it is cruise to you. But for somebody else, it is a lifetime of pain. One day, the comments will disappear.

The live streams will end. The jokes will stop trending. But the tears of victims will remain. And if there is one thing life has taught us, it is this: Money stained with another person's pain never truly brings peace. Before you celebrate evil because it looks profitable, remember that every ransom payment carries someone's tears. Every stolen fortune carries someone's sorrow. And every act of wickedness leaves a footprint that time can never completely erase. May we never become so entertained by evil that we forget the humanity of its victims. Because the saddest tragedy is not that criminals exist. It is that ordinary people can gradually learn to laugh alongside them. And when a society begins to laugh at the pain of its own people, it is already bleeding from wounds deeper than it realizes.

BE CAREFUL HISTORY HAS A STRANGE WAY OF BALANCING

Sometimes life can be very funny. Who is relevant today might become irrelevant tomorrow, or even be no more. When Justice Walter Onnoghen was being forcefully removed from office, the conspiracy was so strong that Buhari had to involve members of both the Bar and the Bench because he was not so sure that Walter Onnoghen would constitute the Presidential Election Petition Panel in his own favour after the 2019 election. So, he had to do whatever needed to be done before the 2019 Presidential Election. The first person that Buhari's cabal approached, and who willingly gave himself up for the conspiracy, was Justice Danladi Umar, the then Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal. When he was reached out to, he helped Buhari and his cabal by signing an ex parte order directing the removal of Justice Walter Onnoghen, even without due process. After the removal, Justice Danladi Umar did not waste time. He proceeded to try Walter Onnoghen and subsequently secured his conviction.

Fast forward to November 20, 2024. The same Danladi Umar was disgraced out of office by the Akpabio led National Assembly when a two-thirds resolution was passed for his removal over allegations of corruption and abuse of office. And that was how a career that started in 2011 came to an end. Today, no one speaks or talks about him.

At least, not in Nigeria's good history books. The second person who gave himself up for the conspiracy was Justice Ibrahim Tanko.

Justice Tanko was the next most senior Justice of the Supreme Court to Walter Onnoghen.

Ordinarily, when the issue arose, he was supposed to reject being made Acting Chief Justice of Nigeria by Buhari, until due process was followed. But he did not. Immediately Onnoghen was forced out, he assumed the role of Acting Chief Justice of Nigeria the very same day. He did not even show sympathy for his own brother on the Bench. Instead, he became a willing tool.

In June 14, 2022. Fourteen Justices of the Supreme Court

wrote an internal memo against Ibrahim Tanko which later leaked to the public. They accused him of corruption and neglecting the welfare of other Justices. Subsequently, he was advised by Buhari's cabal to resign. On Sunday morning, June 26, 2022, he officially tendered his resignation letter, citing severe health issues, including memory disorder. Though those were his official reasons, but every Nigerian knew what swept under carpet. Since then, his name gradually faded from public consciousness. People barely speak of him anymore. The third person who gave himself up in support of the conspiracy was Abubakar Malami. As Attorney General, he knew the implications of exposing the

Judiciary to such intimidation, yet he volunteered himself as a willing tool. He was the one who dragged Walter Onnoghen before the Code of Conduct Tribunal and ensured that he was convicted. Today, Abubakar Malami is facing a 16-count charge bordering on money laundering, abuse of office, and conspiracy, and he has not made significant headway with his defence. And you may ask, what about Buhari, for whom all these things were done? He has journeyed to the world beyond, with little or no clue about what is



happening in the land of the living. Mind you, I am not saying that Walter Onnoghen was a Saint, but it shouldn't have cost both the Bar and the Bench anything to insist that due process should be followed. At least, that would have gone a long way in shielding the Judiciary from becoming a prey. At the end of the day, the irony of power is funny. Today, you may be relevant. Tomorrow, the same system you fought so hard to protect may become the instrument of your downfall. Those who aid political actors today with favourable judgments that undermine democracy should remember that one day, they too may become victims of the very system they helped to empower. History has a strange way of balancing the scales.

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