

# YADA

TRANSFORMING THE NIGERIAN YOUTH FROM INSIDE OUT

AUGUST 2009

TRANSFORMING THE  
**NIGERIAN YOUTH**  
From the inside out

**The Corporate Swag**

THE EKITI STORY!

Featuring: The talkaholic, Wise Sage, Brown Sugar, Honey





## EDITORS NOTE

It is with joy that I welcome you to the second issue of YADA. We are so excited that we are able to bring to you another issue. Before I go further, I just want to say thank you for downloading this issue and to all those who downloaded our maiden issue, thank you again. It is because of you that we made this one.

This issue is loaded with so much stuff that I am excited for you. We have divided the journal-Zine into different sections so as to put related articles together. Our cover story in this issue focuses on how we (The YADA team) have seen a need for the transformation of Nigeria. We realize that the only people who can change Nigeria are the young people and this can only be done if there is a total re-orientation of their mindset. You need to read the article. Also in this issue our favourite bloggers contribute articles for your delight. The bloggers in this issue include Wise Sage, Brown Sugar and Honey. Also, our very own Bunmi talks about the Ekiti issue, Glory and Ndatse tell us how to get our corporate swag on, Isoken brings us the Message in Lecrae's Identity and Peter talks about Slumdog Millionaire.

Tobi our foreign correspondent is not left out as she gives us the gospel according to Saidi Balogun's Modupe Temi, Reach Records gives us the 411 on the Don't Waste Your Life Tour, find out who our Hero is and Yours Truly talks about the God who is mighty to save.

With all these you can see that we came ready for you. Brace yourself, open up your mind and get ready for this issue

Enjoy!

**Harry-Rami Itie**  
Editor-in-Chief

## **What is YADA?**

**YADA** is a Hebrew word and it means 'to know'. The essence is to create a 'Journal-Zine' that is aimed at imparting knowledge on various issues ranging from politics to entertainment to urban culture and general lifestyle. It is also aimed at breaking the status quo and going against the norm that this generation is all about parties and living on the fast lane. We are out to prove that intellectualism resides in this generation.

**YADA** also aims at promoting young talents and creative minds. It is also the ideal bloggers journal as information on diverse bloggers and blogging can be found in it.

**YADA** also believes in the teachings found in the Holy Bible. Therefore a number of our content is Christian in nature. Also, our standards are based on the doctrines of Jesus Christ so there are some materials you are likely NOT to find inside.

Finally, we are REAL people, so every article in **YADA** is as real as the air you breathe. We are very practical and candid in our writing 'cause we tell it as it is. Be rest assured that you will learn something new.

Experience **YADA**!

## **THE YADA TEAM**

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Published by Zion's Hill International





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# REVIEW

Title: Purple Hibiscus

Author: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Publisher: Farafina

Place: Victoria Island, Lagos

No of Pages: 298

Date: 2006

Reviewed by UP

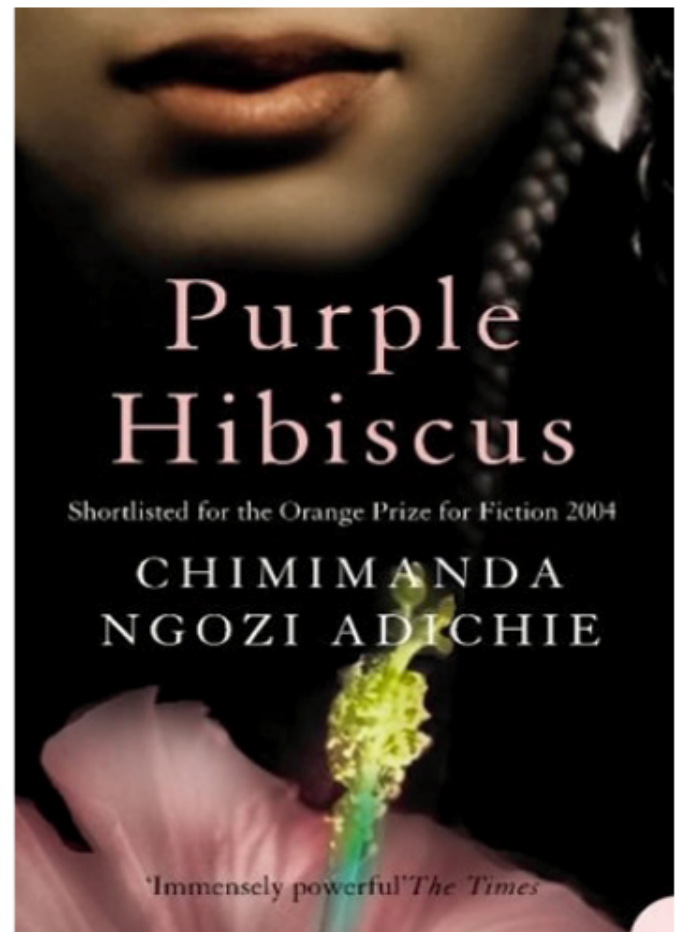
**P**urple hibiscus is an insightful novel that captures the tragic breakup of a wealthy Nigerian family, driven by catholic and a struggle towards perfection. The novel portrays the woes of the military regime in Nigeria.

The novel has its setting in Igbo community, the eastern part of Nigeria as it depicts in exact form the tradition, culture and nature of the Igbo society using precise Igbo languages and culture where necessary.

Adichie with a masterful piece of write up could be classified with the likes of Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka and other eminent noble prize winners. She skillfully captures the traditional story from the western approach to writing making use of accurate cultural themes where necessary.

Purple hibiscus is more than just writing, it is more than just telling a story, it is more than entertainment; in fact, it is a political satire in and out that aims to depict not just the sorry state of the politics in Nigeria but also the adopted outrageous politics in many families. Adichie captures accurately the life of an adolescent, her family and her world making use of the first person pronoun so the readers can get more familiar with not just the thoughts of the heroine but also her world view.

Kambili (the heroine), reveals the forces and events that shape her life, world view and her character. The brutal violence of a father who was extremely driven by the doctrines of his religion (catholic) and his obsession with the concept of perfection; the era of the military government, clamping down the freedom of speech and taking out whoever serves as



**IT IS A POLITICAL SATIRE IN AND OUT THAT AIMS TO DEPICT NOT JUST THE SORRY STATE OF THE POLITICS IN NIGERIA BUT ALSO THE ADOPTED OUTRAGEOUS POLITICS IN MANY FAMILIES.**

a threat to the ruling government.

Adichie uses imagery and accurate choice of words and language to bring out the focal point of the write up in a grand style. Purple hibiscus is a must-read because it speaks reality, every page you read provokes an exclamation and it sure does probe a reaction in its reader. Adichie is a born genius.



# The Gospel According to Modúpe tẹ̀mì

*One man, One woman, One house*

sidi BALOGUN

doris SIMEON



## MODUPE TEMI

Modúpe tẹ̀mì is a dramedy about conflict between man and wife, and how it affects a marriage. The entire movie is shot in one location,

with a two-man cast of Saidi Balogun (Donald) and Doris Simeon (Omolara).

The first part of the movie is in the before, where neither of them seems to have trust issues, because they share everything about their lives. Here Donald calls marriage exciting and Omolara says "Oko lo lorí aya" [The husband is the head of the wife]. However, in a twist of fate, the trust between them wavers. On one occasion Donald is shocked to find that Omolara is hiding her money from him when he is in need, and invoking an interesting conversation about the head of the house. Now we are in the after. Soon, what started off as sweet love becomes the war of the roses.

A lot of people, especially women might disagree with the idea of the husband being the head of the house. I mean, this is the 21st century, women hold positions that are equally as challenging as men's outside the home. Therefore, it should be a 50-50 affair shouldn't it? While I hate to take sides, I do believe that the husband is the head over the wife. "I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ." 1 Cor 11:3. Of course I am not saying that men should abuse this authority or that women become figurines in the home, rather, I am saying that the husband deserves the respect due him as the head of the home. However, we see Omolara challenge Donald's

authority and pull out the 50-50 card a couple of times.

Now, the prayer of Jabez is a hit with many people, but Omolara's prayer is

closely following. "Oluwa gbé mì ga ju Oṣṣkoṣṣo mì lo" [God lift me above my husband]. I could not believe the prayer when I watched the movie; and Donald's response to the prayer? Perfect!

The two continue to throw jabs at each other. Omolara pours laxative in Donald's tea, and he strikes back with werepe leaves (devil seeds that make you itch) in her clothes; Each of them trying to outdo the other, but really just shooting themselves in the foot. The battle line is drawn, and their policy is retaliation before confrontation.

"If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Mark 3:25. Donald and Omolara find interesting ways to communicate besides speaking. The paper and pen alarm clock costs Donald a contract, and slowly each party starts to feel the impact of their conflict. Third-party influence places the icing on the cake. Donald and Omolara take advice from their "friends", but this advice seems to be exactly what causes their misunderstanding in the first place.

The moral of the story; Trust, communication and knowing how to filter advice, or rather, not washing your dirty linens in public, are key ingredients in any relationship. Modupe Temi is a fantastic movie, and if you have not seen it... Go see it!!!



# URBAN CULTURE

## THE TATNG WIZZY SWAG

It is amazing how urban culture evolves as fast as the speed of light. It's no news that urban culture is largely influenced by the hip-hop culture so we can say we have been influenced from the guys in Cali to the guys in the ATL and not forgetting those who make the Bronx and Brooklyn their home. We had "bling-bling", "pimping" and we also had the "izzle" phase. So what is the new thing in vogue now? What is the 'thing' that is defining urban culture? I don't even need to say it... It is swag.

What exactly is swagger? Where did it originate from? Why is it one of the most widely used words in the urban dictionary today? There is Gospel Swag, Swagger Rock, Swagger Redefined even we have an article in this issue titled 'Corporate Swag'. Ad-companies are beginning to use the word for some of their campaigns. I even saw a video on YouTube where CNN anchors were discussing President Obama's swagger. Funny right?

According to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, Swagger (as a verb) is walking in an extremely proud and confident way. As a noun, it is a way of walking or behaving that seems too confident. According to blurit.com 'The word swag has a Scandinavian origin. Swag could be used as a noun and verb. A drapery or curtain that is wrapped in an arch between two points is called swag. Festoon or decoration of flowers or fruit is also termed swag. Swag could also be an ornament. It is carved out or moulded out of some substance that could be an accessory. In slang terms, swag indicates stolen property or loot. Herbal tea that is sold as marijuana to a naive customer is also termed swag. In Australia, the word swag implies a pack

that contains personal possessions of a swagman. When someone lurches or sways, he is said to be swaggering. This is mainly used in the British context. Swaggering is also travelling about with a luggage or swag'.

This is not the context in which the word is used today. When you hear swagger now, it has to do mainly with how a person carries himself or herself. From the way the person talks, to the looks and then to the way the person dresses. I mean it is all encompassing. Swag entered hip-hop through the likes of Cam'ron, The Diplomats and Jay Z. Soon the word has kicked off and everyone has got swagger now. Every artist, actor and even white boystoo are beginning to have swagger.

Swagger is a hip-hop slang that I can say has spread around the globe like a virus. However, most people have a problem with the word because of its original meaning. So what is going to be the next hip hop slang; arrogance, conceit, bragging. LOL! I am just playing.

So this is what's up on urban culture and we will be back with more in the next issue. Peace!

**SWAGGER HAS TO DO WITH THE WAY  
THE PERSON TALKS, TO THE LOOKS  
AND THEN TO THE WAY THE PERSON  
DRESSES. IT IS ALL ENCOMPASSING.**





# DIAGNOSIS: DESPONDENCY

By Wise Sage  
[Http://wise-sage.blogspot.com](http://wise-sage.blogspot.com)

## Heartache

(n) a physical pain in/around the heart, felt just about the upper left region of the torso.

### Causes:

Emotional distress, loss of a loved one, estrangement from a lover, disagreement with/ between lovers and/or love and distance between love or/and lovers.

### Symptoms:

Most common symptoms include shortness of breath, increase rate of heart-beat, mild insomnia, slight loss of orientation, inability to ingest properly, loss of appetite, tenderness in the chest region especially around the left side. All this may or may not be followed by a slight headache.

Migraine, fever and twitching may be observed in more severe cases.

Recommended treatment:

The most common forms of treatment include; Ice cream binges (but be advised not to get addicted because the side effects are disastrous especially to the hips and mid-section), another form is splurging and shopping (side effects of these are very costly which could make complete treatment unaffordable). The third form of treatment involves a procedure called Prayer, this course of action although not as easy as it seems is most definitely not as hard as one might think, more so it's the only procedure the patient is allowed to get addicted to and doesn't have side-effects( it comes highly recommended from both patients and other practitioners)

Two other less recommended forms of treatment are; going on a rebound, and therapy, but these are still experimental as their efficacy cannot be vouched.

My personal recommendation would be to write: Journal it or blog it, whichever suits you better (It's working for me).

If symptoms persist then be advised to wait for the 'inconvenience' to run its course, with a couple of good comedies and movies (especially Indian ones), chicken soup, long walks and some R & R, you'll be fine and dandy and on the road to recovery (not to talk of normalcy in no time).

Dr. Bliss ;-)

*Wise Sage*





# UNDERDOG?

**S**o! Slumdog Millionaire got 8 Oscars? (Stale news huh?) I must confess I didn't see that one coming till like three days to the actual ceremony. Of course the movie's the typical underdog story that scored a classic underdog victory. Why the fuss?! For a movie shot on location in India with a lot of debutants in it, nobody would have given it a chance but it swept almost everything at The Golden Globe Awards and then repeated the feat at The Oscars. I can almost hear a couple of us go "whoa!! That's the story of my life!" but is it?

Let's get something straight before I go any further, I'm not hot on "motivational" speakers and the like who thrive on hyping people and telling them things like "the next Roman Empire is in you" or "these 21 steps will get your bicycle to the moon in 3 days..." I'll have you understand that's far from what I'm trying to do with this piece.

I do believe in the Bible though, as an authority for everything from the kind of meat to eat to what to wear and I guess that's what has pushed me to urge people not to see the Slumdog Millionaire story (as nice as it is) as the definition of their lives. Why? Simple, the compound word "Under Dog" refers to one who has all or most of the odds against him or her. Of course the word "under" is synonymous with the bottom and I won't even start with "dog" (the ancient Hebrew meaning of dog was a male prostitute!) so what's my point? The bible refers to us as Kings and Priests, a "chosen generation", Premier like the English League, On Top!!!

A dog (in addition to what I explained it to be earlier on) is an animal famed for feasting on its own vomit (get the picture?) and I really doubt that's what God has ordained us to be. Jesus even went ahead to state the fact that dogs are pretty low on the priority list (Mark 7:27&28) plus as God's children we are sent out as "sheep amongst wolves" (which by the way is a sort of dog

Matthew 10:16). So I can't help but ask this question, how am I (or you as the case may be) possibly an underdog? The opposite of under is above and in James 1:17 it is established that every good from The Father above and to be honest I know where I come from!!! I'm of the opinion that these reasons amongst a bunch of others shows I'm definitely an underdog. Am I being pompous? Hmmm... no! I think a more appropriate adjective would be "conscious".

reasons amongst a bunch of others shows I'm definitely an underdog. Am I being pompous? Hmmm... no! I think a more appropriate adjective would be "conscious".

In conclusion, DO NOT get sucked into the "cute" role of the underdog. Yes, we must work hard to get to the top but the rules are a little different when you are in God (3rd John 2). You want an Oscar from the father? Act like His Son and go about His Business (Matthew 28:18-20). That's the script to act out.

**P.S.** I have absolutely nothing against Slumdog Millionaire, it's just the notion of being an underdog I'm beefing although I wouldn't have minded The Curious Case of Benjamin Button doing that well at The Oscars.

Peace!!!

Still on the Oscars, **is it** me or one has to act as a bad guy (or be controversial) to get an Oscar nowadays? I mean my darling Sean Penn acts un-straight (don't ask) and he nabs it? If I remember correctly, the "great" Denzel had to be a twisted cop before he got the Oscar for Best Actor. I think this shows where we seem to be going as a specie and the apparent need for a lasting solution (of course I mean Jesus oh ye sceptics!). Oh and by the way Reader, the movie that got Kate Winslet the Best Actress Oscar was pretty controversial. Hmmm... a trend? (Remember Charlize Theron and Monster? even the late Heath Ledger for portraying the immensely grotesque Joker). Just food for thought.....



# The Ekiti Story

**A**s youths most times we turn away from the sights of politics or other not so hippy stuff but the little we get to hear is as absurd and makes our political system seem like it is been controlled by a bunch of kindergarten children. I am not here today to condemn or pass my judgement on the attitude or lack of one of our leaders but in this article I hope to tell a story and I have titled it the Ekiti story. Ekiti is one of the numerous Yoruba states and Nigeria and like the rest of our Nigerian states, politics is not only a dirty game it is the survival of the fittest. Taking a cite from The Punch newspaper, 27 Apr 2009:

“Contrary to President Umaru Yar'Adua's promise of ensuring a free and fair governorship election rerun in Ekiti State, there are reports that results in some areas are about to be manipulated or falsified in favor of a particular candidate. More than 48 hours after election held in nine local government areas out of the 10 the Court of Appeal had directed the Independent National Electoral Commission to conduct fresh poll, only the results from five LGAs have been officially announced. There is, therefore, palpable fear that the delay by INEC to release the remaining results may be a deliberate attempt to manipulate figures and thwart the popular will of the electorate.”

Is it a curse or does this nation just seem to attract the worst kind of leaders and decision makers? To

**OUR PRAYER FOR THE EKITI PEOPLE IS THAT THEY GO BACK TO THEIR ROOTS AND LIVE THE KIND OF LIFE THEIR ANCESTORS LIVED.**

continue the Ekiti story, listen to this reports that the Ekiti State Resident Electoral Commissioner, Mrs. Ayoka Olusola Adebayo, who is legally empowered to announce the final result and



declare a winner, might have been replaced. It was claimed that vigilance and local resistance prevented one of the parties from smuggling 14,000 votes from Ido-Osi Local Government into the collation centre. Others are smuggling cars but our noble leaders are busy smuggling votes. This story will not be complete if I don't balance the scale and try to point out good qualities that might be found associate with Ekiti state.

Ekiti is a state that I know has a very rich cultural heritage. From their ancient landmarks to their many festivals, it is obvious that they have a history that dates back to the old Oyo Empire. They also have good family values that is why it is surprising to see these seem people in a electoral crisis. Our prayer for the Ekiti people is that they go back to their roots and live the kind of life their ancestors lived.

PS: They also need a godly leader



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## PREFACE

Ever heard or come across that phrase before? Well, being a patriotic netizen for almost a decade, which means I was once a regular at cyber cafes, that statement always made me cringe. I would arrive at the cafe with an online to do list and with hopes as high as a skyscraper and then the words would come out the mouth of the administrator. It never failed to sound like an oral obituary, causing my hopes to sag and meaning I would return home with the haunting feeling of UNFULFILLMENT.

Coincidentally or otherwise, I still get that feeling. This time it has little or nothing to do with my netizenship but my citizenship: my being a Nigerian. In recent times, as my awareness increased by knowledge I started keeping a mental checklist of tasks and expectations for my country and more often than not,

UNFULFILLMENT revisits me. I've grown to be bothered and have stopped wondering why I haven't escaped to foreign shores.

My country's server is down. Administrators needed urgently!

Read on, and feel free to share your experiences as well. Look out for subsequent 'chapters'.

**IN RECENT TIMES, AS MY AWARENESS INCREASED BY KNOWLEDGE I STARTED KEEPING A MENTAL CHECKLIST OF TASKS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR MY COUNTRY AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, UNFULFILLMENT REVISITS ME.**

## Chapter 1

### Immigrations/Passport control office

I'm at the passport control office to get the new e-passport. Prior to now, I have surfed the web and located the official site for immigrations. It adumbrates the procedure to obtain one and the costing fee. A section of the site shows that one eventually needs make reference to an immigrations officer and so I decide to work with them from scratch. I call a contact in one of the nearby offices. She tells me she's been

promoted and transferred to another state and then does me the favour of linking me with her colleague that still works in the stated office. On getting there, I meet an intimidating spectacle of queues and crowds of people at the entrance. In no time, a lady officer walks up to me, asking what I've come to do.

Me: "I need to get an e-passport."

Lady officer: "Okay, I could do it for you. You'll need two passport photographs ..."

Me: "Okay. How much would it cost?"

Lady: looks around cautiously as if she's being



watched and then whispers, "20,000."

Hmmm! I thank her and get her phone number, assuring her that I would call when I was ready. And with that, she hurries back in. I proceed to make my way through the crowd as I remember that I have been told to see someone inside. So I make my way to the bouncer at the gate, and ask for \*M. Y. Musa. The mention of that name grants me VIP access and I am ushered into his office. Apparently, he is the CSI. I briefly state my mission and sender.

CSI: "It will cost you 18,000."

So I pay, fill out the forms and ask for a proof of payment. He gives me his word and his phone number. That is my receipt. I'm instructed to return on Monday morning to complete the process. Unavoidably absent on Monday, I return on Tuesday morning to get my picture taken, scanned and uploaded online. The CSI is absent so I have to go unaccompanied/manual this time. Groan! I find my name on the posted list, pick up my file and join the queue as the 175th person. It's my turn to watch as people with links and contacts now receive VIP access. So I open the file with my name on it to view the contents and what do I find?

② A bank draft stating the actual cost of the passport i. e. 8,750

② An affidavit sworn in my name, declaring my date and place of birth signed and stamped by the Federal High Court

② A letter from a guarantor that promised to "sponsor my trip to the UK."

Surprised and scared, I lift my gaze to meet my seat partners' and notice the same mixed reactions going on on their faces. I wait for two

hours and a half before my number is called and the exercise is carried out. I am given a slip on which the passport collection date is indicated for the next nine days. But that's too far away! I need the passport sooner and do not hesitate to think loudly in the CSI's office.

CSI: "Nine days? How much did you pay?"

Me: "18,000"

CSI: "Ah! That's why now. You haven't paid for express. Pay 2,000 and collect your passport tomorrow."

Two thousand naira will move my passport from the delay stack to the prompt stack. I'm weak. I pay.

...To be Continued

\*Real name changed

*Brown Sugar*



# TRISKAIDEKAPHOBIA

BY HONEY

[Http://workshopdelacreme.blogspot.com](http://workshopdelacreme.blogspot.com)

**T**he second Friday of February was the 13th. It was supposed to be like some sort of bad omen day. I am really not superstitious to the point of believing stuff like that but some people do. It is not even just the fear of Friday the 13th but it also the fear of the number 13 itself. A lot of people have associated thirteen as a bad number. 12 is said to be a complete number but thirteen makes it odd. It is actually an odd number. A dozen is 12 and a baker's dozen is 13. Lol. There were 12 disciples of Jesus Christ, The 12 tribes of Israel, 12 months in a year, etc. Friday is said to be a bad day because Jesus Christ was crucified on a Friday. Adding Friday and 13 together makes is a real doomsday.

For so many years, this myth has just been a phobia to so many people. Some people decided not to even go to work or come out of bed on that day. In the year 2009, we have three Friday the 13th. The first one is in February, the second one is in March and the third one is in November.

So here are some facts about Friday the 13th.

- 1.Many Hospital buildings do not have any room with the number 13.
- 2.Some tall buildings don't have a 13th floor.
- 3.Streets in LA, San Francisco and Washington do not have a 13th Street.
- 4.In Tracy, California, I noticed that there is no 13th Street, it ends with 12th Street.
- 5.Formula 1 has no car with a number 13.
- 6.Franklin Roosevelt would never travel on the 13th and would never have 13 guests for dinner.
- 7.The first person to die in a car accident was killed in New York City on Sept. 13, 1899.

Beliefs about Friday the 13th.

1. Never Change you bed on a Friday, you will have bad dreams.
- Ships that set sail on Friday have bad luck.
- Moving in Friday is not advised. you will not stay there long.
- Never start a new job on a Friday or you won't stay there very long.
- A child born on Friday is doomed to misfortune.
- A married on Friday couple are doomed to living a cat and dog life.



I don't know if you believe these little facts. Well they might have happened but let's not attribute it to Friday the 13th. It might have just chosen to happen on that day. It could have happened on the 14th, 15th or 16th. Well there are two more Friday the 13th's this year, lets see how they go. God save us all. Amen.



## A LOVE HE OFFERED

**A**nd now as ever, I sit set to mark then  
 when to my heart he whispers  
 'no matter your sins,  
 I cease not to love you'

As I dwelt on an accursed wall of boys on boys,  
 His grace was even still. Pledging. echoing  
 'I will to wait long.  
 for with time you'd tire of sin'.

With my eyes ever fixed on fame,  
 I wrote.  
 With my notes, the wide Earth I filled, and  
 Upon the skies I planned to gain.

'His love still burnt strong, its appeal so bright,  
 Like a tale it feels'

BY  
 MOMOA ADEJOH

## MOVE

**Y**ou think you are invisible, but I can see you.

You think you are not noticed, but I can feel you.  
 You think you are not necessary, but you have a name,  
 You think you are not important, but you were born,  
 You think your life is ordinary, but every day you wake up.

We turn the door knob, and it is locked.  
 We walk away even without a knock,  
 We step on the key and we are scared,  
 We are scared even to look down,  
 Because we do not want to know what is behind the door.

We walk on the sands of time,  
 And we erase our foot prints,  
 For we do not want to be leaving any,  
 For we are not sure if we are wearing the right pair of  
 shoes.

We find ourselves in the middle of the crowd,  
 And our spirit, soul and body feel odd,  
 We put a foot forward to move, taking it back,

We do not want to stand out,  
 For we are scared of being alone.  
 In the closet of our closet we feel it,  
 The dreams we have while awake,  
 Something we are supposed to do,  
 Places we are supposed to create,  
 A change we are supposed to influence,  
 The life we are supposed to live.

But, can we move if we stand?  
 Can we become, if we do not transform?  
 Shaking off the dust of average off our shoulders,  
 Removing the socks of ordinary from our feet,  
 Taking charge is where we should start,  
 Listening to God's voice is where we should end.

BY SOMTO OKEKE





# IDENTITY CRISIS: A GENERATION LOST

BY Peter Akinnusi

**R**ight now one of the hottest albums in circulation is one by one of my favourite rappers Tedashii (by the way my favourite is actually Da' T.R.U.T.H. followed by Lecrae, not that you're asking). The name of his album is Identity Crisis and it's basically an analysis of God's image and how well we (His children) are reflecting it or have deviated from it. Awesome album I tell you, even though I'm still waiting to get my own full copy....

At this point you're probably wondering if this is a music review, well it is not. It's just an article, commentary or whatever you want to call it about a certain issue that was brought up by an allegedly "learned" person in my country Nigeria. Enter Reuben Abati of The Guardian, acclaimed journalist and self proclaimed voice of the "golden generation". At least that's the light he seems to present himself in with his recent article A Nation's Identity Crisis. Now I'm not much of a newspaper person (BBC, CNN or even Al Jazeera will do thank you!) so it's not much of a surprise that I learnt about this article from a friend who wanted to know my thoughts on it. Reuben Abati's blistering attack on today's generation would have scored him points if it were not riddled with flaws like a brothel is riddled with diseases (pardon the comparison). He successfully put himself on a cross and drove the nails home without help from anybody but his own wild imagination. How so? For one, the article written based on poor research, with wrong

spellings all over the place (Banky Willington), wrong notions e.g. Nigeria is called "nigerzie" or even "gidi" (by who? I don't know). He doesn't stop there, he even goes on to accuse Nigerian musicians of adopting so many nicknames and monikers and that is a sign of their lack of discipline as opposed to musicians of his day e.g. Majek Fashek, Ras Kimono and KWAM 1 (amazingly all these are nicknames/monikers!). At this point one would think there's only so much he can do by way of blunders but alas, he steps further by accusing us of being too westernized in our music, movies and culture in general after just advocating we stick to the name given to us by (a very western) Flora Shaw (Lord Lugard's girlfriend back then). It's amusing the way he speculates the name came about but he just straight up errs in claiming the name "Niger-area" is much more is more appropriate than names like Naija or 9ja as the case may be citing reasons as amusing as we might soon forget the proper spelling "N-I-G-E-R-I-A". Take a break and laugh if you can because he more or less just made a great case for evolution, only in reverse though since "we are doomed to forgetting how to spell the name of our country". What next? We'll start losing colour and start fading? It just makes me wonder why older countries with nicknames haven't gone into extinction (Uncle Sam-U.S.A, Ivan-Russia)

Mr. Abati now took it a notch higher and said Nigerian music of today has very senseless lyrics/content (true)



as opposed to his days (false) but he then sat on a pin by declaring the famous Rooftop Mcs song “La gi Mo” as one of those useless songs!!! Now that he specifically mentioned this song amongst others can only mean he probably heard it and didn't understand the lyrics or he's plainly anti-Christian. I tend towards the latter considering this is a man who has in times past attacked the likes of David Oyedepo, Chris Oyakhilome, Sam Adeyemi and Matthew Ashimolowo amongst a few others. Furthermore Abati attacks our (I'm a member of this generation) sudden interest in branding and marketing indicting telecom company etisalat for coming up with “0809ja”, his reason? The same old spelling issue plus we are suddenly becoming commercial in nature aka “money chasers”. I agree we've began to focus a bit more on “getting that paper” but I'll establish that companies have different marketing strategies and if incorporating patriotism is one of them they are good with the populace!! (No, etisalat didn't pay me any money to say that)

So was there any good in his article? Sure! He pointed out the depraved state of today's music and highlighted were the love of money is taking our nation. But it's been said that when one points out a problem, proffering a solution is often a smart move. Something our advocate for the “golden age” failed to do. All he did was spark off controversy (and I daresay attention) and prompt acts like Banky W (who's not a just a pretty face after all) and others to respond with articles that downplayed the real problems and emphasize his personal and journalistic flaws. Tell me where's the solution in that? Conflict? Animosity?

Now my question is what are we (Christians) doing about it? It's a little scary that the voices in our generation that are the most influential belong to the dark side or that pop culture is heavily infected with evil while the church just look on. It's sad that “Christian” rappers like Rooftop Mcs are referred to as “conscious

artists” (read Banky W's article) when they're supposed to be beacons of light on the music scene. This brings me back to my question, what are we doing about it?

There is absolutely no doubt this generation has lost it as far as eternity's concerned but is it safe to say that Mr. Abati's generation laid the groundwork for today's decadence? Probably, but everyone is responsible for his or her own actions. In America for example, God and Christian influence have been removed from their constitution gradually and they've reaped it in so many sad ways (all those shootings in Columbine and Virginia tech etc) but there are people who stood up and still stand up for Christ and are making a difference with their culture (music, talk, dance, lifestyle). Are we ready to the same over here in Naija (or Nigeria...)?

**IT'S AMUSING THE WAY HE SPECULATES THE NAME CAME ABOUT BUT HE JUST STRAIGHT UP ERRS IN CLAIMING THE NAME “NIGER-AREA” IS MUCH MORE IS MORE APPROPRIATE THEN NAMES LIKE NAIJA OR 9JA AS THE CASE MAY BE CITING REASONS AS AMUSING AS WE MIGHT SOON FORGET THE PROPER SPELLING “N-I-G-E-R-I-A”.**

Where are the voices crying in the desert? The lights of the world, the salts of the earth? I believe we exist but it's time to stop cowering in fear and Turn Our Lives Up so that in no time it is obvious what kind of life praises and is accepted by God. Remember,

Maranatha (Jesus is coming)

At the end of his article Mr. Abati asks if we are a dancing nation, writing and dancing away our frustrations. I say to him and everybody else reading this, Nigeria is rated amongst the happiest nations on earth. God must have equipped us this way to deal with times as these (corruption, poor education, and poor provision of basic amenities) and a few of us have taken it a step further converting such happiness into praise for the One whose Identity we carry...

So on Identity Crisis, yes we as a nation or as youth are still searching for our role in life or society. Yes we are distracted by the glamour but there's One Identity we should reflect like a mirror, The Identity of Christ, The Godhead, The identity of True Life. Like Lecrae said “every other identity will self destruct....”



# TRANSFORMING NIGERIA

Everybody seems to know about what Nigeria is going through. People can recount all the mistakes that our leaders have made till date. I know because I have been there too. I have gotten to a point where the nation as a whole is frustrating and insulting those in authority was as easy as ABC. But I ask myself, if everybody just stays back and keeps insulting the generation that has gone before, Nigeria will not make any improvement as young people will begin to make the same mistakes their forefathers made. This is where YADA comes in.

If you have been following this journal-Zine from the beginning, you must have noticed that everything about this particular 'magazine' is different. Inasmuch as we want our readers to have fun and to enjoy reading the journal, we also want our readers to learn something new anytime as the main objective is for our readers to know.

The importance of knowledge cannot be overemphasized. Knowledge is synonymous to the growth of any society. It was the desire

for knowledge that made Ancient Greece what is today. Most of our academic and philosophical training is based on what was done in Ancient Greece. We also know that one major characteristic of a developed society is that it is an informed society; one who is willing to learn from the mistakes of the past and strive not to make those mistakes in future by seeking new ways by which the problems can be solved.

In his letter to Lord Burghley, English Philosopher, statesman and lawyer, Francis Bacon said 'I have taken all knowledge to be my province'. He also said in the book 'Meditationes Sacrae (Religious Meditations)' that 'Knowledge itself is power'. What does this have to do with Nigeria? How does this solve our problems?

There is no point blaming the older generation for our problems. The deed has been done. What we can say is maybe they were not ready? The time was different. Now we have a chance to be different. We have a chance to change the way things have been done and to



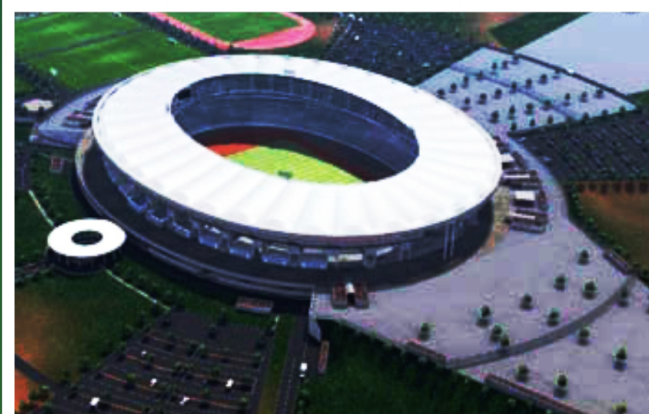
make Nigeria a place where we can raise world changers. The only way we can change this is if the Nigerian Youth undergoes change from the inside out.

What does this mean? Presently, with the way things are going, it seems that history will repeat itself with this generation. The reason is because this generation has misplaced priorities and also they have the wrong mindset. The average Nigerian Youth is mainly concerned with music or fashion or hitting it big (through pure or impure ways). Why these things are not bad (apart from hitting it big in an impure way), it should not be the core of our youth culture. The Nigerian Youth are the ones who are going to cause a change in Nigeria and our major concern should be in nation building. First, we should go back to our history and find out the root cause of Nigeria's problems. With the knowledge of that, we begin to find ways by which we don't make the same mistakes those that have gone before us have made. Also, we should seek out solutions to the problems that ravage us in Nigeria, problems like unemployment, corruption, poverty and illiteracy. Our generation is lucky because we have something our parents did not; the internet. The internet is one of the largest information resource centre created. Everything you need and everything you seek is there. Most times when we get on the internet we spend time checking out music and celebrity gossip. Once again, I am not against this but the truth is in getting our celebrity gossip and in logging on to social networking sites, we should try to seek for information. Let's read the news and know what's going on in our society; society being the world as the world is gradually becoming a global village.

Information and knowledge is the key to development. With these tools, we can empower ourselves for a new Nigeria. If of a

truth we want to 'Rebrand Nigeria' let us start of by changing the mindset of the youth. Let us take our education (informal and formal) a little bit more seriously. Let us find a way of helping our youth that are engaged in 419 scam activities as they are tomorrow's leaders. We can transform Nigeria together. It starts with you; a little information, a little knowledge. It may look like too little to cause a change but with a generation who knows, with a generation that has been changed from the inside out trust me Nigeria will not only be a nation with good people; it will be a nation with remarkably talented individuals whose excellence will shine across borders.

Remember KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. Keep reading YADA!





# MESSAGE IN THE MUSIC

Artist: Lacrae

Song: Identity ft Da'T.R.U.T.H

Review by: Isoken Edogun

(Lecrae)

Hair check, shoes check, a brand new fit looking cool check; I'm looking in mirror like "ooooh yes!" a cover for an insecure dude check. but She wont' feel me and they wont like me if I ain't in them J's or them brand new Nikes, lets dig deeper inside my psyche, when it's all said and done even I don't like me

He live in the gym and his hair stay faded, late model car so they think he made it, he's Christian he gave his life, but he still ain't satisfied in the savior Christ, still finds his identity in looks and cars, if he only knew that he ain't have to look so hard, If he looked in God though it may seem odd he be so satisfied he could leave it all

(Chorus-J.R)

I'm not the shoes I wear. I'm not the clothes I buy  
I'm am not the house I live in I'm not the car I drive  
I'm not the job I work you can't define my worth  
by nothing on God's green earth, my identity is found in Christ

(D.A. T.R.U.T.H.)

How do I gauge success? Why do I say I'm blessed?  
Huh?

Is it the car that I drive or the place that I rest or the way that I dress, now, now? Is the cause of my pride, the stage and the set or my face in the press, now, now? 'cos the applause it dies/When the praise is less if my face is depressed, then, then. It's cause my value and worth is in the volume of the work I produce in the booth, It's a prize and a curse if defined by the perks when the truth is through. Man I'm goin' feel like I don't want to live no more, no more, no more, 'cos they don't like me like they did in 04, 04, 04. So, I swallow my pride empowered by God, I'm complete in Him, He's got peace, God's priest, I'm in, In His presence weak is strength, Meet His kin, We His brethren, Read this list, Me forgiven, He's dismissed

guilt and my sin and I find my worth cause I'm Jesus' friend

(Chorus-J.R)

(LeCrae)

Got her hair done, toes and nails, is that Her? well it's hard to tell 'cos she's caked up in all that make up, it's like she's tryna make up for what she ain't but she's a saint but so confused 'cos she's been rejected by all these dudes. they tell her on a scale of 10 she's a two, but that ain't true if she only knew In Christ she is loved she secure and accepted, never be rejected by God who's elected her, Her beauty is her Godliness, and she ain't gotta flaunt it cause it's obvious, Identity is found in the God we trust any other identity will self destruct, Identity is found in the God we trust any other identity will self destruct

(Chorus-J.R)

*Who and what defines who you are? Is it material things or what's on the inside? The cool thing about this song is that its talking to Christians, how we use material things to measure what's on the inside, how we use the prosperity of a preacher or a man to measure the anointing on his life, how we use all our "gettings" to cover our insecurities, and inadequacies. Let's base our identity on Christ alone, take what he says about you as truth. We are weak we're not using 2 Corinthians 12:9 to deceive ourselves but accepting our weaknesses and realizing that In him we can find strength, the world can think I'm ugly but He says I'm the best thing he ever created, better than a star filled night, better than sunset or sunrise, better than the most beautiful thing you can think of, I'm one of a kind search far and wide but you'll never find another me. All over the world, people are trying to search for who they are, they find themselves and after a while they're searching again because that identity crumbled. The only sure foundation a building of you*



**I**n all my sojourn and journeying on the road to discovery, of myself that is,

I have come to find out that I am not like others of my kind.

I am not your average female, not your typical demography, not your stereotype daughter or sister, not your off-the-rack friend, not your everyday born-again Christian and definitely not your run-of-the-mill African Woman.

So I don't enjoy the same things others of my kind do, so I don't go the way people like me are supposed to, so I don't like what they like, I don't act like them either, so what?

Does it make me different? Definitely

Does it make me a freak? I don't think so, but that is mostly dependent on your definition on 'freak'.

Of course, it means I'm unique, special,

# **YOU IS WHAT YOU IS AND YOU AINT WHAT YOU AINT**

human, a female human specie exercising the God-bestowed

right of free will and capability of choosing what I see fit.

**I AM NOT YOUR AVERAGE  
FEMALE, NOT YOUR TYPICAL  
DEMOGRAPHY, NOT YOUR  
STEREOTYPE DAUGHTER OR  
SISTER, NOT YOUR OFF-THE-  
RACK FRIEND, NOT YOUR  
EVERYDAY BORN-AGAIN  
CHRISTIAN AND DEFINITELY  
NOT YOUR RUN-OF-THE-MILL  
AFRICAN WOMAN.**

From when I can remember, my siblings, family and even friends have called me an Oreo, saying I do not behave like or belong to the typical African setting (saying I think more kindly towards the White man's perception in most things). I've searched myself and I've realized my mentality/ideal is not typically western so I know I don't fit in entirely into the 'western' setting either.

I choose to be who I choose to be fully guided by the Holy Spirit and my conscience (even though I must admit I'm somewhat of a rebel against silly rules and senseless traditions) and if that means I do not fit into any set 'mould'. So be it.

Living life and loving it. No regrets, knowing it's what I really wanna do and how I really wanna be. It's fine by me.

*Wise Sage*





# The Importance of Media Literacy

**T**he importance of being media literate in the world today cannot be over emphasized. The media feeds us with so much daily that it is only wise for individuals to be media literate. What do we mean when we talk about media literacy? We are talking about being aware of the workings of the media. The way the bible tells us to be aware of the devices of the enemy is the same as to be fully aware of the devices of the media. It has to do with knowing which media does what and to whom the media is aimed at.

I am not going to spend time now explaining media literacy. That would be going though so many rudiments that you really don't want to know but there is one thing that you should know and that is the importance of being media literate.

The major importance is for filtering purposes. I feel personally that when you are media literate you have an idea of the basic forms of media that are available to us today. With this knowledge you will be able to digest a reasonable amount of information from the media. It is not everything that the media feeds us that we should take. Some things are meant for minors, some things will pollute our system and some things should be completely discarded. It is important for us as young people to be media literate especially as it regards the internet. Be

careful the kind of things you post there. Remember when you put anything there the whole world can see. For more information as regards media literacy:

Youth Media & Communication Initiative  
Block 27, Bamenda Street,  
Wuse Zone 3,  
P.O.Box 8057,  
Abuja, FCT,  
Nigeria  
Phone: (234) 803 3143 902; 803 3448 980  
Email: [ymci@hotmail.com](mailto:ymci@hotmail.com)  
[Info@ymci.info](mailto:Info@ymci.info)

**THE WAY THE BIBLE  
TELLS US TO BE AWARE  
OF THE DEVICES OF THE  
ENEMY IS THE SAME AS  
TO BE FULLY AWARE OF  
THE DEVICES OF THE  
MEDIA.**



# Mighty to Save

by Talkaholic

*...Our God is mighty to save  
He is mighty to save,  
Forever, author of salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave, Jesus conquered the grave...*

**T**his is not another "Message in the Music" section but an accolade to a God who has shown himself worthy in our lives. This God is an amazing God who speaks in righteousness; mighty to save.

*I have been trying to figure out what my life means for a while. Everything seems a little bit disorganised and it's like I don't have my life figured out. I don't know if you have been there before. At that point where it seems like your world is caving in and you are just going through the motions. Anyways, I have a God who is mighty to save.*

*Isa 63:1 The watchmen call out, "Who goes there, marching out of Edom, out of Bozrah in clothes dyed red? Name yourself, so splendidly dressed, advancing, bristling with power!" "It is I: I speak what is right, I, mighty to save!"(The Message Bible)*

*This scripture talks about God telling the Israelites that He is coming out of their enemy camp and he has made everything that is wrong, right because He is mighty to save. The Contemporary English Version says I have won the battle, I can save you. I don't know about you but this scripture comforts me. I know now that whatever it is I am going through, there is a God who is powerful enough to save me. It may be a challenge or a habit I am dealing with but God is mighty to save.*

*Zep 3:17 The LORD thy God in the midst of thee [is] mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.(KJV)*

*This verse is even better. It says that God is in my midst and that he will save me and after that he will rejoice over me and I will rest in His love. I am sorry but I don't know why I am worried. I am clueless why I am always scared of what is not. I serve a God who conquered hell, death and the grave so what is that challenge you think he can't solve. I mean, he spoke THE WHOLE WORLD into existence.*

*All I want to do now is get my earphones and listen to the Dove Award winning song 'Mighty To Save' by Hillsong. I am confident and I know who I have believed that he has got all my issues covered. Live free baby!*

*Trotcha!*

*The Talkaholic*



# The Corporate Swag

**C**orporate wears! Where exactly did it originate from? You know we shouldn't be bothered of its origin, if it suits our environment, and its comfortable then you can call it corporate. Corporate should be seen as communal, shared, public, and collective. The meaning we derive from corporate wear is gotten from the west which is putting on 'suitly attires' for official duties. All over the world, it has been accepted as an official wear due to the 'swag' that goes with it and Nigeria is not left out even though our environment doesn't exactly make it comfortable. The 'swag' in corporate is the fact that it makes one look responsible, smart, sensible and serious and who wouldn't want to look that way.

These days I see guys in jeans and a shirt, nice look I must say, some of the time but it would definitely not get you our corporate swagger lapel pin Mr. This brings me to the point where I ask, what is the Nigerian corporate wear. I believe that corporate wear varies from country to country but the problem is what 'swag' goes with it. The Nigerian corporate wear can be said to vary from tribe to tribe, thus the different attires that characterize the various tribes in Nigeria; we call it traditional wears because it's been accepted as a Nigerian wear so it can be called corporate. People have different approaches to corporate dress sense, after all in the north you have some of the women tying scarves on their outfits to work, sometimes even banks.

As a result of colonialism, we have imbibed most of the western culture including their dress sense which has only created a dysfunctionality of our culture. We should observe their values and imbibe only the values that suit our environment. However, since the corporate or official system of Nigerian companies is the same with that of the west then changing it now will be pointless, besides the western corporate wear has a 'swag' that



depicts responsibility, dignity and good carriage.

Many countries of the world might have what they call corporate wear, but the western corporate has been accepted globally as a certified wear. If you must be taken seriously when going for an official business you must put on a suit, because it has been accepted and cannot be changed. Western corporate wear has a 'swag' that other wears do not have and the feeling that goes with it. If you ask me I would prefer to go on a western corporate wear for official duties than go on Nigerian traditional attire. However, Nigerian traditional wear has a relaxing 'swag' that comes with it and our mind has driven us into believing is not meant for office work.

Corporate wear has over the years added some sophistication, thanks to our everyday emerging designers who carve out a lot of creativity to corporate dressing. In other words, we see most people go on different corporate outfits which range from shirts to skirts or trousers depending on how you combine. Do TM Lewin or Hawes and Curtis ring a bell here? Sure it should. That's for those with the 'dough' but for regular corporate dressers like us, it means collars and material trousers and waist coats and straight skirts- just 2 look good some of the time. But for the more hip people like us, anything with a collar and tube-gowns worn with jackets would do. I mean imagine having to wear corporate six days a week everyday of your life, so you usually have people improvising tops and putting collars in them or wearing tank tops on corporate shirts.

Sadly enough, our dear guys are not afforded this opportunity as they have to always be 'suited up' as I call it or at least have their ties properly knotted, tucked in shirts and sensible shoes- not like guys have otherwise shoes although they can always spice up their dressing either waist coats, the slim ties, suspenders and tank tops- though I don't see their boss giving them a round of applause. We ladies always have a way of spicing up our dressing, and we always do, I mean we even use ties some of the time.

Pencil skirts (not pencil trousers) and corporate shirts I believe would make any one look smashing and smart which is the core of the corporate swag, the very essence. Corporate wear should be worn at the right time and at the right place with regards to the understanding of why it is being worn, because when a purpose of a thing is not known abuse is inevitable.



# THE GETAWAY NOTE

BY  
THE TALKAHOLIC



**O**K, so things have been major crazy lately. There has been so much going on and too much drama; from family to friends to academics to dreams. Something is just not right. I can feel it in my bones. Something is missing and honestly, I am TIRED!!! Tired of showing off the fake smiles, tired of acting all 'spiritual' when I am empty and longing for something more, tired of acting like I have the answer when I have a dozen of questions. Honestly, I am tired. Tired of my friends (forgive me guys, it's just how I feel; still love you guys), tired of knowing that after the music stops, after all the hype, there is reality to face. I AM TIRED!!!

So the deal is I really need to get away. According to Mr Tobymac, 'I need a getaway car'. I need to go someplace far away maybe for reflection, maybe to just chill out and relax, maybe to a place where nothing is familiar. Maybe I should experiment with different things; maybe I should meet new people, maybe... just maybe. One thing is for sure thought, I need to get away.

I am confused and I am sorry if it sounds old and you have a problem with it but it is the truth. I need help. I am at a double crossroads and my life just keeps spinning and I am just dizzy! Too dizzy to move, too dizzy to think straight, too dizzy to be

un-dizzy.

I have gone through the motions and honestly I think I will just be still. Before the getaway car comes, before meeting the new people phase and experimentation phase; I guess I will just be still. I'll just wait because I can't do this any more. There is so much a guy can take.

**I AM TIRED OF  
KNOWING THAT  
AFTER THE MUSIC  
STOPS, AFTER ALL THE  
HYPE, THERE IS  
REALITY TO FACE!**

So YHWH, even though I am confused and I have no clue what I want. I need You to step in. It is either You get me that getaway car or You better fix it because You said You will not fail me or give up on me or leave me without

support. You told me You won't leave me bereaved or forlorn and that You would hold me up. Come on! You are supposed to be my very present help in time of need. SO HELP ME OR GET ME THAT GETAWAY CAR!!!!!!!!!!

Trotcha!

PS: Whatever You decide to do is cool with me. You know best.

*The Talkaholic*



WATCH

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# EVERYDAY HEROES

**M**embers of Youth with a Purpose will be familiar with Chiago but for those who are not he is something. The son of Barr. and Mrs Anago, Chiago is our everyday hero for this month.

Why is he our everyday hero? What makes him stand out from his peers? Well the twenty four year old dude with his friends Gbolahan and Olumide make up OUINO. An organisation that shares the same vision as YADA; the pursuit of knowledge. This team has started Nigeria's premier interactive education social networking site called The Efico Centre. The site is supposed to be a major information bank for both students and lecturers as they make new friends. The site is located at and there is also a group that can be joined on Facebook by the same name.



Another project they are working on is the enPAD. The enPAD (efico note pad) is a basic electronic product focused on breaking down the mystery behind ICT. It works on a premise called “the sociology of technology” to drive home the idea that technology is for all. In their own words “The enPAD project: it is not the cure to aids, or the solution to our current political crises, or an immediate surety to put food on the table. It is an opportunity, an opportunity for every Nigerian child to discover”.

This is why he and his friends are our heroes for the month. As regards the enPAD, we will keep you posted.



**A STUDENT OF KINGDOM HERITAGE SCHOOL I OTA WITH A PROTOTYPE OF THE enPAD**



# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ABDOMINAL FAT

By Isoken Edogun



**D**id you know that abdominal fat is a dangerous risk factor to your health? Apart from the fact that most people find it unappealing, it greatly increases the risk of developing heart diseases, diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, stroke and various forms of cancer and other degenerative diseases. There are basically two types of fat, subcutaneous and visceral fat.

The first type, subcutaneous fat, lies directly beneath and on top of the abdominal muscles and covers up the abs from being visible. The second type, visceral fat, lies deeper in the abdomen, beneath the muscles surrounding the organs. This type of fat contributes to giving certain men that 'beer belly' appearance where their abdomen protrudes excessively but at the same time, also feels hard if you push on it.

Most people have become comfortable with their 'pot' or 'beer' bellies ignorant of the detrimental effects on the health. Losing excess abdominal fat is a win-win situation because the only side effect from this is having your stomach flattened out giving a trim look. So how do you get rid of extra abdominal fat?

The **ONLY** solution to consistently lose your abdominal fat and keep it off for good is to combine a sound nutritious diet full of unprocessed natural foods with a properly designed strategic exercise

program that stimulates the necessary hormonal and metabolic response within your body. Both your food intake as well as your training program is

**LOSING EXCESS ABDOMINAL FAT IS NOT ONLY ABOUT GETTING DEFINED ABS (EVEN THOUGH THAT'S A PLUS) BUT ABOUT LIVING HEALTHY THEREBY CUTTING DOWN THE RISK OF HAVING STROKE AND SOME OTHER RELATED DISEASES**

important if you are to get this right.

Lets think about this when "we start letting ourselves go" losing excess abdominal fat is not only about getting defined abs (even though that's a plus) but about living healthy thereby cutting down the risk of having stroke and some other related diseases so start today, sign up at a gym, have a small gym in your house and start eating healthy

# IRE'S DIARY

## THE J-O-Y PRINCIPLE

According to the Chambers English Dictionary, joy is **intense** gladness, rapture, mirth; Oxford Advanced Learner's defines it as a feeling of **great** happiness; Encarta says feelings of great happiness or pleasure, especially of an elevated or spiritual kind.

I like the Encarta dictionary definition best 'cause of the elevated and spiritual addition. Joy goes beyond excitement and happiness, feelings and smiling faces. It comes from within, deep within. Joy is an emotion that elicits the weirdest reaction; tears, shouts, screams, crazy laughter e. t. c.

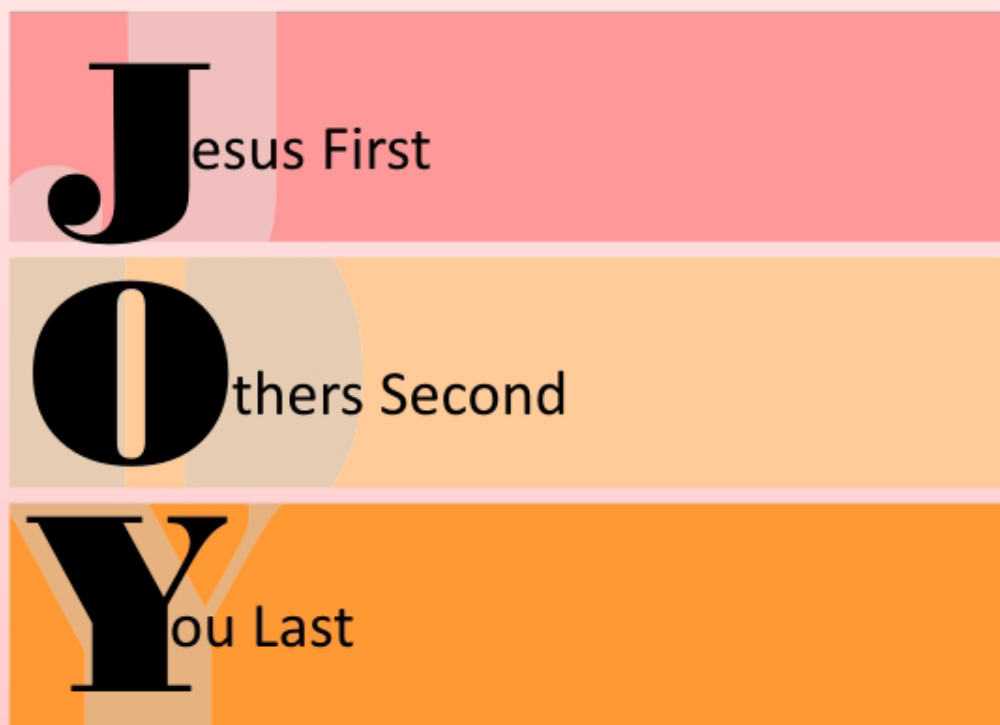
The difference between Joy and happiness is that happiness is seasonal. It moves with the times and seasons and it only stays awhile. Joy, on the other hand, is forever.

☺ It says no matter no what's going down, I'm still on top.

☺ It says I still got my swagger even when my world is a-stagger.

☺ It says I'm definitely C<sup>3</sup> - Cool Calm and Collected despite the challenges that come my way

The J-O-Y principle is



The O in this principle doesn't say that you should be Lady 9ice or Mr. Nice Guy but in carrying out this principle you must apply discretion to the latter and be wise in all your doings.



## BLACK AND WHITE

**T**his world is black and white

There's no grey area, that's just a black patch with  
more white

It's truth or fact

There's no white lie

No selfless lie

A lie is still just another lie

It's either good or evil

It's either wrong or right

It's either hot or cold

It's either you burn or you don't

Choose which side you're on

Pick a master for your soul

There's in middle ground no holding back

Souls depend on your choice...

## JUST SO YOU KNOW . . .

**T**he ones who call themselves Christians are  
hypocrites!

Cheats, judgmental types and guess what...  
....they're my friends.

People I call family are the ones tearing me apart.  
They claim they want me to be happy yet they  
keep cutting my back.

They use their tongues to whip my very soul,  
And yet they tell me they love me.  
They're my friends and yet I can't talk to them  
about anything,

I can't tell them how I cry myself to sleep every  
night,

Or how frustrated and depressed I am  
I can't tell them the things that choke my soul and  
even when I try

They don't care; they don't even want to know!

I need someone to talk to but there's no one  
around,

I have so many friends but they are no where to  
be found

Yet they expect me to be with them,  
To stand with them, to encourage them.

Don't they know I need encouragement too?!  
Does it ever cross their minds that my life is not  
smiles?

I don't need "family"

I don't need a "sister" or a "brother"  
All I want and need is a friend

A friend that will stick with me to the end

# QUOTES

*That stick*

## THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME

**A** wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.

Francis Bacon (1561 - 1626)

Death never takes the wise man by surprise; he is always ready to go.

Jean de La Fontaine (1621 - 1695)

Defer not till to-morrow to be wise,  
To-morrow's sun to thee may never rise.

William Congreve (1670 - 1729)

From the earliest times the old have rubbed it into the young that they are wiser than they, and before the young had discovered what nonsense this was they were old too, and it profited them to carry on the imposture.

Somerset Maugham (1874 - 1965)

If one is too lazy to think, too vain to do a thing badly, too cowardly to admit it, one will never attain wisdom.

Cyril Connolly (1903 - 1974)

It is a point of wisdom to be silent when occasion requires, and better than to speak, though never so well.

Plutarch

Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much;  
Wisdom is humble that he knows no more.

William Cowper (1731 - 1800)

Not by years but by disposition is wisdom acquired.

Plautus

The older I grow, the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom.

H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

Compiled by Ude Nnenne

**T**here is a place I call home

A place where I feel loved

A place where I am accepted

The color of my skin doesn't matter here

The intonation of my speech is of no consequence  
I'm free to live without the fear that someday I'll be  
seen as a stranger

My people will never treat me like I'm different from  
them

They'll always stand by me

They believe in me

No matter what I pass through

I'm glad because they've got my back  
Where indeed can be compared to home?

Nigeria is my home

There could never be a place like her

I love her; she's all I've got

I'll stand by her because she stood by me

I'll love her because she loved me

I accept her because she accepted me first  
Despite the disrespect accorded to her by others  
I'll always respect her

She's God's gift to humanity

She's the most beautiful place that has ever existed  
There is definitely no place like my home

Written by Ude Nnenne





ARTIST: TRIP LEE  
SONG: REAL VISION  
ALBUM: 20/20  
RECORD LABEL: REACH RECORD

# HANDLE THE VIBE

Welcome to Handle the Vibe.

Handle the vibe is designed to properly breakdown songs (mainly rap) that we listen to for the purpose of study. (its like bible study with music). Be blessed and stay blessed.

Real Vision is perhaps one of the strongest songs ever written in history, off Trip Lee's sophomore album 20/20 it's more or less the title track simply because it talks about seeing and knowing God properly... we @Handle The Vibe decided to attempt a dissection of the song. It should be noted that Christian Rap is such that you could get certain revelations from the same song after you've hear that song quite a number of times (such is the depth).

Comments and Contributions are welcome...

## Intro - Trip Lee:

Its time we direct out attention towards the creator  
Cats got misconception of him  
Look. Forget about what you heard or what you thought  
Or what they told you  
And let's figure out the right way  
To get to know him

## Verse 1 - Trip Lee:

Look I don't know what they told you  
but if it don't match up  
With His holy Word then  
homie they need to back up  
Some they pretend like they get Him they twisting facts up  
That's why we dig in the scriptures to know the Master  
Homie, we have to if we want to get past the Only thing we  
know being what we learned from the Pastor  
I really hope your listening, my listeners cause after  
We want to see Him clear like a big screen plasma  
Half of the cats I seen they don't really know the Lord  
They think my views are extreme, think I'm going overboard  
But they ain't read a page of the place where He's spoken for  
Himself in the matters, man that's what I be quoting for  
Some say He don't exist, nah that don't even make sense  
This Earth is masterpiece somebody had to paint this  
Forget the big bang, or evolution and face this  
He's the King of Kings and author of all creation  
Some say He made it then lets it run like a clock  
Nah, He controls every soul and every action on the block  
If it happened then He watched and it happens on His watch  
No surprise in His eyes, no my God's never shocked

## Hook:

I don't know what you heard,  
I don't know what you heard  
I don't know what you heard,  
hope it matches with the Word  
I don't know what you think,  
I don't know what you think  
I don't know what you think,  
homie time to get it straight

## Verse 2 - Tedashii:

## Wonderful, Counselor, Masterful

This is Jesus Christ, LORD, all capitals  
This is why Trip and I trip after the mass appeal  
Of people, who pigeonhole Jesus as a pacifist, Whoa!  
A prophet with no power in His plasma  
Still we preach against the views that Arius profess to have of  
Him (look it up!)  
Meaning the deifying of Jesus was nothing more than an  
accident  
But the Bible's the proof that refutes and gives us facts on Him  
That He was, what His Daddy was Homousia, the God-Man  
sent to save us all that He loves  
And set us free from sin and shut it down like it was Attica  
Anyone disbelieving this truth may want to back it up or back It  
up  
Because the Son of Man is coming that's what's up  
and at His judgment seat is where you will see His holy wrath is  
just  
But God is Love,  
that don't mean He's weak! Hey check His resume  
Just cause He lets you breath don't mean He won't take His  
breath away  
Hook

## Verse 3 - Trip Lee:

These days in the church, most cats got it twisted  
Don't let them fool you on how we posed to live this  
For instance, some say to come to Christ for riches  
Or maybe your blessing, but my question is what is this?  
Cause that ain't the gospel, that if you put your faith in Him  
To come to the Savior, and then you'll rake that paper in?  
Face it friends, they made Jesus they holy ATM  
Paul would appalled, this gospel would be disgrace to Him  
This false gospel  
strips Him of His flyness  
He's more like your servant  
and less like His Highness  
So please don't buy it, that idea is absurd  
Jesus said the Christian life can be strife and it's filled with hurt  
Look homie I would hate for, cats to get that fake stuff  
And never know it's wrong cause they wont open a page up  
I pray we erase the wrong views and embrace  
the Holy Word that testifies to us about the Saviour

Most times our vision of God has been based on what we were told or what we read in a book or over heard someone say in a discussion. This has been one cause of many false doctrines as people hear one thing and never look for the source. Its like a case of gossip where one man hear part of a statement and then draws full conclusion form it. Whereas the statement was just maybe a joke or an example.

Paul actually encouraged us to always go back after every service, bible study . . .after every time we hear God's word and find out what he (God) really is saying by finding it ourselves in the bible. The Christians in Berea (**Acts 17:10 & 11**) who always went and studied the scriptures

Our aim is for everyone to see him clearly. . . I love the term "to see him clear like a big screen plasma".

....  
Its from this flaw that many have come with sayings like God only helps those who helps them selves. . . and cleanliness is next to Godliness. They have used this to serve themselves and not the Body of Christ.

In the song trip . . points to the saying where people believe that God just created the world and let it run. . this too is not true. He made the earth and put man in the garden and told him to take care of it. But he still always came to fellowship with him in the cool of the evening. God didn't just make us and put us on Auto drive, he wants to have a relationship with us. . . that's why he calls us his children and not products!

I love a T-shirt I saw sometime ago that said,  
"hang out with Jesus, coz he Hung out on the cross for you!"

## Verse 2

Verse @ (by Tedashii)

§ \*"Wonderful, Counselor, Masterful."- an obvious reference to the coming Messiah (who was and is) Isaiah 6:9  
§ \*"L-O-R-D all capitals the use of capital letters refers to the original Hebrew word for the supreme deity i.e. YHWH or YAHWEH.  
§ \*"people who pigeonhole Jesus as a pacifistA prophet with no power in His plasma" over the years Jesus has been erroneously viewed as a weak, "United Nations" type of moral teacher, a mere mortal. This in itself is a false outlook as Hebrews 12: 24 states otherwise.  
§ "Still we preach against the views Arius professed to have of Him" Arius was a heretic who was reputed for causing a lot of problems in the early church around 318 AD with his false doctrines.  
§ "the deifying of Jesus was nothing more than an accident Arius' false doctrine was that Jesus hadn't always been one with God the Father but was a created being thus faulting the doctrine of the Trinity to an extent. Most Bible scholars believe that Revelations 8:11 was referring to Arius.  
§ \* but the Bibles the proof that refutes. He was what His Daddy was, Homousia, the God-Man sent to save us all that He loves" The word Homousia is a Greek word meaning of the "same essence or

substance". Used here it refers to God the Son being the same in essence with God the Father, thus Jesus was 100% God and 100% Man sent to save His beloved creation; Mankind. Psalm 2:7, John 17:5, John 1:1, John 10:30.

§ "set us free from sin and shut it down like it was Attica" Attica was a New York prison famous for it being shut down as a result of a prisoners' revolt in 1971. Tedashii uses this simile here to show us Christ's ability to end sin. 1st John 3:5.

§ "The Son of Man is coming. And at His judgment seat is where you see His holy wrath is just" Another reference to Christ's Second Coming, where everyone will get what he/she deserves (life or death in Eternity) simply because God is a fair and just Judge. Matthew 25:31 Acts 17:31.

§ "God is Love, that dont mean Hes weak hey check His resume/just because He lets you breathe dont mean He wont take His breath away" God is Love, that's a strength and not a weakness, His "resume" clearly shows this. Inasmuch as He's a Loving God He's a Consuming Fire whose wrath shouldn't be incurred (ask Herod...) Hebrews 12:29, 1st John 4: 8,16.

Many people have on the Note of their misbelieve and shallow Knowledge of the Gospel drawn wrong conclusions of the bible and as such, have caused a lot of Controversy.

Most times I wonder why God lets some for these things just go by . . .times when people paint Jesus a different color. Its also wired that a lot of controversies are not trying to discredit him as the Messiah. . . all they want to do is attach or remove one thing about him. Its like a smoke screen game. They have seen that Jesus is LORD. And they have accepted it. But in a bid to justify why they still are not in him, they have brought up issues like the Da Vinci Code and Arius. . and a whole lot more that I would not like to delve into.

But I love the way Tedashii concluded the verse with the line .

"Anyone disbelieving this truth may want to back it up or back It up  
Because the Son of Man is coming that's what's up  
and at His judgment seat is where you will see His holy wrath is just  
But God is Love,  
that don't mean He's weak! Hey check His resume  
Just cause He lets you breath don't mean He won't take His breath away"

## Verse 3

Trip addressed a serious issue that we have come to face in Nigeria. . .

The issue of prosperity. Now don't get me wrong, most of these guys have some serious Word. They are part of the Body of Christ. You see in the recent past, the Church was seen as a place for poor people and where wealth was evil or scarce. God showed his people that his divine power has given us everything we need for LIFE and GODLINESS. We totally ignored the life part and only took hold of the Godliness part.

Any way some churches caught these things and used it and it alone to lure people to their churches. . .making Jesus look



like "A HOLY ATM". Where you come and when you punch some buttons, say some prayers you instantly get rich. (A lot of them have actually gone back disappointed when it didn't work out that way).

Ambassador talked about this in the song (The Cost. From the Album Chop Chop. Hope fully, the team would talk on this in the Next issue. He talked how people rarely tell you of the Persecution you would face as a Christian.

This is the reason for Christians who have no love. They are driven by the benefit of Christianity not the love for God. Someone kept stressing a point and said if you give 10 Million Naira to every Christian, a good number of them would not return to church again.

The bible has told us to seek first the kingdom of God. . . How can we do that? . . . By studying his word, by obeying Gods command which is the sign that we love him (John 14:15). This my friend is what he desires. . obeying his command? . . .

you say they are a lot of them? But guess what he also summarised it all when he said the greatest commandment is

" . . .and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength."

The second is this: 'You must love your neighbour as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

So lets just walk in this love. . .and all other things would be added unto us. . .

And Check it. . 2nd Timothy 2:15 says

2Ti 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Its simply saying, read your bible so you won't be decieved. Believe me doing it this way, we'll never walk in heresy. Stay strong.

Handle the Vibe!

<http://handle-the-vibe.blogspot.com/>

## A Portrait of me

Every Stroke, Brought  
Brought me close  
. . . .to perfection, to pain

Every Stroke  
With Precision  
. . . .Completing a master piece  
. . . . Correcting for the masters peace

Every Swipe  
. . . .Clearing a part of me  
. . . . Smoothing me out

How perfect I turned out  
. . . A little more in beauty  
. . . .A little more in tears flowing

Every Thing worked forth  
Everything hurt forth  
Every little one of them

All swipes working together  
All splashes, all clearing  
From a perfect and empty canvas

All things working out

Creating . . .

A Portrait of Me

Opaluwah Akor

<http://raq-speaks.blogspot.com/>



**T**he Live Out Loud Movement is based on the vision that was seen on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2009 and it is one of the many projects of Zion's Hill International, the publishers of YADA. It is based on the scripture, Mat 5:16- Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

This scripture clearly describes what the movement signifies. Like the Jesus Movement that started in the United States in the 70s and 80s, the LOL movement is made up of believers who decide in their hearts to live exemplary lives that will bring people to the knowledge of God. It has been proven that we as Christians may be the only Jesus people may meet or the only Bible people may read. Like the Christians in Antioch, we are going to preach the Word of God through our actions. It is not an organization but there will be a website where people can support the cause of living out loud.

LOL Projects include:

- ❖ LOL Walk for Christ
- ❖ LOL Mini-Concerts
- ❖ LOL Tour
- ❖ LOL Fashion Show

The LOL Walk for Christ is mainly followers of the movement just walking around passing out flyers and talking about Jesus. It will be fun as there will be music and dance on the way and it will involve the participation of everyone. Also, Christian clothing lines can use the opportunity to advertise their clothes and other accessory they have.

The LOL Mini-Concerts are just small concerts held in different locations over a period of time. These mini concerts are aimed at promoting the LOL Tour

The LOL Tour is just like the revolve tour where LOL goes round the country living the Gospel of Jesus out loud. The main concert will feature dance, drama, music, and messages by young people. It would hold during the year.

The LOL Fashion Show is aimed at promoting Christian apparel strictly and it will involve famous Christian designers all around.

This is just an introduction and things here are likely to change but we are confident this movement will be a major tool by which people will give their lives to Jesus.

Go and join the group on Facebook today.

**LOL!**



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