

# CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRACY TO BELIEVERS



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## **INTRODUCTION**

Democracy is widely defined as government of the people by the people for the people. The most important element is FOR the people. Thus, the model adopted whether British, American, French, German or otherwise is inconsequential provided the welfare of the people is given precedence. However, democratic principles are vulnerable to corruption and abuse because they are man-made laws which can be modified. How many presidents reviewed the constitutions of their countries to enable them enjoy additional terms in office? At times, loopholes in the constitution are legally exploited to commit crimes.

Therefore, the way out is to incorporate religious beliefs into democratic principles such that each country practices a unique version of democracy based its predominant religions. Taking Nigeria as a case study, we know that Islam and Christianity are duly recognised by the state even though theoretically we call ourselves secular. So, using the laws of the Qur'an, Bible and the constitution as the basis for our democracy is the only way to take us out of the quagmire we find ourselves in; as God-fearing Muslim and Christian politicians who believe in resurrection and care about heaven will not make empty promises, steal, be tribal or turn the masses into slaves. We will experience cordial relationship and respect as instructed by both religions and combined genuine efforts to fight insecurity and attain prosperity for all. We should allow ourselves to be remote-controlled by a group of people who tell us how to govern ourselves based on their definition of democracy.

**Muhammad Imran Muhammad**

In the name of Allah the One, the Holy, the Sovereign, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Perfect blessings and peace be upon Muhammad (SAW), the best model, his household, his companions and all of mankind who follow on his path of guidance.

Definitions are not part of the challenges for the Ummah because they are man-made. They were not there, they came into being and what men make of them is what they will be. In Nigeria, we have adopted and are practicing democracy. It will be foolhardy to admit only copy and paste terms as RIGHT, as much as we cannot deny sharing some characteristics with other countries that claim the same identity. In other words, it will be sheepish and self-destructive to simply WIPE AWAY WHAT WE CHERISH OF OUR IDENTITY in order to fit into what others are equally discovering and responding to. This is the first basis or principle for our collective identity or independence. The best reference is the valid and respectable differences between Russia and China that belong to the same class. The United Kingdom and the United States is another example. The democracy in Nigeria must therefore need to fit into the valuable needs of the content of Nigerian polity.

This country is made up of critically people who submit themselves to Authorities in two levels. The spiritual-cum-mundane authorities and the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. There are Muslims, Christians and Traditionalists. For believers, the guidance of God is the beginning and ultimate. Those who believe and hold unto a contrary view are not in this view. For example, INCEST is out of question. But it was the cherished practice of the Pharaohs of Egypt, to keep the dynasty 'pure'. The worship of idols in any garb is equally prohibited and attracts the anger of our creator. Adultery and fornication along with the by-products are prohibited. Usury is not different. And to God belongs the absolute right of what is prohibited. Outside these, it is the choice of men for convenience without oppression. The Traditionalists do not have the elaborate characteristics of what is wrong like the believers.

But we have a meeting point for living together for our individual/collective safety and prosperity. This is the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Any Muslim, Christian or Traditionalist who will not uphold the provisions of this constitution is rightly our collective enemy. Anyone who supports such is equally irresponsible to our collective resolve. In other words NO SHADE, FORM OR CHARACTER OF FREEDOM OR DEMOCRACY MUST

APPROACH THE QUESTIONING OF THIS STAND. Any such ideas, beliefs and practices is condemnable. It is both irrational and senseless to unite or build a common goal by cracking the common point. Once believers save themselves from contradicting the injunctions of God, they must keep the honour and integrity they hold on together. If anyone does not believe in Nigeria, there is no law prohibiting his leaving in peace to where he believes in. It will thus amount to evil citizenship to claim to believe and be engaged in disruption or destroying it. The highest and satanic level of such engagement will be when it is sponsored, sourced or directed from outside the shores of this country.

Both Muslims and Christians therefore have the challenge of developing respectable Nigerian identity in the face of either clearly open religious monitoring from outside or the very same monitoring and control from outside by elements that present themselves as plain Human Rights defenders. The definition of human rights that separates the limits from the excesses are best defined by total livelihood paradigms as against ad hoc or fast-food lifestyles. This was why the wind of repealing capital punishment from our statutes was a bad one. And it took the National Assembly and the government stressful time to ignore it. The champions of rights would have taken us to where they do not know. Today some states have adopted capital punishment for kidnapping. The very same applies to same sex marriage. Goodluck was invited to create the license and he declined. Buhari was similarly invited by the British Prime Minister. He will need to repeal the law by Jonathan to enable it. But WHY are we prone to this? It is simply because our identity is not well formed. Until we are torched, we are not wet.

The first platform of misfortune that we will need to attend to is two-faced. One part of it is our respective identity. Both Muslims and Christians are in divisions. There must be an acceptable definition of the LIMITS, beyond which any individual or group that claims such identity will be HELPED to remain or will be dealt with. The question of being LEFT ALONE will be out of our DEMOCRACY. The very same must apply to Muslims. For example, it will be commonly insane to import or accommodate a worship platform of homosexuals or education haters in our country. Cults or Fraternities sneak and smuggle into us and generate destructive relationships in the name of democracy only because we are adamant and careless about our identity. Are our members and citizens not the same that pursue the new and destructive livelihoods? Unless and until we define the limits of our identity against ANYTHING GOES, we shall continue to

see and live with the destruction of our cherished identity – in pursuit of a democracy that we do not know. Anyone we may assume to be copying to become like will continue to elude us as it changes and generates peculiar challenges. The Catholic Church for example has accordingly been faced with managing women priests, married priests, gay priests etc. Muslims in United Kingdom have been recognized in marital union. Indeed there are communities of nude practices in the United Kingdom. This is how ambitious freedom without responsible limits can redefine democracy. In France, the law permits mistresses. It is impossible to develop a civilization without a constant point. Those of us in Nigeria can appreciate how herdsman have not been able to build a civilization, in spite of the enormous contributions they are still making to our economy. Those who will spill that they can now be killers are only admitting that the conflict they run into with farmers is a historical development. Farming of crops and animals has been transforming whereas movements by herdsmen has not transformed. Another fair reference is the benefits of Boarding schools education as against the Day schools education. At the university level, the growth of many supported by massive part-time teaching is the real motor for the dropped quality.

The second face relates to the relationship between Muslims and Christians. The vulnerability of this aspect to needless international influences and internal ignorant miscreants is obvious again, because if we cannot organize ourselves they are willing and eager to ‘help’ for democracy recognition and fame. Indeed even seemingly knowledgeable and disciplined Muslims and Christians often get caught up in useless and more destructive utterances and relationships FOR DEMOCRACY, mistaking it for service to God or religion. The majority of ignorant followers accordingly get hoodwinked into the process. At the end of the day, the polity is heated up, more cracks are opened to weaken our collective responsibility and the false democracy is not helped. Even religious bodies get involved in this mess. This face of the challenge of identity is however definable by members who are sincerely knowledgeable and disciplined. The limits will not permit Muslims to hurt Christians or Christians to hurt Muslims. For example, with Muslims, Allah has defined for marriage joining, the men can marry women Muslims and women Christians because they are believers in a scripture and Messenger of Allah. This makes women of Judaism also admissible. But women of unbelievers are not admissible. At least on the part of Roman Catholic members, a canon rule provides that catholic women do not get married to NON CATHOLICS. It will consequently be disrespectful for a knowledgeable catholic to suggest unity between Muslims and Christians by abusing the provision for

Muslims. However, it is possible with the democracy championed by ignorants or ambitious people for fame, in the guise of equality. This is the responsible relationship envisaged by the provision in our constitution, not allowing for a state religion. But where the definition and culture is not our livelihood, Ignorant and ambitious individuals can assume the position and roles of flying the flag of God. And democratic ‘helpers’ in the followership, the media or ignorant democrats that are not believers will hail them. Sometimes it is even Muslim or Christian organizations. This is the root of the real bankruptcy of the songs of Islamization by non-Muslims and the responses of patient accommodation of more Christian arrangement in our public life, for Muslims.

If we ignore or fail to recognize the LIMITS between our individual divisions, we shall not have any constant identity to hold unto as Muslims or Christians. We shall continue to divide with the present characteristics of corrupt believers and backward democrats. We shall lose the prosperity of the best salvation in the hereafter and live in fear and frustration regardless of our efforts in this life. The very same will be inevitable if we ignore or fail to recognize the LIMITS between our differences that will safely forge our collective identity to hold unto as Nigerians.

All the shifts between tribal and geopolitical identities are at best exploitative. They are needless, helpless and irresponsible as far as our collective safety and prosperity are concerned. The principle and practice of federal character is a good example. Instead of being a transitional policy/strategy, it has become a burden. Neither the politicians nor the bureaucrats have a clear understanding of it. None of them see the collective institutions and structures as requiring selfless, positive and neutral or fairly minded individuals as the instruments for our national safety and prosperity. The forerunners as a result sowed the seeds of opportunism for nationalism. But it cannot serve any party. This is why regardless of the credentials of an individual, collective interest is at risk. The mess at the Federal level is not less at the state or local government levels. Indeed, the private sector is not fairer – not even international organizations. The forerunners admit their own or types. But they often serve international organizations well because they are here for making money first as against fostering our unity. If we therefore fail to carry along our unity to them, it is entirely our loss. In summary, we can make our unity colourful but we cannot unite colours and avoid loss of identities. Most colours will either be consumed by black or those that will not disappear will be transformed into something else.

The singular challenge of making Nigerians that will serve our collective interests regardless of our Muslim or Christian identity is the most rational and sensible responsibility of believers. The guidance of the God that we hang on is more and better sufficient for our collective interests than the best thoughts by mankind since creation. The guidance of God serves our material and spiritual needs for prosperity in both lives that we believe in. It does not matter whether as standalone Christians, standalone Muslims, a combination of both or more, with either the believers or non-believers in majority or control. Anything to the contrary is either out of our deliberate allowance or ignominy. Of course it does not matter to anyone who does not believe or cares less. The details of resolving these confusions rest in the kinds of members we need to produce for the right operation of our constitution.

The flagrant abuse or nonchalant attitude to this challenge by believers is evident in the consequences of our management of the institution of marriage. Both Muslims and Christians have no excuse for fornication and adultery. But our flagrant abuse or nonchalant attitude to upholding this commandment has open up the 'free' culture of sex before marriage, adultery in ceremonial occasions, single parenthood, pregnancy by mistake, unwanted pregnancies, abortions, dumping of new-borns, orphans from non-marital relationships, adoption of children from this process (in Islam it is a great sin for a child to choose or be made to falsely claim another person as the father), prostitution, etc. It is not uncommon for Muslims and Christians who have basic knowledge of biology to oppress their wives because they have not produced male babies. But even free democrats will admit that the man determines the gender of the baby sexually. On the side, we now commonly have experiences of rape and incest. We grow new laws against what we do not like and permit what we like even if God prohibits it. And we scream God like a musical performance at a concert that is entertaining for those who care. We are building a city for satans and expect that it is a good offer to Holy God, because He is forgiving. This is neither reasonable nor sensible.

It is not different with the first commandment. Muslims and Christians make up the membership of the cults and fraternities. They assume new identities. They are not stopped from attending God's houses for worship but their membership grants them some benefits of safety and prosperity by association – as long as they stick to the 'minor' requirements of the body. These will be pledges,



attendance of meetings, contributions, protection of fellow members and symbols of identity.

The fools believe that association of anything with God is physical idol worship in a particular building. But they have symbols and languages of communication. And you need FAITH in the package in order to succeed. What success have they dis-assigned for God that is now re-assigned to the cult or fraternity? And we do not only have such members contributing heavily to Muslim or Christian 'projects and programs', they still prefer or wish to die and be buried as believers. Unfortunately, the new 'religions' are growing bolder. Some will breakthrough funeral arrangements and collect their own. This is FREE DEMOCRACY. Is it serving us? This is the kind of religious and prayer nation we are building and misthink that we are of value to Islam or Christianity.

Do Muslims and Christians not believe and recognize the reality of BLESSINGS? Is it not the Reserve of God and is absolutely attracted by COMPLIANCE TO HIS COMMANDMENTS? But voices are beginning to increase, Questioning the place of God in our safety and prosperity. Indeed democrats have security and financial institutions to show for reference. But how closer are we getting to peace, safety and prosperity? Poverty, crimes, violence, indiscipline, corruption, poor performance, crisis and collapses are growing. Is God dead or are the flag bearers Blind, Deaf and Dumb? Where do we place Evangelism and *Da'wah* objectives, performances and benefits?

What a movement of rascals are we breeding even as we are followers of the Prince of Peace and Religion of Peace? WHOEVER CARES SHOULD VISIT THE SCRIPTURES THAT WE BELIEVE IN AND CONTRIBUTE TO ATTENDING TO OUR REAL CHALLENGES BY KNOWLEDGE AND PERSONAL RELEVANT DISCIPLINE, BY GENUINE RESPECT FOR OTHERS AND JOINING EFFORTS FOR OUR COLLECTIVE SAFETY AND PROSPERITY. This is the only basis for enabling democracy to serve us. If we refuse, ignore or fail, we shall not REALLY serve Democracy because it is a continuous growing figment. And the inevitable cost is disservice and destruction of our real identity.

And the immediate cross-education between Muslims and Christians is to know, recognize and accept that:

- The constitution that is rightly for us is to disallow a state religion, which is already provided for.
- That Shari'ah is a necessary and inevitable part that gives identity to the Muslims primarily. This is why like customary courts only believers are 'required' to submit, attend or be arraigned before them.

The status of requirement is where non-Muslims need to support Muslims **STRONGLY**. This is to compel every Muslim to have to use the Shari'ah in his or her livelihood. This is critical because it is safer for non-Muslims to have Muslims of consistent identity. And it is in the total interest of Muslims. Moreover, wherever there is a difficult relationship involving a non-Muslim, the constitution provides for the protection of the non-Muslim. The present arrangement where the Muslim has the liberty or choice of not using the Shari'ah **REQUIRES** to be improved. For now, only civil matters are attended to in Shari'ah courts. But the big and the small need to be equally seen to be compliant by submission for consistency. This is the required Jihad of every individual Muslim on his soul for closeness to Allah. And there is no harm in supporting this with the institution of the courts. This is necessarily a first step for both parties in the interest of both parties. The question of or struggle in war or forceful is completely out. This is why we are fighting Boko Haram. It therefore diversionary for either a Muslim or Christian to introduce **COMPULSION** in the relationship between Muslims and Christians. It is in fact irresponsible because it is capable of generating unnecessary and undesirable actions between the groups. Those who do not know should find out.

It is a shame that we will scream, protest and even go to court against an individual who has no prescribed terminal certificate or a fake one. Following this, the mercenaries of the press, petitions, visitations, investigations, probes, audit are oiled to deal with accounting officers, against corruption. The individuals involved are Muslims and Christians in the main. Free democrats then suggest Professional ethics and training or institution building. But professionals are in this boat of disgrace. **WHY ALL OF THESE?** The Answer is very simple. The Muslims and Christians have the freedom, the choice, the liberty to be so in the worship houses and not in the offices. If and when such destructive choices are limited or out of question, all of these will not arise. A political head or chief executive will not apply the collective trust given to him in the form of authority and resources for only or largely, his tribesmen, his kinsmen, his alumni, his churchmen, his mosque-men, his ward, local government or state, fellows, etc. IF

HE IS A CONSISTENT CHRISTIAN OR MUSLIM. This is the bedrock inconsistency that made rubbish, the governance of a priest in one of our states and does not guarantee the optimal performance of a Senior Advocate, a Doctor of Philosophy, etc.

Like in formal settings, the sociological structure of growing Nigeria is not encouraging. A visit of 'fine' settlements like Low costs, Estates, Layouts, Government Reserved Areas immediately reveal how disconnected the 'special' residents are. The non-special settlements do not 'benefit' from their special differences. The arrangements are different, the attention they get are different. They are like barracks, which are so designed for defined objectives. In some, the ideas of association floats, for non-human relationship services like security and electricity. They are often black spots for electoral activities. None of them will be able to vouch for a member to the benefit of the larger society, even for the seniors. It is unthinkable for the youths. Popularity may be on the basis of commitment of crimes. The reason is simply, in the same vicinity, the Christians and churches are disconnected. The same with the Muslims. Everyone minds his business like passengers in a train. This is how we are creating new worlds from a common world. No wonder, it is not uncommon to have crisis patterns defined by so-called faithfuls of a particular religion, tribe or group. This is inevitable because of our present orientation that lacks the necessary control points. The freedom we are 'enjoying' is this disorienting and will be more or worse, except, unless and until we do something about it.

And there are two indicators for the feasible reorientation for our positive livelihood. The very first is that no single person has become a leader at almost all levels without the free flowing identity of being a Muslim or Christian. That will be his or her claim and that will be what he or she will be recognized to be. The most pronounced revelation is in the oath of office taken in the highest leadership positions and indeed in the courts of law. The confusion and bastardization that follows with regional or tribal identity is a product of our bankruptcy in the consistency of identity. And it is the elite that always feast on this because of their mixed benefits of inordinate greed and appearing to be relevant. Both the leaders and the followers are victims of this feet over head perspective.

The second indicator is the hesitant admission and operation of private banks based on the principle of MINUS USURY, sometimes laced as Interest. Neither

the shareholders nor bankers are totally Muslims. The fools who are ignorant of this and champion opposition are evil to what is safe and prosperous for all of us. This is because there is no compulsion in being part of it and other commercial banks based on interest principles are available. Indeed some of them have tried interest-free services.

In the end, if indeed we are believers, we have the responsibility of giving God some respectful space to support us. And the singular condition is that of compliance to His Commandments. Then we shall have a true feel of His presence with us. His blessings will flow freely. We will not need to mix up what is truly His with what we choose to be His that is really false. We will not need to mix up cultism or sorcery with His worship. Only then will difficulties or challenges be genuine inevitable trials and not self-inflicted burdens. And we can be positive Nigerians without becoming a Muslim or Christian nation. Then Muslims will feel safe in the hands of Christians and Christians will be safe in the hands of Muslims. It will not matter the geographical origin or tribe of the person. Whatever competency one has will be driven by the orientation that is honourable for the identity of the person and useful for all. Those who have no religion or are non-believers will then have believers as the signs of God for the entire humanity. The contrary by pretence or nonchalant attitude will neither serve us here nor in the hereafter. Being a Muslim or Christian one-quarter way, one-third way or halfway along with being a free democrat in the other balance will not work.

For that reason, those who believe that tribalism or regionalism will serve nationalism are selfish, wrong and anti-Nigeria. The choice is between belief and commitment to Nigeria and commitment to the opposite. And we can resolve and start now. Neither tribe nor region cuts across Nigeria. What cuts across Nigeria is what can unite us. And the option is NOT Faith-free or One Religion. We are a multi-religious people and can intelligently organize ourselves for common safety and prosperity. But like it is not practicable to have two Executive Presidents of Nigeria operating or two Executive Governors at the same time and only One Supreme God is rational and sensible, we do not need tribes or regions to along with free faith or free democracy, AS WELL AS BELIEVING THAT GOD IS SUPREME FOR US. Who believes in a dead or inactive or irrelevant bus stop? To be sure, this is not a suggestion that the ascetic are the best to lead or one who has the scriptures on the tips of his tongue or the best preacher. Such a person will require suitable knowledge and discipline of what is to be managed.

The invitation is to have people with universal attributes on the steering of our history.

The clear indicator for this needless difficulty and confusion is the STRESSES governance faces or experiences, when tribes stick out their heads or regions do so towards the Federal Government. It is also observable when tribes or communities within a state decide to do so at the state or local government levels. In the end, the party in advantageous position gets away or the right thing gets done with so much costs, pains and difficulties that effectively derails or weakens the quality of governance. And the champions of these difficulties either celebrate success or go to only rest, to come up again. These may be ignorant, naive or mischievous but certainly ambitious professionals, former leaders or struggling opportunists WAGGING DEMOCRACY. This is why our history of political opposition is heavily characterized or inclined towards JUST TAKING OVER OR REPLACING without adding value to governance while out of office. And the fact that the infrastructure of free democracy have been growing and developing, it requires a patient and focused delineation to avoid being consumed or deceived. Take any issue with tribal or regional outing, their 'Speakers', movements, wings, media, professional victims and growing learners WILL BE CONTRIBUTING AND ACTING to the 'solution'. It is hence always inevitably tasking to the collective leader. What makes the brew more embarrassing, threatening and tasteless is the fact that our level of political education is poor and corrupt.

Any ignorant-cum-hypocrite who points at states or nations that have degenerated to warfare, ask him or her: IS THAT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IN OUR CIRCUMSTANCE? HAS HE NO KNOWLEDGE AND DISCIPLINE TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT IN OUR CASE? If he has nothing to offer for our improvements, he is satisfied with the present painful, stressful and costly historical process. But that is exactly what we need to transform over.

## **THE FOUNDATION PRINCIPLE**

For a believer in the God of Abraham, it is God alone that is real. Anything and everything are by virtue of His favours. This is the root of the first commandment that prohibits associating anyone and anything with Him. This is what makes idol worship most evil. This is why apostasy is required to be met by excommunication or execution.

The logic and sense is very simple. There was no man and whatever. He created space, time, the earth, the heavens, and the content and made man his vicegerent. This He made possible with senses, capacities that enable whatever. Man is born naked but socially becomes able to acquire whatever he becomes. How then can he claim identity without the gifts, permissions and the further windows of favours and blessings? And the special favour is granting man the wilful choice of voluntary recognition and submission to Him. This is what will give man glory. This also means that man may choose to be defiant but will mean ingratitude.

Therefore, a believer has only one proper role as a vicegerent. To live as a sign of the real God by representing His attributes. This will be by utmost compliance with the guidance of God. And we have the favour of its transmission through His chosen Messengers and the revealed scriptures. And this guidance is characterized by two latitudes. One is made up of the things, ways and terms whoever believes in Him must avoid and those that must be committed. This is the discipline of godliness. The other latitude is made up of whatever man may choose or venture to either restrain himself from or commit PROVIDED it does not encroach into the parameters of the other latitude.

As a result, the concept of representation is not inherently evil and believers can partake in it. Is God not THE LEADER and do men not need leadership? God has made laws for mankind and it is the believers that uphold it. Men need and continuously make laws, rules, and regulations to ease and strengthen compliance or submission to God. Believers thus produced the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria WITHOUT THE LATENT OR MANIFEST INTENT TO CHALLENGE THE SUPREMACY OF GOD AND WILL NOT DO SO. The supremacy of the constitution therefore MEANS collective agreement NOT to abuse the provisions except as members may from time to time amend, repeal or expand. It does not mean it has precedence over the guidance of God.

Hence, it will be contradictory or self-defeating to deny, obstruct or destroy the relationship between the two. Such definitions will be short sighted and incomplete. It is like a child who is weaned claiming or adopting the freedom of sexual relationship with the parent because he is an adult. Fortunately, the child can be helped by education, resistance by the parents and sanctions. Why then shall we admit or apply such to God Almighty?

Freedom and representation that are claimed for democracy can be made useful to us if we care, but can be destructive if we refuse or fail to care.

Outside this rational and sensible setting or guidance for believers, WHAT will a Representative be representing? For sure it never can mean a summary of the real collation of what those represented choose. Imagine the costs, for realizing any serious law. That is if the Representatives have working offices for access and if they are educated enough to manage the information that will be flowing in. And they will be contradictory. It must also not contradict what all of them or most of them will possibly be opposed to. Where and when this happens, the deed would have been done. The laughable remedy will be to process a call-back or not giving him the mandate again. It then boils down to what the representative considers to be fairly acceptable across board. This board will necessarily extend to the position of the other representatives. For instance, when a sensitive subject is on debate, a quorum of attendance is usually sufficient and the majority of this makes the decision satisfactory. In this setting, a representative may be sleeping but will finally cast a vote. In the end, what the Representatives consider may be opposed or disrespected by their constituencies. This is why we experienced the different shades or forms of resistance to the unity of this country post-2015. The government was there, regional and tribal champions were wagging democracy and the patriots or nationalist opinionists were contradicting each other. If the Representatives are close to WHAT AUGHT TO BE FOR THOSE WHO GAVE THEM THE MANDATE, extreme insanities like these will be most unlikely. The fallouts were confusing orientation and a growing breed of strange creatures that pride themselves with what will serve no one good. And all of these would still have been wonderful and made us proud IF WE ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT OUR UNITY. But the right definition of our position is really an uncomfortable combination of certainty and uncertainty.

The necessary admissible truth that can be deduced from this inevitable drawbacks is that man is not and cannot be perfect. It logically and sensibly means that man is unsuitable and incapable of originating good laws for himself from the onset. What man can fairly manage and be entrusted with are secondary or even tertiary laws, rules and regulations that will not be critically self-destructive – of his favoured identity and the real identity that originated him. Why then will believers ignore, refuse or abandon the platform for righteous livelihood freely given by God? Why will primary preference be given to what can only be poorly generated with double consequences and numerous costs?

## **THE RIGHT PROVISION FOR POLITICAL PARTIES**

It will be appreciated that the constitutional provision for political parties as the acceptable vehicle for asking for the mandate to manage collective trust, makes it further conditional to cut across the geographical space of Nigeria, tribes and religions. These are recognized entities. This means that there shall be no religious parties or tribal parties or regional parties. No such creature or window is suitable for our united safety and prosperity.

The first temptation is the free democrats' presentations. That the only safe basis for our equality is to forget our tribes, geographical place of origin, our religion and melt into one. And without any evaluation we are herded into it. But the presenters will never know where they are leading us to and how. They have no knowledge of even their own tomorrow. All the same, such admission is fine for tribe and geographical origin. The reason and sense in this is that none of them cuts across Nigeria. It will amount to isolation of more than we can bargain for. To be sure, we have six geopolitical regions and hundreds of tribes that make up Nigeria. In addition, no tribe and geography has a defined paradigm for humanity. Not even the gifted race of the Jews has it. And they are struggling to recreate a geographical identity.

National political practice that ends up to be regional or tribal only devalues by double distinction. The one is that it is not impressive to genuine free democrats because it entrenches the culture of region and tribe for the period it lasts, against nationalism. It will rarely or hardly get erased from the schemata and psych of the participants for reference to its 'achievements', for further practice – overtly or covertly. It becomes like an evil seed.

The second is that, for the believers milled in such practice, that is the attribute of the Ignorant, they have failed in the requirements of universalism as commanded by God. All believers irrespective of their location are universal – as much as legality will permit. Therefore, with the jurisdiction of Nigerian polity, it will be self-serving and shameful to be so restricted or be comfortable with that. And it will be clearly backward to employ tribal and regional vehicles, approach or platforms to even pursue national objectives. This is the basis for jurisdictions of states. Any achievements in these terms degrades the humane quality of the members irrespective of their competencies, trainings and qualifications. And the misfortune is graver where the two forms of identities forge into one. It can thrive but with sneaky contribution to the unity of itself with others and that of others



with it. There is always the feeling, the belief that, we can do it alone. And the existing or prospective infrastructure for recognition and prosperity on such platforms lures to KEEPING IT, PROMOTING IT AND BEING PROUD OF IT. Those who are committed to follow such directions are negative. There is no evil in being the same or different in language or geographical location. What is evil, is to make it a vehicle while being a party to unity with another or others that differ IN PROCESSING THE UNITY OF ALL FOR THE SAFETY AND PROSPERITY OF ALL. This is not suitable for the unity our constitution has defined and provided for. This is not for Muslims or Christians. It is evil even with free democracy, to build OUR unity, except of course a contrary objective.

If tribalism combined with regionalism is this evil in consequence, regionalism alone is not fairer in obstructing the building of our unity. The indicator is the status of the states that have been created in the name of boosting representation. The screams of tribal domination have not ceased. Asking for more states have continued. For example, North West generated Niger for Sokoto. Then Kebbi and Zamfara followed. Benue became along with Plateau. Between their creation and now, where has the pendulum of representation been swinging to more, between corruption and prosperity? The resources are more squandered. The best growth is in building of structures. The humans are not better. Take education, are there no more schools, teachers, students across all levels? But are the people more EDUCATED or DISCIPLINED? The scenario of private institutions and sending children by those who can afford to schools, at home or abroad are considered positive. Indeed, a government can shamelessly sponsor its youths to a private institution. Where is the principle and care for self-development? If the so called and seen leaders will watch and mismanage the education for all by such systems freedom that is destructive, what kind of generation do you expect to breed? Those who have been sensitive to this have suggested that the leaders send their children to home schools. Those who care choose model ones among them as against the closest schools to their residents. Over and over, when the home schools are attended to, it is more of renovations because of the years of disregard and it is easier to provide. The only intelligent explanation for this is that even free democracy does not have suitable adherents yet, to give it a good name, even when its best cannot be safe for believers. What are really available, like in tribal outfits are people who claim to be believers but are unconscious beyond Fridays, Sundays, Christmas, Eids, Weddings and Funerals.

And further disastrous is the implication for believers, if free democracy is installed or practiced at national level. To suspend or put aside or hold back their identity with God. To suspend, put aside or hold back all matters relating to their souls and judgment in the hereafter. It amounts to granting permission to trample or erode the defined latitudes and their relationship, for whatever will become introduced or accepted. It is like compensating residents of a locality and constructing a road through. The payments are logically and sensibly rated in relation to the value of the road to be constructed. The residents compensated can either erect houses at other locations or buy up some others available for sale. Indeed the authorities may provide alternative housing. But with humans, people who are believers, what they have or uphold are not replaceable. How do you replace or compensate belief in God, in the Day of Judgement, in Salvation? This is why free democracy is of boisterous ambition like a rattlesnake. Those who seek to breed it is for a purpose. And the first step is to control or limit its freedom. Believers will therefore be the losers if they decide not to care. What they will lose is anything in their **DEFINED WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**. And who can say that righteousness inhibits or contradicts prosperity?

A fair indicator is the response by those who appear to care for a difference. The growth of private, community or association religious institutions, from nursery to university level. These schools do not start by throwing away all of the curriculum syllabuses in public schools. This is because not **EVERYTHING** is destructive. It is the **LIMITS** of carelessness and implications that have become of concern. After all it is mostly believers who produce, control and manage whatever is keyed for public examinations. But imagine how long it took our educational system to admit that the subject of social studies cannot replace history for formative education. This is the pointer to our unconsciousness. In respect of northern states where English literacy is low, what have been done to grow and develop the Almajiri education system? Is it not part of the society? Did it not produce the leaders they and outsiders have been proud of? How long did it take or remain in disregard before the Federal attention under Goodluck, to mention it? And it became controversial because of our quarter free democracy, quarter religious, quarter human and quarter careless orientation.

Thus, if Nigerians with religious identities that matter for them will pursue democracy **IRRESPECTIVE** of the commandments of God or their covenant with God as believers, they are the ones who have things to lose. Free democrats and democracy have **NOTHING** to lose. And one clear indicator is the contribution

of members in deciding their leadership. If the members will await the variables or factors that will interplay, to decide leadership, it will as it has been, Costly, Risky, a lot of Fun, etc. If people point at the unimaginable resources that made Obasanjo or Atiku presidential candidates at Jos and Port Harcourt, Buhari did not become the flag bearer of his party as a consensus candidate. Indeed, Atiku and later, Saraki, admitted that they had to leave the leadership of Buhari because he did not reciprocate the costs burdens they bore for him to become president. What if the member believers were and will surely only consider the most upright among them? All the laws relating to checking the funding of candidates or parties will lose their spirit. There will be no such need. Any such efforts will either be wasteful because people will collect the money and still do the needful or it will be risky since it will be rejected and reported. Then, the members and those outside – party members and non-party members can see themselves as being fairly or poorly represented. Consequently, our collectivity will be a social value identity. If not, the financial contributors or financiers will expect to be served because they were the ones represented. It is in this context one can genuinely appreciate the bad taste of the post-election pronouncement by Obasanjo that those who contribute should forget his turning to them. It was not different with Buhari when he said he was not for anybody. However, to what extent have they succeeded to be for everybody? If Obasanjo is berated for failing to be for everybody, Buhari in his New Year broadcast in 2020 said: “I think I’ve come to accept the realities of leadership in Nigeria; you can only try. It’s a terrific country, no matter what you do, there are people who are on daily basis looking for your fault and go to the press with it. You have to learn to live by that.” This is a clear and profound admission that, he, with a ‘cult’ like following has been confounded.

The challenge is not with the political parties’ structure. It is free democracy milling believers. This is why you will hear of the policy of consistent support for a party, to make governance easier and cheaper. But what have we gotten? This is why a small party cannot prop up the best material for the reason that the infrastructure is weaker in comparison to the bigger ones. This is why even with the solid and massive goodwill Buhari is riding on, not even him can explain how and why he has made the achievements that can be associated with him. Nigeria cannot be responsibly governed by not referring to the party at necessary levels. But when you do this, you fall into the trap of free democrats. We had a terrible experience where Obasanjo needed a state representative for a ministerial position. The state presented an unacceptable material to him. He asked for

replacement and was told that he was the only one available. He had to lobby the Senate to fulfil his constitutional duty. If as a leader you claim that no Governor should submit candidates because you do not ask for placement of people as commissioners, you will soon admit the impossible – working with those you know. This will logically leave you with those you know as references. And Buhari tasted the mistake of a Secretary. But the sponsor is an honourable friend.

Unfortunately, the prospect of any improvement is for now, dim and slim. The explanation is very simple and straight. Democracy or freedom of people is applicable to universal suffrage as the platform for participation. To be of human form and a chronological age of eighteen or more. This is why inmates of correctional facilities, the sick in the hospitals and citizens in diaspora can clamour for participation of free democrats who care for humans will fight for them. But we are more and better than just structures that eat, drink, rest and defecate. This is why even free democrats will admit that some assumptions go along with the suitability of being a human and of age eighteen or more. That the person is of mental and emotional balance with basic literacy that has provided knowledge and education for participation. These will include joining a political party, voting, contesting, etc.

But the political parties do not care about EDUCATION before elections, during elections and after, whether they get the mandate to rule or not. This is why they are only active FOR ELECTIONS. Immediately after, members become beggars to those presented who have received the mandate. The leaders become inaccessible. They transform into new creatures. They may even play god. And it is enforced or built up because the meeting point becomes individual, tribal or regional needs and interests. Indeed the appearance of religious individuals and bodies are inconsequential or vexing because they go for themselves or their group. Even when they pronounce goodly values IT IS BELATED FOR IMPACT or for destructive fame that borders on cracking our collective unity. This is how expectedly goodly source can become irresponsible with impact. Both the leaders and members of the political parties are guilty of this non-education. And the leaders are guiltier. However, the guiltiest is the overall leader of the party. The security protocol is never enough for governance with or in sanity.

This is why those who eventually become legislators take advantage of making self-serving rules and provisions for their welfare, regardless of the impact on the

economy. This is why it is possible for a legislator to transform into a hunting dog for a fellow legislator. It is not shameful to ask for, accept or condition the provision of pads in the budget, ghana-must-go or drops, to make laws.

The composition of the executive cannot be fairer than what every president admits. He cannot know the good or right people in every state and the federal city. If the platform available is made up of free democrats he can rarely get what is different. While some that have lost their immunity can be found and dealt with according to the law, the human rights organization with the ambition of curtailing what some governors had arranged for themselves, will fall victim of the same democracy. Those who got it legalized cannot lose it or be questioned without the laws being repealed. Democracy of wits serves no one. Nonetheless it is justice. The history and records of recruitment into federal service will qualify most chief executives and the regulators of the policy of federal character representation for life sanction if not execution. This is because unity can be forged by the identities of tribes and geography even if the people are first class materials. The embarrassing cases of a Secretary and Head of Service under Buhari were just unfortunate. Those caught are the thieves. If the Head of Service will spill the 'notes' of interference she accommodated in non-financial abuses of her office, the UNDERSTANDING will change.

This is why the constant greatest challenge of the judiciary is to ensure JUSTICE at the end of the day. As lawyers will admit, the law is a two-way edged sword. It can end up taking the plaintiff or the accused rightly, with authority. And it can drag to a bus stop with the consequence of remaining the same or changing. This is why and how it is identified as the last resort and hope of the citizen. There is no dispute that some of its members can get corrupt but it does not deny them the role of defining peace terms, which can be forcefully enforced even at the expense of lives. No society can continue without this. But the package that makes it can be of man-made laws or those by God. Those made by men who are believers do not provide inhibition or restrictions on religious freedom and practices. This is the case in humane societies that we belong to. There are inhuman societies where the men make laws and practice limits to Belief in God. And the package can be for believers as we have Shariah and Customary courts. This arrangement provides for fulfilment of our different compositions.

The summary indicator of the gravity of our real disconnect for unity on the basis of belief in the Supremacy of God is that **NO RELIGIOUS LEADER WILL**

SUCCEED IN OUR POLITICAL PROCESS TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP FOR NIGERIA. This means that believers will not be able to sponsor the best man amongst them because their identity is not consistent. A Muslim may mistake the burden for insensitivity and disrespect for non-Muslims. A Christian may similarly mistake the burden for insensitivity and disrespect for non-Christians. Therefore, whoever finds himself in leadership has really been sponsored by free democrats ACROSS THE BELIEVERS. As of today, a leader who is a believer is subject to perform minimally including serving disbelief. This is because of the double jeopardy self-permitted by the believers. The Muslims are not united within themselves. The Christians are not united within themselves. The Christians and Muslims are not united in their beliefs commanded by God. They roam with Others in democracy. How can roamers achieve safe and prosperous identity unique to them without securing the attributes of their uniqueness?

What makes the difference that will serve believers not to be only feasible but possible is the FACT that they share and can establish the common and absolute truth within each of them and between them JUST LIKE THE COMMON CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN PRODUCED. Unless and until the believers work on what is relevant FOR THEM they will inevitably only be working for everybody INCLUDING WHAT CAN BECOME AGAINST THEM. This invitation and necessity is to curtail any further divisions and to adjust excesses possibly already in place or finding a footing. It is certainly Not an invitation to admit everything or melt all differences. If the TRUTH fails to be established within, it simply amounts to embracing free democracy and discarding the identity of Faith Belonging. Whatever difficulties are envisaged is the real test of faith and sincerity.

## **THE CHALLENGES OF FORMATION**

The political structures and processes that have been highlighted for participation by citizens require fitting members to realize the needs or objectives of identities and unity for common safety and prosperity.

The members have to be produced. The older generation produces the younger generation. Beyond physical production the younger ones need to be cultured for righteous living. This places a sociological responsibility on the older ones. It is what they produce that become available for history making, which covers the older generation because as they retire the younger ones take over.

The first environment of this relationship is the family. What do believers hold unto and how do they fare? For Muslims, there is a defined standard for marriage that possibly leads to this production. If the prospective parents sweep away or shred the rules of Allah and His Messenger, it will be the beginning of the problem. The rules and compliance are the stepping stones. The institution of marriage and the family is extremely critical because the kinds of families in a society pool to give the character of the nation and people. Believers know that they cannot live by incest and cross breeding like animals and fail to get members will animal characteristics in the end. What makes men is far more than what they wear for appearance or their ordinary physical form, walking on two feet. The circle of how parents came about and how the children are brought about is not FREE without limits, guidance and processes. The closer the requirements are met, the more godly, closer to the pleasure of Allah and the more suitable for representation. But how many adult believers are familiar and care to know the guidance? How many live by the provisions for the children at home and younger ones beyond immediate families to See, Hear, Touch, Feel, to emulate?

The second is the foundation education arrangement. The privileged among the believers are in the choice between two traps. One is to contract almost EVERYTHING about the child to Kindergarten, Day Care and schools. The other is to share the contract between outside arrangement and indoor Nannies. But even where boarding arrangement for schooling is available, it does not guarantee the safe acculturation of the child. Our work arrangements are geared towards PRODUCTIVITY only, in blindness of the need of the younger generation. Women who work in de-womanizing institutions like the banks risk failing to make responsible mothers. Those in public organizations are only less in degree. At the end of the day, the best are only in grades and not discipline. Indeed even the grades are becoming controversial for the reason that they can be bought or arranged for. The free democracy option of more schools has not been very helpful because they are out of reach for the ordinary citizens. We are then told that we are over producing ourselves and over stressing the resources. The value of humans that cannot be measured is now being checked by our thinking of the costs of structures and comforts we aspire for. This is free democracy. Why will it not be problematic when we are believers and are more careless about our reproduction? How do we expect special grace and blessings to shower on us? Is God incapable or exhausted and needs help? Have we discovered or imply that His design and provisions are imperfect? If not, what are we really living by?

And the indicator is our bests. Take the former presidents in relation to anyone that is serving. Their relationships largely veers away from our collective safety and prosperity. This is because the former suddenly discover what are not acceptable and the serving knows that it is neither strange nor different from what was before or honourable to desist from. It becomes evident to the serving that the former simply wants to CONTINUE, while the former sees the serving as not willing to LEARN. The people are the consistent losers. The case of the governors is not different. The same with Chief Executives. And this is in the best circumstance. In inferior circumstance, they avoid and castigate each other. This is why the principle and operations of Council of States has not been serving us and not because it cannot. The people are the ones who are bankrupt. With the polity, believers do not only fail to give mandate to the more or most deserving irrespective of the political party, the orientation of opposition is against the party in power, as if our beliefs of the terms for safety and prosperity are not FOR ALL OF HUMANS. Even the serving needs to be reminded that after elections responsibility is for all. What is Christian or Islamic about not guiding or helping a leader that is serving by a believer? Is criticism insanity or hatred? Is the solution to every challenge replacing the serving? These have never served us and we are still stuck to it in our orientation. Are we not worse than fools?

And the greatest misfortune is the logical machinery that oils these self-undoing. The MEDIA. Listen to radio programs in all the languages across the states, Federal agencies, the orientation is firing the religious-neutral or beliefs-free ideas. And the goal is unity. But in the end, they do not make believers better. Not even the religious programs. The television services are not different. Comparatively, the film industry is the greatest indicator. The theme of LOVE is the thickest, weightiest and greatest. But the packaging and impact infinitesimally makes better Muslims or Christians. The reason is because they are inevitable products of experts who are bred by or on the culture of free democracy. Thus, anything that will be enticing will hook-up with marketability. The god of money and worshippers of profits. And who does not love money? The print media is as imprisoning as the films become they can be easier returned to again and again. The producers, the owners and the contributors are not different. Take any national subject and you will see how it is attended to for democracy by tribalists, regionalists, those with the double misfortune of combining the two, religious disrespectful and outright free democrats. Most of them are Christians or Muslims. Top these up with social media platforms, the madness is complete. And the frightening culture of attachment to these by youths and the old is



helpless because the facilities are inevitable part of modern living BUT THE CONTENT AND FORMATS ARE OUR MAKING. Do we not have regulatory bodies? Are the operators not Muslims or Christians? Do we not even restrict or prohibit pornography? Do we not admit partial practice on our screens?

How can a child, the youths LEARN and IMBIBE values and practices that are commanded by God to attract His blessings and enjoy them for fulfilment in our atmosphere easily, comfortably and subtly? There is no doubt that one can and indeed many are comfortable and feel fulfilled BUT UNDOUBTEDLY inconsistent with what they will admit, as reassuring their safety and prosperity in this world and in the hereafter. How can we get a leader to serve and leave who is not a good thief? It will absolutely be by CHANCE. Certainly most unlikely with any who served for a good time. But God does not accept covered stealing. In our history, do people not fearlessly or shamelessly steal and submit to the law? Indeed don't associates, communities and even seeming leaders restrain or refuse to condemn fellows that are convicted? If the cases of governors and service chiefs or chief executives is not any indicator what of those of kidnappers, armed robbers and cultists?

A simple indicator is the screams by believers against fetishism, sorcery, magic, witchcraft, fortune telling, idol worship, etc. for being the first class offenses that must not be responsibly tolerated. But they are growing and wagging stronger. Why not? Do Muslims and Christians not patronize them? Do most of the practitioners not attend mosques and churches? This is free democracy. When believers bear it, they generate confusion. When they keep to their limits democracy submits to serve them.

The fruit is a product of the plant. It can be sweet, sour or bitter. It can be food or drink. It can give health or poison.

## **THE TRUTH FOR BELIEVERS**

God is true and the only source of truth and the final reference for truth. This life is temporary and the life of Hereafter is eternal. Discipline is the means to attain personal fulfilment in this world and salvation of the spirit forever. Accountability is the driver of a believer's consciousness.