

Community leader's autobiography

Original version

In one of my weekend visits to my town, as usual, I decided to see my grandfather. As I approached his compound, I noticed unusual number of people within and outside the compound. From the faces of these people, I discerned that they were visibly agitated. But surprisingly, I could barely recognise any of them and their accent was obviously different. I immediately knew they were not from my village.

As I remained in my car, pondering over the situation, I beckoned on one of the people outside the gate for his attention. On enquiry, he narrated the following stories to me. A young man from the neighbouring village confessed that the strange death within his business partner's family was caused by him. According to his narrative, he employed the services of the village shrine to settle a fraudulent business transaction between him and his friend, whom he felt cheated him. Given this confession, and some strange deaths that have occurred in his friend's family, both parents and relatives of these estranged business partners decided to come to ascertain the facts about this matter, and if it is true, how to appease the gods of the shrine/altar. And put a stop to the strange death occurrences within the family.

My edited version

During one of my weekend visits to my town, I decided to see my grandfather as usual. As I approached his compound, I noticed an unusually large number of people both inside and outside. I could tell from their faces that they were agitated. To my surprise, I barely recognised any of them and their accents were not local. I immediately knew they were not from my village.

As I remained in my car, pondering the situation, I beckoned to one of the people outside the gate. When I asked what was going on, he told me this story...

A young man from the neighbouring village had confessed to causing a strange death in his business partner's family. He had used the village shrine to settle the matter of a fraudulent business deal between himself and a friend, whom he felt had cheated him.

This confession, which indeed followed some unusual deaths in the family, had prompted the parents and relatives of the estranged business partners to come to my grandfather's compound. They wanted to establish the facts and, if the confession were true, decide how to appease the gods of the shrine and put a stop to the strange deaths.