

**A REVIEW OF MEMOIR OF NZE SIMEON UZONDU ONEBUNNE  
(OBIAK'ODUDU; EX-SEMINARIAN; CATECHIST; HEADMASTER BY DR.  
JUDE IFEANYI ONEBUNNE**

**KANU Ikechukwu Anthony**

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Tansian University, Umunya

[ikee\\_mario@yahoo.com](mailto:ikee_mario@yahoo.com)

Thomas Carlyle, the proponent of what has come to be known as the “Great Man Theory of History” once said that “The history of the world is but the biography of great men”. The broader movements and contours of history all go back to the leadership of great individuals who exerted unique influence on their times. And herein lies the reason why people write and read biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, and diaries: they provide the most valuable lessons in life from the trials and tribulations of their own lives. Every life has a beginning, middle, and an end, and how one has lived one's life should be of great interest to those who are still at the beginning. It is instructive to know how others, both famous and not so famous, handled the crises in their lives, found their life mates, raised their families, and pursued their interesting careers, whether it be as a merchant, writer, artist, poet, politician, soldier, actor, attorney, inventor, scientist, engineer, physician, nurse, teacher, or any other career you can think of. And this is exactly what the author of this piece, Dr Jude Onebunne set out to achieve.

The memoir is a work of one hundred and twenty three pages with ten chapters. It was published by Fab Educational Books. At the epicenter of this memoir and suspensefully looming large, is the proverbial “ant-infested wood that attracted the lizards” – and this is no other person than Obiak’Odudu. It was CHINUA ACHEBE that said in his work *No Longer at Ease that:*

You cannot plant greatness as you plant yams or maize. Who planted an iroko tree--the greatest tree in the forest? You may collect all the iroko seeds in the world, open the soil and put them there. It will be in vain. The great tree chooses where to grow and we find it there, so it is with the greatness in men.

In this work, an Iroko tree is remembered and celebrated. **Obiak’Odudu** is an Iroko tree and a great masquerade who through human effort has cooperated with the ETERNAL NOW, to plant himself not just in the company of the

industrious and in the fellowship of the ancestors, but also in the memories of many men and women who desire greatness.

The present memoir: *Memoir of Nze Simeon Uzundu Onebunne (Obiak'Odudu; Ex-Seminarian; Catechist; Headmaster)* by Rev. Fr. Dr. Jude Ifeanyi Onebunne is a short, clear, but eye-opening memoir. Onebunne is the kind of author whose sweeping judgments you can trust, so you leave this book with what feels like a very solid understanding of who Obiak'Odudu was. While the subject is fascinating and compelling, the writer has a voice that is utterly unique. There couldn't have been a better memoir of an ancestor. The world needs more men like Obiak'Odudu. It is a fascinating life story—better than fiction, which shows you how far hustle and hype and heat contribute to success; and that faith in yourself—deserved or not—goes a long way.