

THE IMPERATIVE OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADERSHIP IN NIGERIA

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DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.29758.72006

Abstract

A fundamental challenge of leadership failure, arguably, undergirds Nigeria's socio-political and economic misfortunes. At this time, where the forces of bad leadership have saturated the Country with mass destitution of the people, general disillusionment, anger and violence, and the impeding threat of the Country's total collapse, nothing short of revolutionary leadership is needed to halt the slide and move the Country forward. This paper attributes the problems facing Nigeria today to the endemic cycle of bad leadership. It exposes the essence of true leadership in the society and present to the nation some models of revolutionary leaders in history, who revolutionized leadership in their time and moved their societies to new frontiers. The paper urges such revolutionary spirits among the ruling class in Nigeria, whereby, motivated by the desire for the progress of the people, they say and do revolutionary things, crucially needed at this time to save Nigeria and move it forward.

Keywords: Leadership, revolutionary, liberation, service, morality, responsibility.

Introduction

There is an ever-growing pauperization of the Nigerian masses! By now, an average Nigerian has felt in his own flesh the effects of misrule of the powerful rich few in the corridors of power, whose major pursuit is wealth than service. Their increasing luxury has become an intolerable insult to the increasing misery of the masses. Like a Bulgarian bear at bay, tormented and cut into pieces by a thousand bloodhounds, Nigeria has, indeed, been besieged and clobbered by a cortege of decadent and inhumane leaders. Looking around the Country today, perhaps nothing is more evident than the truth about leadership crisis in the government. In the sequel, the masses are not only devastatingly poor, but peace and stability have continued to eluded the Country due to the general feelings of acrimony and disaffection across the land. This is compounded by the rising cases of armed banditry, ethno-religious disharmony, threats of ethnic secession, etc.

Desperate times require desperate measures, and great men cause great times. What this Country needs now is nothing but a *Revolution!* We have come to a point where nothing else can functionally matter for the survival of this Country than a revolutionary, which dismantles the evil status quo in such radical ways

that memories and histories must record them. Hence, nothing short of immediate intervention of revolutionary leaders is crucially needed at this time. At a time like this, we need leaders with a certain form of “sane madness” because they are prepared to swim against the current to end the insult of the corrupt elites against the poor masses. We need leaders, who are prepared make personal sacrifices to see that they make life uncomfortable for those powerful corrupt elites, who have reduced the masses to sub-human conditions of living. We need such leaders at this time, who are ready to defy abuses while they say and do revolutionary things that ultimately expose the wicked agendas of those who have been using their offices to corruptly enrich themselves and make the rest of Nigerians merely hang on to life by foraging garbage heaps! We need such leaders now who are prepared to step on toes in the society to change the system and lead our reluctant society to new frontiers. Such leaders, whose revolutionary decisions and actions can be followed by far-reaching changes in our socio-political life, which armed-chair round-table discussions and undue pacifism may not accomplish in record time, is what we need at this critical time of our life.

Essence Of Leadership

Before we further our discussion on revolutionary leadership for our Country, it is pertinent to intimate ourselves of the true essence of leadership. Generally, leadership is about inspiring people to do their best. According to Anthony D’Souza, “Leadership motivates and inspires people to work together in the achievement of common objectives” (68). In a basic sense, good leaders need two characteristics, namely: Dedication to the achievement of certain definite and noble goals and objectives; and the ability to cultivate others to work towards achieving those goals and objectives.

From the above conception, leadership is, basically, the art of getting things done through mobilizing people. It is the ability to get others to work enthusiastically and competently toward accepted objectives. What the followers accomplish actually express leadership. Results of leadership show how much people understand about the goals they pursue, how they perform, how unified they are in the group, and how committed they are toward attaining these goals. James McGregor Burns, captures this point clearly in his work, *Leadership*, when he states that “the leader’s principal task is one of instilling purpose” (18). Also, in his *The Art of Leadership*, Lin Bothwell points out two qualities that set true leaders apart: One, they have a dream they are determined to carry out. Second, more than just dreamers, they are a people of action (133). Accomplishments do not just come from those who dream great dream, or even from those who have the potential to carry them out. Rather, results follow actions – actions that often inspire others to

act. Single acts result in collective acts and these collective acts change the world. The basic essence of leadership thus has a revolutionary tone, for this is what leadership is meant to do: Change the world by achieving the task; Building the team; Motivating and Developing others.

Leader's Specific Roles

The leader's specific role towards achieving the task, for which the group exists, consists in the following duties: Determining the organizations' goals and objectives; Planning necessary activities; Clarifying responsibilities and accountability; Maintaining channels of communication; Developing cooperation, and Establishing control points to resolve problems and review progress made.

Concerning Building the team, the leaders basic roles consists in understanding that he cannot do the job alone but needs others to follow. Hence, he must ensure communal understanding and ownership of the group's goals and objectives; clear delineation of roles and responsibilities (who does what); group procedures or work processes; interpersonal relationships among group members; group leadership needs; maximum use of members abilities and resources; and keeping the "team climate" free, open and supportive.

About Motivating and developing others, the leader's roles consist in helping those under their authority to find satisfaction in their work, in their recreation and acceptance within their group. Hence, leaders must see that his followers receive adequate attention and recognition for their contributions towards the achievements of the organization's goals as well as adequate help to improve their living conditions. The leader must equally ensure that their followers are challenged to stretch their abilities to achieve set objectives with responsibilities that match their capacities, as well as have opportunity to develop their potential, so they can advance in experience and skills. Within a Country, the leaders must therefore ensure that the citizens are provided amenities that will help them make life worth living and comfortably; pay them just wages enough to enable them cater for their varied needs; assure their freedom of conscience and movement and guarantee their basic human rights. The absence of these, inevitably results in leadership failure.

In a basic sense, achievement-minded leaders possess three common attributes: vision, discipline and passion. Vision is seeing with the mind's eye what is possible in people, in projects and in a cause. Vision arises when our mind joins needs with possibility. Nigeria has had the misfortune of being led by visionless leaders since independence, who neglect the development of their minds capacity to create and see possibilities in our rich human and natural resources. Due to

such lack of vision, our huge resources have been wasted, stolen and underutilized. Our leaders have nothing but the special knack for the mismanagement of our God-given wealth. The oil boom became for us oil doom; and while the masses seem to experience resource curse, the rich few fiddle away in illimitable affluence because they have amassed the resources to themselves!

Discipline is paying the price to bring vision into a reality. Discipline arises when vision joins with commitment. It is doing what it takes to make things happen by sacrificing the thrills and pleasures of the moment for what matters most towards achieving the organizational or group, goals and objectives. The opposite of discipline and commitment that inspires sacrifice is indulgence – sacrificing what matters most for the benefit of the people for egoistic pleasures and thrills of the moment. This is exactly what has been going on among our leaders in the Country. Due to want of discipline, they mindlessly go into overdrive in plundering the public coffers to create luxuries around themselves, just to give themselves all exquisite comforts this life can offer at the expense of the poor masses, thrown to the vagaries of hunger, diseases and lack.

Passion is the fire, the desire, the strength of conviction and the drive that sustains the discipline to achieve the vision. Without passion that flows from genuine conviction to change the situation of things and improve the lot of the people, discipline and vision are nothing but empty chatter of a thousand deceptive promises and sloganeering. This has been an established status quo in our Country's political leadership since independence. Decadent in passion and political will, our leaders are only expert in the art of deceiving the masses with empty promises before elections. They surround themselves with sycophants, who trumpet their putative achievements after elections. With such political swindle, they sing of their praises, while actually forging their chains of misery on the people. They con the people into accepting a dehumanizing *status quo* with white elephant projects, raising in them nothing other than utopian hopes.

However, despite the need for vision, discipline and passion in every leader, these three attributes must be governed by *Conscience* if leadership must work effective. Stephen Covey rightly observes that, "When conscience governs vision, discipline and passion, leadership endures and changes the world for good" (70). The message here is that it is moral authority, which makes formal authority work. Conscience as the inward moral sense of what is right and what is wrong is the guiding force to vision, discipline and passion. It is "that faculty which makes known to man his moral obligations and urges him to fulfill them" (Peschke, 168). It is the divine centre of the person, where he is addressed by God and where a person is called to responsibility before God. This is why disobedience to the

voice of conscience entails the guilt of sin. Conscience stands in stark contrast to the life dominated by ego.

When Conscience does not govern Vision, Discipline and Passion in a leader, his leadership can neither work, nor create institutions for the good of the people. When this happens, as in the case will our Country, leadership becomes opportunity for self-deification, institutionalization of impunity and oppressive structures – to secure itself. The resultant effect of this is the litany of sorrows and sufferings Nigerians have experienced and are still experiencing today.

Historic Bad Leaders

As the irreversible indicator, history is replete with unmistakable account of men who were so influential and would have successfully laid the foundation of great empires but for their lack of conscience. Adolf Hitler of Germany, for instance, had vision, discipline and passion but was driven by ego. Hitler eventually channeled his ego into hate and destruction of others in the society. In his egoistic vision for the superior Aryan race, Hitler had already promised himself, “Once I really am in power, my first and foremost task will be the annihilation of Jews” (Hell, 5). And when he eventual came into power, he massacred over 6 million Jews!

Lack of conscience was his downfall. The same was true of Jean Bedel Bokassa of Central African Republic, Idi Amin Dada of Uganda, Marcias Nguema of Equatorial Guinea, Gaddafi of Libya, Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, said Barre of Somalia, Samuel Doe of Liberia, Sam Abacha of Nigeria, and so forth. While the whimsical empires founded by these men have crumbled and become condemnatory relics of leadership without conscience, their successor in power have shown little or no interest in learning from their mistakes. Hence, the travels of the masses continue.

Leadership Failure In Nigeria

The story of leadership in Nigeria is one without conscience – driven by ego. The majority of Nigerians have indeed been stripped naked by corrupt, selfish, greedy and callous elite with abysmally dead consciences (Ehusani,19). Thousands are dying of starvation and otherwise curable diseases because hospitals have become glorified mortuaries! Millions are unemployed and take refuge under overhead bridges and graduates warm the streets in their thousands in search of non-existent jobs. The educational system is in virtual collapse. While the children of the rich and powerful are sent to elite schools and colleges at home and abroad,

those of the poor are condemned to study under pitiable conditions and often drop out due to lack of funds.

Side by side with this rear-destitution of the majority however, is the affluence and conspicuous consumption of a few super-rich Nigerians whose wealth have multiplied about the same degree as the misery of the masses. Today, most Nigerians have lost hope in the Nigerian project. They are clearly on the either side of those calling for a restructuring of the Country or a break-up. The drums beat of secession are reverberating across the land. Ethno-religion clashes have taken the centre-stage; and quit notices against non-indigenes in various communities across the Country is snookering the last vestige of security of lives and property, after the unflagging maelstrom of terrorism, militancy and herdsmen. These are simply symptomatic of a failed and dysfunctional leadership system in the country. The circumstance of our country today requires for its effective remedy nothing but “revolutionary leadership”.

Revolutionary Leadership For Nigeria

A basic truth we all need to remind ourselves of at this time is that, the powerful rich few in this Country could never be what they are today unless they have rendered a great majority of people poor and wretched by their selfishness and greed. This means that, there will continue to be oppression if they must survive and remain in unbridled affluence. What operate then in the Country seems to the Principle of *Manchesterian – Liberalism* that: “All accumulation of wealth falls by an absolutely insuperable economic law to the rich and that by the same, the masses are given over and bound to perpetual want of the scantiest of livelihood” (Orjinta, 54). In other words, by the same established corrupt system, with which the rich have contrived to acquire wealth for themselves in the society, they render the masses inexorably poor. But we cannot allow this to continue! The corrupt system must be decisive overthrown and replaced with one, rooted in a macro-anthropological understanding that the end, centre and purpose of social and political life is the existing human person, who cannot be reduce to a mere portion of nature or a nameless element in the human city.

Hence, if we have given away our present to the past, we do not need to give away our future also. The great spoliation of the people, ruthless devastation of our Country and mindless plundering of our economy have been so invidious that what is required to counteract them and so, safeguard the future of this Country is nothing but revolutionary activities. Revolutionary leadership is leadership that dismantles oppressive structure without any apology. It is ready alter the defective status quo and to charge the evil paradigms for the good of the people, even at the risk of being misunderstood, misjudged and misrepresented.

We need such leaders at this time who are ready to take up the fight against the forces of oppression, corruption and misrule in this Country in such revolutionary ways that approximate the French Revolution of the 18th Century, the Black American Revolution and the Latin American Liberation Movements of the 20th Century.

Only a powerful force of revolutionary leadership is needed to liberate the people and save this Country from the hands of the wicked minority. In the face of our present predicament, some are afraid to ask questions or to do things differently, even in their various leadership capacities, to avoid rocking the boat. Others regard these distasteful happenings in the Country as a give and surrender to fatalism in the name of fate. Some others bury their heads in the sand. Others still, grumble. Some embrace certain ideologies that deflate them from going after what they might have collectively struggled to obtain as their rights from the callous leaders. Some chant songs in praise of the oppressive system for what they can get out of it for their survival.

Yet, a few classes apart say “No” in thunder, using various methods to make their points. Revolutionary leaders do not just say “No”, they are prepared for a change – to upturn the entire system not minding whose ox is gone. They are prepared to sacrifice their comfort for the well-being of the masses by plunging themselves into deep areas others dare not go. They are prepared to be called law-breakers and rebels, so long as they can liberate the people and save them from the misrule of selfish megalomaniacs and decadent powerful elite in the society.

Revolutionary Leaders In History

History is replete with examples of revolutionary leaders, who through their “revolutionary” ways of life and acting, have not only had profound influences on others, institutions and their societies, but also altered the evil and oppressive structures of their societies of their time, so that, new better priorities took the centre-stage for the benefit of the people. They have demonstrated vision, discipline and passion in their leadership activities, governed with conscience. In revolutionary ways, they have become poor in an unconditional solidarity with the poor to save them from their poverty. They have learned and exhibited such uncommon leadership, which takes genuine interest in the people’s problems, encouraged the people, awaken enthusiasm, faith and courage in their activities and inspired the people to act for the good of all in the society.

They are a people of prayer and action who have understood that the overthrown evil cabal in the society is an indispensable means to ensure the real progress of the people. They knew too well that, this requires not just the weapon of prayer

but also of human action here and now. In their actions, they did not just adjust to unbearable condition or seek to avoid them, but paid the price of personal discomfort to overthrow the system responsible for such conditions. They were not carried away by the majesty of the king or the so-called kingmakers, but were interested in the overthrow of their tyranny and oppression. With this “sane madness”, they strived to tilt the world to their orbit in a non-conformist way in order to achieve that which is best for their people, even when it was obvious to them that in doing this, they were stepping on big toes and were thereby courting abuses, fortune and even death.

Socrates

The importance of critics, conscientious rebels and revolutionary leaders was illustrated long ago by the story of Socrates, the classical Athenian philosopher. Socrates had sacrificially taken upon himself the onerous task of serving as a gadfly to awaken the consciousness of the Athenian to their moral responsibility. As recorded in Plato’s *Apology*, Socrates taught the people that, “wealth does not bring about virtue, but virtue brings about wealth and all other public and private blessings for men” (30b). His mission therefore, was to draw the attention of the Athenians to this wisdom, and to the important thing of life: The best possible care for the soul. It is for this reason that he criticized the Athenians for their excessive quests for wealth and honour, instead of seeking true knowledge that can enhance their spiritual well-being.

Expectedly, in doing this, Socrates stepped on powerful toes in the society and so endangered his life. He knew this full well; and so when on trial at the Athenian Court on trumped charges of teaching people to disbelieve in the gods and corrupting the minds of the youths, he said: “There is no man who will preserve his life for long, either in Athens or elsewhere, if he firmly opposes the multitudes, and tries to prevent the commission of much injustice and illegality in the state” (qtd. in John Burr and Milton Goldinger, 19). But rather than escape on asylum as suggested by his friends or appeal to the jury with weeping and wailing (as was customary), Socrates noted to the jury which had condemned him to death: “I would very much rather defend myself as I did, and die than as you would have me do and live” (19). He was prepared to die for his noble cause to lead his people to truth and wisdom, ultimately needed for their happiness, rather than batter his conscience or live a fake life. As his parting prophecy to those who had condemned him to death, Socrates not only noted that if they kill him for being the conscience of the society, they would not harm him but themselves, but also that, “it is more honourable and much easier not to suppress others, but to make yourself as good as you can” (19).

Revolutionary leaders with such Socratic conviction that wealth does not bring virtue but it is virtue that brings wealth; that it is wrong to undermine the rule of conscience; and that it is evil to oppress others and make them pay for one's advantage, is what Nigeria needs at this time. At this time, we need revolutionary leaders in our families, churches, and politics with the courage of Socrates to swim against the tide of prevalent status quo of corruption, oppression and victimization in the society. we need such to ensure that the voice of conscience is not eventually extinguished from the society by the wicked misdeeds of those in authority, especially now that corruption is seriously fighting back the attempt to decisively fight it.

Mahatma Gandhi

Though not a political leader in any way, yet, through his revolutionary sacrifice and moral authority, Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental to compelling the British Government to give Indian its independence. He created such strong social and cultural, norms that it ultimately shaped the political will of the people, leading to the liberation of Indians and the establishment of India as an independent state. At several occasions, Gandhi went without food for weeks for this purpose. He governed his life by an awareness of a universal conscience that resided within the people, the international community and the British themselves. His moral authority compelled a revolutionary change in the political life of Indians for good.

For the true survival of this Country, and for effective war against corruption, we currently need leaders at all levels of authorities with the revolutionary *moral* authority as Gandhi's. There is the grave need for an aggressive moral reformation in our families, churches, politics and the judiciary. Nowadays, the judiciary system has been so compromised that, justice is for the rich. Even with the introduction of the whistle-blowing policies, there can be no guarantee for success with the revolutionary moral authority of our leaders and judges. We need now leaders with moral authority like Gandhi's, by which they understand that, by losing one's conscience one has nothing left that is worth keeping. This are the type of leaders and judges we need at this time, who believe in the power of truth and righteousness more than they believe in the power of money and fame.

Martin Luther King Jr.

In the wake of 1950s, America was taken by storm through the non-violent activities of Martin Luther King Jr. King wrestled with the conscience of America

to free his black brothers and sisters from the American segregation and racist laws against them. He became a great revolutionary leader, not by amassing the people's wealth for himself or his family, but because he made himself useful to people in greater service through personal sacrifice. He did not allow personal interest to supersede the common good. Racial segregation had become a life-blood in America. It was endorsed by law and custom. King cherished the risk of torture and death so that his people, who had been *dehumanized* and tortured under these laws, might be freed to live as human beings.

King stormed the American cities preaching non-violence resistance, love, social justice and brotherhood of all men. Many people flocked around him because they saw in him a man with a mission that would change the history of America as no other man ever did. Though he was hated for it by the authorities, he cared not about that, nor the risk involved. He was bold enough to defy those American racist laws in favour of the dictate of his conscience, insisting that, "there will neither be rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights" (Odey, 64).

King knew that he had to fight for the freedom of his black brothers and sisters. A few years into his struggles, the entire nation was already engulfed in an incandescent eruption of non-violent revolution. These compelled the American government to consider the repealing the segregation and racist laws against the blacks in the Country. King will ever remain alive in the minds of all men and women of goodwill, because he embraced the risk of torture and death to change all these unfortunate situation in America once and for all.

In a country like ours today, where discrimination due to tribe and religion is the order of the day and where nepotism is the norm of for the assessment of political and social benefits, we need revolutionary leaders of the likes of Martin Luther King Jr. We need leaders with such vision of national unity and social integration and with such passion, discipline and conscience, who also ready to take radical steps to translate that vision into reality by making it difficult for the oppressive *status quo* of injustice and ethnocentrism and their perpetrators and beneficiaries to survive. We need such visionary leaders who are prepared to restructure this Country on the basis of true federalism in such a way that the needs of everyone in the Country is balanced through the dynamics of proper devolution of powers to and contributions from the federating units. This is the time to combine prayer with revolutionary activities if the spirit of national unity and brotherhood must prevail over the satanic segregation and discrimination that is consigning this Country to the precipice of collapse.

Nelson Mandela

Worthy of consideration here too, is Nelson Mandela, former South Africa President. Mandela spent 27 years in prison for fighting apart the Apartheid regime in South Africa. Under the Apartheid regime, there were strict laws separating the blacks from Whites in South Africa. It was a crime for blacks and white people to eat together, go to the same school or attend any public gathering together. Blacks were generally denied their basic human rights because of their skin colour. Arbitrary decisions that dehumanized their persons were also taken against them in their fatherland. Mandela took up the fight to free his people from this bondage. He was impelled by his imagination rather than his memory as every good, achievement-driven and revolutionary leader ought to. Like Martin Luther King Jr., Mandela could envision a world far beyond the confines of his experience and memory, where the chains of racial segregation are broken and the oppressed blacks freed so that the spirit of brotherhood would prevail over racism.

Mandela was made to pay a very costly price for being such a dreamer and for motivating his people to struggle for the realization of this dream. He was imprisoned for 27 years with tortures and abuses. However, deep within his soul resonated a belief in the worth of every South African citizen, who deserved just and fair treatment as human beings. With this conviction, he accepted the challenge of his fate for the sake of the freedom of his people. Like the legendary Sisyphus, Mandela knew that there is no fate that cannot be surmounted by scorn. He rejoiced in the happiness that he would never abdicate the struggle for the freedom of his people. Thus, even while in jail he continued with the struggle through his followers by means of his powerful influence on them. When apartheid eventually crumbled through this struggle, Mandela came out of the prison to become the first black South African President. His revolutionary spirit influenced his decision not to perpetuate himself in power despite pressure from other African leaders.

At this time in the history of our Country, we need leaders with genuine revolutionary spirit like Mandela's, who are motivated by the genuine feeling for the sufferings of the people, and are prepared to pay the price whatsoever to free them from the bondage of economic inequality and socio-political exclusion. We need leaders with the Mandela spirit, who treasure the worth of every Nigerian, and are prepared to effect a change in the system by winning Nigeria from the rich and powerful for the poor and powerless. We need such revolutionary leaders who are not power-drunk, but who sincerely see leadership as

opportunity to serve the people-upon whom sovereignty lies. We need leaders like Mandela, who do not sacrifice national interest for their morbid obsession for power and personal interest. We need action-oriented leaders, who are prepared to change this Country for good and who do not build walls of protection around themselves, while the masses languish in injustice and oppression.

Jesus Christ

Among all the models of revolutionary leader, the greatest is Jesus Christ of Nazareth, chosen by God, to restore the fallen humanity to its original glory with God. Hence, if we must authentically develop and abide in the realm of peace, brotherhood and victory – whether as individual or as a nation – the best model of revolutionary leadership, we need in this Country today, is Jesus. “He presents us with a radically different and better way of understanding human life on earth, attaining success and fulfillment, responsible living and use of power and authority, etc. He undertook leadership revolution necessary for the world today” (Etuk, 344).

Even though he mounted a positionless pedestal in matters of politics, yet, Jesus never failed to lay down models for earthly leaders and rulers: “The greatest among you must be your servant” (Mtt. 20: 28). His model of leadership is one of compassion for the people. He is a leader who is moved with compassion for the suffering people (cf. Mk. 1, 40-45). He identifies with them in their situation in order that he frees the oppressed (Mt. 11:28). He came to give his life so that men may have life (cf. John 10:10). He came to serve and not to be served and to give his life as a ransom to save his people (cf. Mt. 20:28), and finally he accepted the humiliation or a shameful death on the cross in order to give life to the entire world condemned to death by sin (cf. I Peter 2:21-25).

In his public ministry, Christ scandalized the rich and powerful of his time, because, contrary to the status quo they had established, which oppressed the poor for their selfish advantage, he shared greater solidarity with the poor, the weak, the simple, the lowly, the neglected and the forgotten people. He showed himself truly as a servant to the worthy cause of the people and through the power and authority of his word, and actions, he changed their world for good so that “the afflicted were comforted, the heartbroken were healed, the crippled were strengthened and the marginalized were given value” (Ehusani, *Gospel Reflection...*, 94).

At this time of general despair, suffering and confusion in the land, Nigeria needs revolutionary leaders after the mind of Christ, who sacrificially use their positions

for the service of the people. We need revolutionary leaders in politics, who in their self-abasement, take pity on the sufferings of the people and dedicate themselves to improving their conditions even at the risk of being attacked and killed. We need revolutionary leaders who do not fear the evil of man-made laws and tradition, but who are truly motivated by the desire for the happiness and progress of the people, and are willing to show them real love through their personal sacrifices.

We need revolutionary leaders in our religious sector today, where spiritual intensification of wickedness, oppression and suppression has now been canonized in many of our religious bodies. Rather than leaders who are power-drunk in the churches and who adopt tyrannical dispositions, we need revolutionary religious leaders who are ready to stoop to even the meanest services and labour for the good of the people of God. Rather than those who lord it over the people of God and treat them like horses under their command of the driver, who hassles and beats them about to serve their own interest, we need revolutionary leaders in our religious houses, who truly work for the enhancement of the dignity of the flock under their charge. We need revolutionary leaders in the churches and mosques, who do not just preach, but witness to what they preach in their lives.

Conclusion

Certainly, in the face of mass corruption, oppression, exploitation of the masses, socio-political violence and conflicts, calls for secession and restructuring of the Country, we need revolutionary leaders to show the way forward. Such leaders are needed at this time of uncertainties, who possess in them a certain amount of "sane madness" that enables them to cherish the risk of torture, and of being branded rebels and revolutionaries, for the worthy cause of liberating the poor masses from the wicked grip of our corrupt elite. We need such revolutionary leaders who, not counting the cost, are prepared to step on powerful toes in their belief *ala* Soyinka that, "the man dies in all who keeps silent in the face of tyranny" (13). We need leaders with a revolutionary cause to question the evil status quo and challenge the arrogance of the rich and powerful, if this country must survive.

Surely leadership carries a heavy burden if responsibility. This is why all our leaders in politics and religion must understand that power must be exercised within the limit of morality and for the good of the people. Like life, power or authority is meaningfully and successfully exercised in proportion to which it is laid out in service for others. When such is the case, the social and spiritual life

will find fulfillment in the truth, justice, freedom and solidarity that brings peace to all. Power or authority is not for self-expression as has been the case with our leaders since independence in this country, but for self-sacrifice. Only revolutionary leadership can ensure the appropriate ordering of things in this Country at least for now.

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