

**AVARICE- A CANKER-WORM IN THE  
NIGERIAN SOCIETY**

**BY**

**IRORERE ITOHAN MERCY**

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## CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was carried out By IRORERE ITOHAN MERCY of the department of Fine and Applied arts, University of Benin, Benin city, Nigeria,

In Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for the award Of Bachelor in Arts Degree(B.A ) in Painting .

External Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_

Prof. Clifford Nwanna

Date

Project Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_

El-Dragg Leonard Okwoju

Date

Head of Department

\_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Kennedy Eweka

Date

## INTRODUCTION

It has become a notorious fact that despite efforts by the government, Avarice remains an endemic in Nigeria. It has eaten into the soul of the society. It has indeed become a national issue. If this menace is not tackled effectively and comprehensively, it will eventually destroy our nation. Lawal (2012) says that:

While corruption is on the increase, our life expectancy seems to be decreasing, poverty and powerlessness are the order of the day. People's lives are taken cheaply through different means by;armed robbers, hired assassins, kidnappers,disposed of through pot holes on most of our high ways.

The implication of the above statement is that corruption has bred poverty and insecurity in Nigeria. They are the roots of sin which should not be compromised but needs a frontal' attack in pulling down this stronghold.

Nigeria is complex economically, socially, politically, ethnically and religiously, and scholars have had that to address.

In Nigeria, there are three(3) categories of people namely; **the crowd, the revenue collectors and the politicians**, Whereas, the principal actors whose activities were characterized by corruption, exploitation, degradation,

avarice, selfishness, and other forms of bad images which had the moral situation of the nation to extremely deteriorate.

There is a saying that for evil to triumph, every God fearing person has maintained mute, indifference and cold complexity. An exposition of the moral situation and the need for

repentance is imperative not only to launder the damaged image of Nigerians, but to re-interpret the quest for ethical orientation from Nigerian perspective.

Avarice is one of the most serious problems confronting both the government and the people of Nigeria in general.

#### **STATEMENT OF PROBLEM:**

From the background to the study, Nigeria has large reserve of solid minerals, with proven reserve of crude petroleum and natural gas. These indicate great solid base for development and great potential for greatness. Given to the vastly untapped wealth, raw materials, together with her entrepreneurial and energetic people (men and women) alongside great agricultural resources, the Nigerian Economic Summit (1996). Nigeria has great potential for greatness. The reverse seems to be the case as Nigeria has continued to fall behind so many other countries in an increasing global economic system.

Obadan (1998) says that

" in spite of Nigeria's great potential to achieve greatness and guaranteed improved welfare and high standard of living for the masses, Nigeria has continued to witness low growth, high poverty rates, squalor and misery in the midst of plenty".

Nigeria today is in a state of emergency in spite of our achievements because of this cankerworm called **Avarice**.

The study is disturbed with the urgent, retrogressive and multiplying socio-political cultural, economic and moral crisis in Nigeria. These crises have continued to impede the growth and development of the country

## **OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:**

1. 1. To X-ray the concept of Avarice and analyze it as one of the current situation in Nigeria.
- (ii) To establish leadership commitment and good governance as fundamental to the survival and progress of any nation.
- (iii) To offer solution to poor governance as well as ineffectual anti-corruption policies in Nigeria.
- (iv) to offer useful recommendations on how to curb greed in Nigeria.

## **RESEARCH QUESTIONS :**

1. Why has Avarice become a canker worm to the state of the Nigerian society?
2. Are the government leaders the only ones responsible for the problem of greed?
3. Why do Corrupt practices persist in the midst of anti- corrupt policies?
4. What ways can Avarice be eradicated in the society being that it is not only an act of impulse but one which is psychological?

## **DEFINITION OF TERMS :**

**Avarice:** According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, Avarice means the excessive or insatiable desire for wealth or gain. Or an inordinate or insatiable longing for material gain, be it food, money, status, or power. As a secular psychological concept, greed is an inordinate desire to acquire or possess more than one needs.

**Canker-worm:** According to the free dictionary, canker-worm The larva of either of two geometrid moths (*Paleacrita vernata* or *Alsophila pometaria*), destructive to fruit and shade trees

**Society:** According to Wikipedia, A society is a group of individuals involved in persistent social interaction, or a large social group sharing the same spatial or social territory, typically subject to the same political authority and dominant cultural expectations.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This deals with the systematic method of research adopted in achieving the project.

This is thereby subdivided into the following categories

- Subject Matter
- Instrument for Data Collection
- Sample and Sampling Technique
- Population of the Study
- Description of the Materials
- Procedure (Studio Production Process)
- Description of Method of Visual Analysis

### **Subject Matter:**

'AVARICE (Extreme quest for wealth)

### **Instrument for Data Collection**

The method of data collection includes records, articles, journals, news, and other electronic devices, such as cameras, internet.

### **Sample and Sampling Technique**

The sampling technique used in the selection of the subject matter is the simple random sampling.

### **Population of the Study**

The researcher's sample is drawn to citizens of Nigeria as a case study.

### **Description of Materials**

I. Stretcher: this is a wooden frame upon which the canvas is stretched and it is also known as Chassis.

II. Canvas: this is an extremely durable plain-woven fabric used for painting. It is popularly used as a painting surface.

III. Staple Gun: this is a device made up of light metal used manually to fasten canvas to the stretcher.

IV. Top Bond Glue: this substance is used for sizing the canvas thereby covering up the pores on it to make the paint stay on the painting ground and not sink through the other side of the fabric.

V. Emulsion Paint: this is a mastic substance which converts a surface to a solid film after application to substrate in a thin layer. It is used in priming a canvas with the mixture of bond glue on a surface to block the canvas pores.

VI. Pastel chalk :

VII. Rag: this is a piece of cloth material used in cleaning my hand whilst drawing with pastel ,to prevent laying on of unwanted colors.

VIII. Charcoal /pastel pencils : This is used for Detailing,especially features of the face,like the eyes,nose, lips ,etcetera.

IX. Fixative :This is a solution that will protect the pastel from smudging.

### **Description of Procedure for Carrying out the Project**

The project was carried out in the following stages:

Stage 1: Stretching of the canvas on a chassis

Stage 2: Painting ground preparation-sizing and priming

Stage 3: Making the composition sketch

Stage 4: Painting

Stage 5: Detailing

Stage 6: Finishing

### **Description of Method of Visual Analysis**

A critique (discussion) was carried out to evaluate the project on the following:

1. Project Title

2. Medium

3. Size

4. Concept

5. Draughtsman ship

6. Technique

7. Color

8. Style

9. Analysis

## **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Conclusion**

Nigerians in low and high places think only about themselves and themselves alone. No wonder, many are dying of hunger while others don't mind collecting the little that the dying is having to survive for the moment. Thus, Avarice is the cankerworm that badly affects Nigerian society.

## Summary

What then is Avarice? And how has it become the cankerworm eating deep down the fabric of the Nigerian society? These questions are going to serve as a guide to our exposition. To begin with, Avarice is an “intense and selfish desire for wealth, power or food.” To put this in other words, greed means a consuming desire for wealth, power, or food. The two underlining words “intense” and “selfish” make our desire a consuming one. People can do anything for wealth and power without considering its effect on others. People find their way to the top by all means. People try to live big even if it means trampling on the right of others. People yearn to possess things that belong to others.

This thing called Greed has bred what we are struggling with (corruption) within Nigeria today. Corrupt practices in every sector of Nigerian society are a result of this cankerworm called Greed. People are consumed with the desire for riches and power.

Nigeria today is in a state of emergency in spite of our achievements because of this cankerworm called Greed. The embezzlement of large sums of money in public and private sectors – in billions and trillions, both in the local and foreign currencies has impoverished the country.

## **Recommendation**

1. Pastel can be used to execute any kind of painting style and technique and to achieve quality art piece.
2. The project is executed with the purpose of creating a visual record which will help expose the general public on the dangers of Avarice
3. This can be a propelling force for artists to explore pastel to canvas

**References:**

Bonajo Badejo, a senior advocate of Nigeria and public commentator, writes from Lagos.

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