Introduction to Nigerian poetry 2

Course Code: ELS122

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BRAVE STAB BY AKACHI ADIMORA-EZEIGBO

THE POET’S BACKGROUND;

**Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbo is a Nigerian author and an educator whose published work include novels,poems, short stories, books for children’s essays and journalisms. She is the winner of several awards in Nigeria including the Nigerian prize for literature.**

**She was born as the first of the six children of Joshua and Christiana Adimora. She was raised in Eastern Nigeria amd combines the urban and rural environment as background and setting for her children’s stories and adult friction.**

**She obtained her bachelor of Arts(BA) and masters (MA) degree in English from the University of Lagos and her Ph.D from University of Ibadan, in Nigeria. She also has a post graduate diploma in education(PGDE)from University of Lagos where she is presently Head of English Department. She has lived in the North, East and Western part of Nigeria and has travelled extensively in Afriaca, Europe and in the USA.**

BACKGROUND OF THE POEM;

**In “Brave Stab”, the poet mocks the intrigues and political hypothesis perpetuated by our politicians who held the Bible in one hand and a gun in the other. According to the poet, these politicians profess love, oneness but give hatred and dichotomy in return. In the poem, the poet mocks their involvement with women as well as other unchecked excesses; news in brief/official news of observation conformed/female presence on the increase in the vicinity of government house…**

**But news behind the scene reports thus:**

**News behind the scene/unofficial news of**

**Some skeptics/regard it as rumour**

**Politicians womanize/Too much**

**Too many/women/around them**

**These men permanently/stand for erection**

**Rather than election**

**The poet thus wounded posed theseheart-touching and important questions;**

**What time/do they have to**

**Steer the ship of state/before it stalls**

**Or sinks/they**

**Deport dubious lovers/ impressionable ones**

**If press sniffs fresh scandal/ it is silenced**

**With treats/ or shot-gun**

**The long/ And**

**The short/of it is**

**Judge for yourself**

Themes:

1. Sex Scandal; **In the poem, we were made to understand that the men are known for the sexual involvement with women of different kinds and they never make out with the same women they always have new ones whom they have sexual involvement which we can see this in stanza two where the poet says; ‘’They change them/As actresses/change dresses/from one seductress/ to another/walking street’’.**
2. Irresponsibility; **in the poem we were also told that due to the deviant attitudes of the government officials of sleeping around with different women, they have no time to take care of the affairs of the state which causes the state to end up in a case of despairs we can see this in stanza 2:’’what time/do they have to/steer the ship of state/ before it stalls/or sinks/they/.Deport dubious lovers/import impressionable ones.’’**
3. Idleness; **This can be seen on the part of women who hang around in the vicinity of the government house and this is frowned upon and condemned by the same government officials who still have sexual involvement with them and this act by the women cause distraction for them and the idleness by these women is on the increase.**
4. Conflicting Reports; **the poet does not know if the news above the government officials being womanizers are true or not if the government officials put sex first before the activities of the state and so she concludes by saying we should judge for ourselves.**

Language and style; **diction (choice of words):the poet uses his words satarically to address the issues or matter of the people in the political office. She employs the use of rash words to describe the acts and doings of the most politicians in the government. As seen in stanza one, the poet makes use of words such as culpable; shame to explain or try to convoy to the readers that the acts of the politicians are wrong and improper. Also, words like slave, distraction , erection and many other words were used in this poem by the poet explains her exasperation of the attitudes of politicians and other officials in the government.**

Tone; **the manner in which the poet expresses her themes are harsh as she sees or sets the reader to see the immoral and improper act of the politicians and the people who rule our government. She expresses these feelings of irritation with harsh words, which accurately describes the doings of all the leaders.**

POETIC DEVICES:

1. **Idiomatic Monologue; it is used to show the feelings of the poet bin the course of the poem that is, the thoughts of the poet was said alone. Eg; they charge them/As actresses/change dresses/from one seductress/to another/walking the street’, ‘Politicians womanise/too much/too many/women/around them’, etc.**
2. **Enjambment; This is the poetic device mostly used in the poem, ideas are being expressed in a line of the poem is spilled to the next or subsequent line.**
3. **Couplet; this is two successive rhyming lines of a poem and it can be seen in the poem stanza 2 when the poet said.**

**Stand for erection**

**Rather than election**

1. **Sarcasm; the poet uses this device in the poem to highlight the government officials involvement with women instead the affairs of the state, ‘it is said/they get migraine/if they see/same woman two tones’, it tries to the show that the men never had sexual involvement with the same women and it runs to the next line to further say that they change the women just like the way actresses change clothes.**
2. **Simile; the poet compared the attitude of government officials changing women to the way actresses change dresses. ‘They change them/As actresses/Change dresses.**