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## THE MENACE OF CULTISM

It is no longer an element of surprise when people hear or talk about cultism, its effects and consequences. The origin of cultism was traced to the seadog confraternity (a.k.a. pirates) founded by Wole Soyinka and six others at the Foremost University of Ibadan in 1952. The peaceful and non-violent confraternity set up then in the 1980's, metamorphosed into a secret cult whose activities have been characterized by some bizarre and violent activities, which brings me to the definition of "CULTISM", in today's generation.

The term "CULTISM", refers to a ritual practice by a group of people whose membership, admission, policy and initiation formalities as well as their mode of operations are done in secret and kept secret, with their activities having negative effects on both the members and non-members alike. It is also an enclosed association devoted to the same course which often clashes with accepted norms and values of the everyday life. Who are suspected to these vices and what are their reasons respectively?

Statistics and research have made it crystal clear that the majority revolving around this vice are children, teenagers and youths in the present-day generation. There are numerous cases of unsavory aggressive indecencies involving adolescents such as: persistent violence, bullying and hooliganism. What are the reasons they present when asked?

Peer pressure, parental background, low self-esteem, fear or for social acceptance, quest for power and protection among others (having supreme power above all and having the world at the finger tips, while others are caught in the web of deceit, believing that they can threaten their teachers and lecturers and having that lady or guy they desire.

With all these, CULTISM has been a great arrow in the heart of the society in general that has pierced it deeply and seems unending. With all these duly examined, what threat, consequences or dangers does

it pose to the individual, the family and the society at large (including the educational sector, religious aspect, the government)?

To the individual, CULTISM is undoubtedly associated with drug and alcohol addictions, which contributes to serious and delicate health complications, insanity as a result of the effects these harmful substances consumed have on the individual, serious or deep injuries and scars, expelled from school, long term jail operations or sentence and death penalty (either a death sentence by the law or attacks from fellow cult members or during cult clashes).

To the family: the family is the smallest unit of the society and the 1st attacked or the second after the individual. It remains a scar in the family because one of their own has been involved in a despicable act and may not boldly face the public. To the society as a whole: there are loss of lives and properties (especially during occultic clashes), breakdown of law and order(the upcoming generation sees crimes as no big deal),it reduces the working population of the entire populace, violence and social instability, disorientation of societal values, also in addition to the previous point above(the family),we would see broken homes and a repeat of dysfunctional families, unsafe University and school environments and also the wrath of God.

In conclusion, CULTISM is not a good means of developing an individual, a family or a society at large. It has posed serious threats, damages and harm than good and needs to be tackled strategically and with full force or else, we would turn back at the society in regret instead of rejoicing.

Is this the kind of society we would want our own children, children's children or our third generations to meet?

A society without stiff and strong lessons that are enacted and followed thoroughly?