

S S S 3 Literature-in-English (Week 5 – 27th April to 1st May)

Topic – The Blood of a Stranger By Dele Charley

PLOT ACCOUNT

The drama text, the BLOOD of a STRANGER, is about a rich African cultural heritage of Mandoland that was exploited by Whitehead (the whites) using some gullible and greedy Mandoland dwellers. The play begins with Maligu, the chief advisor to King Santigi, trying to blackmail Soko, the chief priest of Mandoland. He wants the Soko to prophesy that the land should welcome a stranger which is against an earlier that strangers should not be welcomed. Soko is manipulated to make the false prophecy which Kindo, the chief warrior and son of the king, queries.

To the people of Mandoland, strangers represent illness, diseases and aggression. However, because Soko is the ordained priest of the village, the people have no reason to question of doubt his divination. Whitehead, accompanied by Parker, arrives Mandoland for some days without getting to pay homage to the king. Kindo therefore directs the guards to strip and whip Parker while Whitehead is forced to pay homage to the king.

Whitehead begins to use Maligu and Soko against Mandoland culture, influences almost all the villagers against their traditional beliefs which annoys Kindo a lot. Whitehead gets the villagers drunk to subdue their consciousness. He makes animals of the people by giving them tobacco while Soko and Maligu indulge them. Soko keeps saying they are obeying the spirits that directed them to receive the White man and Maligu claims that the tobacco and gin drink make the people happy. Kindo queries their integrity and commitment to their custom.

Whitehead arranged to defile Wara, Kindo's fiancée and plans that Soko will eventually use her for sacrifice to their gods in peacetime celebration. Wara escapes to the next village. Parker kills Soko, the chief priest of Mandoland. On the day of the sacrifice, Maligu disguises with a mask as if it was Soko. He approaches for the sacrifice of a covered being imagined to be the sacrificial virgin while the entire community gathers at the shrine with king Santigi. Kindo arrives in time to halt the ritual process. Kindo reveals that Parker kills Soko and under the mask is Maligu not Soko as expected. Kindo kills Parker.

Maligu and Whitehead insist that Kindo should be banished as custom demands for killing Parker in Peacetime. Kindo is banished amidst genuine protestations. The king refuses to listen to him. Kindo explains his reasons for killing Parker, he orders his men to seize Whitehead and be taken to the sacrificial stone. Whitehead cries for help from Maligu and the king but Maligu betrays him. Kindo kills Whitehead as the sacrifice. Kindo leaves after promising to claim the throne when his father dies.

(Refer to Exam Focus Literature from pages 112 -140)

From Mrs. Olagunju