

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK THREE (3)

TOPIC : CULTISM

Cultism is an extreme religious or social group or association that is not part of an established norm. It is an illegal association of people/group whose activities are kept from the public. It is a secret practice by members of cult groups whose activities are violent and extreme in nature.

Cult groups in Nigeria

1. Pyrateconfraternity AKA Sea Dogs aka, National Association of Seadogs
2. Buccaneers Association of Nigeria (BAN) aka National Associations of Sea Lords or AloraSealords
3. Aye aka axeman
4. The Supreme Eiy Confraternity aka (National Association of Air Lords)
5. The Neo-Black Movement of Africa aka (Black Axe)
6. Supreme Vikings Confraternity (SVC) aka De Norsemen Club of Nigeria
7. Mafia Confraternity aka The Family Fraternity
8. Two-Two (Black Beret) aka The Brotherhood of the Blood
9. Second Son of Satan (SSS)
10. Black Scorpion
11. Red Sea Horse
12. Fraternity of Friends.
13. Black Cat
14. Black Cobra of Ife
15. Green Berets
16. Equally, females are not left out in the formation of cult groups. Theirs include
17. Black-bra
18. Black Berets
19. Woman Brassier (brave)
20. Daughters of Jezebel
21. Pink Lady
22. Amazons
23. White Angel
24. Sisterhood of Darkness
25. The Ten wonderful Girls
26. White Ladies
27. The Royal Queens
28. Daughters of the Knight
29. The Damsel

THE EMERGENCE OF CULT GROUP IN NIGERIA

Cultism in Nigeria began as far back as 1952. The Pyrates Confraternity was started by seven students among which were the popular Nigerian Nobel Laurette, Wole Soyinka, Olumyiwa Awe, RaphOkpara, Aig-Imokhuede, Ben Egbuchie, Nathaniel Oyelola and Pius Oleghe at the University of Ibadan. They called themselves the 'Magnificent Seven'.

The purpose of the confraternity was to combat societal ills and conformist degradation, which were being exhibited not only by students but by society at large. According to the Pyrates, the first graduates of the University of Ibadan were elitist, as they were highly privileged since they were the

first graduating class of Nigeria's first university. Most of the university students adopted elitist behaviour, imitating the dress of the colonialists and mimicking their culture. Wole Soyinka, who was code-named "Captain Blood," together with his colleagues felt that the pretences should be stopped. The activity of members was rigidly controlled and the group promoted non-violent dispute resolution. From 1953 to 1972, the Pyrates was the only confraternity on Nigerian campuses.

In the early 1970s, several confraternities emerged. In 1972, a member of the Pyrates Confraternity, Dr Bolaji Carew (code-named "Late Ahoy Rica Ricardo"), and other members were accused of not following the teachings of the confraternity and were unexpectedly expelled. As a result of this incident and other problems, the Pyrates pulled out of Nigeria's universities. They then registered themselves in Nigeria under the name of the National Association of Seadogs (NAS). Carew later founded the Buccaneers Confraternity (also called the National Associations of Sea Lords). In the formation of the new confraternity, Carew took with him many elements of the Pyrates, including similar attire and symbols of the cult as well as its highly regimented and hierarchical structure.

The origin of confraternity violence dates back to Carew's 1972 saga and the birth of the Buccaneers. After the Buccaneers, the Neo-Black Movement of Africa, also called Black Axe, was founded at the University of Benin in Edo state. After its creation, another confraternity, called the Supreme Eiyé Confraternity, also known as the National Association of Air Lords, broke away from Black Axe. During this time, the splintered cult groups introduced a new dimension into confraternity tradition: before carrying out any activities, they would practice voodoo rituals.

Cults and their Signs and Symbols

The following are the signs and symbols of cults:

1. The Buccaneers Association of Nigeria: Yellow shirts and yellow socks.
2. The Seadogs Confraternity (a.k.a Pirates): Human skull on two crossed bones.
3. The Mafia Confraternity/Maphites: Handkerchief, green ribbon on beret.
4. Black Stars: Beret with inscription.
5. The Neo Black Movement or Black Axe Confraternity: Crossed bones, black ribbon on beret.
6. The Vikings fraternity: Small black pick axe
7. The National Association of Airlords (EIYE): Axe on black skull, black on black dress, red ribbon on beret.
8. The Warlords (Brotherhood of Don): Beret with inscription of stars.

REASON FOR ESTABLISHING/WHY STUDENTS JOIN A CULT

- Protection
- Negative Peer Pressure
- For Power
- Revenge
- Curiosity
- Popularity
- Fear and timidity
- Family background
- Hardship/lack of parental care
- Sense of security

- Social Identity
- Academic weakness/Academic success
- Get-rich-quick syndrome
- Coercion/Intimidation/Extortion
- Frustration

THE CONSEQUENCES OF CULTISM

Cultism is a social menace in the Nigeria society; its practice has a lot of consequences which include the following.

(i) Violence (ii) Breakdown of social values (iii) Criminal tendencies (iv) Moral decadence (v) Abuse of illegal drugs (vi) Examination malpractices (vii) Psychological problems (viii) Lack of peace (ix) Bad society image (x) Untimely death

ASSIGNMENT

List five other cult groups not stated above.

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