

Novel

Amaefula Izuchukwu A.



**THE
BLIND
PATH**

Family Novel

The Blind Path (Family Novel)

By

Surv. Amaefula Izuchukwu A.N Deacon,
Amins.

Copyright 2020 Surv. Amaefula Izuchukwu
A.N Deacon, Amin.

Email: heroizu@yahoo.com

Phone: +2347064649087

www.suveyworld.com.ng

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DEDICATING

This Novel is dedicated to
God The Father,

God The Son,

God The Holy Spirit,

And to my Elder brother, Engr. Ezieke
Amaefula CEO/Founder at Pannaga Group,
PamDrive Nig, PamAutos and to my lovely
parents who believed in my weakness and
still find way to assist me.

APPRECIATION

I APPRECIATE THE ALMIGHTY GOD FOR THE PRIVILEGE GIVEN TO WRITE THIS MASTERPIECE... ALL GLORY TO GOD...

I APPRECIATE MY WONDERFUL WIFE, AMAEFULA NKECHI, YOU MAKE MARRIAGE LOOK AND FEEL SO SIMPLE, YOUR UNFLINCHING SUPPORT TOWARDS MY MINISTRY EVEN Baffles ME... IT MAKES ME KNOW THAT GOD'S EYES ARE ALLOVER ME. THANK YOU FOR BEING MY FRIEND, MY TEACHER, MY MOTIVATOR, MY LOVER...AND EVERYTHING YOU HAVE IN YOUR CAPACITY TO BE TO ME...

I APPRECIATE MY, PASTOR & PASTOR MRS MARIA IKECHI. YOU GIVE ME PEACE OF MIND, THANK YOU.

I APPRECIATE MY SPRITUAL PARENTS, PASTORS, MENTORS, ESPECIALLY, PST APPRECIATE PASTOR BANJI. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

AND TO YOU, MY READERS, IF I HAD NO ONE TO READ, THERE WON'T HAVE BEEN THE NEED TO WRITE. THANKS FOR ALWAYS READING. GOD BLESS YOU...MY PRAYER FOR YOU IS THAT AS YOU GO THROUGH THIS BOOK, YOU WILL FIND GOD ON THE PAGES OF THIS BOOK IN JESUS NAME.

ABOUT THE BOOK This book, *The Blind Path*, was written in a family circle and the community, which believed that farming is the only root of survival, which led them to several competitions in every harvest of the year, in order to select the best farmer of the year and also to encourage others to put more effort. “*The Blind Path* is” a story that enlightens both the young and the old, on the need for hard work and for abstaining from every appearance of evil.

“Whenever you are given an opportunity, use it wisely and don't feel too bad to share your feelings about what you are going through. Always listen to your parents and whatever you do in life, remember where you are coming from. Pray to God about any steps you want to take in life.” Ogunseye Rofiat.

Chapter One

ONCE UPON A TIME, there lived a man in a town called Koko in the western part of Nigeria. Koko was a very small town where the people believed sending their children to school was a waste of resources.

The people there were known to be rich in agro products. Their children had nothing else to think about than assisting their parents in farming.

They lived a very simple life, because it was just a life from hand to mouth.

Mr. Jimoh, as he was called, was a very rich man in his town. He had two wives and the first wife, Eki, had five children, three sons and two daughters while the second wife, Bella, had three children, a son and two daughters.

Jimoh had a happy family even though he loved Eki than Bella because of how hard working she was in maintaining the family bond together.

One day, Eki had an argument with Bella over who would instruct the children on the farm.

Bella took the matter personally and decided to make the family a home of two countries.

Every day was a day to start a yesterday's decision in the lives of Bella and her children.

But Eki and her children were very careful whenever they had something to do with Bella and her children.

As a results of Eki's attitude towards Bella, Jimoh's love for Eki increase.

One day, Jimoh went to the market to sell his farm produce as usual. At the market, he had an argument with a lawyer and the lawyer insulted him, called him all manner names which meant poor illiterate.

Jimoh came back home and was very angry with himself, and moody too.

Eki entered the living space, noticed that her husband was in a sad mood and decided to know what happened at the market.

Just then,

Bella came in and saw Jimoh and Eki. She ignored them and walked straight to her room, quite indifferent about the duo.

She thought to herself, “Let the wind dance with her rain.”

As Eki kept asking, Jimoh noticed that if he did not let the sun to shine on the weeded grass, the time spent on weeding will be a waste.

Quietly, in a sober, embarrassed tone, he said, “at the market today, I was going about my business when a lawyer looked at me and called me poor illiterate,”

He sighed. “I am angry and I have been thinking of what to do to make sure I am not insulted for nothing. I have wealth. I have a good name and honour.

What I lack is school education. So, I have been thinking, the lawyer called me illiterate because he attended a school, I am going to send my children to school.”

Eki smiled at him and said, “Osiwmen”, meaning my friend.

“Let my husband do as he pleases. One does not worry when one has the cutlass and one can choose what to cut and what not to cut.”

She added with her smiles. As if some burdens were lifted off Jimoh's shoulders, his sadness evaporated, and mood of happiness was kindled.

Chapter Two

Mr. Jimoh became wealthier through the yearly returns of his large farm business.

One day, Jimoh decided to take the bull by the horn in sending his first son to school and making sure that he had all he needed in school so as to take his place when the time comes.

When Bella heard what her husband want to do, she began to count her foot with the sound of her husband words just to win his favor over Eki.

Jimoh noticed the quick change of Bella which was not as it was when no one was invited to eat with the king.

But the decision of sending his first son to school has been nailed to the notice board and no amount of Godly attitude of Bella can change his mind as he was known to be a man of a single word.

The next day Jimoh, was sitting under the Oak tree and he saw Bella fetching water from the well.

“Bella,” he called.

“Why, are you as kind as the angels in heaven since you knew my decision to send Jide my first son to school among my children? .

If you had been living like this with the family, I would have sent your first child Okene too?

But you never allowed the rainbow to visit the sky as you promised me on the day I came to pay your bride price to your parents.

Quickly she replied,

“are you not the one who has been busy with Eki all this time and you never include me in the family plan?.”

Just as the discussion was going on, Eki emerged from the back of the house and heard her words.

“Bella!”, She called, “how dare you call me names!, Is it because I have been keeping quiet with you?!”

As she started quarrelling with Bella, Jimoh stood up and went away without saying a word.

Chapter Three

It was evening, and Jimoh was sitting under his usual the Oak tree. He saw Jide walk in through the gate and, quietly called, “Jide, come here, and where are you coming from at this time of the day?” “I went to see my friends, sir. That's where am coming from.” Jide replied.

“My Son,” said Jimoh, “get a chair and sit here with me. I have things I want to discuss with you.

As Jide, sat down with him, said, “My son, now that you have grown up and you are 17 years old, I have decided to send you to school so that you will be able to manage my business and the family even when I am gone.

“Since you already have your primary school certificate and have done your junior school,

I have made a plan with Koko grammar school principal and he has agreed to allow you start school from next session.

I have also made the plan for you to stay in the school hostel with other students so that you will have the freedom to study hard, mingle and learn from them.

When you resume, I want you to face your books squarely.

“I will pay for everything they ask for and I will be happy to see you become the best among the rest of the students.

Don't go there and play away your life or foment trouble and bring back bad results to your parents at home.

As you obey my words, I will do my best to send you to the university and you will study Law for your father because you know that it was a lawyer who insulted me at the market square.

You will become a great man in our community and its environs.”

As he finished speaking, Jide replied,

“Daddy, I am happy about your decision and I promise you that I will make you proud.

I will never fail you and I will even study hard to make distinctions so that the government can offer me a scholarship to study in the university.”

Hearing this, Jimoh was very happy and he said,

“Thank you my son, I will be happy to assist you in achieving your goals.”

Chapter Four

Jide was a man after his father's heart.

He was one of the most handsome young boys in his community.

His handsomeness was the talk of his friends. No one ever saw him without talking about his handsomeness.

Not only that he was handsome, he was also the most brilliant among his friends, which earned him the nickname “rainbow boy” from his friends.

Okene walked into the parlor and saw Jide dressed up and packing up his things into his travel bag.

He asked, “Jide this one you are packing your things, where are you travelling to and you didn't bother to tell me, your brother, about it.”

As he was about to go out, Jide called him,

“Okene, I have been admitted into SS1 class through the help of Daddy.

He told me about it yesterday and I have been asked me to resume school by tomorrow morning.

I will be staying at the school hostel. Dad has paid for everything.

I will come home only at the end of the term.

I thought your mom had told you about it.

That was the reason I didn't bother to tell you. I am sorry about it.”

Jide and Okene are best of friends even though they are from different mums.

Their mothers' acts of hatred didn't affect the children's love for one another

Jide and Okene's love for each other could be likened to the relationship between the water and the fish.

Okene hugged him and said, "I am really happy for you. I wish you the best and will always pray for you."

Okene was a hard working boy, because he was born at a time when the cold had no friends.

He was tasked to do almost all the house chores and even engaged in farm business. This made Okene, to live a life of a single mind.

When he saw Jide leaving for school, he cried and asked the wind to sing to his soul about the future.

While he was in deep thinking, he fell asleep and had a dream.

In the dream, he was in a party and he saw that his parents and his community were celebrating his return and he was dressed like one who had won at the battle field.

Just then, Bella woke him up, and he saw that it was just a dream.

Then she asked, 'My son, why are you crying? Is there any problem?'

Please tell me, I'm your mother, I can help you.'

'Mother', he replied, 'why does Dad hate me so much? Why? Look at Jide leaving for school without me.'

As he went further, his mother took his thoughts from his mouth and said, 'My son, stop crying and listen.'

You are great and will become a great man in your world. You will go to school like Jide.

Your Dad loves you.

Just be sure that you are doing well with him. I promise you that he will change and believe in you.

Promise me that you will be a good boy to all your siblings, Eki and your Dad.'

After this word of encouragement, Okene's happy mood was restored.

Chapter Five

'Jide, the principal wants to see you now', Niyi the class prefect called him as he walked into the classroom.

Jide went down the stair to the principal's office.

Gently, he knocked on the door and the principal asked him to come in.

'Oh Jide!' he exclaimed.

'How are you doing with your new environment and your new friends and teachers?

I have been receiving a lot of good reports about your performance in your results so far.

'I was told that you were promoted to SS 2 science class. I'm really happy with your performance.

I want you to keep it up and try to work harder so that you can be among the best students in

this school that will receive the government scholarships to study in any universities of their choices.'

'Thank you for your commendation and encouragement, sir', said Jide. 'I promise to be of good behavior in order to meet up with the target of scholarship.'

As he was still talking, Mr. Ojomo who is the head of the science department walked in and saw the meeting.

Then he said, 'Principal, could you believe that Jide has been at the top of the Science class for two semesters now and I believe if he worked harder, he would be able to qualify for the scholarship.'

The principal turned to Jide and said, 'You have heard from your science teacher. The ball is in your court.'

We are counting on you to make the school proud.

And lest I forgot Jide, the first science competition will be coming up soon and I want you to go and prepare for it.

Also inform your class about it.' The Principal finished.

Chapter Six

'Okene', Jimoh called as he was dressing up to attend the community elders meeting.

'I want you to know that we are in another farming season and I have decided to allow you have your own farm land and I will give you everything you need to start up your own farm.

'You have to start planning on it and let me know if you need anything else.

When you start your own farm, make sure you don't allow the weeds to overtake your farm plants.

Remember, there's a festival that usually takes place at the end of each farming season.

And if you do well, you may receive an award from the king, because that is what the elders of the

community have been discussing over time now.

'Daddy', said Okene, 'what is this festival that they are talking about?' The king has decided to honour the best farmer of the year in this community', Jimoh answered. ‘

It is now a competition among all farmers in our community. I want you to be a man and involve in the competitions.

'OK, Daddy', said Okene, 'I will do my best and pray that God will help me.

' Jimoh left to catch up with the elders meeting. Bella walked in and said Okene, 'what was the discussion you had with your father?

Is there something that you will want me to know?' 'Yes mama', he responded.

‘Daddy just told me that he has decided to allow me to have my own farm land

this season and he will give me everything that I need to have a good yield.

He also said the king has decided to honour the best farmer with the highest yield of the year.' 'Are you serious?'

she asked. 'That is good news, at least, you will be among the best and I know you will receive the award.'

'OK my son. Let me allow you to plan yourself on what crops you will cultivate.' With that, she left the room, saying,

'when you are through, join me at the kitchen., I have something to tell you about the best seeds for the season.'

As soon Okene stepped in the kitchen, his mother said, ' your dad told me that your brother will be coming back from school this weekend.'

'That means Jide will be in SS 3 this term', said Okene.

'Oh! That's good news. Anyway, let's wait until he arrives', she said.

Chapter Seven

Eki was just coming back from the evening market where she went to buy something for the evening meal when she saw a commercial motor cyclist and her son at their gate.

With joy she shouted, 'Jide is back oh!' Her sound breaks the news of his arrival and it was a pleasant welcome.

During the welcoming and greetings, Jide didn't respond to anyone's greetings. His mother noticed this and took him inside and questioned him.

' Why did you not greet your siblings when they were greeting you?' his mum asked.
'Mum, can you not see that they were not greeting me well?

I am the eldest of them all and also I am the best in my school.

On that note, everyone in this house must respect me!' Jide said, almost angry.

As he was still talking, Jimoh walked in and took words from his mouth. 'Shut up and keep quiet before I knock your nose off.'

Shocked, Eki said, almost inaudibly,. 'Jide, what's this lifestyle of yours?

We sent you to school to become a better person to us your, parents and the society.' Before she could continue,

Jimoh cut in, But now you have not yet finished secondary school, and you are already living with pride because you are handsome and brilliant.

Are you the only one to have had such gifts? I don't think you know what you are doing.'

'We will act like nothing like this ever happened,' Jimoh concluded and they left him

while he was still standing thinking like a man whose parents left at the middle of the forest with seven goddesses.

'Jide, my brother,' Okene called him as usual, 'how was school?

I heard that you are the best student in the science class and you will be going for a competition.

Wow, brother I'm really happy about your success within these few years you left us. I celebrate your success dear.'

Hearing this, Jide's mood became light as he came back from his lost thoughts. 'Okene, it's God ooh,' he replied.

'Let's pray that God will favour you in the competition.

Please Jide, let me meet my mom in the kitchen. She wants to see me now,' Okene said and left.

Chapter Eight

'Mummy,' Okene called as he walked in through the door. 'My son take a seat.'
'Okay ma.'

'I am your mother and I know what is good for you. Now that your father has accepted to let you to farm, and he also wants you to join the farming competition, my son listen! as I speak.

I want you to cultivate tomatoes seed. The reason is that in this community, everyone is using it but no farmer has ever farmed it.

With the nature of our land, it will grow well and it will also yield bountifully.

'Tomatoes are very expensive in the market and if you start farming it in our community, you will be known all over this region and then you will be the only supplier of the produce. With that you will win the competition.'

'Mother, are you saying that I should not cultivate yam with father, as he has been known over the years as the biggest yam farmer.

'Yes, my son. I want you to do something different from what every other persons are doing in this community.'

'Okay mother, I will work with your advice and also keep it secret for now.'

'That is good news my son. And erm, how is your brother, Jide? When is he going back to school for the competition?'

'Tomorrow, mother, though I saw father and his mother scolding him over his lifestyle of pride.'

'My son, remember that when a child stops listening to his parents, the end is undesirable.

'Mother, let me allow you to finish the cooking as I go to see my friends.'

'Okay son, be careful and make sure you are not doing anything wrong with them.'

Chapter Nine

Ojomo was about to sit down in his office when Niyi the school prefect walked into his office with a greeting, 'good morning sir.' 'Morning, Niyi, and how are you doing today?'

'Fine sir,' Ojomo replied. 'Sir, I would like to ask about the school's plan for the competition.'

'Oh, I have not briefed your class about the outcome of our last week meeting.'

Please, go now and inform the students to wait for me by 12.30 p.m.

I will be discussing the outcome of the meeting and the plan for the science competition,' the Principal said.

'Okay sir.' As Niyi was walking to his classroom, he met Buki, one of his classmates on the stairs. 'Buki, Buki,' he chanted her nickname.

'What's up with you and where are you going this morning.' 'Hmm, Niyi,' she said, 'are you now my bodyguard?'

'Anyway, I am going to check Mr. Owen the Biology Teacher.'

'Ha-ha, I said it. This one you are always going to meet with biology teacher.'

I hope you will not tell him to teach you some practical things. I didn't say anything ooh.'

'That's your business Niyi,' she said.

'Lest I forget, come back on time because we are having meetings with Mr. Ojomo.'

'Okay thank you for the info. See you soon.'
Niyi left.

It was about 12:30 p.m. and the class was full of noise when Mr. Ojomo walked in.

None of the students noticed his presence in the class. As the noise continued among the students, Mr. Ojomo selected three students which included Jiide because he was sleeping.

He called the class to order angrily and then punished them for being out of order.

He was not able to address them and he requested that the three students should see him in his office.

At Mr Ojomos office, Jide and other two students were standing before him.

'I am not happy with the way you guys were behaving in your class during school hours.'

' I have selected the three of you for the competition because you were not part of the noise makers.

Jide, you will be the leader. Go and prepare for the final competition tomorrow.

I wish you the best of luck. Bye.'

Chapter Ten

It was a Monday morning, at the assembly, the school principal announced Jide as the winner of the competition that took place over the weekend.

It was a celebration moment as Jide was lifted up in celebration by his classmates.

They were all shouting songs of victory. The news got to his parents and Jimoh his father was very happy about it.

He organized a get -together with his friends and family for Jide's victory.

After the session, Jide was admitted to study law at one of the prestigious universities in Nigeria. As a scholarship student, he was given a car, a furnished apartment, and monthly allowance.

With all these things, Jide became famous and highly placed in the university community.

One day, he was sitting in the class after the day's lecture when some group of guys walked up to him, and he was frightened. 'Jide,' one of them spoke,.

'I thought you are a big boy in town, why then are you frightened seeing us around you?.'

We have noticed that you have been doing big boy things in this school. Don't you know that we are in charge?

'Have you not heard about the Black Birds in this school?'

We are known as the Black Birds and anyone who wants to do big boy things and be safe, must be our member.

If anyone else who tries it, they will be dealt with. We are giving you seven days to make your final decision and join us for your safety or be ready to dance to the music.'

As they were about to leave the classroom, they told him in unison, 'Make sure that you do not tell anyone, or else you will regret coming to study in this school.'

And then, they walked out of the classroom as if nothing happened. Jide thought he had just had a dream.

Everything the Black Birds men said seemed like a movie scene to him, a movie that could have been titled .

The Night to Remember. He was so lost in thought that he didn't hear his friend come into the classroom.

Dayo, one of his favourite course mates and friend walked towards him and touched him. 'Jide,' he called.

'Why are you lost in thought? Is there anything you want me to know? I can be of help to you.'

Jide was startled by Dayo's touch. 'Nothing,' Jide said as he stood up from the chair he had been sitting on and walked away from Dayo.

Dayo noticed something was off about Jide and he decided to get to the root of the matter.

After a while Dayo asked Jide what was bothering him but Jide was insistent that he was fine.

Dayo is the president of NIFES and he was known in the institution to be a man who had fought to save people from cultism.

Chapter Eleven

Jimoh was sitting under the Oak tree when Okene came back from his farm. 'Welcome, my son,' he greeted, 'and how was today's work?' he inquired.

'It was fine,' Okene answered looking tired and worn out. 'But Okene, how are the tomatoes growing?' Jimoh asked.

'They are growing well. I have applied the fertilizer that you gave me last time. I think by next month, I will be harvesting the seeds because a lot of them are ripe now,' Okene explained.

'Oh that's good news,' he said turning his attention to Eki, who was sitting nearby during the conversation.

'Eki, please come, I have something to share with you.' Then he turned back to Okeneo, 'go now and call your mother for me. Tell her to come here, I want to speak with her also.'

'OK, father,' Okene replied as he walked through the back of the house that leads to the kitchen.

Just a few minutes, Bella came out through the kitchen side of the house and met Eki and her husband.

As they sat down, Jimoh said, 'My beloved wives, you both will be surprised to see me in this mood.

I want you both,' he pointed his hands at both of them, 'to know that I love the two of you.

My love for each of you is the same, but over the years now, I have pretended to love one more than the other in words and actions because I want you both to help yourself as married women.

'Being first or second wife has nothing to do with respect and responsibility.

Some of you sometimes believe that being the first or second wife is equal to respect and responsibility which is not so.

In fact, the two of you must accept each other and love each other.

'I also want both of you to know that sending Jide to school as my first son is the same thing as sending Okene to farm.

There's no difference in both, because you can see from what has already happened. Jide went for a scholarship competition and so Okene is preparing for a farming competition too.

'If you have observed well, you would notice that both were given the same opportunity but in different ways.

On this note, you both must start working as a team and make sure everything works out well for the good of the family and the children.

Any question?' Eki said 'Thanks our husband for how you have been managing us as your wives.

Despite Bella's awkward manners, I still love her and I promise that we will work as one.' Bella, concluded and said, 'thank you, our husband for your wisdom.

I'm happy that you brought us together and we will never fight again. We both will make you happier. She hugged Eki and they left.

Chapter Twelve

'Jide, Jide,' a voice called out from a group as he was stepping out of his car. And when he turned to see who was calling him, it was the Black Birds group.

'What's up the big boy on campus?'

One of them spoke as they surrounded him by his car.

'It was exactly one week yesterday and you are yet to invite us to your house,' one of them complained.

'Or do you want us to invite ourselves?' he asked as he pointed to others in his group. There was silence on both sides, then Jide spoke.

'Okay, guy's, I know am a big boy on campus and I don't want anything to affect my study in this school.'

Chapter Thirteen

It was the eve of harvest in the community. Eeveryone had set out for their farms with friends and family members so as to bring their harvested crops to the market square.

Okene, too left the house very early in the morning with two trucks and harvesters to assist him.

The event was expected to start with cultural dances. By noon, everyone was standing by their crops and yields.

It was noticed that Okene was the only one who farmed tomatoes in the entire community and the news of his bountiful yield soon spread like wild fire, because none of the farmers had achieved this for some decades now.

Jimoh was very happy with what he saw and heard from other farmers and friends. Everyone was celebrating the festival of harvest, waiting for the king to declare the winner of the best farmer⁴³ in the community.

They laughed as one of them said to him, 'Guy, chill. You see, every one of us here, are known to be the best students on this campus and we are just in this group for security reasons which you know that you need.

You can't do without security as a big boy on this campus. Check it!' 'Okay guys,' said Jide, as he accepted their advice on security of his life.

As they all heard his acceptance, they shouted their slogan , 'Black Birds, together we go.'

As they were celebrating their new captive, Jide was invited to join them at their night party for the final initiation as a bonafide member.

They promised to give him the number three position of the group.

The elders were sitting in the king's chamber, deliberating with the king, on what gift will be given to the best farmer in the land.

Some were busy discussing who would be the heir apparent to the throne because the king had no son.

As these discussions were going on, the chief priest walked in with a shrill voice, 'Wait, for the gods, wait for the gods. let all the people go back to their hut. The gods have chosen the winner.

Let them go back with their produce.' The community was thrown into confusion as they went back, grumbling among themselves.

Chapter Fourteen

Jide was walking towards his HOD office, when he was called by the Black Birds.

'Jide, the big boy on campus,

What's up guy?' 'I'm good,' he responded.

'Guy, we want to notify you of our meeting on Saturday night, this weekend, and on that note as custom demands that before anyone joins the Black Birds, the group must visit the guys home town to confirm he is from this continent, truly.'

As he heard it, he was deeply disappointed and confused.

What's all these?!

I have told you guys that I don't want my parents to know about this and now you guys want to visit my parents' home!'

He shouted.

They all laughed at him and one of them said, 'Jide, chill. It is not a big deal but a privilege to be in our group,' he pointed to them all. ‘

Anyway,' he continued, 'no going back. Get set tomorrow Friday by 12 noon.

We will be meeting at the cornerstone building.

Don't fail us or else, we will demonstrate our strengths. See you there.’

They all left Jide half shocked, half confused. Jide was still standing at the same spot when his phone rang.

It was the HOD. He ran and knocked on the HOD's door. Who is at the door? Come in, the door is open,' Prof. Akin said. 'Oh Jide, how are you doing?

I have been trying to see you over the

weeks now and you have been hard to find.
What is the problem?

The results are out on the notice board and you have too many references which is too bad for a scholarship student like you.

'I still don't know what you have been doing that led to your poor performance.

Anyway, my advice for you is to wake up and re-address yourself with what you have as a scholarship student.

You can leave now; let me attend to other people.'

Chapter Fifteen

Jimoh was eating some yam prepared by Bella, who was sitting beside her husband at the parlor, discussing the outcome of the farmers competition and how the chief priest told the king that the gods have chosen who would be the winner who would be the best farmer of the season with a prize.

They were still on their discussion when Jimoh heard a gunshot from the entrance of the gate. 'Bella, did you hear that?' 'Yes, my husband,' she answered and took to her heels through the back door,

same as every member of the family that heard the sound, including some community members who were coming back from the king's palace.

Jimoh was going to hide, but he turned and said, 'An elder does not run away from his own house because of a sound that doesn't have a direction.'

'Let me check who is doing this,' he concluded.

As he walked through the front door of his house, behold, it was Jide driving in with his car and other boys with their cars.

He shouted, 'Jide! who was shooting in the air and who are those boys dressed in uniforms? What are they doing in my house? Oh, Jide. These boys are with guns in their hands!

Why? Why did they shoot into the air?!

As he went further angerily, others who took to their heels and hid by the bush side, started coming out of the bush to know what was really happening.

Okene, was one of those who ran away. He said, 'Jide, what is going on and why are you here with these people?'

Jide who was still standing by his car as many questions were being asked, was lost in thought and the leader of the Black Birds spoke to Mr. Jimoh as the other members were chanting their songs.

'Sir, don't be afraid, we are Jide's school friends and we are here to know more about Jide and where he came from.'

As the leader finished speaking,. Jide said, 'father, they are just my friends and they mean no harm.

I will be back on Sunday. Bye.'

As Jide was about to leave, Jimoh called him, 'Jide my son, remember that I sent you to school to study law and I am still waiting for your graduation.' 'Okay father,' said Jide.

They danced around in a circle and entered their cars and drove away at an alarming speed.

Jimoh was still in shock and Eki, was crying, 'my son, oh my son.'

The community members who were discussing about the competition could not talk about the event any more. The discussion changed the gun shots from Jide's friends.

As a result of the intense beating, he was taken back to his hostel almost lifeless.

The next morning, Dayo came to check on him when he found out that Jide was unconscious. He called the campus security men and they came in with their vehicle and he was taken to the hospital.

From the hospital, a call was put through to Mr. Jimoh, Jide's father to come and check his son, Jide, at the campus hospital.

Jimoh , came into the hospital and he couldn't identify his son again.

Eki who came with her husband fell down and was crying, shouting, 'my son, what have you done to yourself?!'

Jimoh's heart full of pain, he could not control his tears, shouting, 'I have lost all! I have lost all I have worked for!'

Chapter Seventeen

It was a side discussion with the elders of the community at the king's palace.

As Mr. Jimoh and his son, Okene walked into the palace in a confused state, the king asked the chief priest, 'please speak, for we are all ears.'

The chief priest spoke, 'Today, the winner will be announced and it will be a day to remember that hard work pays.'

The gods of our forefathers have chosen the best farmer of the year.'

As he was about to mention the name of the best farmer who won the competition, some police men walked in and asked, 'good afternoon here,' the leader greeted, 'Please, who is Mr. Jimoh?'

Please, what is the problem? The king inquired.

Chapter Sixteen

It was a night to remember as the Black Birds were dancing round a burn fire chanting their songs, when Jide walked into their midst.

Detector who happens to be the group's P. R. O , was called out by the leader and he answered, 'Yes Master.'

'Go and check who that lost soul is.'
Detector, went and found that it was Jide. He came back to the leader and said,
"Master, it is that guy, Jide.'

'Blind fold him and bring him here for the final ritual.'

As Jide was brought in, the leader asked him, 'Jide, are you ready to complete the rest of the task tonight?' ' Yes, Master I'm ready.'

Jide was given some concoction and he drank it. At the end of the secrets rituals, Jide was beaten with sticks, iron and cutlass.

'Father,' called Okene, 'I'm still here with you. You have not lost anything. We are still here with you.'

As he was speaking, some elders of the community came in said, 'Mr Jimoh, the chief priest is calling you now at the king's palace, and your son, Okene.'

Kabiyesi, we are here to let Mr. Jimoh know that his son who was studying on government's scholarship at the University was involved with the Black Birds cult and has been stripped of his study scholarship from the campus and will be charged to court next week.

Mr. Jimoh could not hold his breath as he cried uncontrollably. 'Okay, Police, thanks for your good works, for protecting our community.

If not for you , our lives would have been in danger,' said the king. As soon as the police left, and he told the chief priest to continue.

'As I have already said,' the chief priest continued, 'the winner is Mr. Okene, the son of Jimoh.

The gods have also chosen him to be the king of this kingdom after the reign of our king.'

As the news broke, it spread and filled the atmosphere with celebration, cries and laughter with Mr. Jimoh's family and the community.

Okene was crowned the prince of the community.

The End.

SUMMARY

Jide was sentenced to seven years imprisonment with hard labour and Okene was crowned the king “Opportunities are useful when they are allowed to work with wisdom” “Parental guide is the key to success” “Nothing is too difficult to accomplish in this life, if the principles of hard work are applied.”

PLEASE, WRITE YOUR REVIEW AND COMMENT HERE....

Email to heroizu@yahoo.com

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amaefula Izuchukwu A., is a graduate of Surveying & Geoinformatics from Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, Owerri, Nigeria. He is a Professional Engineering Surveyor and GIS Experts, Draughtsman, Blogger, Writer, publisher and author of the bestselling book, *Surveying Key Points with Past Questions and Answers for Professionals*. He has certificate in GIS Spacial Analysis and ArcGIS from University of California (Davis) and University of Toronto. He has also obtained certificate on Advanced Diploma in Theology from RCBC. He has been in the construction industry since 2012 and has been a team lead with distinction different companies' project worth billions of dollars. As a professional Surveyor, he has also headed to it success four Shoprite Malls in Nigeria. He is a trainer and GIS Softwares provider and manager. He is the CEO of Heroizu Technology Services Ltd and The Surveyors World. He is a TV presenter (series on CAREER TALK at OGTV)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



This book *The Blind Path* was written in a family circle and the community, which believed that farming is the only root of survival, which led them to several competitions in every harvest of the year. In order to select the best farmer of the year and also to encourage others to put more effort. Read “*The Blind Path*” a story that enlightens the young, parents, and the community the need for hard work and been able to abstain from every appearance of evil.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Amaefula Izuchukwu A., a graduate of Surveying & Geoinformatics from Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, Owerri, Nigeria. Professional Surveyor and GIS Experts, Blogger, Writer, publisher and author of bestselling book, *Surveying*

Key Points with Past Questions and Answers for professionals. He has certificate in GIS spacial analysis and ArcGIS from University of California Davis and University of Toronto. Also has obtained certificate on Advanced Diploma in Theology from RCBC. He has been in the construction industry since 2012 and has been a team lead with distinction different companies' project worth billions of dollars. As a professional Surveyor, he has also head to it success four Shoprite Mall in Nigeria. He is a trainer and GIS Softwares provider and manager. He is the CEO of Heroizu Technology Services Ltd.