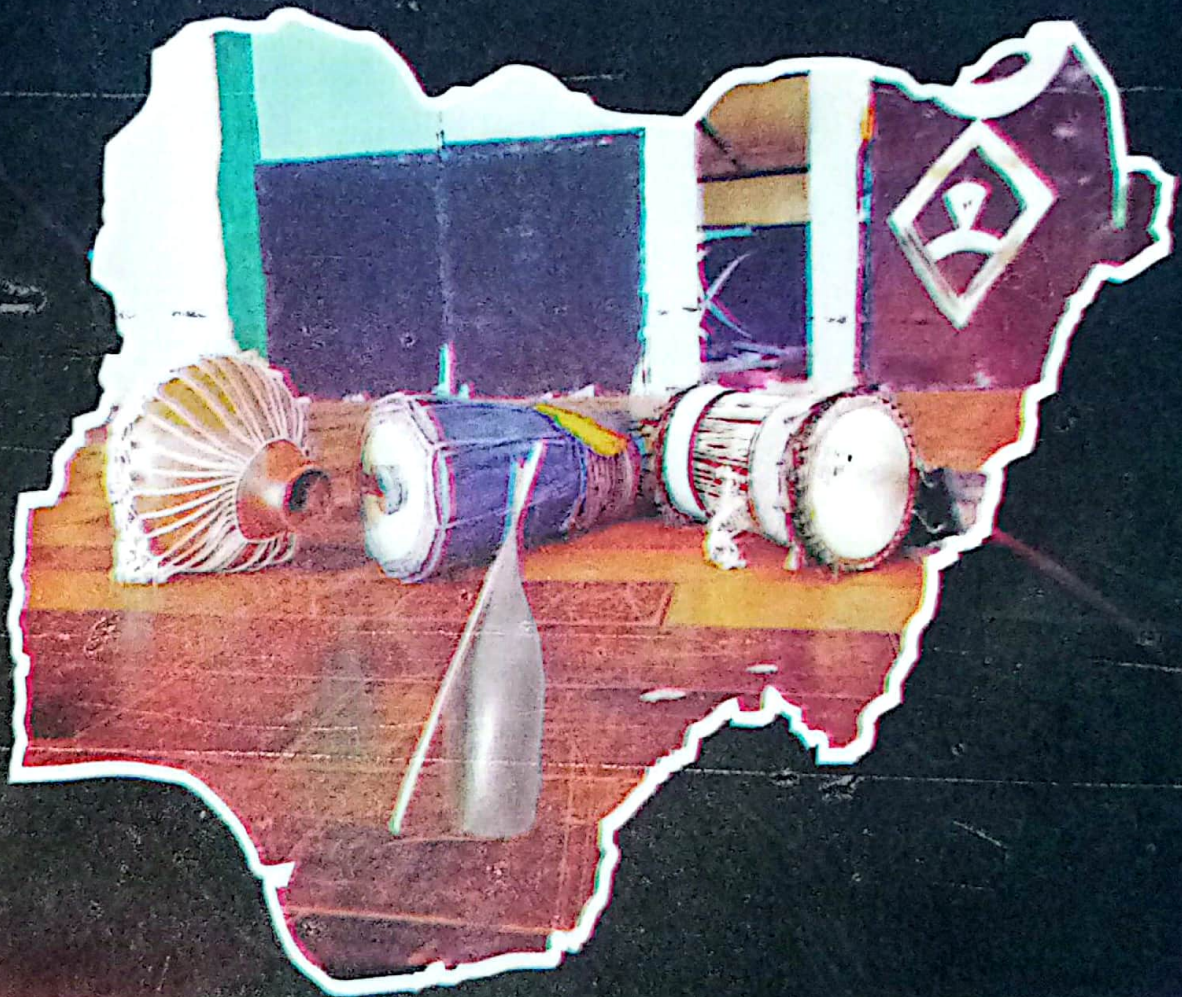


NÍ'LEÈ WA

(IN OUR LAND)

An Opera



By
TAIYE ADEOLA

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(IN OUR LAND)

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By
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Dedication

Dedicated to the Almighty God the source of my inspiration.

To sincere men and women who have sacrificed their lives in their quest for a better Nigeria.

Author's Note

"Nilee wa" (In Our Land) is a contemporary folk opera that satirizes a nation referred to as "Ilee wa". The opera tells the story of a land full of paradoxes. A land blessed but accursed; Rich but impoverished; Great but incompetent; Fertile but famished; Suffering and smiling. It gives the narratives of the good times that the land had enjoyed and the gradual decline of the land to its present state of impoverishment with a recurring question of "How did we get here?" and "How can we make it right?". Performances of music ensembles - Dundun, Bata, Sekere and agogo represent the major groups contending for power, and the leaders of the various groups represent the leadership problems of "Ilee wa". Dundun, Bata, Sekere, Isaaju, Atele, Agogo, Omele Ako, Omele Abo, Kerikeri are the major characters representing different groups, figures and issues of concern that must be handled and resolved if the land will reclaim its lost glory.

The opera, engaging a potpourri of musical styles from traditional, popular and art amplifies the

endowments and blessings of natural resources in "Ilee wa" and addresses the challenge of leadership and followership in the land. Leadership failure and followership rancor generating problems of self centeredness, insensitivity, oppression, division, rivalry and lack of cooperation, at both the leadership and followership levels are identified as some reasons why "Ilee wa" arrived at its present deplorable state. The opera advocates a return to a united community where the focus is on what binds them together and not on divisive tendencies. Togetherness, good leadership and followership are projected as ways forward to the recovery of the lost glory in "Ilee wa".

The message of responsible leadership and good followership, unity and togetherness are amplified as what must be embraced as we pray for the restoration of our country Nigeria which "Ilee wa" satirizes.

Taiye Shola Adeola
February 12, 2025

NI'LEE WA

(IN OUR LAND)

Cast

Baba Agba/Story teller
Narrator
Three Elders
Iyaalu Dundun
Atele
Iyaalu Bata
Omele Ako
Sekere
Agogo

Dundun Followers
Bata Followers
Sekere Followers
Chiefs
Villagers
Orchestra
Drummers
Instrumentalists

Scene One

Orchestra starts the theme song Ni'lee wa, a number of times for it to register. The theme song brings the actors on stage. Baba Agba, the story teller emerges to welcome the audience to the day's performance. He sings his song "Alo" interacting with the orchestra and the audience. He mounts the stage and invites members of cast already planted in the audience to join him in the performance giving them various roles as drummers, dancers and singers. He then announces that the performance will start.

NI'LEE WA THEME SONG

Ni'lee wa, Ni'lee wa, Ni'lee wa, Ni'lee wa
Ni'lee wa, Ni'lee wa,
Awa la lasa, Awa naa la n'ilu, ati'jo, Awa la lorin
Ni'lee wa, Ni'lee wa, Bee ri wa, asa le ri,
Bee ri wa, ilu ati'jo, terin, teye la fi ngbe o
Ni'lee wa, Ni'lee wa,
A lowo, a loro, a lepo, a ni coacoa o, Ni'lee wa,
A lowo, a l'epa, a lepo, a ni owu o, Ni'lee wa,
Olorun lo bukun wa, Eee, Olorun lo bukun wa
Ni'lee wa,

NI'LEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

ALO

Baba Agba: I greet you, Ladies and gentle men
I've come to tell you a story
And the story is a song; And the song
is my story
I am the song, I am the story
And the story of my song; Is the song
of my story
Itan mi, Mo ti so dorin
Orin mi, Itan ni, Orin mi, Itan ni Itan
mi, lorin ti mo fe ko o o x2 E ba mi
gbe

Chorus: Orin yin, Itan ni, Orin yin, Itan ni Itaan
yin, lorin ti e fe ko o o x2

Baba Agba: My story is a song; my song is a story
I have a story, I have a song
My Story is a song; my song is a story
Aalo, Mo gb'orin de o

Chorus: Your (Our) story is a song; your (Our)
song is a story
You (We) have a story, You (We) have
a song
Your (Our) story is a song; your (Our)
song is a story
Aalo, o (a) gb'orin de o

Call and Response

Call: E wa gbo

Response: Alo, Alo, Alo, Agb'orin de o

Call: Anie wa gbo

Response: Alo, Alo, Alo, Agb'orin de o

Call: Mo fe korin, Mofe so'tan

Response: Alo, Alo, Alo, Agb'orin de o

Call: Mo fe korin, mo fe p'ede

I have a story to tell

Come with me; go with me in the
story

Response: Alo, Alo, Alo, Agb'orin de o

Call: It is the story of my land

Alo, mo gb'orin de o

(Improvisation is allowed)

Response: Alo, Alo, Alo, Agb'orin de o

KAJO SO'TAN

BABA AGBA: Let us tell the story together, you,
and you and you

You will be part of my actors as you
join to tell my story

You will sing, dance, and play some
instruments

NI'LEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

It will be fun, so let us go
We are set to tell the story, Ni'lee
wa

E je ka jo so'tan

Response: Oya Ka jo p'itan

Response: Oya

E wa ba mi so'tan yio

Response: Oya

Ka jo p'itan

Response: Oya

Eyin a jo, ijo

Response: Oya

Ka jo p'itan

Response: Oya

Eyin a korin

Response: Oya

Ka jo p'itan

Response: Oya

Eyin a lu'lu

Response: Oya

Ka jo p'itan

Response: Oya

NI'LEE WA (IN OUR LAND)

Scene Two ***

A celebration scene where the community converges at Ojude to celebrate their culture, resources, and endowments, and to appoint a leader who will bear the title "Oba Onilu" or "Oba Olorin". They emphasize the blessings of their natural resources, varieties of farm produce with bountiful harvest and pride in their togetherness and their rich musical tradition. The combination of Dundun, Bata and Sekere ensembles are used to accompany the music and dances reflecting cooperation and coordination. Baba Agba introduces each of the ensembles one after the other and as they come on, they join in the performance without distorting it. Expanded version of the song Ni'lee wa will be taken; and two dances preferably farmers and Bata will be performed. Baba Agba comments that this was the state of Ilee wa years back before thins began to fall apart.

NI'LEE WA (IN OUR LAND)

NARRATOR: This was the situation N'ilee wa
We were living joyfully, enjoying
togetherness

We were living in plenty; we had all
things in common

But then something went wrong,

Oh, something went wrong

We are where we are today,

because something went wrong

We are where we are today,

because something went wrong

Chorus: How did things begin to fall apart?

How did we become divided?

How did we become each other's
enemies?

And how do we go on from here?

NARRATOR: In our land, we are blessed with
many resources

But in spite of this, the people are
suffering, Ni'lee wa

But how did we get here, And how
can we go on

Suffering and Smiling; Rich but
impoverished

NI'LEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

Duet: We are blessed, but accursed, fertile
but we are famished
We are rich, yet we are poor, we are
great but incompetent
What a paradox, Ni'lee wa x2

NI'LEE WA (Expanded)

Ni'lee wa, Ni'lee wa, Ni'lee wa, Ni'lee wa
Ni'lee wa, Ni'lee wa,
Awa la lasa, Awa naa la n'ilu, ati'jo, Awa la lorin
Ni'lee wa, Ni'lee wa, Bee ri wa, asa le ri,
Bee ri wa, ilu ati'jo, terin, teye la fi ngbe o
Ni'lee wa, Ni'lee wa,
A lowo, a loro, a lepo, a ni coacoa o, Ni'lee wa,
A lowo, a l'epa, a lepo, a ni owu o, Ni'lee wa,
Olorun lo bukun wa, Eee, Olorun lo bukun wa
Ni'lee wa,

Call: Edumare bukun wa

Response: Eee, Olorun lo bukun wa Ni'lee wa,

Call: Eleduwa bukun wa

Response: Eee, Olorun lo bukun wa Ni'lee wa,

Call: O fowo da wa lola

Response: Eee, Olorun lo bukun wa Ni'lee wa,

NÍ'LEE WÁ
(IN OUR LAND)

Call: O file da wa lola
Response: Eee, Olorun lo bukun wa Ni'lee wa,
Call: O f'epo da wa lola
Response: Eee, Olorun lo bukun wa Ni'lee wa,
Call: Aseda aiye bukun wa
Response: Eee, Olorun lo bukun wa Ni'lee wa,
Call: E wa wo wa o
Response: Eee, E wa wo wa o Ni'lee wa,
Call: A ni e wa wo wa o
Response: Eee, E wa wo wa o Ni'lee wa,
All: Bee ri wa, asa le ri, Bee ri wa, ilu ati'jo,
terin, teye la fi ngbe o, Ni'lee wa,
Ni'lee wa,
A lowo, a loro, a lepo, a ni coacoa o,
Ni'lee wa,
Olorun lo bukun wa, Eee, Olorun lo
bukun wa Ni'lee wa,

Scene Three

Baba Agba makes the announcement about picking a new leader, which takes place every four years. Three distinct groups will emerge represented with Dundun, Bata and Sekere ensembles. Iyaalu Bata, Iyaalu Dundun and Sekere as leader of each group will take turn to campaign to the people telling them why they qualify to be the leader. Each of the three ensembles will take turn to perform competitively. It is the tradition that whoever is chosen by the people as the leader will sing and dance and will be accompanied by all other ensembles for a successful performance. Iyaalu Bata emerges as the king, although the performance of the Dundun ensemble is more received by the people, and so Iyaalu Dundun refuses to join in the performance despite Iyaalu Bata's appeal, because he knows he was robbed of becoming the leader; Sekere and his group however joins in the performance showing support for Iyaalu Bata. Iyaalu Bata sings his

song "My turn, my time" and dances to the song "To ba se pe'mi niwo". Iyaalu Bata is officially installed as the Leader. Iyaalu Dundun gets angry, moves out with his team in annoyance. Iyaalu Bata addresses the people assuring them that the music will continue to play with a song "Nigbaa tiwa"

BABA AGBA

Eyin enia Ilee wa, Odun merin tip e
Four years have rolled bye since we picked a leader

Asaa wa ni, l'odun merin merin
A feyan Oba Onilu, ti yo je olorii wa
It is time to pick a leader to lead us for four years
Let us come together, as we pick our leader
Gbogbo olorin o ya o, Gbogbo oni'lu o ya
Gbogbo onijo e jade o, It is time to pick a leader
Oya, Oya, Let us pick our leader
Oya, oya, We shall pick our leader

All Responds: Oya, Oya, Let us pick our leader
Oya, oya, We shall pick our leader

NARRATOR

Ere tiya, ere tiya, Sekere e bo s'agbo x2
Sekere ere tiya, Sekere e bo s'agbo

SEKERE SONG

Se, Se, Se se se, Sekere, Sekere x2

Call: Sekere Kii r'ode Ibanuje

Response: Rara, Rara

Aso funfun Kii bawon jade ete

Response: Bee ni

All: Didun didun la nba nle oloyin
T'ijo, T'ayo ni lagbo ti wa – sekere,
Sekere, Sekere
Awa ni, awa naa ni, amugboro dun
ati de
Awani, awa naa ni, amugboro dun
ati de o
Amugboro dun, Awa l'amugboro
dun, a ti de, a ti de, a ti de
E wowa, e tunwa wo, Awa
l'amugboro dun a ti de o

Call: Sekere, a lu'lu f'oba

Response: Eh, a lulu f'oba x2

- Call:** A lu'lu f'oba, a s'ere fun 'joye
Response: Eh a se fun 'joye
All: Sekere beats for the king,
Sekere beats for the prince
Sekere beats for all to rejoice
Amugboro dun, Awa l'amugboro
dun, a ti de, a ti de, a ti de
E wo wa, e tun wa wo, Awa
l'amugboro dun a ti de o
Call: Sekere Kii r'ode Ibanuje
Response: Rara, Rara
Call: Aso funfun Kii bawon jade ete
Response: Bee ni
All: Didun didun la nba 'le oloyin,
T'ijo, T'ayo ni lagbo ti wa – sekere,
Sekere, Sekere

NARRATOR/MODERATOR

Dun dun, Dundun, ebo s'agbo x2

DUNDUN SONG

Dundun, elere, Dundun oni'lu, Dundun olorin a
ma ti de o x2

To ba je ti ka s'ere, awa lo lere

To ba je ti ka korin, awa lo lohun
To ba je ti ka lu'lu, ka jo,
E ma fo'ya, ijo mbe lesee wa x2
Iyaalu mbe ni sepe sepe, Isaaju mbe, atele mbe
o
Kerikeri o gbehin, Gudugudu nsan
Dundun lo ni'jo ati'lu e gbade fun wa
Dundun, elere, Dundun oni'lu, Dundun olorin a
ma ti de o x2

Drum and Voice interaction

(Drum plays and voice repeat)

Gudugudu kan, O paa ilu kan, Babaa mi lo f'igi
ola le mi lowo
Iyaalu ni, Iyaalu ni o, Awa lagba, awa lade to si,
Iyaalu ni o
Awa ni baba won, awa ni baba won, t'aba
dojude, lagbo ere egbo o, awa ni baba won
Dundun, elere, Dundun oni'lu, Dundun olorin a
ma ti de o x2
To ba je ti ka s'ere, awa lo lere
To ba je ti ka korin, awa lo lohun
To ba je ti ka lu'lu, ka jo,

NARRATOR/MODERATOR

Bata, ijo kan e o; Wa jo, wa lulu fun wa
Bata, it is your turn to perform

BATA SONG

Bata lo nijo e lo sinmi
Iluu Bata lo lere e lo sinmi
Gbogbo ilu kekeke, e lo gbe je
Ani bata lo n'ijo e lo sinmi (Repeat)
To ba je t'ere a mo'ra wa
Ani to ba je t'ijo a ju raw a lo
Ilu at'ijo mbe fun Bata oba elere
Iluu bata lo lere e lo sinmi

Call: Omele Ako o

Response: A ah Omele Ako o

Call: Omele Abo o

Response: A ah Omele Abo o

All: Iyaalu oya wa lu'lu fun wa ka jo, Iluu
Bata lo n'ijo e lo sinmi

Drum and Voice response

Bata l'oba onilu

Gbogbo ilu kekeke e lo gbe je, Bata l'oba onilu

BABA AGBA

It is time; it is time to pick our leader
It is time; it is time to announce the winner
After the beautiful performances
And after the keen competition
I am glad to announce the winner
And the winner is..... Bata

NIGBAA TIWA (Bata's Song)

People of Ilee wa, I greet you, I greet you
Thank you for making me your leader
People of 'lee wa, I greet you, I greet you
Thank you for making me your leader
I stand to assure you, that the music will not stop
The performance shall continue, You will enjoy
our performance
Nigbaa tiwa, orin a dun, ilu a dun, Ijo at'ayo ni
repete
Nigbaa tiwa, Ilu a dun, opo ade, Koni s'ebi o rara
rara (Repeat)
Bata, Ijo kan mi o, E je nri'jo mi jo
Bata, Ilu kan mi o, e je nri'lu yi lu o
Bata, mo fe korin o, E je nro'rin ko

NI'LEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

Chorus Response:

People of Ilee wa, we greet you, we greet you
We have made you our leader
People of Ilee wa, we greet you, we greet you
We have made you our leader
As you stand to assure us, that the music will not
stop
The performance shall continue, we will enjoy
your performance
Nigbaa tire, orin a dun, ilu a dun, Ijo at'ayo ni
repete
Nigbaa tire, Ilu a dun, opo ade, Koni s'ebi o rara
rara

Bata, Ijo kan e o, maa jo, maa jo
Bata, Ilu kan e o, maa lu maa lu
Bata, Orin kan e o, Olorun a fun e ko
Bata, Ijo kan e o, maa jo, maa jo
Bata, Ilu kan e o, maa lu maa lu
Bata, Orin kan e o, Olorun a fun e se

Scene Four

In a simultaneous setting of Dundun, and Bata's houses. Dundun is in a meeting with his group strategizing on how to make sure Bata does not sing and dance well and Bata and his team now flamboyantly dressed show how wealthy they have become are planning on how to maximize the benefit of his reign excluding others. The music in this scene will be a blended performance possibly the same song with different texts at specific points to reflect the difference in the intentions of the two characters. The orchestral will sing a song of caution at this point- "Asebaje, e rora"

BATA AND HIS GROUP

MY TURN MY TIME (Bata's Song)

It's my turn; it's my time, Asiko mi lode o

It's my time; it's my turn, Igba mi lode o

I have been chosen as the leader, Igba temi lo
wole de

It's my turn; it's my time, Asiko mi lode o

I will sing, I will dance, I will play on my drums,
You will dance to my music, Igba mi lode o

Chorus Repeat: It's your turn, it's your time

Bata: You will all join in my music
You will all join me to perform
You will sing, dance and play your
instruments
As I lead in this performance

Chorus Repeat: We shall all join in your music
We shall all join you to perform
We shall sing, dance, and play
our instruments
As you lead in this performance

DUNDUN AND HIS GROUP

Imagine, just imagine x2
How we were robbed and cheated
Imagine, just imagine x2
How we were humiliated
Bata cannot be our leader
We shall not join him to perform
A o ni je ko korin, A o ni je ko lulu
A o ni je ko korin, A o ni je ko jo
We shall disturb his drumming
We shall distort his singing
We shall obstruct his dancing
The performance will not be smooth

BATA AND HIS GROUP

It is our turn, it is our time, we are in charge
We shall maximize this season to the fullest
I will enjoy, you will enjoy our reign
It doesn't matter who doesn't sing or dance with
us

The priority is you and I for now
It is my family and your family alone
We are in charge, we shall enjoy our leadership
We shall maximize this season of our reign

DUNDUN AND HIS GROUP

Bata cannot be our leader
We shall not join him to perform
A o ni je ko korin, A o ni je ko lulu
A o ni je ko korin, A o ni je ko jo
We shall disturb his drumming
We shall distort his singing
We shall obstruct his dancing
The performance will not be smooth

NTÌÈÈ WÀ
(IN OUR LAND)

Dundun and his team:

We shall disturb his drumming

Bata and his team:

It is our turn, it is our time, we are in charge

Dundun and his team:

We shall distort his singing

Bata and his team:

We shall maximize this season to the fullest

Dundun and his team:

We shall obstruct his dancing

Bata and his team:

We shall maximize this season of our reign

Dundun and his team:

A o ni je ko korin, A o ni je ko lulu,

A o ni je ko korin, A o ni je ko jo

Bata and his team:

We are in charge, we shall enjoy our leadership

We shall maximize this season of our reign

ORCHESTRA (ASEBAJE E RORA)

Ase'baje e rora, Ase'baje e rora x2

Pele pele l'aiye gba, Ase'baje e rora

E ma bale yi je o, Ase'baje e rora

Pele pele l'aiye gba, Ase'baje e rora
E rora o, Eni aiye nye x2
Eni ti o r'oye je, Ko mase dite eni a gbade fun
E rora o, Eni aiye nye x2
Igba o lo bi o rere o, Aiye lo bi opa ibon
Eyin le loni, Olorun lo lola x2
Ase'baje e ma balu je o, Ase'baje e rora se
Eyin le loni, Olorun lo lola x2
Ohun e se loni, itan ni lola, Ase'baje e rora se
E ma bale yi je o, E ma ba le yi je o
Ase'baje e rora, Ase'baje e rora
Eni aiye nye, Olorun lo ni'po, Rora tele aiye fele
Eni aiye nye Olorun lo ni'po, E rora se pele o
E ma ba'le yi je o, E ma ba'le yi je o
Ase'baje e rora, Ase'baje e rora x4

Scene Five
— *** —

The scene shows Bata's group flaunting their wealth and oppressing the town's people. Bata and his group takes the song "A ti j'oye yi na". The orchestra repeats "Ase'baje e rora" from e rora o. The town's people are seen complaining about how they suffer in the midst of plenty, how they are deprived of what is legitimately theirs and how their chosen leader has failed them. The song "We are suffering" will be taken.

BATA AND HIS GROUP

It is our turn; it is our time, asiko wa lode o
It is our time; it is our turn, igba t'awa lode o
(Repeat)

Bata:

Bata, moti j'oye yi na, Bata, moti r'oye yi je
Bata, moti j'oye yi o, Bata, moti m'oye yi je

Bata's Group:

Bata, ati j'oye yi na, Bata, ati r'oye yi je
Bata, ati j'oye yi o, Bata, ati m'oye yi je
Binu Binu ko maa binu, eyin le mo, Eyin olote le
maa dite, eyin lo ye

NT'LEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

Yinmu, yinmu, ko maa yinmu, eyin le mo, Pegan,
pegan le maa pegan, eyin loye
Bata, ati j'oye yi na, Bata, ati r'oye yi je
Bata, ati j'oye yi o, Bata, ati m'oye yi je
Awa lo nsaye lowo, Awa lo nse 'joba
Ko seni to le di wa lowo, ko seni to le da wa duro
It is our time to enjoy o, It is our time to enjoy x2
To ba je t'owo ati lowo, To ba je t'ola ati lola
Ati lowo, ati lola, ati lola ati lowo
It is our time to enjoy o, It is our time to enjoy x2
Bata, ati j'oye yi o, Bata, ati m'oye yi je

ORCHESTRA: E rora o, Eni aiye nye x2
Igba o lo bi o rere o, Aiye lo bi opa
ibon
Eyin le loni, Olorun lo lola x2
Ase'baje e ma balu je o, Ase'baje
e rora se
Eyin le loni, Olorun lo lola x2
Ohun e se loni, itan ni lola,
Ase'baje e rora se
E ma bale yi je o, E ma bale yi je o
Ase'baje e rora, Ase'baje e rora

NI'LEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

Eni aiye nye, Olorun lo ni'po,
Rora tele aiye fele
Eni aiye nye Olorun lo ni'po, E
rora se pele o
E ma ba'le yi je o, E ma ba'le yi je
o
Aaye ye yin tan, Iwakiwa lo
towooyin yo
Ase'baje e rora, Ase'baje e rora
x3

WE ARE SUFFERING

Female Solo: Ourland is full of paradox
We have plenty but we are
suffering
We have food, yet we are hungry
We have money yet we are
lacking
We have leaders who are not
leading
We have followers who are not
following
We have structures, No

NI'LEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

infrastructure
We have security, but we are not
secured
We are blessed with many
resources
But the citizens lack resources
Oh what a paradox of a nation
What a paradox ni'lee wa
There is trouble in the land,
suffering in the land
There is hunger in the land,
problems everywhere
A nation that is so blessed, living
as accursed
It is a paradox, it is a paradox
Chorus: We are suffering; we are
suffering in our land
We are suffering; we are
suffering ni'lee wa
We cannot continue like this emi
fe bo o
We cannot continue like this emi
a bo o

Call and Response:

Ko s'onje (Ko s'onje) Ebi lo
gb'ode (Ebi, Ebi)

Ko si'se lode (Ko si se) Iyan nmu
wa (Iyan, Iyan)

Aabo ko daju (Ko daju) Ewu nwu
wa (Ewu, Ewu)

Eyin olorii wa (Olori) E wa nkan
se (Kia Kia)

Ilu le koko (Ole koko) Atije nira (O
nira)

Eyin olorii wa (Olori) E wa nkan
se (Kia Kia)

We are suffering; we are
suffering in our land

We are suffering; we are
suffering ni'lee wa

We cannot continue like this emi
fe bo o

We cannot continue like this emi
a bo o

Scene Six

— ★ ★ ★ —

At the Ojude, Sekere leads his ensemble in a rehearsal session in company of Agogo, Omele Ako and Atele and declares that they now form a unique group with him as the leader and they will go about their performances. Here the "Sekere Song" will be taken without a mention of Agogo, Omele Ako and Atele and this will generate a little problem among them but Sekere promise them that the song will be adjusted. Meanwhile Iyaalu Dundun comes in with his team noticing that Atele is now with Sekere; Bata and his group also comes in noticing that Omele' Ako has also deflected to Sekere's team.

Baba Agba or a narrator continues the story with a narration about the growing rivalry and divisions between the various groups in the land and leadership failure resulting in lack of cooperation and consequently bad performance. Four years have rolled by and it is time to pick another leader.

It is time for another leader to be chosen. Each of the three groups (Dundun, Bata and Egbe Alajose) will have to perform. Iyaalu Dundun now emerges as new leader. He appeals to all to join hands with him. The song "Kajo se ko le dara" will be taken first accompanied by only the Dundun ensemble and later reluctantly joined by the Bata and Sekere ensembles. Iyaalu Bata and Sekere hold the hand of Iyaalu Dundun as a symbol of agreement to cooperate. They then mobilize their ensembles to play for the new leader's song and dance after which Iyaalu Dundun is installed as the new leader.

SEKERE ALIANCE SONG

We are forming alliance
We are coming together
Sekere, Agogo, and Atele
We are joining together as one
We are forming alliance
We are coming together
Sekere, Omele ako, and atele
We are joining together as one
Agogo, we've been together

Omele ako you are welcome

Atele welcome to my band (repeat)

We shall all play together, in the coming competition

We must defeat Dundun and Bata (repeat)

Bi agogo ba nro, Bi Omele ako ba ndun

Bi Atele, ba fohun, dandan ni ka borii won

All Respond: Ti agogo ba nro, ti omele ako ban
dun

Bi atele ba fohun, dandan ni, a o
borii won

Sekere: Now join me to sing my song for
the competition x2

SEKERE SONG IS TAKEN

Se, Se, Se se se, Sekere, Sekere x2

Call: Sekere Kii r'ode Ibanuje

Response: Rara, Rara
Aso funfun Kii bawon jade ete

Response: Bee ni

All: Didun didun la nba nle oloyin
T'ijo, T'ayo ni lagbo ti wa –
sekere, Sekere, Sekere

NI'IEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

Awa ni, awa naa ni, amugboro
dun atide
Awani, awa naa ni, amugboro
dun atide o
Amugboro dun, Awa l'amugboro
dun, a tide, a tide, a tide
E wowa, e tun wa wo, Awa
l'amugboro dun a tide o
Call: Sekere, a lu'lu f'oba
Response: Eh, a lulu f'oba x2
Call: A lu'lu f'oba, a s'ere fun 'joye
Response: Eh a se fun 'joye
All: Sekere beats for the king,
Sekere beats for the prince
Sekere beats for all to rejoice
Amugboro dun, Awa l'amugboro
dun, a tide, a tide, a tide
E wo wa, e tun wa wo, Awa
l'amugboro dun a tide o
Call: Sekere Kii r'ode Ibanuje
Response: Rara, Rara
Call: Aso funfun Kii bawon jade ete
Response: Bee ni

NI'LEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

All: Didun didun la nba nle oloyin,
T'ijo, T'ayo ni lagbo ti wa— sekere,
Sekere, Sekere

OMELE AKO: E ni ka jo se, e o fi ti wa se
Sekere, e ni kajo sere, e o fi ti wa
se
E ni ka jo korin, ko s'oruko wa
ninu orin
E ni kajo se, e o fi ti wa se

Atele and Agogo joins Omele ako

SEKERE: Hold your peace, the song will be
adjusted x2
Agogo, Omele ako and atele
Hold your peace the song will be
adjusted

BABA AGBA AND NARRATOR (DUET):

The people of Ilee wa are no more united
The various groups are falling apart
Rivalry, divisions and hostility
Leadership failure, Followership rancor
More suffering for the people

NI'LEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

Another four years have rolled bye
And it is time to pick another leader
It is time to pick another leader
Oya ka lo si ojude llee wa
Let us go to Ojude llee wa
Chorus Repeat: Oya kalo si ojude llee wa
Let us go to ojude llee wa

*For the competition Bata and Dundun repeat
their group songs while the new group of
Sekere, Agogo, Omele Ako and Atele take a
new song "Egbe Alajose"*

EGBE ALAJO SE

Egbe alajo se x2

Sekere, Agogo, Atele Omele Ako,

Egbe Alajose (Repeat)

Agogo ko maa ro kango, kango, kango, kango

Sekere ko maa lu sense, sense, sense

Omele ako ko maa dun, panla, panla, panla,
panla

Sekere ko maa lu sense, sense, sense

Atele o ya fohun, lu'lu fun wa je ka jo (Repeat)

Egbe Alajose x2

To ba je ti'jo a le jo, To ba je ti'lu a le lu

To ba je t'orin, ohun mbe le nu wa

Agogo ko maa ro kango, kango, kango, kango

Sekere ko maa lu sense, sense, sense

Omele ako ko maa dun, panla, panla, panla,
panla

Sekere ko maa lu sense, sense, sense

Atele o ya fohun, lu'lu fun wa je ka jo

Egbe alajo se x2

Sekere, Agogo, Atele Omele Ako,

Egbe Alajose (Repeat)

IYAALU DUNDUN'S SONG

KA JO SE KOLE DARA

Ka jo se, kole dara, E je kajo se e

Ka jo se, kole dara, E je kajo se o

Ka jo se, kole dara, Iyii gbogbo wa ni

Ka jo se, kole dara, E je kajo se e

Ka jo se, kole dara, E je kajo se o

Ka jo se, kole dara, Ayoo gbogbo wa ni

Join with let us make things work, E je kajo see

Join with me let us sing together, Eje ka jo se o

Join with me in this performance lyii gbogbo wa
ni

Join with let us make things work, E je kajo see

Join with me let us sing together, Eje ka jo se o

Join with me in this performance Ayoo gbogbo
wa ni

Gbogbo oni'jo eje ka jo jo, Gbogbo oni'lu eje ka
jo lu

Gbogbo olorin, ka jo korin, Eje ka jo se, ka jo se
kole dara

We can sing together, we can dance together

We can play together, and perform as one
(Repeat)

Bata, e je ka jo see, ka jo see, Sekere e je ka jo se
ko le dara

Agogo e je ka jo see, ka jo se, ka jo se o, ko le dara

Bata, ka jo se o, ko le dara

Sekere, ka jo se o, ko le dara

Agogo, ka jo se o, ko le dara

Gbogbo wa, ka jo se o, ko le dara

Scene Seven

— ★ ★ ★ —

In Iyaalu Dundun's house, Iyaalu Dundun, Iyaalu Bata, Kerikeri, Omele abo and Sekere are together. Dundun assures them that they will enjoy his tenure as leader, they will be his lieutenants and he will settle them. He suggests that they form a new group for them alone excluding their followers to perform in the next gathering at ojude. Iyaalu brags about his ability and capacity as the mother drum, but Bata points out how important the followers are in their ensemble. Sekere also emphasizes the need to take care of the followers and involve them for there to be good performance. Iyaalu Dundun says they should only care about themselves that four years is a very short time.

DUNDUN: Fellow Musicians, Fellow musicians, Fellow musicians, welcome
Fellow Musicians, Fellow musicians, Fellow musicians,

welcome to my house

I am happy to welcome you to
this meeting

Now that I, have been chosen as
the leader

Now that I have been chosen by
the people

I am happy to be in charge

But why have I called you for this
meeting

For what purpose is this
assembly, It is for us to strategize

Four years is such a short time,
It is just around the corner

If we don't start to plan now,
we'll be surprised it will soon be
over

(All of them repeat four years is
such...)

So I have a proposal for you

Let us form a band of only
leaders

To perform in the next
competition which shall be in

four year's time

A band of only the leaders, to
perform in four years time

BATA:

Only leaders, without the
followers, how will the
performance be?

Only leaders without the
followers, what will the music
sound like?

We need the followers for good
performance

We need them for singing and
dancing,

Some of them will play on their
instruments; the followers are so
crucial

DUNDUN:

We can do without the followers

It will be a unique performance

I can sing and dance and play

You all can dance and sing as well

We all are good on our
instruments

NT'LEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

Let us form a new band, A band
of leaders, a band of leaders

SEKERE:

Caution, Caution, we need the
followers

Caution, Caution, followers are
crucial

Yes, we all are good on our
instruments

But when the followers join, the
performance is better

Caution, Caution, we need the
followers

BATA AND SEKERE:

It was the followers that helped you to win in the
last music competition

Why should we now plan to exclude them?

Why should we perform without the followers?

DUNDUN:

Think about yourself, think about your family

Think about yourself; think about your future

(Repeat)

NI'LEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

Four years is so short, we must start planning
from now

Think about yourself; think about your future

ORCHESTRA: E rora o, Eni aiye nye x2

Igba o lo bi o rere o, Aiye lo bi opa
ibon

Eyin le loni, Olorun lo lola x2

Ase'baje e ma balu je o, Ase'baje
e rora se

Eyin le loni, Olorun lo lola x2

Ohun e se loni, itan ni lola,
Ase'baje e rora se

E ma bale yi je o, E ma ba le yi je o

Ase'baje e rora, Ase'baje e rora

Eni aiye nye, Olorun lo ni'po,
Rora tele aiye fele

Eni aiye nye Olorun lo ni'po, E
rora se pele o

E ma ba'le yi je o, E ma ba'le yi je
o

Aaye ye yin tan, Iwakiwa lo
towooyin yo

Ase'baje e rora, Ase'baje e rora
x3

NÍLÈE WÁ
(IN OUR LAND)

NARRATOR: Oh what a pity, Oh what a pity
Planning for a future which they
may not see
Excluding the followers that
brought them to leadership
Oh what a pity, Oh what a pity
Oh what a pity, Oh what a pity
Planning for a future that may
not come
Forgetting the followers that
helped them in winning
Oh what a pity, Oh what a pity

ORCHESTRA: Oh what a pity, Oh what a pity
Planning for a future which they
may not see
Excluding the followers that
brought them to leadership
Oh what a pity, Oh what a pity

Scene Eight

The people gather again at ojude for another celebration. The new group comprising of Iyaalu Dundun, Iyaalu Bata, Kerikeri, Omele abo and Sekere puts up a performance. All others – Gudugudu, Isaaju, Atele, Omele Ako, Agogo also put up their own performance. While the performance of the group of leaders lacks the savory of the other accompaniments and characterized by each of the instruments trying to dominate; the performance of the other group lacks the depth and speech surrogacy of the leadership. Baba Agba comes up to talk about the importance of good leadership and followership, togetherness and cooperation for good performance. He reminds them that in the past they all as family of musicians blended together in spite of their differences for the leader to sing and dance well and advocate a return to focusing on what binds them together. He tells all to work together to restore their land. A song of prayer for the land is taken “Adura fun

'lee wa" followed by a vibrant performance in which all of the ensembles perform and everyone sing and dance together.

BAND OF LEADERS (Iyaaly Dundun, Bata, Kerikeri, Omele abo, and Sekere)

OMI TUNTUN TI RU

Omi tuntun ti ru, Eja tuntun wo'nu odo agb'orin de

Omi tuntun ti ru, Eja tuntun wo'nu odo agb'orin de o

Dundun, Bata, Kerikeri, Omele abo agborin de
Sekere, Bata, Kerikeri, Agb'orin de o

Ah a juwon lo a kii s'egbe won, Kelegbe m'egbe
x2

K'elegbe m'egbe ni gbagede orin – Kelegbe m'egbe

K'elegbe m'egbe l'awujo onilu – Kelegbe m'egbe
Kaka ki kiniun s'akapo ekun, olode a maa r'ode
Kaka ki kiniun s'akapo f'ekun kaluku a yaa sode
lototo ni x2

Ah, a juwon lo a kii s'egbe won, Kelegbe m'egbe
x2

K'elegbe m'egbe ni gbagede orin – Kelegbe
m'egbe
K'elegbe m'egbe l'awujo onilu – Kelegbe m'egbe
Omi tuntun ti ru o x 2,
Omi tutun ti ru Eja tuntun wo'nu odo a gb'orin
de
Omi tuntun ti ru, Eja tuntun wo'nu odo a gb'orin
de o

ASEJU BABA ASE TE

ATELE (drum speech):

Aseju Baba ase te x2
Wole, wole, wodi alase ju, aseju
baba ase te

GROUP:

Aseju Baba ase te x2
Wole, wole, wodi alase ju, aseju
baba ase te

Aseju Baba ase te x2
E wa e w woju alase ju, aseju
baba ase te

We can play without you; we can
sing without you

We can dance without you; we

NI'LEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

can perform without you
We have put ourselves together;
we are doing well without you
Aseju Baba ase te x2
E wa w'aye alaseju, alaseju,
alaseju
Aseju Baba ase te

BAND OF LEADERS:

Ah, a juwon lo a kii s'egbe won, Kelegbe m'egbe
x2
K'elegbe m'egbe ni gbagede orin – Kelegbe
m'egbe
K'elegbe m'egbe l'awujo onilu – Kelegbe m'egbe

BABA AGBA/NARRATOR

People of Ilee wa x3 Come let us reason together
x2
As a community of musicians, we need each
other for good performance x2
Yes, you can play alone, and you can play alone
x2
But when you play together, the performance

NÍLÈÈ WÀ
(IN OUR LAND)

will be better

When you sing together, the harmony will be sweeter

When you dance together, the unity will be stronger

When you play together, the performance will be better

Dundun, you can stand alone to play your music

Bata, you can stay alone to have your performance

Sekere, Agogo and others can play in isolation

But a blend of all inspires a great performance

Performing as one, in spite of your uniqueness is what we now desire

Let us come together

Dundun, Bata, Sekere, Agogo, Let us come together

Let us sing together, Let us dance together; Let us work together

DUET: Isokan lo dara, I repo lo ye wa

Ka f'owo s'owo po ka jo se, ko dara Nilee
wa x2

ALL: Repeat Kaf'owo s'owopo

NÍLÈE WÁ
(IN OUR LAND)

ADURA FUN'LEE WA

Soprano: Olu orun, a rawo ebe si o
Lori Nigeria, Orile ede wa owon
Gbo igbe, gbo ebee wa, atonii
gbagbani

All Repeat: Olu orun, a rawo ebe si o
Lori Nigeria, Orile ede wa owon
Gbo igbe, gbo ebee wa, atonii
gbagbani
Baba mimo ade, gbo'gbe wa,
gb'ebe wa lori orile edee wa
Baba mimo ade, gbo'gbe se,
gb'ebe wa lori orile edee wa
Dari ese jin ni, tun lee wa see
Mun 'gba tutu to dun wa, je kara
o tu ni (Repeat)

Tenor & Bass: Wa gbo'gbe wa o Baba wa
A tun wa se o saanuu wa
A wa gbani o Saanuu wa

Soprano & Alto: Baba wa bawa yigba pada, Je
kohun gbogbo ko dero
Baba wa bawa yigba pada, Je
kohun gbogbo ko tura

NI'LEE WA
(IN OUR LAND)

Tenor: Gba wa o ye wa gbani o, Baba gbani ye o
je ko tura

Bass: Gba wa o ye wa gbani, gbani, gbani gbani
Baba dakun je ko tura (Repeat)

All: Olu orun a bebe lodo re
Oga ogo, a sipe fun'lee wa
Boju wole, la toke orun wa
Gba wa Baba o, Gbani gbanio e ye
Baba mimo gbo'gbe se, gbo ebee wa lori
orile edee wa
Wa tan isoro wa, Mun gbaa wa ye
Ye, dawa lohun Baba edumare, Gba wa
Baba

NTÌLÈE WÁ

(IN OUR LAND)

Premiere Performance Cast List

Baba Agba - Oti Courage
Narrator - Obanure Tunmishe
Iyaaalu Dundun - Kofoworola Blessing
Atele - Akinyemi Nofisat
Iyaalu Bata - Folorunsho Abolaji David
Omele Ako - Ayanbisi Samad
Sekere - Oladokun Samuel
Agogo - Oriolowo Ibrahim

Dundun Followers

Oladipo Tomisin
Akangbe Toluwalase
Jimoh Abdulsamad
Akinyemi Nofisat
Ajibola Oluwasegun
Dada Eniola
Ibrahim Hameedah
Olujesun Motolani

Bata Followers

Adewara Oluwakemi
Joseph Dominion
Uddin Cara
Ogunniyi Jumoke
Adebajo Abigail
Kolawole O. Rachael
Olatayo Precious
Ayanbisi Samad

Chiefs

Idachaba Emmanuel
Tochukwu Francis
Ilemobade Oluwaseun

Villagers

Olawuyi Precious
Alademomi Pamilerin
Remi Peace
Arinde Omotola
Akinsola Lois
Aliu Olaitan
Adamu Faroq
Daramola Gbemileke
Adeleke Samuel
Ojoniyi Moyosola

NT'LEE WA

(IN OUR LAND)

Orchestra

Agboola Young
Adewumi Yusuf
Sokoya Daniel
Olayemi Ezekiel
Eliagwu Mathias
Daramola Basit
Bakare Basit Tolulpe
Adeiye Esther
Bashiru Hawau
Akerele Eniola
Abdul David
Omole Eri-Ife
Gabriel Faith
Ojo Precious
Adewole Philip
Olla Tolulope
Abdulwahab Ibrahim

Drummers

Bakare Israel
Olajide Israel
Bolaji Promise

Instrumentalists

Okelola David
Francis Samuel
Chuwang Joshua Weng
Adelana David

NI'LEE WA

(IN OUR LAND)

CREW MEMBERS

Music Director: Taiye Adeola

Assistant Music Director: Taiwo Olalusi

Assistant Musicologist: Essien Nsikakabasi

Drama Directors: Abdulrasheed A. Adeoye; Tayo S. Arinde

Choreographer: Felix Akinsipe

Assistant Choreographer: Kehinde Olalusi; Jimoh Samad

Technical Director: Sina Adegbite

Stage Manager: Oludolapo Ojedian

Assistant Stage Manager: Sadiq Ayomide

Property Manager: Abdulmalik Amali

Assistant Property Manager: Femi Atteh

Costume Manager: Peju Shuaib

Business Manager: Ahmed Rufai

NÍ'LEÈ WÁ

(IN OUR LAND)

Excerpts from the Premiere Performance
held on Friday 18th October, 2024



DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING AND FILM ARTS,
UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN

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Presents

NÍ'LEÈ WÁ

(IN OUR LAND)

Friday, 18th October, 2024

Time: 04:00 & 06:00 pm

Department of the Performing and Film Arts,
University of Ilorin

Written By: Dr. Tayo S. Adeola
Music Director: Dr. Tayo S. Adeola
Drama Directors: Prof. Abdulrazzeed A. Adeboye
Dr. Tayo S. Aruga

Choreographer Dr. Felix Akinsipe
Stage Manager: Dr. Oludolapo Ojedin

Prof. Adegboyega Adisa Fawole
Chairman, Ceremonial Committee

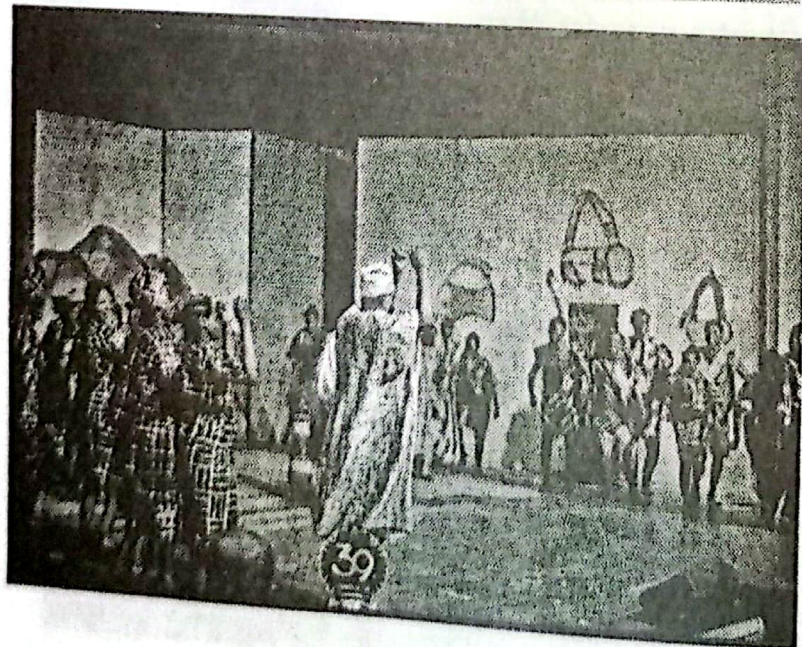
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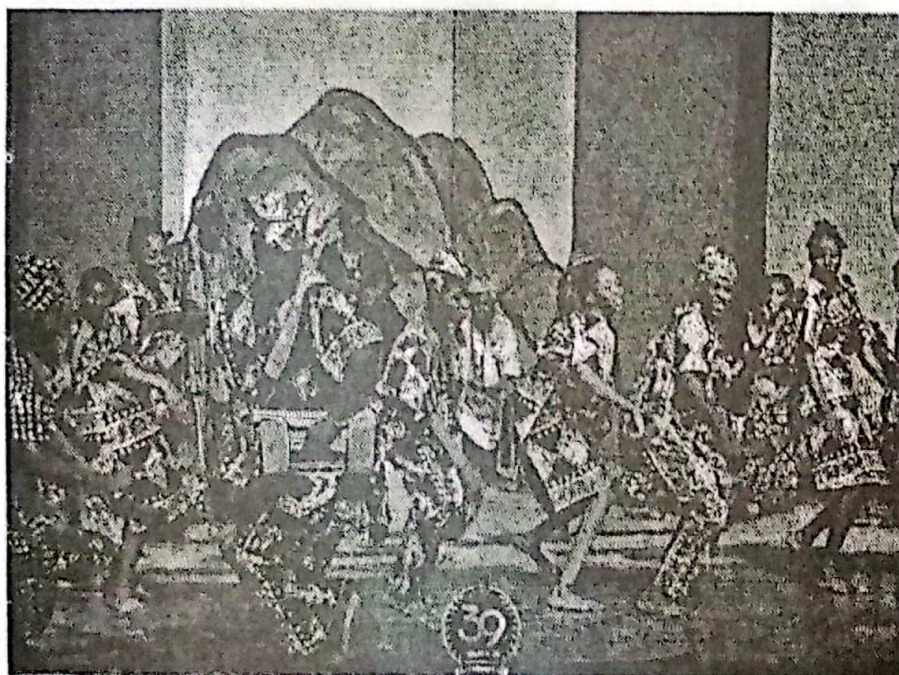
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(IN OUR LAND)



NI'LEE WA

(IN OUR LAND)



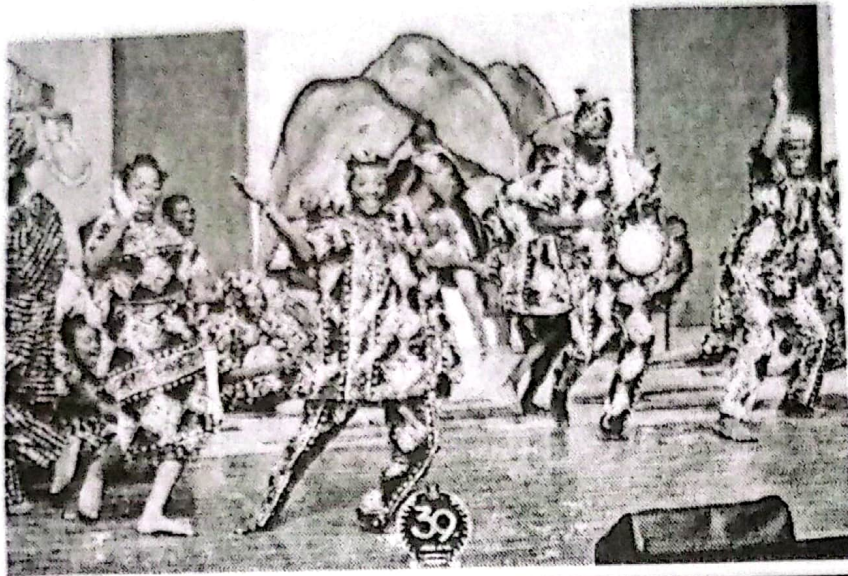
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THE BOOK

This is another work in the creative writing series from the Performing and Film Arts Department of the University of Ilorin. NI'LEE WA (In Our Land) is a folk opera that satirizes a nation referred to as "Ilee wa" (Our land). Baba Agba, a story teller and an elder in the land gathers the people of the land to tell the story of a land full of paradoxes. He gives the narratives of the good times that the land had enjoyed and the gradual decline of the land to its present state of impoverishment with a recurring question of "How did we get here?" and "How can we make it right?". Performances of music ensembles - Dundun, Bata, Sekere and agogo represent the major groups contending for power, and the leaders of the various groups represent the leadership problems of "Ilee wa". Dundun, Bata, Sekere, Isaaju, Atele, Agogo, Omele Ako, Omele Abo, Kerikeri are the major characters representing different groups, figures and issues of concern that must be handled and resolved if the land will reclaim its lost glory. Iyaalu Dundun, Iyaalu Bata, Sekere, Isaaju, Atele, Gudugudu, Agogo, Omele Ako, Omele Abo, Kerikeri are the major characters representing different groups, figures and issues of concern that must be handled and resolved if the land will be restored.

THE AUTHOR

Taiye Shola Adeola holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) degree in performing Arts with specialization in music from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Arts degree in Music, and Masters of Religious Studies from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria; He studied theology at the Nigeria Baptist Theological Seminary Ogbomoso, Nigeria where he obtained his Masters of Divinity (Theology), and Certificate in Ecumenism from the Institute for Ecumenical Studies Bossey, Switzerland, He is presently a lecturer at the department of the performing and film arts of the University of Ilorin, Nigeria where he teaches music.



He is a music sociologist, musicologist, composer, conductor and music director with many works to his credit. Some of his other works are: The gods have spoken (opera); Wanted (opera); Emmanuel (Cantata); Love Divine (Cantata); Irewaye (Cantata); Wonder Child (dance); etc Ni'lee wa is his third published opera.



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