



## OLORSHOR STREAM MISTRY

When we read about Principalities, powers and demons of darkness in the bible it is not fiction, they do exist. Those of us who are lucky enough not to encounter them must always be thankful to GOD.

I grew up at Wilkinson Road, the main highway at the outskirts of Murray Town Village, Sierra Leone. This was in the late fifties, before Sierra Leone became independent in 1961 to be more precise, I lived at Zizer's Compound from the age of 5 till age 28 when I got married and left my family home. Our compound was referred to as Zizer's Compound because the whole stretch of the land covering many acres belonged to the Lawyer Zizer, a renowned legal practitioner at the time. Lawyer Zizer knew the value of real estate and built six solid houses all in a row beginning at the start of the east boundary to the west.

Unfortunately, he died childless after working so hard leaving his property intestate. His wife Annie Zizer inherited the property. She rented out the houses and sold the undeveloped plots of land.

It was the top floor of the third house from the East boundary that a couple lived in the sixties. The wife was called Mariama. The husband was a gifted artist and made his living by drawing scenes on canvas which he sold. Mariama had no child at that time and I guess that was the reason she took in to me. She was most probably in her late twenties and I was about ten years old then. I spent a lot of time at her house and I fond memories of her.

One morning all the tenants of Zizer compound woke up to learn that Mariama and husband couldn't sleep the whole night. Mariama kept crying and fighting to open the main door and walk out of the house. She claimed she

was being called to go and married to the “devil or spirit at Olorshoro stream in Murray Town. She claimed the ‘devil’ sent his wife to take her to the stream to collect his ring. Since Mariama’s husband refused to let her go out of the house, the devil’s wife was beating her with a cane and insisting she should go to the stream.

At the break of the day, Mariama’s husband exhausted by then, allowed her out of the house, but called out to fellow tenants for help. He narrated the encounter Mariama claimed to have had with the spirit of Olorshoro stream. We all gathered at the scene, Mariama laid down on the ground restlessly, moaning and shaking her legs all the time, claiming she was being caned and begging to be allowed to go to the stream.

After much deliberation by all the tenants, Mariama’s husband was prevailed upon to allow her to go to the stream. He reluctantly agrees. Mariama got up and headed for the stream. Everyone including myself walked behind her and followed her to the stream. The stream is about ten minutes walk from Zizer’s compound. It was 10:00am and already there were a good number of people doing laundry at the stream. When she got to the stream, she went to the top end that was muddy and full of pebbles. She stretch out her hands search in the mud for a few minutes and then came out her hands, searched her hand and made as if she was slipping a ring on her finger. However what we saw were just small pebbles and mud that fell off her hands. The rings she claimed that she wore on her finger was not visible to us.

When she got home she went straight to the bathroom, had a shower and then asked for incense to be burnt. She then told her husband in the presence of all of us that she encountered the male devil/ spirit when she went to laundry her clothes at the stream the previous day. She was invited to collect the ring from the male devil/spirit of Olorshoro stream. She showed us the finger claiming the ring was there, although we didn’t see any ring. She explained that it was the wife that came for her and she was caning her, insisting she must go and get the ring.

Mariama's husband was advised to take her to a 'medicine man' that would perform the necessary rites to break the marriage and drive away the devil from her. Most importantly the medicine man will perform some rituals to prevent Mariama from seeing these devils or spirits. A 'medicine man' is a man who claims to be able to see and communicate with spirits and has charms and powers to cure people affected by spirits. They also claimed to be able to make some form of mishap to befall someone.

It was believed that Mariama could see the spirit realm which is not visible to everyone, so when she went to the stream, she saw the devil and a result he invited to join them.

Mariama's husband took her to one such 'medicine man' and we were told that the medicine man removed the ring from her finger dissolved the marriage and 'darkened' Mariama's eyes so that she could no longer see beyond the physical world.

Prior to this experience, as little children we were told stories of the Olorshoro devil and his exploits at nights along the Murray Town Village highway. I must admit that I took those tales with a pinch of salt. However when I witnessed the scene involving Mariama I was convinced that indeed, that seemingly small simple stream had powers that can manifest themselves if they encounter humans that have the ability to see and communicate with them.

I wonder if the powers of darkness that lived in Oloshoro Stream are there and manifesting themselves this twenty-first century.

Written by,

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