

Fights between the two races and some men from both sides were killed. But the white men managed to settle there and continued their work of conversion. It was a shock to Okonkwo to hear that his son Nwoye too was converted into a Christian. He turned into a man of uglyish and anger. In his view, to abandon the gods of one's father and to adopt the gods of others was the very depth of abomination.

There was a situation of civil war in Mbanta where Okonkwo was living. A meeting of the clansmen was held which was attended by him. He felt that the outsiders should be chased out of the village but the men of the village were submissive and mild. They finally decided only to ostracise the Christians. Okonkwo's anger reigned within himself and at the end of this exile, came back

to his clan of Umofia.

The third part of the novel deals with the tragic phase of Okonkwo's life. The anger that he nourished against the Christians and the converts led to his desperation and death. He knew that he had lost his place among the nine masked spirits who administered justice in the clan. The new religion had gained ground in his absence of seven years. The government in his clan was run by the white men with the assistance of converts. The clan-men became helpless against them and Okonkwo mourned for the clan which he saw breaking up and falling apart. The suppressed anger of the people one day burst out in the demolition of the church. Six of them were arrested and a fine was imposed upon the whole clan.

In the next meeting of the clan Okonkwo killed the court messenger who announced that the District Commissioner had ordered the meeting to stop. In anger and frustration Okonkwo hanged himself from a tree. This was the tragic end of one of the greatest men of Umofia.

Achebe's novel has a double theme - the theme of the cultural past and that of the encounter between two different races and two cultures, the African and the European. His invocation of the past is used cleverly to subserve his present political ends. Through lots of sociological details, Achebe gives the impression that before the colonial rule, African history was not 'one long night of savagery.' The Igbo people had their own culture and civilisation. Certain norms had been established and people lived by the rules and laws of their community.