

of living. The white colonisers were armed with superior technology and administrative skill. It was natural, therefore, that the cohesion and unity of the community was disturbed and things started to fall apart. Naturally we are reminded of Yeats's line: "Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold."

Chinua Achebe is a skillful novelist and knows the art of storytelling. He manipulates the coordination of the varied elements of his novels in such a manner that every detail becomes significant in conveying the total impression.

'Things Fall Apart' is divided into three parts. The first part introduces the hero Okonkwo, who is the most representative man of the Igbo culture. He struggles not only to dissociate himself from the image of his father but also towards the development of a hard and stern 'masculine' image opposite to his

father's soft and effeminate character. His rejection of his father's values assumes importance in the context of the Igbo social relations where material achievement was considered the necessary sign of success. His classification of the values he admired as 'manly' leads him to despise his son's desire for the 'womanly' stories told by his mother.

The novelist proceeds forward to tell us how he had been collecting honour after honour from the young age of eighteen. He was a wrestler and he had brought the first honour to his village by throwing Amalinze the Cat who had remained unbeaten for seven years among the surrounding clans from Umuofia to Mbano. Okonkwo belonged to Umuofia and his clan was proud of him.

Now about forty years in age Okonkwo achieved wealth and