

name which had remained a dream for his father, Unoka, who had been lazy, timid and heavily in debt. Okonkwo was clearly cut out for great things and had won fame as the greatest wrestler of his clan of nine villages. He was a wealthy farmer and had married three wives and had children from them all. To crown it all, he had taken two titles and had shown incredible powers in two inter-tribal wars. As the novelist comments, "he was already one of the greatest men of his time." Okonkwo realised the importance of need of work in times of draught and excessive rainfall and earned people's praise. The first part ends with a turn in Okonkwo's fortune from prosperity to adversity. It was an event of chance. In the funeral procession of Ezeulu, the oldest man of the village, Okonkwo's

gun exploded and Ezeudu's son was killed. It was a crime against the earth-goddess to kill a clansman and its punishment for Okonkwo was an exile for seven years.

The second part of the novel narrates Okonkwo's life in exile when he lived in the house of his mother's brother at Mbanta. During his exile he became a victim of despair. The novelist comments, "Clearly his personal god or chi was not made for great things. A man could not rise beyond the destiny of his chi." It was in his exile that Okonkwo came to know about the arrival of the white Christian missionaries in the clan called Abame. Then, two years later, he came to know that the missionaries had come to his own clan, Umuofia too. There were also