

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 Umuofia.

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.

A very realistic picture of the life of African past has been depicted. By making a copious use of Igbo proverbs, Achebe gives the impression that the Igbo people were wise and intelligent who had learnt much experience. Some of them are quoted below —

- 'He who brings Kola, brings life.'
- 'A toad does not run in daytime for nothing.'
- 'A proud heart can survive a general failure because such a failure does not prick its pride.'
- 'If I fall down for you, and you fall down for me, it is a play. Marriage should be a play and not a fight.'
- 'A man belongs to his fatherland when things are good and life is sweet. But when there is sorrow and bitterness, he finds refuge in his motherland.'

Several details of the social life of the Umuozia clan are mentioned in the novel. A debt