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Thank you for your review. I of course met Dadasare in Tudun Wada; I was taken by Abdullahi Smith (then HFC Smith). And it was I who showed Aliya the text. And I have read Dadasare's diary. So I respect her a lot - especially as Yola friends still remember her as a young beauty whom they all greatly admired as schoolboys.

I think you miss the essential tragedy of her life - she deeply loved East, who later treated her badly (in my view). As she was a Muslim, she couldn't marry him (any more than HFC Smith could marry Sonia, until he became a Muslim). And she did so want to be his wife.

Also I am interested you call a concubine a 'slave'. In a sense concubines are 'slaves' until they conceive - then they cannot be sold. Even I was offered a concubine when I was a student but I could not afford the £19 required - and anyway I was too much of a nerd (and was being fed by my hosts); I wasn't being offered a slave - that'd be different. So I think you miss the milieu in which Dadasare was a landmark figure, going out on tour in the 'bush' with her partner the ADO, and then dining in the Zaria GRA with their friends. This was exceedingly rare in those days.

Her account of course leaves out all the detail - she did NOT write it for publication but for her friends to read. But I haven't seen the book: I will try to get a copy. I am not sure what she would have made of it being made PUBLIC, for everyone to read. She was never a self-publicist (as so many are these days).

But you did treat her suicide very sensitively - thank you for that. As perhaps you know, suicide is actually not uncommon among women in Hausaland - it's always dressed up as an 'accident', and so it should be. But there is real distress beneath the 'accident' that one needs to be aware of AND understand. We males too, often

Comments

miss it, but it's there all right. Having lived within a Hausa household so long, with the wives all around, I am aware of how much I miss, how much is kept 'private' (unlike elsewhere in Nigeria?). But women did sometimes explain to me the distress of others around us.

Enough! I will show your piece to a reviews editor, but I can't promise it will get printed. Thanks again for showing it with me.

Stay well, stay safe...