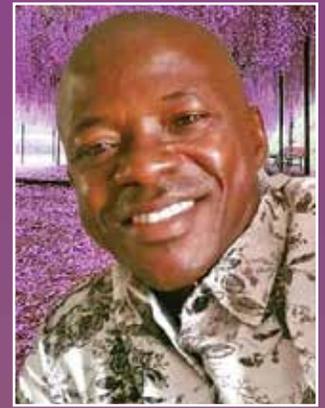


# An Idiot, One Year After...

By Omoba Clement Aladeloye

In a general group on WhatsApp  
She asked me a question  
To the question,  
I responded professionally.  
Quickly she tagged my response  
And typed: "you're an idiot"  
Face to face, you don't have ear  
Here you don't need ear, yet, you failed  
I replied: "Thanks so much,  
Now that you point my attention  
To this idiotic part of me  
I'll surely work on it,  
God bless you my dear..."  
The whole place shook.  
Over 50 people commented  
And were so surprised by my response.  
Of course she was terribly affected  
That very moment, she left the group  
An hour later she called me  
She apologized for her stupidity  
Trust me, I didn't care  
Later, we became friends.  
Few weeks ago,  
On my birthday,  
She gave me a wonderful gift  
This was a year  
After she called me an idiot.  
My hearing loss  
And what I have passed through in life  
My loneliness and my river of tears  
Many unbearable embarrassments

All this has recreated me  
My reaction to negative feedbacks  
Shows how mature I am  
And I have the power of choice  
Whenever anybody does  
Or says anything offensive to me.  
If someone calls you anything negative  
And you lose yourself  
Then you begin to fight  
Or shout or do anything terrible,  
You only prove them right.  
Better to keep quiet  
Allow people to think you're a fool  
Than for you to open your mouth  
And they confirm you're truly a fool.  
There are people  
Who are sent to you by God  
In order to help your journey in life  
To be worthwhile,  
Your meeting point might be  
At a fighting point.  
Be wise dear reader  
Even when you're angry.  
Maybe there's someone there  
You need to reconcile with today  
Go ahead and do just that.  
You need peace,  
He or she needs it too  
Happiness is a choice  
Choose happiness



*Nigerian native Omoba Clement Aladeloye's journey with hearing loss began at the age of 12. After enduring public embarrassment at schools, in the streets, at work and home, he persevered until he could stand on his own. Today, he is a solar panels installer and does any jobs he can as he struggles with the unemployment situation in his country. He loves writing poems that show the world what he has endured and to inspire others with hearing loss. His hobbies are handball, reading novels, listening to music and exchanging handwritten letters. He is the author of The Tears of Hard of Hearing People, which he dedicated to the late Jason Carlson of Twin Falls, Idaho. The novel can be found on Amazon.com.*

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