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## "BLACK SKIN, WHITE MINDS: POLITICAL DOMINATION AND THE DENIAL OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN BEN OKRI'S *THE FAMISHED ROAD TRILOGY*"

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### ABSTRACT

*This study investigates denial of fundamental human rights presented in Ben Okris' The Famished Road Trilogy. Humans are entitled to have certain basic rights in order to have a happy life on this planet, if these rights are not granted or are violated, it is an injustice and violation of human rights. Basic rights include the freedom to choose for oneself and the provision of civic and political rights, including the right to employment, health and education, a sufficient standard of living, and the right to legal equality. The poor people in this selected work are denied their fundamental rights and subjected to political dominance and subjugation by their own rulers, as depicted in the Famished Road trilogy. Despite being an independent nation, Nigeria has not been able to grant freedom to all of its common citizens. In the famished road work provides numerous occurrences pertaining to people' freedom and security are discussed in the chosen work. In addition to a lack of a sufficient standard of living, economic and social rights have been infringed. They are specifically autonomous, but their freedom is constrained by their own rulers, who are having black skin and white minds.*

**Key words:** Freedom, Political rights, provisions, social rights, Dominance, health and Education.

## INTRODUCTION

Since humans are one of the universe's creatures, they have the right to live and enjoy nature and its resources. However, because many people, particularly those in positions of power, have materialistic ideas, they constantly steal resources and money that belong to everyone. Many nations established colonies as a result of this materialistic mindset, which eventually spread as neo-colonialism. Because it is akin to an indirect method of stealing the blood of one's own people, it is more harmful than colonialism. It applies to any severe degree of violating people's fundamental rights and causing human rights abuses. By using his oral traditions such as tales, myths, and stories to depict all of humanity's miseries, the author of *Famished Road* used a new literary style known as magical realism to illustrate all of the injustice, political dominance, and denial of civil rights. This research paper will outline all the injustices and violations that the country's indigenous rulers have intentionally produced.

### Basic Rights of the people

Professor Kehinde Mowoe in his work *Constitution law in Nigeria* has underscored Fundamental human rights as contained in the 1999 Constitution, of Nigeria People. It highlights basic rights of Nigerian people and their freedom. An independent society is being built on fundamental rights, which are the foundation of individual freedom and self-esteem. They promise that everybody is treated equally and fairly, regardless of their religion, colour, gender, or socioeconomic standard by defending citizens from variable official action. Along with rights to equality and constitutional medications, these rights, which usually include the freedoms of expression, religion, and gathering, enable people to live self-sufficiently and actively involve in public life. In the research article *Political Corruption in Nigeria: Theoretical Perspectives and Some Explanations* author states that Nigeria is currently in a critical stage of its independence. In addition to the issue of pandemic exploitation, the nation is in a dire situation with regard to its economic, social, and political development. The appearances of the disasters are plain, the solutions far less so. Therefore, widespread dishonesty and incredible waste provide larger obstacles for a nation transitioning to egalitarianism after long periods of military tyranny. Corruption has undoubtedly been the enemy of democratic stability and survival since the nation's return to civil government in 1999.

In this novel Rich politicians frequently make false and misleading claims, such as stating they will enhance the quality of food and education, build roads, and supply clean water. Those who vote for the rich party politician in every election because they trust their deceptive presentations are regarded as subalterns. **AND WE'RE GIVING AWAY FREE MILK, YES, FREE MILK FROM US, COURTESY OF OUR AMAZING PARTY, TO SHOW YOU WE'RE NOT EMPTY WORDS. BRING YOUR KIDS TO US! (145).** Every election, wealthy politicians stand up and claim to help the poor and meet their basic needs, but no one has ever fulfilled their pledges. The rich dominant group of people have been treating members of poor socioeconomic groups like children of stepmothers. They always have the ability to manipulate and control those who are poor. Economically disadvantaged members of society lack a representative who is prepared to act on their behalf. During elections, the politicians would consistently act in the same way, but they were never able to effect any change. Those that are economically deprived do not receive any political support; therefore, they cannot take advantage of any positive aspects of their society and its citizens. They are therefore continuously forced to comply with the desires of people who are regarded as having a better social standing. For quite some time, those living in poverty have been aching to acquire some basic necessities, but they have not been given anything of value. The poor class people start making indirect jokes about politicians because they are no longer willing to listen to their deceptive claims. Despite having the same fundamental rights as the wealthy, those in poverty are still viewed as lower-ranking people since they are largely politically limited. Rich politicians utilize violence and physical strength to control the poor class because they want to control them. This can be very helpful in regulating the poor class's society.

In the research article *The Elite Factor in Nigeria's Political-Power Dynamics* author stated Nigeria aims to distribute political power in a way that replicates its variety. Therefore, the focus is on the conspiracies surrounding elite dominance at the executive power-sharing level. When it comes to selecting political leadership, the reality of capitalism favors and authorizes the elite above and beyond the critical mass of the populace. The most progressive democracies are run by the elites, and this is the case in all economically liberal states. The idea that democracy and capitalism share a sum of important premises in commons supported by the illogicality in the

democratic system of administration, such as the huge resources needed to compete in political leadership contests and the interlocking connections between politicians as a requirement for realizing the dreams of leadership. The author argues that the economic power disparities that are a feature of capitalism are not limited to the market. The people who are regarded as elite will punish those members of such a subaltern society who reject the dominant system and authority of the elites. The main purpose of aggression and dominance was to control the members of the lower social groups. These elite cultures have used violent dominance to intimidate and suppress subaltern people in order to limit the resources available to the poor forever.

### **Freedom of Thought and Conscience**

It is one of the most hallowed and intrinsic of all fundamental rights, for it guards the inner shrine of the human mind a space that no government or authority can lawfully invade. Its assurances every individual the freedom to form their own opinions, and beliefs, convictions without fear of persecution, coercion, or punishment. In the research article *The Interrelationship between Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion and the Rule of Law* author states that the challenge for states is that freedom of thought, religion, and ethics, as it has been established in the jurisprudence of nationwide and global courts, seeks to exploit individual freedom.

Photographer in the novel captures some still images of the distribution of spoilt milk to the poor and the pathetic state of the populace as a result of the poisoned milk's digestion. The governing poverty were very resentful of the photographer after those photos appeared in the weekly journal, and they came up with a plan to have him killed and the proof he had collected on the milk incident destroyed. **"Kill the photographer!" "Get his pictures off of him!" "Get rid of him!" "Crush the photographer." and abandon his corpse on the street. Let him get eaten by the birds! for making fun of our gathering. Our strength! Our leader! (210).** Those who are against their party can be killed and whipped by the many powerful thugs owned by the affluent. The affluent party always follows through on threats to get people to vote for them.

### **Right to Life**

Right to Life is one of the most important fundamental rights. Judiciary is playing pivotal in the development of our constitution establishing fundamental rights to protect and, in conjunction with the Directive principles, social, economic,

and political justice for all members of the community. The fact that they were successful in their endeavour is evidence of their fervent adherence to the constitution. It recognizes that life itself serves as the foundation for all other human rights, making it the highest of all. It guarantees that every person has the fundamental right to exist and that their life will be legally protected, ensuring that no one will be arbitrarily deprived of their life. Courts from a variety of authority have interpreted this right widely, extending it to include access to basic necessities like food, shelter, and healthcare, without which a meaningful life cannot be sustained.

Antonio Gramsci stated that ruling classes uphold power not exclusively through power but by fortifying the agreement of the governed. the rich people do not only practice police and militaries to stay in power. Further strongly, they make the poor people to believe that the present order is usual, normal, and unavoidable so the poor forces themselves. This right extends beyond simple physical existence. In this novel the rich dominant class destroy the homes and working-class people who participate in activities that are contrary to their party and party officials. To oppress those who are less fortunate, all the wealthy have banded together. The political control portrayed by the story's photographer contains references from the book's author. **"I took pictures of thugs attacking women at the market." They were repelled by the women. I documented riots against our white masters with my camera. I photographed a police officer accepting bribes. When he saw me, the policeman came after me. I got away. (270)**

The photographer took pictures while a group of wealthy thugs were abusing a lower-class woman in order to get a commission from her in the marketplace. They badly attacked her since she had refused to give them money. She believes that their country's leaders have become white because they are colonizing and oppressing the poor in the same way as white colonists did. They internalized them to the point where they lost sight of the brother-to-sister bond among their own people. People are being treated as though they were the viewpoint of another within their own country, claims the subaltern hypothesis. The author explains how government representatives were being bought off and not interrogated over the assault on lower-class women. Because of this, the author feels as though his nation is being colonized. He calls the people in charge of his nation **"white rulers."** **"They were going to cut my throat. This is just a small wound. Azaro, my son, they were going to**

**kill your father Because I won't vote for them (326,327).** This scene is the most suitable line for mental trauma was presented in this work proposed by Caruth and Herman. Azaro's father says rich politician would cut his throat if he do not vote for them and also he states that the cut will be small wound only for him it indirectly conveys lot of wounds already he have on his body. This trauma narrative delivered to his own son. The minimalizing language ("just a small wound") is a classic trauma response: the survivor regularizes the violence to cover it. Azaro can transfers the traumatic memory across many generations and an act of testament that is also a wounding mark -passing. This is intergenerational trauma entrenched in intimate speech. Against the wealthy party and their leader, Azaro's father was a critic. Over the course of his life, he has been a witness to the pitiless situation of his society, which is the result of wealthy politicians and the people who support them. He is directly against them and declared that he would not vote for them so rich politician and their supporter thugs wiped him, his father touched the pain of death and also, they brutally attacked and bulled him to vote for their party leader. There is a possibility that they will slit his throat if he does not vote for them. The people are being tortured by all of them, and they have been using their own political power to win the election against the opposition.

### **Social and Cultural Rights**

According to Marx, exploitation leads to alienation from the society and he states that it would create inevitable class battle and the ultimate collapse of the industrial system as class tensions deteriorated and workers gained class awareness, or a consciousness of their collective exploitation. In *The Famished Road*, Okri excruciatingly clarifies these Marxist dynamics. The landlord practices both physical coercion and economic pressure to maintain dominance. Azaro's father works diligently but is lived in poverty because his excess is absorbed by the landlords and traders who own the structures of financial life in the slum. In the article *Economic, social and cultural rights published by united nation human rights*. It states that all human rights are interconnected, whether they be political, civil, economic, social, or cultural. Hunger and malnutrition are less common in places where people can successfully use their right to vote and influence Priorities of the government. The requirement that states gradually attain the full enjoyment of human rights over time is known as progressive

realization. Economic, cultural, and social rights can be infringed upon in a number of ways. When a state neglects its duties to uphold, defend, and fulfil fundamental rights, violations take place. For instance, forcing people to leave their houses (right to adequate housing) pollution of drinking water by water treatment facilities (right to health). Inability to ensure a wage sufficient for a reasonable quality of living (right to work). Keeping children with incapacities out of regular classrooms (right to education). It is the fundamental requirements for a life of dignity, equality, and well-being. It enforces a positive duty on the state to enthusiastically promote, support, and safeguard the material and social necessities of its citizens, in dissimilarity to traditional civil rights, which forbid the state from intrusive with individual liberty. These rights cover a wide range of privileges, such as the right to healthcare, the right to adequate housing, the right to education, the right to work and fair service, and the right to engage in cultural activities. These rights are attractive more widely recognized in contemporary constitutional democracies as enforceable legal rights that hold the government responsible for the well-being of all its citizens, rather than only as self-improving objectives.

Marx stated that political rights are under capitalism and whose bourgeois rights envisioned to support class rule and protection property, and they are never truly worldwide. Poor people's inability to vote is a feature of the system rather than a fault. Marx views the state as a tool of the ruling class rather than a neutral mediator. The economic foundation straight controls the political structure when the poor are denied the opportunity to vote, whether through property supplies, poll taxes, or intimidation, literacy tests and open fraud. In this work author has presented how poor people's voting rights has used for the rich party contestant by threatening and forcing people to vote for them. For an instance **"If you want to vote for the party that supports the poor, they give you the heaviest load. I am not much better than a donkey."** (96). It is the folks who have considerable fortune and prosperity who are the ones who use the poor people as slaves themselves. The poor are being treated no better than animals by them. In order to squeeze more work out of them, they continually beat and harass them. An additional argument is that if workers lend their support to a party of poor means, they will give them a considerably heavier weight of labour to do. Poor locals are forced to live as slaves within their own nation as a result of the dominance and tyranny

that they face. Their choice of vote was determined by the wealthy individuals, despite the fact that they had the right to vote in order to choose their leaders. Rich individuals are typically the only ones who can provide them with jobs and food, while poor depended people typically have a low level of education. They put forth a lot of effort to earn a little bit of money, which enables them to go about their daily lives. We have the ability to establish what Guha refers to as "the politics of the people" both outside and within of the indigenous elite. This was a domain that existed independently of elite politics since it did not emerge from elite politics and it did not depend on the latter. In the piece titled "Can the Subaltern Speak?" written by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (79), it is mentioned and discussed. Guha is considered to be one of the pioneers in the field of subaltern studies. He asserts that the election process is an independent act. People have the ability to choose their own leader according to their preferences; but, in being subaltern societies, people have lost their rights as a result of political dominance. People have been threatened, their homes have been wiped out, and rents have been hiked because they did not support their party. When it comes to elections, the elite rulers of the nation simply use their political power to exert influence over all of the officials of the government. Additionally, they vote on behalf of the people who are economically disadvantaged. Although members of subaltern societies have the ability to vote, this does not serve any purpose in terms of choosing their leaders. 'If you want to be my tenant, when the election comes you will go and vote for my party man. We will know who you vote for. Whether you vote for him there will be trouble. You might as well begin to look for another place now and see if you can find another landlord as good as me.'(232). This research presents profound observation on the way in which landlords and other wealthy individuals are intimidating individuals in order to secure votes for their wealthy party. Richard Emerson in his theory of Power-Dependence explains that when one party (labour class) is socially and economically dependent on another rich dominant class, the rich powerful party can make control over behaviour of their labours including voting choice also. The owner's threat leverages this dependence to force political obedience.

It has been said in this work by one of the landlords that his party members will be keeping a close eye on them regardless of whether or not they are voting in support of them. In order to ensure that the poor have no alternative

opportunity to act in accordance with their desires, the ruling party's wealthy members have altered the independent procedure and rights. They are able to do whatever they want since they have the ability and influence to rule, there is no dominant or independent force that can stop these immoral activities, and the land lord has stated that regardless of whether or not people vote for them, they will undoubtedly win the election. The people are led to believe that they have abused all of the governmental authorities and norms in order to take control of the situation at all times. There is a widespread belief among influential people that elections are a form of commerce that may help them increase their wealth and provide them the ability to exercise political power in any way they see fit.

### **Economic Exploitation**

For the purpose of alleviating poverty and increasing the income level of both individuals and the nation as a whole, economic development is the single most significant aspect. The level of economic growth and development are the primary factors that determine the wealth and power of a given nation. It is difficult for many developing countries to generate and maintain economic growth since they are confronted with specific obstacles that cannot be avoided because they are unavoidable. Wealth in the economy is the primary factor that determines the value of a nation's currency. As a result of the lack of progress in economic conditions, certain nations are currently experiencing high levels of dry poverty. There are a number of nations in Africa where millions of people are suffering from famine and drought as a result of inadequate rainfall and agricultural development. The African people live on the golden earth; they have a limitless number of natural resources in comparison to other countries; yet, they do not have the appropriate system or the notion to make use of all of the natural riches that they may possibly have. The majority of them are separated into two groups: those who are wealthy and those who are poor. The wealthy people are primarily concentrated in urban areas, and they have the ability to communicate with individuals from various nations around the world. In the more remote parts of the country, the poor people of the nation continue to live an existence similar to that of tribal people. It is impossible for them to engage in any kind of conversation with persons of high social standing or with people from foreign nations. Additionally, the government is not making any significant attempts to improve the standards of living and economic growth of

the general population. **Marx's contention here is that the descriptive definition of a class can be a differential one- it cutting off and difference from all other classes; In so far as millions of families live under economic conditions of existence that separate their mode of life... they form a class by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (70).** According to the subaltern theory, millions of people are living under the economic exploitation. This is due to the fact that the social standing and self-identity of individuals are acknowledged via the means of economic wealth and prosperity. The only reason that certain groups of people are leading of the people is because of their economic standing. While the vast majority of people are living a very poor life, some groups are leading of the people lives that are rich and sophisticated. The majority of wealthy people take advantage of the laborious efforts of the less fortunate in order to create their own lives. Because of economic exploitation, the nation's poor people continue to be poor. This is the primary reason for this. **'You are growing,' she said as we carried on home. 'Not everything grows in this place at least you, my son, are growing, 'as we made the journey through streets (200)'**. When Azaro's mother is on her way home from the market with her son, she uses a roundabout way to convey her views and emotions, which include the fact that there is no progress in the areas of politics, economics, agriculture, and education. She is of the opinion that her family and society appear to have remained unchanged from the time of the elders to the present day. At least her son is growing, she says, but there are other people growing around them. The influence of the elite society and their government is something that she is confronted with on a daily basis and suffers from. **"Only those who go to school can eat good food. Otherwise, you will end up carrying Loads like your father."** (109). *Pierre Bourdieu in his Social Reproduction Theory* say that education systems not only teach knowledge but also **reproduce prevailing social hierarchies**. The statement directly reflects this by Framing education as the **only legitimate path** out of manual labour. The only thing that will bring about change and liberation for the subaltern society is education, she has come to recognize. She encourages her son to continue his education so that they can one day escape the constraints of their society. The example she gave was about Azaro's father, who is having a hard time making ends meet and is working extremely hard to earn a small bit of money every day. His meagre wage

prevented him from being able to give his wife and son with consistent nourishment.

**"I stayed there till Mum came back in. 'You're still up?' 'Yes.' 'Go to sleep.' 'I'm hungry.' She was silent. Then after a while she said: 'Wait for your father. We will all share his food.' I thanked her."** (94). An in-depth portrayal of the lives of poor people has been provided by the author. There is no adequate food for the impoverished people in the nation, and even youngsters are unable to have food that is sufficient to satisfy their hunger. The majority of people in the nation are living for the sole purpose of surviving existence. Almost all of the households were surviving on the meagre daily salaries that they had acquired via a lot of laborious effort. Despite the fact that the majority of mothers were unable to provide their children with food when they requested it, they told their children stories in order to distract them from their hunger and put them to sleep. Those tales were centred on the topic of how to triumph over hunger. It is a predicament that the majority of low-income families in the country find themselves in. In spite of the fact that they possess a great quantity of natural resources, people who are economically disadvantaged are unable to make use of those resources in order to lift themselves out of poverty to a better economic situation. The government has taken care of making use of the natural resources; however, the government itself is ruled by wealthy politicians, which means that there is space for the poor backward people to enter into political power and clarify their questions and requirements. Generally speaking, those who are part of poor societies do not receive all of the resources that come from the economic sector of the country.

### **Right to Dignity**

It is a foundational principle in human rights law, confirming that each individual owns intrinsic worth simply by virtue of being human, regardless of, gender, religion, race or social status. This right includes the defence of one's personal identity, privacy, physical honesty, and moral self-sufficiency, identifying that individuals must always be preserved as ends in themselves and never merely as means to others' goals. It forms the logical and legal basis for rights such as freedom from torture, the right to a fair trial, and defence against judgement. People living in poverty in the country do not even have the opportunity to acquire a home in their own country. It is the rented houses that they are residing in. Because they are required to go to work every day, they are unable to consume food

on a consistent basis. Every single one of them is going to work at tasks that are extremely challenging and laborious since there is no other option for them to make money and survive in that culture 'We will have to cut down the food if we are going to afford the rent. 'Don't cut down the food.' 'We will have to sleep on empty stomachs. Starting from tonight.' (298). In 1979 Peter Townsend, describes about poverty in his Deprivation Theory of concept it is not merely as lack of income, but as the helplessness to meet basic human needs at the same time. Despite the fact that they provide extremely low-income housing, they raise the monthly rent on the homes. Due to the fact that paying rent is extremely expensive, and any rise in rent is an additional significant hardship for them, the poor were unable to even afford to buy food with the money they earned. In order for them to be able to pay the rent on a monthly basis, which is an increasing amount, they will need to reduce the amount of money they spend on their food. Because they are responsible for paying their rent, they must always go to bed with an empty stomach. Because they do not have access to any resources that could provide them with income, they continue to deteriorate. People who were poor and subaltern were constantly tormented since they lacked access to all of the basic sources. They perish on a daily basis as a result of poverty and inadequate economic resources that were generated by the people in positions of power.

#### **Dreams and Reality of Nigeria**

In reality most of the Nigerian the ruler is sucking wealth of the nation and the people by corruption and violence as the colonizer did in the colonial period. Rulers are hoarding wealth for themselves and for their family so wealth of the country and the people become very weak. During the regime of Abacha, he and his family apparently stole five billion of money from the country's coffer. In the year 2004, Abacha was ranked as the fourth most corrupt leader in the history. Abacha's national security advisor Alhajilmailaawarzo did a central role in the looting and transfer of money to accounts in a foreign country account. **Madame koto's body becomes symbol for the evil forces. She is pregnant with three abikus who fight with each other stubbornly in her womb "this abiku trinity."** (494). *George Herbert Mead & Herbert Blumer proposed Symbolic Interactionism theory concept that describes the objects, bodies, and events carry shared cultural meanings that shape how society understands reality. In this line the body of Madame Koto is compared not just bodily and it is a spiritual symbol and social loaded with meaning. Her pregnant body*

converts meaning that a site of symbolic evil, interpreted through the society's spiritual and social framework. And also, this line represents the civil war where the three geographical and tribal regions of Nigeria fight for each other to gain power. This war leads to great starvation, poverty and violence. One million citizens died in this war. "One night some men came to our compound to ask the photographer. They claimed to be journalists. They said they' heard he was staying with tenants in the compound. The tenants denied it, but they began to keep watch. At night we saw strange men leaning against the burnt van, staring at our house. When I told the photographer about it, he becomes scared and we did not see him for many days." (204). Photographer Jeremiah took photos presented in the novel about activities of corruption, violence, mistreatment of the poor people and providing spilt milk to the poor that caused severe illness among the poor people and published in the newspaper. Immediately after this incident party of the rich people came in search of him and tried to murder the photographer. Likewise, during reign of General Sani Abacha condition of the journalist was very difficult, they could not bring any news against the corruptions of the Abacha government. His government arrested tortured and murdered journalists by saying that journalists were breaking a law of the government. In fact, the sudden emergency of the radical Islamic sect Boko Haram was setback for Nigerian Government that works hard toward stability and development. This terrorist group kidnapped nearly three hundred school girls in 2014 they strongly believe that their religion forbids girls from getting education. They felt that Nigeria is following westernization and based educational system so they preferred to kidnap girls to show their disapproval. There is no information available till now about those girls. Parents are longing for the arrival of their children from the custody, of the terrorists. Some of the parents have died due to strong emotional feelings for their missing girls. Nigeria also experiences suicide bombings and terror strikes by this group mainly fighting for bringing an Islamic state across Nigria and it opposes western education and culture which it sees as the products of western insurgency, the insurgency. Nigerian Government failed to secure the school children. Other countries offered help to Nigeria but rulers did not show any interest in that issue. The consequences of all these unfortunate events are by products of the current political and economic stagnation in which the country is plunged. Such a rich country has been struggling

hard to establish itself because of endless disruptions. Very a little success had been achieved in almost sixty years to end corruption and poverty to establish real democracy and rule of law. Nigerian government sticks forever in between the colonial past and postcolonial present. People are suffering under the local leadership.

### Conclusion

This research revealed the corrupt practices, political violence, favouritism, greed, and poor governance that the Nigerian government has been plagued with ever since the country gained its independence from Britain. Okri discloses how the most basic human rights food, shelter, safety, education, and dignity are routinely denied to the poor and helpless by systems. Azaro's family's continuously is facing adversity to pick between food and rent. The survival and ambition reflects the reality of millions of people who are trapped in poverty that no one can escape on their own. It showed the deep and steadfast consideration of the human disorder in postcolonial Nigeria. The predatory relationships between landlords, politicians, and urban poor are examples of economic exploitation. It showed how capitalism and corrupt governance how work together to keep the marginalized eternally expelled, their hard work extracted, and their voices quieted through surveillance and pressure. Despite being portrayed as the only path to escape, education is still brutally out of reach for many, and the economic desperation that compels families to put immediate existence ahead of lasting goals undermines the promise of education. Okri employs the famished road itself as a potent metaphor for postcolonial Africa path that is constantly being travelled, always promising arrival, but never quite reaching its destination reminding us that the road will always be hungry and its travellers will always be worn out until systems of exploitation are destroyed and fundamental human rights are truly upheld. The subaltern and the unending pains that it endures in Nigeria are depicted through the postcolonial viewpoints featured in *The Famished Road*. The writer has been continuously experiencing and watching the subjugation of subaltern social groups, as well as the dominance of terrorists and violent acts. He is of the opinion that the corrupt postcolonial politicians have polluted the fertile soil. Azaro, the main character, is an abiku child, which indicates that a child will occasionally reside in both the spiritual and material realms. Similarly, the Nigeira is an Abiku nation that has

not the potential to grow steadily upon independence.

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