

BACK TO THE FATHER

written by

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INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lights out. Generator humming faintly outside. MARY MAGDALENE breaks perfume bottle. Strong scent permeates the room. She kneels, starts rubbing JESUS' feet.

JUDAS
(annoyed)
Aunty Mary, wetin be dis na? This
perfume no be small money oh! Why
una don waste am like that?

MARY
(calm, focused)
Judas, no be waste.

JUDAS
We for don sell am na. Help poor
people. Abi no be small people we
dey help ni?

JESUS
(gently but firm)
Leave her.

The room goes silent.

JESUS (CONT'D)
She dey prepare me...for burial.

The room shifts awkwardly.

PETER
(confused)
Oga. Jesus. ehm...wetin you dey
talk? Which burial?

JESUS
You no go understand now Peter. Na
later.

Mary keeps wiping his feet. The room thinks silently.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Dim streetlights. Far generator sounds. Dogs barking. People making noises. Judas walks fast, bouncing the pouch of coins he has on his shoulder.

JUDAS (V.O.)
He go dey okay if na true talk he
dey talk.

He pauses. Shaken.

JUDAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Abi?

CUT BACK TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The room still silent. Jesus hears their thought.

PETER
This man think say he go don go
like that. Na him leg I go carry
first.

JESUS
Peter, na you go deny me.

PETER
Ehn, öga wetin you dey talk? I no
go deny you na.

JESUS
Three times Peter. Three times.

PETER
Oga. No be me.

He looks around confused.

JESUS
Before the rooster crows.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMPOUND/STREET - NIGHT

Quiet world. Crickets. Jesus stands alone. Judas walks in
with armed men.

JESUS
Judas!

Judas hides his face.

JESUS (CONT'D)
You don do am?

He pauses. Armed men step forward to grab Jesus. Peter angrily.

PETER
Wetin you dey do? Abeg step back.

He picks up a stick. Jesus firmly stops Peter.

JESUS
Peter, drop am.

Peter hesitates, drops the stick. Softly Jesus speaks.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Make e be so.

He gives the men his hands. No fight. They take him.

EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT

People sit around a fire. Roasting bush rabbit. Peter stands at the side under the tree. A random WOMAN yells.

WOMAN
Eh! No be you follow that man abi?

PETER
No oh, una don miss person.

BEAT.

MAN
Na true talk. I don see am before.

PETER
(defensive)
I say no be me.

Tension rising. Peter visibly angry.

ANOTHER PERSON
Abeg wetin you dey talk. You be one of them jere!

PETER
I talk say I no know am!

Silence. Rooster crows. Everything stops. Peter's face changes - regrets hits instantly. He walks away crying.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jesus looking at Peter.

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

PETER

Ahh...na wetin I don do?

INT. SMALL PARLOUR - DAY

Chiefly setting. Armed men around. Governor PILATE speaks.

PILATE

So...na you be king?

JESUS

You have said so.

PILATE

Ehn..wetin you dey talk sef?

JESUS

My kingdom no be from here.

Confused Pilate.

PILATE

Wetin you dey talk? Where your kingdom be?

JESUS

I am from the father and the father is in me. I will go back to the father. And you cannot come.

PILATE

(irritated)

Omo...i no see wetin this man do. Make him commot for here.

Outside, the crowd grows loud.

CROWD (O.S.)

CRUCIFY AM! CRUCIFY AM!

PILATE

Abeg say something make I help you.

Jesus keeps quiet. Pilate exhales.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Humid. Scorching sun. Jesus hangs. Two soldiers nearby.

SOLDIER 1
Dem say you be king.

SOLDIER 2
(smiling)
Oya save yaself na.

Jesus watches silently. Weakly He speaks.

JESUS
Father, forgive them. Dem no know
wetin den dey do.

BEAT.

JESUS (CONT'D)
It is finished.

He takes his last breath. Wind blows. Curtain tears.
Everything goes still.

INT. GRAVE - DAY

Wrapped body lay still. Mary Magdalene sits in tears.
Exhausted.

MARY
We believe you. Ah me I believe
you.

Sience.

THREE DAYS LATER.

EXT. GRAVE - EARLY MORNING

Soft light. Wind blows calmly. Mary enters. She looks around
confused.

MARY
Ahan...who carry am?

She turns. Sees a white figure.

JESUS (O.S.)
Mary!

She freezes. Slowly recognizing him.

MARY
Ah...teacher?

She falls to the ground crying. She composes and moves closer.

JESUS
Go tell them.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Disciples fearfully hiding. Jesus appears. His presence lights up the room.

JESUS
Peace dey with una.

The disciples freeze. Peter steps forward crying.

PETER
Lord! Lord! I don fail you.

JESUS
You love me?

PETER
You know say I love you.

Jesus smiles.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Mary Magdalene running. Shouting. Breathless.

MARY
Ey! He don rise! He don rise! HE
DON RISE!

CUT TO BLACK.

