

LIRA TOWN COLLEGE

END OF TERM II EXAMS 2011
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

SENIOR THREE

TIME: 2 HOURS

Instructions: Answer two questions in all, including question 1 which is compulsory.

W.SOYINKA: The Lion and the Jewel

1. Read the extract below carefully and answer all the questions about it as concisely as possible.

SADIKU: My Lord, I heard the incredible words with my ears, and I thought the world was mad.

BAROKA: But is it possible, Sadiku? Is it right? Did I not, at the festival of Rain, defeat the men in the long tossing match? Hunt the Leopard and the boa at night and save the farmers' goats from further harm? And does she say I am old? Did I not to announce the Hamathan, climb to the top of the silk-cotton tree, break the first pod, and scatter talstled seeds to the four winds and this but yesterday?

Do any of my wives report a failing in my manliness? The strongest of them all still wearies long before the lion does! And so would she, had I the briefest chance to teach this unfledged birdling that lacks the wisdom to embrace the rich mustiness of age.....if I could once.....come hither, soothe me, Sadiku for I am wreth at heart..

(Lies back on the bed, stairing up as before. Sadiku takes her place at the foot of the bed and begins to tickle the soles of his feet. Baroka turns to the left suddenly, reaches down the side, and comes up with a copy of the magazine. Opens it and begins to study the pictures. He leaves a long sigh.)

This is good Sadiku, very good
(He begins to compare some pictures in the book, obviously his own and Sidi's. Flungs the book away suddenly and stares at the ceiling for a second or two. Then unsmiling.)

Perhaps it is as well, Sadiku.

SADIKU: My Lord, what did you say?

BAROKA: Yes, faithful one, I say it is as well. The scorn, the laughter and the jeers would have been bitter had she consented and my purpose failed, I would have sunk with shame.

SADIKU: My Lord, I do not understand.

BAROKA: The time has come when I can fool myself no more, I am no man, Sadiku. My manhood ended near a week ago.

SADIKU: The gods forbid.

Questions:

- (i) What report is Sadiku trying to give that she considers incredible? (line 1)
 - (ii) What is Baroka trying to express in the extract by the first speech he has made at length?
 - (iii) What is going to become of this confession made by Baroka about the loss of his manhood?
 - (iv) From this extract, what are some of the facts which can be deduced about Baroka as a character in the play?
2. Show how Sidi's and Lakunle's views on marriage differ.
 3. Do you find the character of Lakunle admirable? Give reasons to support your answer.
 4. "Sidi is a victim of her own pride". Support this statement with examples from the play.

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