

How is the Reader Drawn into Achebe's Fictional World?

The book is written in the past tense, as though it were a story being related to someone. The opening of Chapter three maintains this tradition. The persona who narrates this story is relatively objective in his/her account of the occurrences in Umuofia and they seem to have access to the characters' innermost thoughts. In this style of narration, the persona is often referred to as the 'voice of God'. By choosing to write the story this way, Achebe enables the reader to sympathize with the characters in a way that would not be possible had it been written otherwise.

Customs unique to Igbo culture are interwoven with features that are personal to the characters. Aspects of Igbo lifestyle that would seem strange to those unacquainted with their culture are written with nonchalance (that is, the persona is not awed when recounting parts of their daily life), which is part of the book's allure. In my opinion, this (at the time it was published) unconventional approach is partly why this book was so successful, as it lends a sense of the exotic to the book.

There are facets of the book that are universal in their appeal because certain problems are common regardless of ethnicity. These make it easier for the reader to relate to the story. An example of this is at the end of chapter 3, when the reader learns of the motivation behind Okonkwo's incessant hard work. It is a combination of disgrace and fear that drives him; such repugnance towards one's parentage is a sentiment that is not limited to a particular culture.

At the same time, these traits are combined with characteristics unfamiliar to those who do not encounter Igbo culture on a regular basis. This causes the reader to connect to the experience, while simultaneously dazzling him with the unfamiliar nature of the Igbo world. The reader is in touch with the character, but is also curious to know about their traditions. The incident in the extract, when Unoka consults the Oracle's priestess, is a paradigm of this because most people can relate to his need for help as well as the fear of the supernatural, which he faces.

The process that Unoka undergoes, of consulting the Oracle, is very revealing of Igbo culture. It reflects how they beheld the elusive nature of the supernatural and their fearful respect towards it (Unoka has to crawl on his belly to get there, thereby practically supplicating before it). The glow of the logs lends the expression on the priestess' face malevolence. This mirrors their fear of fire. Achebe writes that they "...light up vaguely the dark figure of the priestess". The words "vaguely" and "dark" convey how, according to their perceptions, indefinable the spiritual world is. The priestess is a link between the human and the spiritual world. This method of using a medium is similar to most incidences where communication with the paranormal is required. At one point, the priestess tells him he hasn't offended gods or ancestors. Only one with spiritual authority could give such information. The advice she gives him is in accordance with Igbo principles, that one's *chi* was only useful up to a certain point, at which one's effort plays a part.

Privatisation is the sale or transfer of enterprises or services from the public sector to the private sector.

- **Competition:** leads to increased efficiency, better quality, lower prices and greater choice for the consumer.
- **Lower levels of government interference:** means that management can manage in a way that furthers the interests of the company and by inference the consumer.
- **Efficient and effective organisation:** civil servants are not entrepreneurs. Public sector organisations are bureaucratic and not run in a way that will make profits that are needed to grow a business.
- **Losses incurred by the business:** will accrue to the company and not the taxpayer.
- **Broader band of public participation in ownership:** at the time of privatisation, shares were sold/given to workers in the previously nationalised industries. What actually happened was that most of the shares were sold at the time of listing and bought up by other shareholders, mainly, insurance firms and pension funds. But at least people had been given the opportunity and those employees who kept their shares have benefited thereby.
- **Attract investment from financial institutions.**
- **Profiteering from the supply of basic services** such as water, lights and heat is not in the best interests of the public as people have a basic right to enjoy a good or service without effective rationing by price.
- **Selling off the nation's assets** which the public, through taxation, have "bought" and developed over the years.
- **Substituting a public sector monopoly for a private sector monopoly** whereas the state ran the services for the benefit of consumers, private sector companies will run the services for a profit. Even with "consumer watchdogs" they may exploit consumers. To avoid this situation as far as possible regulators have been appointed to keep an eye on privatised utilities companies.
- **Privatised industries were sold at too low a price,** eg Amersham.
- **Privatised businesses take less heed of social costs.**
- **Prices may be raised whereas in the public sector government had control.**
- **Insufficient size to compete internationally.**

<http://bubl.ac.uk/link/f/france.htm>

<http://www.paris.org/>

Le musée du Louvre, ancienne demeure des rois de France, est depuis deux siècles l'un des plus grands musées du monde. Ses collections sont réparties en 7 départements : Antiquités orientales, Antiquités égyptiennes, Antiquités grecques, étrusques et romaines ; Peintures, Sculptures, Objets d'art et Arts graphiques du Moyen Âge jusqu'à 1850. Toujours en phase d'aménagement, le projet Grand Louvre sera totalement terminé en 1997. La première étape du projet a été achevée en 1989 (ouverture du nouvel accès par la pyramide de verre de I.M. Pei et découverte des vestiges du

Louvre médiéval). En 1993, l'aile Richelieu a été ouverte. Elle présente des sculptures françaises, des objets d'art, des peintures des écoles du Nord et des peintures françaises (jusqu'au XVIII^e siècle), des antiquités orientales et l'art de l'islam. Parallèlement était inauguré le Carrousel du Louvre, grand espace souterrain avec boutiques - parc de stationnement - espaces d'expositions ou de manifestations prestigieuses. En octobre 1994, de nouvelles salles présentant les sculptures étrangères ont été inaugurées. Au cours de la dernière phase du projet de nombreuses salles seront réaménagées dans les ailes Sully et Denon du musée (avec notamment des antiquités égyptiennes, grecques, étrusques et romaines et des peintures italiennes) le Jardin des Tuileries sera rénové.

The Musée du Louvre, the former home of the kings of France, is for two centuries one now of the largest museums in the world. its collections are distributed into 7 departments: Oriental antiques, Egyptian antiques, Greek, Etruscan and Roman antiques; Paintings, Sculptures and Objets d'Art from the Middle Ages to 1850. Still in its development stage, the Grand Louvre project shall only be totally finished in 1997. The first stage of the project was finished in 1989 (opening of the new access via the glass pyramid designed by I.M. Pei and discovery of the vestiges of the medieval Louvre). In 1993, the Richelieu wing was opened. It exhibits French sculptures, objets d'art, paintings from the Northern schools and French paintings (up to the seventeenth century, oriental antiques and the art of Islam. The Carrousel du Louvre, was inaugurated in parallel. This is a large underground complex with stores, car parks and areas for exhibitions and prestigious events. In October 1994, new rooms presenting foreign sculptures were inaugurated. During the last phase of the project many rooms will be redeveloped in the Sully and Denon wings (with namely Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan and Roman antiques and Italian paintings), the Jardin des Tuileries will also be renovated.

Chef-d'oeuvre gothique. Notre Dame conçue par Maurice de Sully a été construite entre les XII^e et XIV^e siècles (1163-1345). Les distances routières de France se calculent à partir du point "0 km" situé sur le parvis.

A gothic masterpiece. Notre Dame, conceived by Maurice de Sully, was built between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries (1163-1345). Road distances in France are calculated on the basis of the "0 km" marked on the square in front of the cathedral.

- The Secret Paris of the '30s is one of the most evocative photographic memoirs ever published. For years it was known that Brassai had taken a series of 'secret photographs' which could not be published because of their daring nature. Alone, or in the company of friends, he discovered the forbidden Paris of the 1930s - its brothels, whores, pimps, and opium dens - the sordid yet bewitching bas-monde where high society mingled with the underworld. Brassai's photographs reveal a milieu previously known only through books such as the novels of Henry Miller (a frequent companion on his nocturnal rambles): the seamy, grimy yet infinitely exciting reality that tourists still think of when they seek 'Paris by night'. These fascinating images are accompanied by Brassai's own text, in which he describes the extraordinary conditions under which he took his