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Onye Aghala Nwanne Ya: *How Igbo people Bounced Back After Biafra War*

By Chukwunwike Ossai

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ONYE AGHALA NWANNE YA

Onye Aghala Nwanne Ya: How Igbo people Bounced Back After Biafra War

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The Igbo saying “Onye Aghala Nwanne Ya,” which means “Do not leave your brother behind”. It’s a serious code of life that shows how brotherhood has been valued. And also showing unity and helping one another. After the problem that follows the Nigerian Civil War (1967- 1970), after the division of the Igbo land both money and culture- the idea then became a remarkable map they used in building their life again against all the problems and struggles, Igbo people bounced back strong through hustle, innovation and strong community love.

Economic Getback: From Zero to Business Kings.

After the war ended, the government’s policy really delved hard on the Igbo people. They scraped all the Biafran money and gave everybody just £20, regardless of how rich the person was before the war. Companies were burned down, and the roads and markets were spoiled. But in no time, the Igbo people rose again like a phoenix and turned southeast to the serious business zone. The Igbo people return to market life and trade. Cities like Aba and Nnewi became business and factory centres, and the Onitsha market then became the largest market in West Africa.

Nnewi became a hub for the manufacturing of motor parts. Big men like Innocent Chukwuma, who started Innoson Motors, came out from there.

This Igba Boi system helped many people. Big businessmen trained

small boys, teaching them a trade, and would later set them up with money to start their businesses. This method built wealth, trained young people, and spread success without waiting for government or formal schooling.

Writers like Chinua Achebe (*There Was a Country*) and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (*Half of a Yellow Sun*) wrote books that discuss the pain and problems war brings. The books help people understand what the Igbo people went through and also preserve their story for the future.

Language And Tradition Still Standing Firm.

After the War, the Igbos continued to make an effort to speak their language, hold traditional festivals, play music, and respect their customs. Radio stations, masquerade shows, and cultural groups help keep Igbo culture alive very well.

Throughout Igbo history, helping one another has been the right thing to do. But after the war, this love became a serious survival tool.

Families would connect by sending a child to school, rebuilding the house, and supporting one another.

Igbo town unions in Lagos, abroad, and at home raise money to build roads, hospitals and schools for villages.

Igbo people in diaspora invest back home to show that they can never forget their source.

Onye Aghala Nwanne Ya is not just sweet talk – it's an action plan that saves many people.

Igbo people enter their next level with their brains and education.

By the 90s and 2000s, Many Igbo youth were shining in tech, medicine, and engineering both in Nigeria and abroad.

Igbo businesses spread to other African countries. Igbo professionals are represented in bigger places around the world.

You will see how old traditions are mixed with new elements, such as musicians who blend highlife with hip-hop, or tech enthusiasts who use phone apps to promote Igbo culture.

The way the Igbo people stood firm after the war is proof that when people come together, join forces, and support one another, they can rise again. They turn pain to profit. They turn memory into mission. And they hold on to the promise that says, “Nobody should walk alone.”

In a world engulfed in many problems, the Igbo have already set an example that shows real strength isn't just about standing up again, but about rebuilding together.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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An enthusiast in tech with deep passion for studying and showcasing the vibrant cultural heritage of southern Nigeria . Combining my skill with my obsession towards African history and traditions to create contributions that impacts the digital space.



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