# THE RESULT OF GREED

**HEPHZIBAH OLUWAPAMILERIN BANJO-ABE**

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978-978-29505-29

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## FOREWORD

In a world where ambition and desire often walk a fine line between right and wrong, "The Result of Greed" by Hephzibah Oluwapelumi Banjo-Abe serves as a timely reminder of the consequences of our choices. This captivating novel takes readers on a journey of self-discovery, morality, and redemption through the life of Richard, a young man who finds himself at a crossroads between success and sacrifice.

With its engaging narrative and relatable characters, this book explores themes that are both universally relevant and deeply personal. As Richard navigates the complexities of his decisions, readers are invited to reflect on their own values and priorities.

"The Result of Greed" is more than just a story; it's a reflection of our times, a call to introspection, and a testament to the power of

forgiveness and second chances. Hephzibah's writing brings to life a world that is both familiar and thought-provoking, making this novel a compelling read for anyone interested in stories that resonate with the human experience.

Mrs Gloria Chilotam.

## Acknowledgement

Thanks to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit for the gift of life, the inspiration, and the grace to conceive this book and bring it to the point where it will be a blessing to people all over the world. I would also like to thank my Mum, Dad, elder brother, and my lesson teacher, Mr. Sam.

Thank you all so much for giving me the courage to write this book.

May God bless you bountifully.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1- AT THE WORKPLACE

CHAPTER 2- SALARY DAY

CHAPTER 3- A NEW JOB

# AT THE WORKPLACE

As he inspected the workers, he saw a man working vigorously. Charles, driven by curiosity and admiration for hard workers, called his assistant and asked, “Who is that young man over there?”

The assistant replied, “You mean Richard? He is one of our best workers on this construction site, and he is very diligent.” Charles smiled with satisfaction and said to the assistant, “Tell him to see me after he is done with his work.”

When it was closing time, all the workers retired and lined up to collect their wages.

When it got to Richard’s turn, as he collected the money and was about to leave, the assistant called him. “Inspector Charles called for you.” The assistant led him to where Inspector Charles was. When they got there,

Richard was stunned; he had never seen a Range Rover. When he got into the car, he was more amazed. Charles just watched him as he looked at the car in astonishment.

Then Charles said, “I can see you are surprised. The reason I sent for you is that the Manager told me you are one of the best workers on the site, and I appreciate hard work.”

“Really, sir,” Richard responded.

“Are you a graduate because you speak fluently?” Charles asked. “No, sir, I didn’t go to the University. I had no choice but to work here.”

Meta AI

**A picture showing Richard working with other fellow workers.**

Charles, wanting to understand Richard better, proceeded and asked, “What about your parents, are they alive?” Then Richard started his story.

“When I was a lad, life was so hard for me since my father was a drunkard and my mom was a trader. My childhood wasn’t that stable.

One day, when I got back from school, I saw my aunt and other people crying, including some of my relatives. I rushed into the parlor just to see my mom's lifeless body on the couch, and I felt like my world had broken into pieces."

"That's so sad," Charles said. "What about your father?" he asked. "Ever since my mom died, I have never seen him. I assumed he was dead."

"Where do you live?" Charles asked. "I live with my aunt, and she takes care of my expenses and sponsors my education at a higher institution," he replied.

"That's alright. Hope to see you tomorrow," Charles said. Then Richard alighted from the car.

**Charles is discussing with Richard.**

# 2

# SALARY DAY

The next day, when all the workers had received their wages, they all went to their respective homes. Richard was walking on the street when a Range Rover stopped beside him. Richard was surprised when the window wound down, and he saw it was Charles. Richard sighed with relief and greeted him. Charles offered to drop him off at his residence. As Charles was driving, he was having a good time with Richard as they were discussing. Then Charles said, “I want to further your education at the University. I just wanted to ask for your opinion before I do so.” Richard’s face lit up, and he said with excitement, “Yes, sir, I would love to further my education at the University. Thank you so much, sir.” “You are

welcome," said Charles.

Charles dropped Richard off at his house that day. Richard was so excited. It was a Saturday when Charles visited Richard's aunt, who was picking beans in the verandah.

When Richard's aunt, Ogechi, saw Charles, she stopped what she was doing and greeted him.

"Good afternoon, sir." "Please, who are you and who do you want to see?"

"I am here to see Richard, please. Is he at home? I would have called him, but I don't have his contact."

Ogechi glanced at him for a moment and then called Richard.

"You have a visitor," she said. "Who is that?" Richard went to the door to meet him. "Charles," he hugged him. They both sat on a bench while Ogechi served them chilled drinks.

They exchanged contact, and Charles left. Richard went back to the room and Ogechi. “Bia, who is that person?” (Bia is an Igbo word for “come.”) “He is a friend of mine,” Richard replied.

# 3

# A NEW JOB

After four years, Richard completed his education and got a good job. He was doing well and was comfortable taking care of his aunt as well. Through Charles, he got an appointment with a famous company called Novatech. Richard was given a job and started working there. The owner of Novatech also had an interest in Richard and introduced him to all his business partners.

One day, the owner invited his business partners, including Richard, to a party. Everyone had fun. Then Williams sent for Richard. When he got upstairs, Williams took Richard on a stroll to the verandah. “Richard, are you satisfied with your wealth, or do you want more power and riches?” Richard replied,

“I want more than power and riches; I want to be respected and feared.”

Williams smirked and said, “After the party, stay over.”

After the party, Richard woke up to find himself in a room with Williams and his business partners dressed in black hoodies. Williams said, “Richard, you are welcome to the Order of Eternal Void. Stretch forth your hand and move forward.” Richard asked, “What is it about?” Williams replied, “Since you want to be feared and respected, I want to give it to you. Now, take this calabash and drink what is inside.” Richard did, and Williams drew a sign on Richard’s back with a knife, welcoming him into the cult.

**Members of the eternal void.**

Suddenly, Richard woke up and said, “Thank God it was a dream.” Then he looked behind and saw a mirror. He widened his eyes in fear as he saw an incision on his back. Out of anger, he broke the mirror. From that day on, Richard's life never remained the same. He

began to have several nightmares. One night, he slept, and his bed became wet. He saw a flash of light and opened his eyes to see seven demons with red eyes, each holding a cane. They began to flog him, and he screamed in pain. When he woke up, he saw sores all over his body in his dream.

That day, he met Williams at his office and said, “You never told me there were side effects.” Williams replied, “Ever since you joined the group, have you ever lacked anything? You are already building your company. Everyone has a price to pay. Get that into your skull.”

The next day, Richard's aunt, Ogechi, visited him. “I was not expecting you. I just want to see how you are faring,” she said. Richard replied, “Thank you, Aunt. I am doing fine.” Ogechi asked, “Where are my grandchildren?” Richard said,

“I am not married.” Ogechi replied, “I want to see my grandchildren with all the riches you have.

You haven’t found a wife.” Richard said, “Okay, ma! I will find a wife.

My regards to Uncle.”

**Richard and Aunty Ogechi**.

For the past few days, Richard had been having nightmares of being flogged in his dreams. One day, he met a lady named Anna at a party. She was a kind-hearted Christian who was part of the event's organizing team. Richard was drawn to her compassionate and gentle nature. They got to know each other, and six months later, they got married.

As the days passed, Anna felt a sense of uneasiness whenever she was with Richard. One night, she saw a fleeting shadow on her husband’s face. The next day, she asked him about it, but Richard responded aggressively, saying it was an iron burn from his childhood. Anna didn’t believe him, and they disagreed. Richard tried to slap her, but he controlled his anger. Anna packed her bags and left, visiting Aunt Ogechi for support.

When she got to the house, she knocked.

"Who is there?"

"Is it me, Ann?" She replied.

She was shocked to see him with luggage.

"What happened?" She stood akimbo.

Anna told Ogechi everything, and they prayed together. Anna decided to stay with Ogechi for a while until the weekend, after which they left to see Richard. The weekend came, and they arrived at Richard's house, only to find

the door left wide open. Richard was half-dead on the floor. Anna shook him, but he didn't wake up. They quickly rushed him to the hospital. After a few minutes, he regained consciousness. He was shocked to see Anna and Aunt Ogechi standing beside him. Tears welled up in his eyes as he felt disappointed in himself.

"I'm sorry for what I've caused you, Anna," he said. "Please forgive me.

"It's okay," Anna replied. "You have to be sincere with yourself. Is there anything you're hiding from me?"

Richard took a deep breath and confessed, "I'm in a secret cult called the Order of Eternal Void. They provide me with riches and fame, but ever since I joined, I haven't had peace."

Anna was in shock; she couldn't believe her husband was in a cult.

"Do you want peace?" she asked.

"Yes," he replied.

Anna led him in a prayer, "Dear God, have mercy upon me, I have sinned. Wash me with your blood and forgive me." Richard repeated the prayer after her. She forgave him, and they both hugged each other.

From that day on, Richard turned a new leaf and started afresh, rebuilding his wealth with the help of his wife.

**Questions**

1) Who was the most outstanding staff member?

2) Who was inspecting the workers?

3) Who came to call Richard during the closing hours?

4) Who wanted to sponsor Richard's education at the University?

5)What's the name of Charles's car?

6) What's the name of Richard's aunt?

7) Where did Richard and Anna meet?

8) Who is the owner of Novatech?

9) What is the name of the cult Richard joined?

10) What provoked Anna to leave the house?

11) What's the moral lesson of this story from your own perspective?