

8. CHAPTER EIGHT

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Thou shalt not commit adultery was one of the easy commandments to preach about. In his scripted theatrical rant Tom pointed out that the stone tablets on the front wall were wrong — again. The commandment against lewd sexual misconduct was the sixth commandment; not the seventh. Tom made sure no children were in the church. Ekon was excited and thrilled at the same time. This was the first Sunday in over a month that he was allowed to play with the other children in the side alley; his cast was due to come off in a week.

When Tom learned that Nigeria had the second largest HIV epidemic in the world he used that fact as part of his sermon. Preaching about the sin against the temple of the body never went over well in Texas. With almost two million Nigerians living with HIV Tom hoped that the adultery commandment would be well received. In the silence amongst the congregation it was hard to tell if his spiritual message was getting thru. There hadn't been one amen or alleluia from the crowd.

During his college days Tom was called out for his chaste lifestyle and referred to as the dorm prude. The friends with benefits campus lifestyle was something Tom didn't respect; especially since his older sister quit college to follow a band around the country in an old VW van. The carefree, living in the fast lane lifestyle left her a full-blown alcoholic by the age of twenty-five and referred to as the good old group slut.

The smell of Kenya AA coffee wrapped its way in from the covered porch all the way to the podium. Tom took it as a sign to pass the collection basket around. He ended with highlighting that in the New Testament the Greek word *Porneia* was used twenty five times. Tom finished by saying that *Porneia* meant adultery, fornication, sodomy, immorality and even soft porn. He left out that different versions of the bible had different definitions and meaning for *Porneia*. When a divorced woman has sex with her new husband it is construed as

35 breaking the seventh commandment in some bibles. No way was Tom
36 going to go there — no matter what country he was preaching in.

37 The congregation exited the church faster than normal after this
38 Sunday service. No different than back home; consenting adults don't
39 want to be told what they could or should not do in their own privacy.
40 About the same time the last couple left the church there was a
41 rumble of thunder that vibrated the glass on the side windows
42 opposite where the children played. Tom hurried out of the church
43 and looked around the corner. There was a loud *clunk* when the rider
44 dropped the 80 inch Evo-motor into first gear.

45 Tom hurried down the concrete steps and stood at the front of the
46 custom sky-blue and white Harley Davidson. He swiped his open hand
47 across the front of his neck, the universal sign for decapitation or to
48 cut something off. The Harley rider turned the chrome key switch to
49 off and the chest thumping rumbling ceased.

50 Tom extended his hand between the high rise handle bars. "We
51 have not formally met, I'm Tom."

52 The seasoned rider took off his leather riding gloves. "I'm Paul."

53 "Yeah I know. Idogbe told me that you are a contract driver for the
54 girl's school up north."

55 After they shook hands Tom stepped to the side and was awed by
56 the motorcycle. "I always wanted to ride one of these bad boys."

57 "It's never too late to learn. It was twenty years after the war
58 before an old war buddy taught me how to ride."

59 "What branch were you in?" Tom asked.

60 "United States Army, special forces. I was a frontline interpreter
61 trained to be a peacemaker."

62 "You were an Army Green Beret?" Tom felt overcome — this had to
63 be some sort of sign! It was himself claiming to have been an Army
64 Green Beret that exposed his stolen valor lie. If he'd known that to
65 become a Green Beret you needed to speak a second language, he'd
66 still be preaching back in Texas. "What second language did you
67 learn?"

68 "Vietnamese." Paul replied and lifted his hands and wiggled his
69 fingers to pull the black leather riding gloves on.

70 Tom noticed the old scar that was on top of Paul's hand lined up
71 with a scar in his palm. It looked like blood had started to weep. Belief
72 in the Stigmata was a form of Idolatry. Tom's knees felt weak a cold
73 chill ran up his spine to the back of his mouth. "I'm so sorry for the
74 deception I told about being a Green Beret. I did serve in the Army but
75 never saw any action." Tom's head slumped forward as he was unable
76 to look Paul in the eyes.

77 "My fellow brethren, a peacemaker sometimes has to take a life. It
78 is not in line with being a peacekeeper. The almighty father forgives
79 your deception as he forgave me for the lives that I halted. Go in
80 Peace" Tom felt a spiritual washing and a surreal calling. The sound of
81 thunder rumbled off the side of the church again as Paul rode off.

82 Tom aimlessly wandered around the neighborhood. He understood
83 that a peacemaker fights for peace thru battle and that a peacekeeper
84 avoids conflict thru preaching and diplomacy. Tom had never felt the
85 calling to be a peacekeeper until after he met Paul, a once seasoned
86 peacemaker. Next Sunday he'd preach on the **Thou shalt not kill**
87 **Commandment.**

88 After wandering for twenty blocks the calling now burned more
89 intense. Tom needed to share this crystal-clear outward sign of what
90 he was being called to do. With the time difference between Nigeria
91 and Texas, Beth wouldn't be home for several hours. She had her
92 Eucharistic ministry rounds and was attending a baby shower
93 afterwards.

94 Tom wandered into the neatly kept neighborhood the Onukwulu
95 family lived in. The homes were smaller than most homes in middle-
96 class America. One thing that stood out was no old cars or junk in any
97 of the yards. There were no garages on any of the roughly one
98 thousand square foot homes. Maybe one out of ten houses had
99 window air conditioners; about the same percentage had carports. The
100 squeak of a screen doors opening and then slapping shut was mostly
101 was followed be laughter and or screaming of children playing.

102 It was Jacob's sixth sense that spotted Pastor Tom in the distance.
103 Jacob pulled Ekon down the block and they stopped in front of Tom.
104 Across the street and down a block from the upper room of one of the

105 few two story houses a set of eyes had followed the boys. Bowlegged
106 Ayoola raised the binoculars that were hanging around his neck. He
107 stepped back from the tinted glass so as not to be seen by anyone.

108 Ekon and Jacob each took a hand and pulled Pastor Tom toward
109 their home. The lanky six foot five Jude Onukwulu emerged from the
110 rear corner of the house with a canvas bag in one hand and a machete
111 in the other. He had just sharpened the entire edge of the heavy thirty
112 inch long hunk of steel. The heavy tool was protection from hyenas or
113 the Black Mamba when he hauled fuel up north. Jude had just
114 reworked the steel edge so to hack thru an arm with just one swing.
115 The human element that had used a Rumba stick on his oldest son
116 arm would feel the wrath of a once meek father. It could take time but
117 someday Jude planned to even the score.

118 Jude climbed up the side steps and tossed the duffle bag behind
119 the passenger seat onto the mattress in the sleeper cab. He slipped
120 the machete into a sheath between the driver's seat and middle
121 console. Coming down out of the cab he spotted the trio and waved.

122 "Are you headed out in the morning?" Tom called out.

123 "Not in the morning. Tonight I pick up a full fuel tanker in Port
124 Harcourt and then deliver it to the China Dam project on the Benue
125 River."

126 "Where about is this China Dam?" Tom lowered his voice when he
127 was at the waist high rear wheels.

128 "Its not built yet. There will be four dams. Many people will be
129 flooded out of their homes. Fish will be cut off to Cameroon. It is
130 getting very dangerous to transport oil to the Mambila hydroelectric
131 power project in the state of Taraba." Jude cut himself short; he didn't
132 want to frighten Ekon about the danger of long hauling. Yet, Jacob
133 could sense the conversation was serious even though he couldn't
134 hear.

135 "The Chinese have had multiple problems with the Three Rivers
136 Dam in Northern China. Why would they want to build one over here in
137 Nigeria?"

138 “The Communist Chinese Party wants to colonize Africa! They also
139 want to buy Tin Can Island to control imports and exports.” Jude
140 replied with a hard firm tone of implicit truth.

141 “Is that a bad thing? I’ve been on Tin Can Island and it could use
142 help.”

143 “Help is one thing, buying up our land and our natural resources
144 are another. Nigeria finally escaped the stronghold of British
145 colonization in 1960. We don’t want to be slaves again!”

146 “Wow, I can see you are passionate about Nigeria’s sovereignty!”

147 “Ekon, go tell your Mum to set an extra plate for Mr. Pastor Tom.
148 We need to have a dinner conversation.”

149 At first Tom declined the offer but then Jude’s conversation might
150 work into one of his sermons; most likely when he preached on **Thou**
151 **shalt not covet.**

152 The pepper goat soup, Jollof rice and pounded yam were as good
153 as any pot roast and potato Texas comfort food. Meat pie for dessert
154 was definitely not an American custom; it was spicy sweet filling inside
155 a flour crust and shaped like a turnover.

156 After dinner Jude walked about half way back to the church with
157 Tom. He wanted to know if an arm for an arm would be the same as
158 an eye for eye, tooth for a tooth law of vengeance in the bible. When
159 they parted Tom promised he’d preach on the retribution of wrongs as
160 in the Old Testament but that Jesus preached to turn the other cheek.

161 On his walk back Ayoola Ashiru came out from his house and
162 talked to Jude. His plan was to go thru old police reports to find out if
163 a Runga stick was or had been used by any gang members. The legal
164 system is how crime needed to be dealt with in the Constable’s
165 neighborhood, anything else would lead to lawlessness.

166 Jude didn’t like Pastor Tom’s nor Constable Ayoola’s way of dealing
167 with three thugs that had threatened his family. He believed that the
168 fear of vengeance was how to keep control of the neighborhood, it
169 worked for entire countries like China, North Korea and Cuba. A
170 severed arm gripping onto a Runga stick tied to a telephone pole
171 would be as effective as decapitated heads in a basket. Being put on

172 display in sack cloth and dusted with ashes wasn't equal justice in
173 Jude's mind.

174 * * *

175 Tom ducked thru the hole in the fence and could still feel a
176 presence in the alley where Paul had taken off on his motorcycle. Beth
177 would be at home by now. Tom pulled the cell phone from his pocket.
178 "Beth, I need to share something with you."

179 "Tom, are you okay? Your voice sounds shaky."

180 "I'm okay." Tom turned a circle over the spot he had shook Paul's
181 weeping hand. "I had a spiritual experience after the service and my
182 discourse this morning!"

183 "Oh, what was the experience?"

184 "Well, it was after I preached on the seventh commandment this
185 morning."

186 "Okay, so you preached not to steal?"

187 "No Beth! I preached about committing adultery. It's the correct
188 seventh commandment! I've explained to you before, the Catholic
189 version of the Ten Commandments are wrong."

190 Beth told herself to watch her words! Years ago she had been
191 warned by her parish priest that interfaith marriages often fail if one of
192 the partners was a fundamentalist. "I'm sorry Tom, my mistake."

193 "Anyway, after coffee and doughnuts this morning I met this biker
194 guy on a big motorcycle in the alley."

195 "Oh?" Beth wasn't sure where Tom was going. Her first real
196 boyfriend rode a Harley. Tom knew she wasn't chaste when they got
197 married. Tom always resented the way girls were drawn to the bad
198 boys. "In an alley?" Beth asked with confusion.

199 "On both sides of my church there are driveways or alleys, almost
200 everyone walks to church so there is no need for a parking lot.

201 "That's odd; didn't your old church have parking for over a
202 thousand cars?"

203 "Actually, for almost two thousand cars, if you count the softball
204 parking area," Tom boasted.

205 "You really could draw them in."

206 "Yes I could!" Paul gloated on his end on the phone. "Anyway,
207 when this Paul guy pulls off his gloves to shake hands I noticed this
208 big scar on top of his left hand. Just like if he'd been stabbed or maybe
209 nailed to a beam."

210 "Tom, are you saying this man has the stigmata sign?"

211 "I'm not sure. But I'm going to do some investigation. He also was
212 a Green Beret and can speak Vietnamese. He said he was once a
213 Peacemaker and is now a Peacekeeper."

214 "How old is this man? He'd be as old as my mentor who just
215 passed. David had served in the Vietnam War as an electronic
216 communication specialist and spoke a few words of Vietnamese."

217 "I don't know. But I confessed to Paul about my stolen valor
218 embellishing. He just replied with, 'The almighty father forgives you as
219 he forgave me. Go in Peace'." Then it seemed like a huge thunder and
220 rain storm came and things were like new again."

221 Beth could feel a real spiritual change in Tom's voice and tone. "I
222 hope I get to meet Paul when I come over there."

223 "Paul's quite elusive. I've been here five weeks and today was the
224 first time we really had a conversation."

225 "You know Tom, it seems like you have been gone more like five
226 months. I really miss you."

227 "I know Beth I miss you too. How is that offer by that electronic
228 internet specialist to fly you over here with Cain and Abel."

229 "I'm meeting up with Danny this week to give him some of David's
230 personal things. I'll see if his offer still stands."

231 "If our motorhome gets here I can pick you and the dogs up in
232 Abuja."

233 "God's in control. So if it's meant to be it will happen." Beth
234 repeated words that David had spoke on his death bed.

235 "You're right Beth. Those words are spot on; especially after my
236 heart to heart with Paul this morning."

237 * * *

238 Tom hadn't slept so solid in months. Like clockwork there was a
239 light knocking on the lower part of the door. It was nine am straight
240 up and Jacob was ready with his red bucket, soap and rags to mop the

241 church floor. Tom rubbed Jacob's soft head of curly hair and Jacob
242 wrapped his arms around Tom upper thighs and hugged hard. Tom
243 pushed Jacob inside the apartment for a cup of hot chocolate Swiss
244 Miss. There was a bond of mentorship and trust developing.

245 The next 'like clockwork' knock was from Idogbe. "My Mum sent
246 you more strawberries." Idogbe stuck his head in far enough to see
247 Jacob sitting at the green table.

248 Tom yanked the door all the way open. "Come on in and have a
249 cup of coffee or hot chocolate with us."

250 Idogbe sniffed the inside air thru his wide nostrils. The sweet smell
251 of chocolate mixed with the aroma of Kenya coffee made for an
252 invitation he couldn't turn down. Idogbe took a chair across from
253 Jacob. He took note of the drawings of three men and a truck that
254 Jacob had been sketching in a tablet. It looked like only the black man
255 had a club in his left hand.

256 Tom was at the sink making a super thick chocolate paste from the
257 Swiss mix. He came over to the table with a small dish and then
258 showed Jacob how to dip a strawberry into the chocolate. Jacob
259 mimicked Tom and smiled with delight when he bit into the chocolate
260 coated strawberry.

261 "Nigeria is the Cocoa capital of the world." Idogbe said as he took a
262 sip of coffee.

263 "I didn't know that. I think Belgium or Switzerland claim the
264 Chocolate title. Beth and I have been to both places and they both
265 boast about their chocolates."

266 "Those countries bare false witness against Nigeria. The Cocoa
267 House was the first skyscraper in all of West Africa. We grow over half
268 the worlds Cocoa beans here."

269 "That's interesting. Beth will want to visit the Cocoa House. She
270 loves chocolate."

271 "When is Mrs. Seton coming over to join you?" Idogbe asked as he
272 sipped at the coffee.

273 "She might hitch a ride with some internet security expert that has
274 business to do in Abuja. Beth is trying to get our dogs on his private
275 jet."

276 “Weak internet security is giving Nigeria a bad reputation. The
277 scammers are hurting hard working, honest Nigerians.” Idogbe replied
278 with distain and conviction.

279 “Blaming Nigeria’s scamming reputation on weak internet security
280 is like blaming me for leaving the church unlocked. The thieves are the
281 bad guys, not you or me. When laws are not backed with punishment
282 everyone loses and kayos replaces justice.”

283 “Are you saying that internet security is not important? Idogbe
284 asked as he wiped a strawberry thru the thick chocolate sauce.”

285 “Sort of, the internet is for younger people like you to deal with.
286 But, if Beth can get our dogs flown over here, I won’t have to worry
287 about locking things up. Justice will be served by Cain and Able!”

288 Jacob touched Tom on the arm and then knocked his fists together.
289 It was the universal sign asking for more. Tom pushed the halik of
290 strawberries in front of Jacob and held up three fingers. Jacob carefully
291 selected three of the biggest and reddest strawberries with plans to
292 take them home for an after dinner treat to share with Ekon and his
293 Mum.

294 Tom pulled the notepad across the green table and flipped to a new
295 page. He sketched out how he wanted Idogbe to build a covered dog
296 kennel for Cain and Abel. After about fifteen minutes of back and forth
297 they went outside; Jacob tagged along. Tom pointed out where he
298 wanted the kennel constructed against the back wall of the apartment
299 stating that German Sheppard guard dogs needed to be kept out of
300 sight. Jacob sensed that both men had safety concerns.

301 Idogbe pointed out that they should not block the electrical panel
302 box in case of an emergency. He reminded Tom of how the circuit the
303 air conditioner had been on overheated and almost caused a fire.
304 They agreed to build the kennel behind the church adjacent to the
305 vacant field with a small loafing shed.

306 After Tom left to take care of church business Idogbe had a second
307 thought about the Kennel location. *Children often play soccer in the*
308 *vacant field. Maybe outside security cameras would be a better way to*
309 *protect the church. Bowlegged Ayoola already gave me a miniature*

310 *wireless camera. But that camera is to be installed in the apartment to*
311 *secretly watch Tom.*

312 Tom made the usual Monday rounds to pay off his coffee and
313 pastry vendor and musicians and for daycare. Although Victor Vee
314 didn't perform at the church he collected the money for the band
315 members. Victor Vee was a Gangsta Rapper and refused to ever play
316 any semblance of gospel music or to step inside a church. Along with
317 his natural talent Victor had the mindset to do whatever was necessary
318 to become a super star.

319 When Tom entered the bar Tanny instantly lowered the wet cloth
320 she was holding against her split lower lip. She needed to be paid; rent
321 was past due.

322 Tom took up a stool at the bar and pointed at her swollen lip.

323 "What happened?"

324 "Oh a... One of the whisky bottles fell off the shelf."

325 "Wow! You're lucky it didn't knock out a tooth." Tom stood up and
326 leaned over the counter to get a closer look. "When did it happen?"

327 "This morning, when I was opening up."

328 "You should go see a doctor and maybe a dentist."

329 "I can't afford to do that," Tanny replied.

330 "It's an on the job injury. Your medical bills will be covered by your
331 employer."

332 "I don't think so." Tanny needed to change the subject she knew
333 Victor Vee was probably watching her on the security cameras. "You
334 should try the lunch special. The deep fried yams and black beans are
335 delicious."

336 "I'm thinking maybe the fish and chips. My wife loves seafood. I'll
337 try the Tilapia fish and chips and let her know how it is."

338 "You really miss your wife. You mention her all the time."

339 I do miss Beth, we started dating in college. Beth might be here in
340 a couple of weeks. If the fish and chips are good I'll bring her here for
341 her first dinner in Lagos. I'd like you to meet Beth, you two are a lot
342 alike.

343 "Wouldn't you want a romantic dinner in your little apartment her
344 first night here?" Tanny winked at Pastor Tom and then went into the

345 kitchen. Same as Beth; Tanny was a romantic at heart. Tanny thought
346 that she had married the perfect man until he beat her unconscious
347 when she was pregnant with their fourth child. She lost the baby and
348 her husband vanished all in that same week. A few months later when
349 Victor came into her life — the beatings resumed.

350 "Hey big man Pastor Tom," came a loud call out from the swinging
351 entrance doors.

352 Tanny darted into the kitchen. Tom placed the envelope for
353 daycare on the counter and pulled the envelope for the musicians out
354 of his pocket. He turned one hundred and eighty degrees on the
355 barstool, and then fist bumped Victor. "I have the bands money?"

356 "Cool." Victor took the stool next to Tom. "I hear you are growing
357 the crowd with your preaching the nine commandments message."

358 "You should come and listen. We all need forgiveness."

359 "Tanny was all mixed up about that adultery commandment you
360 preached on. Watching the children she only got your message second
361 hand. "

362 "I'm glad I'm getting thru to the congregation and that they are
363 spreading the word."

364 "I had to straighten Tanny out! I told her about how Jesus forgave
365 the Samaritan whore drawing water at the well.

366 "I didn't preach that the woman at the well was a whore! Photine
367 of Samaria didn't sleep around for money. She was looking for a
368 husband."

369 "Preacher Tom, all men twist the word to fit their agenda. Let me
370 ask you this. What commandment would you throw out?" Tom sat
371 silent. It was something he never thought about.

372 Tanny came out of the kitchen and put the basket of fish and chips
373 in front of Tom. "Would you like a beer with your lunch?"

374 "No, I'll just have water. Too much alcohol is one of the deadly
375 sins," Tom boasted with a self righteous tone. "It is the sin of gluttony
376 also known as the sin of excessiveness."

377 "What sin is for the weed you smoked behind the Hotel when you
378 first got to Africa?" Victor Vee asked. "Better yet, what commandment
379 says thou shalt not drink alcohol or smoke marijuana?"

380 Tom fell silent. Not so much that he was at a loss for an answer
381 about the seven deadly sins or the Ten Commandments. But how did
382 Victor Vee know about the weed he smoked his first week in Africa? He
383 was always very discreet about anything that could ruin his reputation.
384 Tom remembered ducking behind a dumpster and taking a couple hits.
385 The next thing he was waking up in a hotel room about noon. He had
386 his wallet and someone had turned in his laptop that he had left in the
387 bar. He'd yet to meet or even talk to Victor Vee!

388 Tanny was also being discreet as she casually slid the white
389 envelope with DAYCARE on it over the edge of the bar. She knew all
390 about Victor's control tactics. He called her worse names than whore
391 and slapped her around in front of her kids. Breaking down any
392 semblance of the family unit kept Victor in charge.

393 "I'll take my fifty percent!" Victor laid his hand on the counter
394 palm up.

395 Tom was dismayed to see an open cut across Victor's hand. It
396 didn't look like the thru and thru stigmata like he'd seen earlier. Tanny
397 placed the envelope in Victor's hand. "Take your share. But, I do need
398 to buy milk for my kids."

399 "Your kids can go without milk for a day or two. How else are they
400 going to learn that suffering is part of life?"

401 "Jesus suffered on the cross so man doesn't have to. Thru faith and
402 prayer we don't have to suffer. You should let Tanny keep all the
403 money; she earned it."

404 It's different over here in Nigeria. Were not like your old Glory and
405 Praise church in Los Angeles that raised \$12,750 just for food for an
406 animal shelter." Victor Vee ripped off the top of the envelope and took
407 out the Naira bills and dumped the coins in his hand.

408 "What are you talking about? My church was in Dallas Texas?"

409 "That's not what the brass plaque says on it."

410 "What plaque?" Tom yelled. "I've only been a Pastor for Glory and
411 Praise ministries at two different churches. My first assignment was in
412 Tyler, Texas and then I was moved to Dallas, Texas."

413 Victor Vee threw the Naira currency and Kobo coins at Tanny. A
414 few of the coins ricocheted off the liquor bottles and couple traveled

415 further and hit the bar mirror. "You stupid bitch! You told me Pastor
416 Tom was from Los Angeles. Keep your money and your tips. I'm done
417 with you."

418 Tanny immediately started collecting up the money. She wished
419 and had prayed to somehow get out of the toxic relationship she was
420 in. She knew why Victor had created this distraction; he'd just put his
421 foot in his mouth. The Praise and Glory brass dedication plaque was
422 still on the floor in the step van with the V V band equipment setting
423 on top of it.

424 "Victor sure has a temper!" Tom said after Victor Vee exited the
425 relaxation lounge"

426 "He and Phillip have a lot going on with the government crackdown
427 on Britcoin," Tanny replied.

428 "Don't you mean Bitcoin?" Tom asked. At least he knew the correct
429 name for crypto-currency.

430 "Maybe? But this morning Phillip, his twin brother Tyler and Victor
431 were moving the Britcoin terminal out of the hall into the security
432 room. The two lanky Brit's dropped their end and metal on the bottom
433 of the Crypto machine cut Victor's palm."

434 "That's too bad." Tom replied and thought of the crypto-currency
435 scam his old church treasurer had lost his securities license over.

436 Tanny turned toward the shelves of liquor bottles so that her back
437 was to the security cameras. She stuffed most of the Naira into her
438 bra and thought. *It's a good thing for the twin Brits that the cut was*
439 *across V V's swinging hand or else he would have unleashed the*
440 *Runga.*

441 Victor's Runga stick was a gift from his grandfather. It had a
442 flexible shaft with an Ebony ball head and a custom left handed grip.
443 Victor was trained by his grandfather; a fetish priest that practiced
444 Trokosi in Ghana before he was exiled. The village elders finally
445 revolted and burned down the Trokosi shrine after Victor's grandfather
446 paralyzed one of his ten-years-old sex slaves with too hard of a rap to
447 the middle of her back for not performing a sex act properly.

448 The Trokosi system invokes imperious fear in the minds of an
449 entire village. A second virgin could be demanded if the fetish priest

450 grows tired of her or she takes ill. The child slaves are usually banned
451 from seeing or communicating with their birth family.

452 The real cruelty is that the alleged sin or misdeed any family
453 member may have made against a Trokosi priest is rarely forgiven. If
454 there is some sort of redemption the immediate family won't welcome
455 her back to the clan. Ritual Servitude is a blatant disrespect of
456 forgiving our trespassers.

457 Only one human has ever been able to atone for someone else's
458 misdeeds — paradoxically that person was sinless.

459