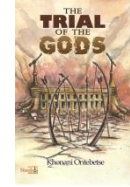


The Trial of the Gods by **Khonani Ontebetse**
Toronto, Canada/Nairobi, Kenya, June 2, 2011

[Nsemia Inc. Publishers](#) announces the publication of ***The Trial of the Gods*** by Khonani Ontebetse.

The Trial of the Gods is the story of a man and his people who live in the Kalahari Desert. They believe that the land they occupy belongs to the Gods hence cannot be owned by anyone else, least of all Government. The book takes the reader through human rights Bushman activism in an environment they are considered uncivilized and stigmatized as scavengers; the *wretched of earth*, in the words of Franz Fanon.

As the government plans relocation and planned integration of Bushmen into "mainstream society" one man, Jay, and his people vehemently resist. It becomes a quest for justice, truth and conservation. They cannot listen to anyone, or get instructions from the Government, lawyers or judges. Only instructions from the Gods will do as to whether they should embrace the "dangerous" world of development and civilization. It becomes a matter of life and death as the man and his people realize that the Gods alone cannot help fight one of the richest governments in Africa. In the process their claims and demands reverberate across the land and the world, touching many human rights organizations and supporters.

Will they manage to fight a government financed by the most valued diamonds in the world?

Here is what others say:

The Trial of the Gods is a gripping tale of conflict between modernity and tradition, old and new conventions, conservation and human rights." – *Anonymous*

"*The Trial of the Gods* is more than just a story. It's a commentary about how determination, courage and love will ultimately defeat greed. It is definitely a must-read." - *Olopeng Rabasimane, Columnist, The Botswana Gazette*

"Though a fictitious work, this novel by Mr. Ontebetse is a good read as it gives an insight into the world's most secret and heartfelt lives of the Bushmen; therefore it is highly recommended" - *The Weekly Independent*

"When a man from the considered low of the low tribe in the world emerges from the desert and starts querying decisions made by the leaders, no one is prepared for that. One of the questions that everyone is asking is; who is Jay, is he a foreigner from overseas or a man from the heart of Kalahari Desert in Botswana? Does Jay not fear that he might have his life cut short for putting the image of Botswana which is regarded a shining example of democracy in Africa into spotlight?" – *Anonymous*

About the Author

Khonani Ontebetse was born in Zoroga, Botswana in 1978. He was educated at Masunga Senior Secondary School and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU). After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Media Communication and Culture at NMMU in 2005, Khonani worked as a journalist for *The Ngami Times* newspaper and later *The Mirror* newspaper. He is currently a journalist for *The Botswana Gazette*.

In 2004, when the then Port Elizabeth University and Port Elizabeth Technikon merged to form the NMMU, Khonani was among the four students from the two institutions to win a literary competition with his essay entitled- "*How I will remember The University of Port Elizabeth.*" That was the turning point in his career as an ambitious writer.

In 2008, he won the first *Bessie Head Literature Awards*, a locally-run literary competition in Botswana for his novel titled *Born with a Husband* (Pentagon Publishers) *Bessie Head Literature Awards* are held annually in honour of one Africa's acclaimed writers, the late Bessie Head. *Born with a Husband* discusses arranged marriages in relation to HIV/AIDS. Khonani's other works are short stories and plays which are yet to be published.

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About us

[Nsemia Inc. Publishers](#) is a Canadian-based publisher with owners of Kenyan origin. We focus is on African-based stories and how they impact African peoples on the continent and in the Diaspora. We aim at bringing to the fore the many *untold stories* that enrich African lives; stories that have a bearing on Africans and contribution to the global village. The African focus is important to us for we believe that there is a lot of rich culture on the continent and among its people in the Diaspora that could enrich the world's cultural mosaic. As well, in a region and communities that faces substantial cultural onslaught from especially the West, there is a need to preserve the rich cultural heritage for posterity.

Our focus is summed up by the motto: *Bringing You Untold Stories*, with a key objective being nurturing artistic talent to express themselves through story-telling, poetry, drama, music and any artistic expression.

We offer insightful guidance in the writing process, editing and (eventually) publication. In addition, there is active marketing and promotion of published works to ensure they reach desirable audiences.

The partnership with the writer aims at mutual growth in an attempt to enrich authors' lives, encourage writing and reading culture of African peoples, and leave the written word for future generations. Below are the key focus areas:

- The **African Heroes Project**: this seeks works that depict African heroes from various African people both on the continent and in the Diaspora.
- **Biography Series**: the objective here is to capture the personal stories of personalities that have played various roles in shaping nations' destiny in Africa.
- **The African Creative Arts & Language Project**: this project focuses on works of fiction (novels, poetry, plays, musicals) written (mainly) in English and other African languages such as Kiswahili.
- **Theses Project**: aims at publishing academic theses pertaining to the African continent and its issues.

Writers choose to work with [Nsemia Inc. Publishers](http://www.nsemia.com) due to the caring and nurturing that comes with the relationship. This is partially based on the understanding of the challenges of getting published as an African, in Africa or in the Diaspora. Despite its richness in culture on the African continent and its Diaspora, published works relating to the continent remain small relative to the size and population of its people, its history and cultural and linguistic diversity.