

Your *Life* over the next few years...



A FREE GIFT
from the
author of
"REFORMED OR
DEFORMED?"

from **MATRICULATION** to **GRADUATION**

For Everyone Enrolling in a Tertiary Institution

EQAY INSPIRE

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A simple “pocket book” to guide Tertiary Students, especially freshmen.

Specially dedicated to EVERY FRESH STUDENT in ALL TERTIARY
INSTITUTIONS

TO BE KEPT ON YOUR DESKTOP (and constantly revisited)

UNTIL FULLY LIVED OUT!

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YOUR CURRENT STATE

Hearfelt congratulations to you, on your successful admission into a Tertiary

Institution! Just one quick caution: over the next few years ahead of you, your life is going to change. Nobody goes into a Tertiary Institution and comes back the same. You will either become *reformed* or you will be *deformed*. And this is no theory. Every single individual who has ever been through tertiary experienced one. Your story will not be different.

BEGINNING FROM THE NEGATIVE START

Presently, you might not have very bright financial prospects; you might not know how you will survive through the years; you might think you are not good enough for the programme you were offered or you might have absolutely no desire for it; you might feel you are losing out on your purpose in life by studying your programme; you might be confused as to what exactly life has in store for you; you might be scared what life after tertiary is going to be for you; or you might be bewildered how you will manage to cope with this kind of life regarding the background you have.

Whatever your fears may be, there is a way you can approach life in your university, or institution of training, in order to emerge on top of life. However sad or confusing your situation may be, or however hopeless it may seem, it is possible to come out completely *reformed*; when you can confidently beat your chest and say that you have fought a good fight.

Many people are unaware that there is a standard way of living in the tertiary institution and this causes them to keep making mistakes upon mistakes until they graduate with regrets all over them. Gladly, you are about to find that scheme; that treasure; that path that you can just walk and be fully assured that joy and fulfillment eagerly await you at the end.

BEGINNING FROM THE POSITIVE START

On another hand, you might feel you are finally free from the officious authority of your father and the prying eyes of your mother; you might think you can now do anything you want with impunity; you may think you are surely going to thrive because you came in with the best grades, you may think you know everything there is to know about succeeding in your tertiary years; you may feel you do not need anyone to tell you how you must approach life, you may think you have the best tricks to

academic excellence; you may believe you are spiritually poised enough to battle every challenge you would face; or you may think you have enough riches to buy your way through everything you want.

But sorry to announce to you, it is still possible to end in grand doom if you do not exercise extreme caution, self-control and a deliberate effort to guide your life towards the right path. Many people came in with promising future prospects and high hopes from their families but left without getting to even complete their journey; people enrolled HIV negative and left HIV positive; some entered with both eyes and came out half-blind, not because of an unruly accident, but a deliberate involvement in gang fights; some entered as noble and respectful gentlemen and came out as drug addicts and/or womanizers; many enter as virgins and come out as casual sex agents; people have gone in “innocent,” but had to drop out because their sex tapes were all over.

Something will change about you, within these few years ahead.

After going through the period from your matriculation to your graduation, you will surely not remain how you are right now. What will your story be? How will your end be? ***Reformed? Or Deformed?*** Think

about that for a moment.

Your end result is chiefly going to depend on your character, principles, values and your level of ignorance (how little or much you know about how the system works).

THE SHOCKING REALITY

Regardless of the note on which you begin, be it the *negative start* or the *positive start*, whether you started with great *fears* or great *confidence*, much work awaits you! You must surely approach life with great caution and ambition. How you end is much more crucial than how you were when you enrolled.

The shocking reality is that no-matter how you are at the start, you need to toe a particular path to get to the successful end. Your fears may be different, your programme may be distinct and your potentials may be varied; but tertiary life is not like journeying from different parts of the world to a common destination, where you can use just any means at all to get there. Here, you need *particular lifestyles*, *specific values*, and *well-defined principles* to make it. It does not just happen! It is a conscious effort and you need to groom yourself accordingly.

THE TYPICAL TERTIARY STUDENT

The large majority of students may not necessarily end in some of the extreme end-results discussed above like contracting HIV and so forth, but they still toe a line that is significantly disheartening and highly alarming.

This is probably why the rampant issue of unemployment never leaves our eardrums alone. The bigger fraction of students live a life that results in abject mediocrity. Instead of excelling in the various spheres associated with Tertiary Life, they end up just “passing through” the system without building anything significant to boost their future prospects.

Typically, they go through 5 life stages described in this book as the “FreD-CIR” life cycle. This is the dangerous path you are very likely to tread, if you do not guard yourself properly. Therefore, take the cue from here and go through the text with enough disdain that will make you remain resolute, never to follow in those footsteps.

The FreD-CIR Life Cycle

Fre-FREEDOM

This may come as a surprise but the root of the whole problem is

FREEDOM. This is an advantage other tertiary institutions may possess over the University. Nonetheless, they are also not left out of the picture.

If you would recall, God made an important decree in the Garden of Eden. He said, “...you are **FREE** to eat of any tree, except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...”— Genesis 2:16-17

Whenever and wherever there is Freedom, everything is bound to fall in jumbles, unless people have rules to walk by. Imagine a nation where everyone has complete freedom to do whatever they desire without any regulation. What disaster that would be! Even in the Garden of Eden, where man was at liberty to do almost anything at all, God still regarded that it was prudent to give them an instruction to live by.

No doubt, our tertiary institutions have rules to regulate student behaviour. But as yet, the extent of freedom that exists still poses a threat for vicious consequences in your life. And indeed, it has caused the doom of many.

In such an environment (especially the university) where you are free from the “corny” influence of your family; when you are left to your own will on deciding when you sleep, where to sleep, when you get up, whether or not to involve yourself in religious activities; when you are

accountable to nobody for your daily involvements and so on; you cannot afford to exist without *formidable personal principles* and *values*.

The lack of these makes many people vulnerable to the perils of diversity, which is our very next point.

D-DIVERSITY

Not too long after your stay in the school, you will realize this fact: whatever you are willing to do, however bad or good, there are experts in the school to help you “succeed”. All kinds of people, doing all kinds of things exist in our Tertiary Institutions.

From religious extremists, to drug addicts, game lovers, football fanatics, movie activists, book enthusiasts, club/party devotees; you will meet dissimilar varieties of human beings. Without a premeditated plan and a well-defined purpose for your own life, you will be caught in the web of bewilderment in no time. Your instincts, fleshy desires and passion could escalate uncontrollably for various acts, all of which have their own *unforeseen consequences*.

Unless you have a clearly defined purpose, this mixture of FREEDOM and DIVERSITY is a perfect recipe to distort your mind, though you may not realize it. Mostly, all you would notice is that you are not really doing

any particular thing to perfection. This brings you to the next stage: the state of confusion.

C-CONFUSION

Time flies so quickly that before you open your eyes, all you would see is the mess you have already surrounded yourself with. Normally, many find their GPA's/CWA's struggling to keep its head above water, their future prospects beginning to seem dimmer and their personal lives stuffed with issues here and there.

If care is not taken, this is the point where you might even be entangled with various issues of the heart—relationships, heart breaks, and their colleagues. This can get seriously mindboggling that where to even start addressing your issues from becomes a question many are unable to find answers to. Gradually, this state of deep confusion gently gives away to that of indecision.

I-INDECISION

At this point, the only choice many find is to just “manage” and graduate at least, to see what life after school might also have to offer. Yet, as they continue to feel the presence of the finish line (graduation), their minds never stop asking questions. How useful am I going to be on the job

market? What do I have on my Curriculum Vitae? Would I need to proceed with further education? Will my grades qualify me for scholarships abroad? And many more!

Before they say jack, they are already in their final year and there comes their project work. They try to put in all their best to get it right this time, if never at all. And as they do, there is this mixed feeling of fear and worry that is always glued to their skin.

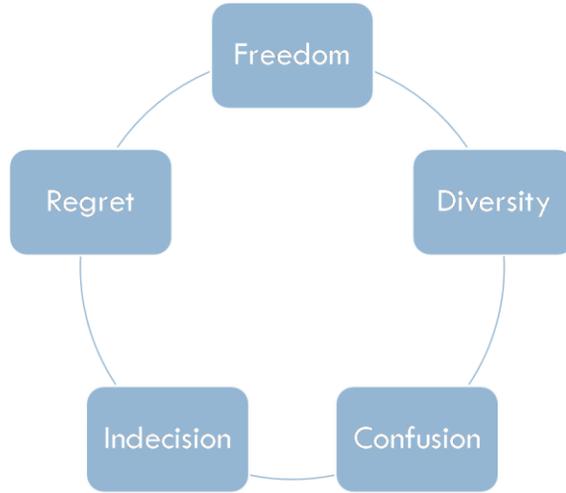
That feeling results mainly from the mind's uncertainty of what the future holds and how unprepared they are for it. The state of gross confusion blended with indecision is how masses of students graduate from their various institutions. Then later, they look back with regret.

R-REGRET

The most painful part is how you would look back and find all the mistakes you could have avoided that have ended you where you are. To make it worse, life after school usually meets you like it's your judgment day. Almost like a prosecutor in a court room, it demands of you to produce evidence of what you did with your life in school.

As if that isn't more than enough, it seems to be fully determined to squeeze you until you pay duly for every resource you had and

ignored/misused whilst in school. You start wishing someone told you of all these truths when you were about to start tertiary life. Too bad!



Written in the recent pages and illustrated in the diagram above is not just a grammatical rhetoric. This is the sad reality numerous students and graduates are engulfed in. But your story must be different. It must not be said of you that you knew all of this and still led the same path like them.

Which foot are you starting off with? *The Negative Start, The Positive Start* or as a *Typical Tertiary Student*. No matter which category you find yourself in right now, it is time to migrate onto the fulfilling journey. Find yourself an unwavering package of sound and strong moral principles to live by. Determine that you will never end up like the masses. Resolve not to tread the path of destruction. Fix your eyes on God and your goals and strive steadfastly until you reach that successful

end.

Before we wrap up quickly, it will really be unfair on our part to conclude this e-book without at least one lesson from our *main information hub* called “ROD” (“Reformed Or Deformed?”). So this is it:

“Never indulge in any activity that will not have a significant positive effect on your future prospects. Every such activity is a parasite you must squash quickly.”

Now as we go, we leave you with the following words of firm assurance:

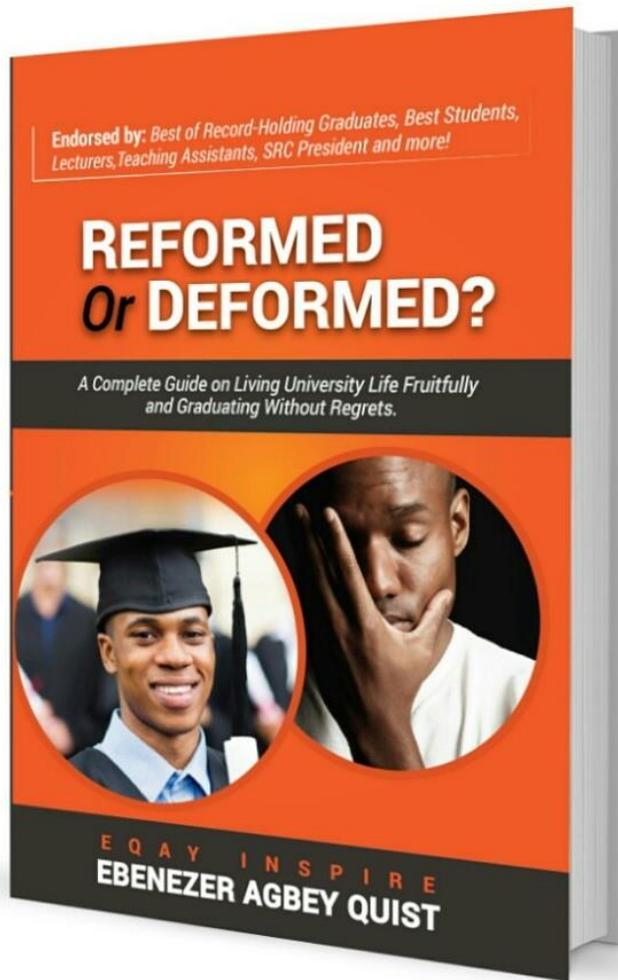
If you will decide never to leave *any task completed* in a state less than *your best* can produce; if you will decide to *remain unshakable* by the waves of *temporary pleasure and compromise*; and if you will challenge yourself to do the *necessary things* even if they *seem impossible* to you...

VICTORY, TRIUMPH and SUCCESS will salute you at the end of your journey.

A BIT ABOUT “ROD”

The writing of “*Your Life over the Next Few Years from Matriculation to Graduation*” came as a consequence of the main book titled “***Reformed or Deformed?***” [ROD] “ROD” was written to provide complete guidance to tertiary students on the step-by-step measures they can apply in Academics, Social Life and Networking, Religious Life, Finances and even in Relationships to be able to graduate **Reformed** and **NOT Deformed**.

“*Reformed or Deformed?*” also written by Ebenezer Agbey Quist has received the endorsement of student leaders, lecturers, teaching assistants, authors and various student awardees. And every single person who ever read a copy, testified of the tremendous transformational power it instilled in them.



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