

The Black Veil: *Inspiring the African Women!*

By Mama Africa for the African women

Dear friend, my name is Mama Africa. I am called by this name because I have travelled to most of the African countries sharing with African women the story of my life. Yes, I shared with them my story of how I was persuaded into marriage at the age of 12 years by my illiterate parents who felt it was an opportunity to reduce their enormous family responsibilities. Though, I was young and naïve, I understood that my new home would not give me the desired fulfilment and joy I had always dreamt of. As the custom demands, a young girl dare not question the decisions of her parents. I had no option than to accept my fate of becoming a wife to somebody I never knew and loved with the hope that some day I would come to know and to love him as my husband- and of which it never came to pass. Living under the same roof with my so-called husband was horrible, terrible and traumatic. Although he was old enough to be my father, he never showed any sense of maturity and responsibility. I received terrible beatings and maltreatment and felt lonely and dejected. I would not dare go back to my father's house because it was a big taboo. I suffered in silence till I started giving birth to children year after year for seven consecutive years. These seven children were my only consolation and pride. They gave me the desired joy, affection and peace and I sworn never to shy away from my responsibility of taking good care of them and also giving them the best. I worked very hard everyday doing different kinds of jobs to make ends meet. I am happy that they made me proud. As the mother of a lawyer, doctor, engineer, musician, priest, politician, and banker, I am happy today because I did not give up. I still found joy in my marriage and fulfilment in my children. My husband later died and despite all odds, I never hated him.

I want my story to inspire many African women and also to encourage them never to give up in whatever situation they find themselves. Many African women have many untold stories of their terrible life experiences. I love you and I will be glad to help you if you can share it with me. Are you an African woman passing through some difficult situation in your life? Do you wish to share your experience with me so that we can put heads together to proffer a lasting solution? Are you a super African woman who conquered some difficult times in your life and would want to inspire others with your story? Please send an email (mamaafrica@greatiam.org) to me and together with you, inspire the African women.