

SOLAPE'S LAGOS EXPERIENCE.

Be street wise;e get why.

Being wise in Lagos is essential, but being streetwise is super essential. I mean Lagos is not a place for the weak. There you have the good, crazy, bad and ugly. Being gentle in Lagos will get you nowhere. You have to be smart, very smart and very calculative. Lagos is a place where everybody is trying to make money and they're ready to use any means possible including hurting people so long as it gives them what they want. My name is Solape and this is my Lagos experience.

I alighted at arena along with other passengers in the vehicle this was after they had finished cussing out the driver for not taking us to the busstop before turning. Walking further ahead, I heard the murmurings of a guy and looked back. He asked for directions and I said I didn't know any where around and continued walking. Then a guy on white shirt came from behind and asked if he was begging for money, I told him no and continued walking. Only for the first guy to come back again and said he was a foreigner and he had some goods here in Oshodi and he needs someone to help him confirm the amount, if it corresponds to the one he has written in his diary, then he was good to go. Then the guy from behind walked up to me again and said we should help him, that they are nice people and they always compensate those who help them and that I should tell him that he's my brother and that were not going to cheat him. I was hesitant at first because I didn't know the guy and wasn't sure how authentic what he said was. He noticed my hesitation and further explained that his sister had experienced something of this sort before and it was real, so I decided to help the guy. He said his goods were at a woman's shop in Ilase. So we all boarded a vehicle going there, he said he didn't have Naira note that we should pay for him, when his business is intact he was going to reimburse us, so my supposed brother paid. When we alighted we crossed to the other side and entered a tricycle and alighted at the back of a church. We all sat down on a chair behind a yellow colored vehicle. He has earlier told me that we were going to wait outside and the woman's son was going to come out with the goods. So while we were waiting, a man came from nowhere and asked if we were the one helping the foreigner confirm his goods, my supposed brother said yes. Then he started explaining that he brought some goods in two big bags and he needs to first test them with some chemicals but the chemicals were not available when he went earlier so he wanted to wait till when the foreigner was back before doing anything and all these were said in Yoruba, then he told me to explain everything he said to the foreigner since I was the one he trusted. I explained to him and he said for them to start. Then the man brought a small bucket with soapy water in it and brought out a brown paper, the supposed foreigner shouted and asked why he brought his goods out like that, the man said he wanted to test it the local way since the chemicals weren't ready yet. So he dipped the brown paper into the soapy water and asked me to shake it for a few seconds then brought it out and viola a thousand Naira note. The man said to tell him that the goods he brought was our currency here in Nigeria and that he wants to check back at the chemical store. I told him and he said it was fine. Then he asked for my phone that he wanted to listen to music, I played him a song, he collected it saying he wanted to pick a song of his choice and that he's also educated, so the non-suspecting me gave it to him he then picked a song of his liking and said he wanted water, I asked for my phone he said he was coming and left. The other man came from the chemical store with a liquid in a bottle sealed and said it was the chemical needed and gave instructions that if anybody come asking what we want to use it for we should say we want to use it for calendar and also left.

Then an hefty looking man came and asked what we wanted to use the liquid in my supposed brother's hand for,we said for calendar he collected it and said several people have been to his store to get the chemical and they are always lying about what they wanted to use it for,that the last person that came to get it from his store used it to kill her boyfriend. He then said he was prophet and he was going to pray and tell God to reveal to him what we wanted to use it for. He started praying,when he was done he said we want it for business and that a foreigner is in our midst and that we took an oath not to betray each other,we bit a certain amount of money and that the money we bit contain a certain deadly poison and the poison is already in our system and as we speak the foreigner is in there vomiting blood. My supposed brother shouted and asked if he could help that he doesn't want to die. The man then said he should stretch forth his palms and drew the sign of the cross on it and said he stays with his elder brother and he sells goods for his brother,that he also pocket some of the profit made from his brother`s business,to which he confirmed all details afterwards he prayed for him. Then he told me to stretch forth my palms as well and starting asking me questions;he asked the occupation of my parents,if I had any sibling then he prayed afterwhich he said he wants to go and pray for the foreigner inside.He came back and said for the poison to leave totally theres something we need to do. He asked if we knew where our parent and guardian kept their money and valuables in the house. We both said we knew,he asked the estimated amount that they have stored at home and we answered.He then said for the poison to leave totally and for us to gain control of wealth we needed to head back home and go to all the places where money,gold and debit cards were kept and put them in a bag,then place a sign of the cross on every place we removed the aforementioned,so when anybody comes there to check they will see what looks like what they place there but not the actual thing.Then after placing the valuables in a bag,we are to call him and say that we have the nepa bill and receipts so nobody can know what we're talking about.He asked if we had any chargers,debit cards,airmuffs that we should bring them because the poison works with such devices and we wont want it to circulate through our body and start killing us softly. Then he wrote a number on a piece of paper and told us to call the number when we've packed the bag and are about leaving the house so we can all come back and meet here then he will pray for us and give us back the valuables we brought and our share of the money from the foreigner's business which should be 20 million naira each and we can then take our leave. After he wrote the phone number we are to call him through, that was when my brain picked and I asked about my phone,he asked if I didn't hear what he just said,if I wanted to die as a result of the poison,then I snapped and said I wasn't interested in everything he just said I just wanted my phone because I need to take my leave,he stood up and left to the main street and then told me to come and meet him with my supposed brother. When we got to where he was he said we should leave I didn't answer and told him to give me my phone,charger and airpod,he told me he will hurt me if I don't leave now,I said I didn't have any money that will take me to where I was going,he brought out a thousand naira note and gave me and told me to leave ASAP. He told me and my supposed brother to go in different directions and I said I didn't know the way to where I was going the other guy that was with him offered to take me to the busstop where I can get a vehicle that's going to get me home.

That guys is my lagos experience. Moral lesson;never talk to strangers or follow them anywhere irrespective of whatever the offer may be. **And be street smart,e get why.**

