

**Of Wine Carrying and Bridal Train:
A Portrayal of Traditional Igbo Marriage in Elechi Amadi's
The Concubine and *The Slave***

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ABSTRACT Marriage, the special kind of union whereby a man and woman are joined together for the purpose of making a home and raising a family is as old as man. As unique as it is, the institution of traditional marriage in Africa has been grossly misunderstood by many prejudiced foreigners who claim that love has no place in the social enterprise. This paper, therefore, explores traditional Igbo marriage as portrayed by Elechi Amadi in two of his novels. It posits that love not only exists among the Igbo in particular and Africans in general but that it is actually celebrated in marriage which is a whole community affair. It concludes however, that like many things, traditional Igbo marriage has undergone some changes courtesy of the grinding wheel of time.