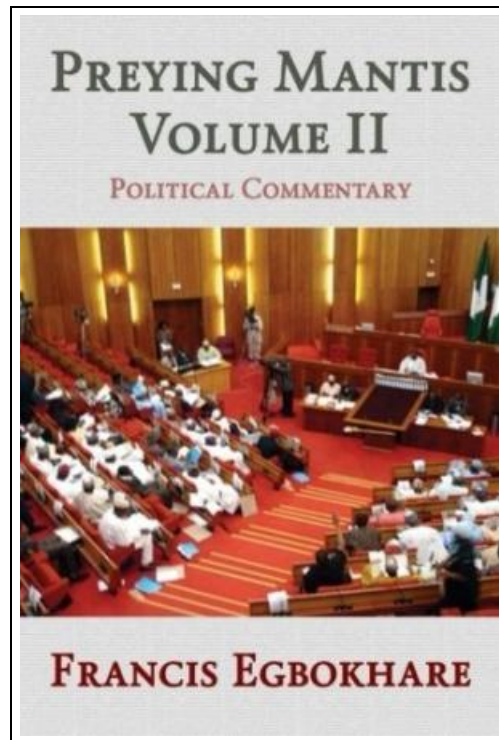


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.The Preying Mantis is an insect. In traditional mythology, there are many superstitious beliefs about it. It is a mysterious and fear inspiring insect. Children are afraid to kill it to avoid unpleasant circumstances. The slow movement is its mystery. Growing up in the village, I reverence the praying mantis. What many adults do not know is even then, a number of children would secretly kill the praying mantis and watch it discharge its larvae. Children broke many taboos in the village setting. Nevertheless, when adults witness or hear about any taboo being broken they take children through some form of cleansing. The praying mantis became for me a symbol of control, rigidity of traditions, unquestioning loyalty and blind faith. In 2004, when the Nigerian Tribune asked me to write a column for their Sunday edition, I thought of a way to be obvious while being obscure. I also wanted to be critical in a humorous and respectful way because the Nigerian media in my opinion was full of aggressive and abusive writers at the time. I thought I should prey on the prevailing mindset without denigrating the belief system. Preying Mantis stood for two values: change and reflection. The title is a pun on the insect Praying Mantis, except that I chose to prey on old, worn out and beaten paths. The insect in my culture is a symbol of meditation and sobriety. As I expected, many people never noticed the difference in spelling or concept. In the four years that I wrote the column, I wrote on politics, politically exposed persons, culture, society and any topic that was trending. The materials are organised in two volumes, Socio-cultural Commentary...

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