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explores the many manifestations of african religious belief and their expressions in the past and in the present as well as the hopes for the future african traditional religion atr is one of the world religions with a great people and a great past it is embraced by africans within and outside the continent despite the various ethnic religious practices and beliefs this book highlights and discusses the common elements which introduce african traditional religion as one unified religion and not a collection of religions the major focus of the book is discussing the need for studying atr in twenty first century africa whereby globalization and multi culture are prominent phenomena why should we study the religion of the african natives in this age in response to this question the book argues that since atr is part of the african people s culture there is a need to understand this cultural background in order to contextualize christian theology using some illustrations from nyumbanitu worship shrine located at njombe in tanzania the book purports that there is a need to understand african people s worldview their understanding of god their religious values symbols and rituals in order to enhance meaningful dialogue between christianity and african people s current worldview in this case the book is important for students of comparative religion in universities and colleges who strive to understand the various religions and their practices the work has the capacity to stimulate interest for further critical reflection in the area of african traditional religion and philosophy i therefore very strongly recommend it for all who treasure good african literature and most especially for anyone who wishes to be abreast with important debates and developments in african traditional religion and philosophy experts researchers beginners and casual readers are bound to treasure the usefulness of this interesting book in his widely acclaimed survey john mbiti sheds light on the survival and prosperity of african religion in different historical geographical sociological cultural and physical environments he presents a constellation of african worldviews beliefs in god use of symbols valued traditions and practices that have taken root with african peoples throughout the vast continent mbiti s accessible writing style sympathetically portrays how african religion manifests itself in ritual festival healing the human life cycle and interplay with the mystical and invisible world the account embraces foundational traditions while touching on elements that spawn transitions including migration the spread of christianity and islam political economic development and modern communication this popular introduction leaves readers with informed knowledge of the riches of african heritage african religions and philosophy is a systematic study of the attitudes of mind and belief that have evolved in the many societies of africa in this second edition dr mbiti has updated his material to include the involvement of women in religion and the potential unity to be found in what was once thought to be a mass of quite separate religions mbiti adds a new dimension to the understanding of the history thinking and life throughout the african continent religion is approached from an african point of view but is as accessible to readers who belong to non african societies as it is to those who have grown up in african nations since its first publication this book has become acknowledged as the standard work in the field of study and it is essential reading for anyone concerned with african religion history philosophy anthropology or general african studies west african religious traditions provides a unique and accessible way for readers to understand the dynamics and structures of traditional african religion and to see its resonances in african american religious life today focusing on the akan of ghana this book is the result of the author s lifetime of close collaboration with ghanaians at all levels of that west african nation west african religious traditions is a remarkable entree into a fascinating world of african religion and culture fisher has lived and taught in ghana and brings to his writing both love for africa and the keen eye of a trained liturgist who knows the importance of grounding his statement of principles in concrete observations of song dance ceremonies and recitations of mythic narratives ghanaians have been involved at every stage of the writing and re writing of this book helping to clarify the material the result is an up to date well researched and student ready volume whose study questions and bibliography make it ideal for classroom use this book provides a new constructive and critical approach to african traditional religion from the standpoint of christian faith the historiography of african religions and religions in africa presents a remarkable shift from the study of africa as object to africa as subject thus translating the subject from obscurity into the global community of the academic study of religion this book presents a unique multidisciplinary exploration of african traditions in the study of religion diaspora and gendered societies the book is structured under two main sections the first provides insights into the interface between religion and society the second features african diaspora together with youth and gender which have not yet featured prominently in studies on religion in africa contributors drawn from diverse african and global contexts situate current scholarly traditions of the study of african religions within the purview of academic encounter and exchanges with non african scholars and non african contexts african scholars enrich the study of religions from their respective academic and methodological orientations jacob kehinde olupona stands out as a pioneer in the socio scientific interpretation of african indigenous religion and religions in africa and the new african diaspora this book honours his immense contribution to an emerging field of study and research our problem on the african continent at the moment is the following western people in general and christian missionaries in particular were mostly uncritical about their own european culture and over critical about african culture in reaction african christians in general and theologians in particular are today on the one hand very critical about the western type of christianity which has been transplanted to the continent but on the other hand not critical enough about their own african culture and traditional religion many african theologians for instance claim that before

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the gospel was not the beginning of the true knowledge of god but merely a continuation or fulfillment of true faith that already existed in the pre christian african s heart some even go so far as to suggest that the african s method of approaching god is as valid as the way of salvation through the gospel such ideas are emphatically denied in this book the whole book is more than an attempt to present african indigenous beliefs in a systematic manner comparing it with biblical teaching it is not only against western secularism but also strongly opposed to the very strong syncretistic tendency in african church life and in african theology it convincingly argues that the idea of adaptation should be replaced by the idea of transformation in the light of god s word we cannot have a peaceful accommodation but only a powerful confrontation between traditional african religion and real biblical christian faith this clash of irreconcilable spiritual powers becomes clear on every page a struggle between life and death a struggle for control of the hearts and minds of the african people the writer pleads with his fellow african to make a definite choice either the gospel or traditional beliefs and not to opt for a it is customary in the western world for people to use the term african music as if it were a single clearly identifiable phenomenon one should not be surprised at the diversity of music and the difficulty of isolating distinctly african features common to the whole continent this important book is an overview of music in africa these thrilling whimsically and action packed anthology of adventurous stories bring to life some vital aspects of traditional african culture these wonderful african traditional stories offer a rare glimpse into a portion of african traditional culture not often openly discussed outside many remote villages they originate from as you peer through these pages be prepared to be thrilled and amazed as some aspects of ancient african culture are brought to life through amazing story telling most of the stories are used to reinforce the traditional virtues in these tribal societies some of the stories illustrate and exemplify what happens to youngsters when they choose to follow the century old african tradition and culture and when another youngster deviates from the traditional african values of respecting and honoring their elders and yes some of the stories are told to young girls in rural areas as cautionary tales to keep them from marrying total strangers outside their respective tribes most of the stories and folktales here are fictionalized and many characters borrowed from various cultures to entertain the reading audience while imparting numerous traditional virtues and morals into the youngsters the ancient traditional african elders strongly believe in inculcating and ingraining these societal virtues into their youngsters because like the ancient greek philosophers the african elders deeply concurred with plato s enunciation that now since men are by nature acquisitive jealous combative and erotic how shall we persuade them to behave themselves by the policeman s omnipresent club it is a brutal method costly and irritating there is a better way and this is by lending to the moral requirements of the community this book addresses general aspects of the elusive realm of african religious experiences using selected examples of evidence of how africans have acted in their encounter with the unknown world from ancient times religious concepts and symbolisms such as identifying the supreme being the supernatural spirits and spiritualism ancestral veneration ritual and ritual objects and obligations kinship and community relationships spirit possession libation divination festivals and festivities birth initiation marriage and death rites notions of witchcraft and witches are discussed in a changing south africa recovering the meaning and power of african tradition is a matter of crucial importance this work participates in that recovery by providing a comprehensive guide to research on the indigenous religious heritage of this dynamic country detailed reviews of over 600 books articles and theses are offered along with introductory essays and detailed annotations that define the field of study this work plus two forthcoming volumes christianity in south africa an annotated bibliography and islam hinduism and judaism in south africa an annotated bibliography will become the standard reference work on south african religions scholars and students in religious studies social anthropology history and african studies will find this set particularly useful this work organizes and annotates all the relevant literature on khoisan xhosa zulu sotho tswana swazi tsonga and venda traditions the annotations are concise yet detailed essays written in an engaging and accessible style and supported by an exhaustive index which comprise a full and complex profile of african traditional religion in south africa the articles which comprise this book where delivered initially at a conference held at the university of zimbabwe 21 24 june 1994 on the of the interaction between christian religion and traditional african religions this text demonstrates that the academic study of religion is not only responsive to developments in religious life but is interested in actively exploring the symbolic structures expressed in christian and traditional ritual activities academic understanding is shown to be interactive with the many factors which compromise meaning within human societies and religious communities

~~Profiles in African Traditional Popular Culture 1991-01-01~~ explores the many manifestations of african religious belief and their expressions in the past and in the present as well as the hopes for the future

African Traditional Religion 2009 african traditional religion atr is one of the world religions with a great people and a great past it is embraced by africans within and outside the continent despite the various ethnic religious practices and beliefs this book highlights and discusses the common elements which introduce african traditional religion as one unified religion and not a collection of religions the major focus of the book is discussing the need for studying atr in twenty first century africa whereby globalization and multi culture are prominent phenomena why should we study the religion of the african natives in this age in response to this question the book argues that since atr is part of the african people s culture there is a need to understand this cultural background in order to contextualize christian theology using some illustrations from nyumbanitu worship shrine located at njombe in tanzania the book purports that there is a need to understand african people s worldview their understanding of god their religious values symbols and rituals in order to enhance meaningful dialogue between christianity and african people s current worldview in this case the book is important for students of comparative religion in universities and colleges who strive to understand the various religions and their practices

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Comparative Studies of African Traditional Religions 1987 in his widely acclaimed survey john mbiti sheds light on the survival and prosperity of african religion in different historical geographical sociological cultural and physical environments he presents a constellation of african worldviews beliefs in god use of symbols valued traditions and practices that have taken root with african peoples throughout the vast continent mbiti s accessible writing style sympathetically portrays how african religion manifests itself in ritual festival healing the human life cycle and interplay with the mystical and invisible world the account embraces foundational traditions while touching on elements that spawn transitions including migration the spread of christianity and islam political economic development and modern communication this popular introduction leaves readers with informed knowledge of the riches of african heritage

African Traditional Religion in Biblical Perspective 2005 african religions and philosophy is a systematic study of the attitudes of mind and belief that have evolved in the many societies of africa in this second edition dr mbiti has updated his material to include the involvement of women in religion and the potential unity to be found in what was once thought to be a mass of quite separate religions mbiti adds a new dimension to the understanding of the history thinking and life throughout the african continent religion is approached from an african point of view but is as accessible to readers who belong to non african societies as it is to those who have grown up in african nations since its first publication this book has become acknowledged as the standard work in the field of study and it is essential reading for anyone concerned with african religion history philosophy anthropology or general african studies

Elements of African Traditional Religion 2013-08-02 west african religious traditions provides a unique and accessible way for readers to understand the dynamics and structures of traditional african religion and to see its resonances in african american religious life today focusing on the akan of ghana this book is the result of the author s lifetime of close collaboration with ghanaians at all levels of that west african nation west african religious traditions is a remarkable entree into a fascinating world of african religion and culture fisher has lived and taught in ghana and brings to his writing both love for africa and the keen eye of a trained liturgist who knows the importance of grounding his statement of principles in concrete observations of song dance ceremonies and recitations of mythic narratives ghanaians have been involved at every stage of the writing and re writing of this book helping to clarify the material the result is an up to date well researched and student ready volume whose study questions and bibliography make it ideal for classroom use

Traditional Concepts of God in Africa 1998 this book provides a new constructive and critical approach to african traditional religion from the standpoint of christian faith

African Traditional Religion and Philosophy: 2022-07-14 the historiography of african religions and religions in africa presents a remarkable shift from the study of africa as object to africa as subject thus translating the subject from obscurity into the global community of the academic study of religion this book presents a unique multidisciplinary exploration of african traditions in the study of religion diaspora and gendered societies the book is structured under two main sections the first provides insights into the interface between religion and society the second features african diaspora together with youth and gender which have not yet featured prominently in studies on religion in africa contributors drawn from diverse african and global contexts situate current scholarly traditions of the study of african religions within the purview of academic encounter and exchanges with non african scholars and non african contexts african scholars enrich the study of religions from their respective academic and methodological orientations jacob kehinde olupona stands out as a pioneer in the socio scientific interpretation of african indigenous religion and religions in africa and the new african diaspora this book honours his immense contribution to an emerging field of study and research

Religious Communication 1994 our problem on the african continent at the moment is the following western people in general and christian missionaries in particular were mostly uncritical about their own european culture and over critical about african culture in reaction african christians in general and theologians in particular are today on the one hand very critical about the

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Initiation Rites for Boys in Lomwe Society in Malawi and Other Essays 2005 it is customary in the western world for people to use the term african music as if it were a single clearly identifiable phenomenon one should not be surprised at the diversity of music and the difficulty of isolating distinctly african features common to the whole continent this important book is an overview of music in africa

West African Traditional Religion 1979 these thrilling whimsically and action packed anthology of adventurous stories bring to life some vital aspects of traditional african culture these wonderful african traditional stories offer a rare glimpse into a portion of african traditional culture not often openly discussed outside many remote villages they originate from as you peer through these pages be prepared to be thrilled and amazed as some aspects of ancient african culture are brought to life through amazing story telling most of the stories are used to reinforce the traditional virtues in these tribal societies some of the stories illustrate and exemplify what happens to youngsters when they choose to follow the century old african tradition and culture and when another youngster deviates from the traditional african values of respecting and honoring their elders and yes some of the stories are told to young girls in rural areas as cautionary tales to keep them from marrying total strangers outside their respective tribes most of the stories and folktales here are fictionalized and many characters borrowed from various cultures to entertain the reading audience while imparting numerous traditional virtues and morals into the youngsters the ancient traditional african elders strongly believe in inculcating and ingraining these societal virtues into their youngsters because like the ancient greek philosophers the african elders deeply concurred with plato s enunciation that now since men are by nature acquisitive jealous combative and erotic how shall we persuade them to behave themselves by the policeman s omnipresent club it is a brutal method costly and irritating there is a better way and this is by lending to the moral requirements of the community

African Traditional Religion 1985 this book addresses general aspects of the elusive realm of african religious experiences using selected examples of evidence of how africans have acted in their encounter with the unknown world from ancient times religious concepts and symbolisms such as identifying the supreme being the supernatural spirits and spiritualism ancestral veneration ritual and ritual objects and obligations kinship and community relationships spirit possession libation divination festivals and festivities birth initiation marriage and death rites notions of witchcraft and witches are discussed

African Traditional Religion 1954 in a changing south africa recovering the meaning and power of african tradition is a matter of crucial importance this work participates in that recovery by providing a comprehensive guide to research on the indigenous religious heritage of this dynamic country detailed reviews of over 600 books articles and theses are offered along with introductory essays and detailed annotations that define the field of study this work plus two forthcoming volumes christianity in south africa an annotated bibliography and islam hinduism and judaism in south africa an annotated bibliography will become the standard reference work on south african religions scholars and students in religious studies social anthropology history and african studies will find this set particularly useful this work organizes and annotates all the relevant literature on khoisan xhosa zulu sotho tswana swazi tsonga and venda traditions the annotations are concise yet detailed essays written in an engaging and accessible style and supported by an exhaustive index which comprise a full and complex profile of african traditional religion in south africa

African Traditional Religions in Contemporary Society 1991 the articles which comprise this book were delivered initially at a conference held at the university of zimbabwe 21-24 june 1994 on the of the interaction between christian religion and traditional african religions this text demonstrates that the academic study of religion is not only responsive to developments in religious life but is interested in actively exploring the symbolic structures expressed in christian and traditional ritual activities academic understanding is shown to be interactive with the many factors which compromise meaning within human societies and religious communities

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