ASSIGNMENT

COURSE TITLE: INDIGENOUS AFRICAN RELIGION

COURSE CODE: AFS 204

QUESTION: Discuss four sources for the study of IAR

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Indigenous African Religion, especially in Africa, like all other religions of the world, have stories, myths, magic, beliefs, many performative, lessons to learn, objects of worship, rewards for actions, be such actions good or bad and many other distinguishing properties. All of the African life is religious. From birth to death and within the circle of the living ancestors, the living now and the living future, the unborn generation, life is continuous for the traditional religionist, especially the African. It is within this context that African Traditional religion is always studied.

**Stories**: Accounts of happenings, narratives that serve to bring certain principles of ethics, moral or phenomenological explanations.

**Myth**: folklore, tale or words put together whose authenticity or correctness cannot be easily verified.

**Magic**: an act that is not easily explainable to common reasoning, involving mysterious agency or power.

**Prayer**: Communication, mostly in form of a request from another person, being or body.

**Beliefs**: These are individual positions on specific topics, issues and events.

**Performatives**: Actions done as acts of faith, worship or devotion and awe. These sets of actions may include singing, praying, dancing, eating and obeisance of various patterns.

**Objects of Worship**: This is a term used for a wide range of things. It is often used to include deified objects that are worshipped, substances used in worship of any deity, people involved in a particular worship system, materials involved in whatever form in worship and even designations to worship like food items, colour and such like.

One will then ask, where do the African tradition get their source of information from since is a religion and most recognized religions of the world like Christianity, Islam and the rest have books of reference where they get their information from to make the understanding of the practice very easy to everyone and even outsides. The indigenous faith of the African is not a scripture religion.it has no holy book like the Christian Bible or the Muslim Qur’an. This does not mean that religious ideas and practices are not stored in any form. Information about the religion is found in the totality of the life of the African. It is recorded in music and dance, proverbs and everyday sayings, myths, names of people, places and items, art and craft such as textiles, paintings, ornamental works, carving, paintings and sculpture.

The religion is also found in institutions like chieftaincy, priesthood, and festivals, and all of these events, positions and art work all is in the everyday life of the people.