



**DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**FACULTY OF ARTS AND DESIGN**

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

**ENGLISH FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (ENFL 202)**

**COMPARATIVE ESSAY ASSIGNMENT**

**GROUP MEMBERS: A.B NKOSI 22205473**

**S.N NTINGA 22205473**

## THE CREATION OF EARTH AND LIGHT

At the beginning of the world, it was dark and empty. Everything was created through the different means of creation. In this essay we will be focussing on the creation of nature and light, by comparing the two stories, from creation stories from around the world, the golden chain and the moon and the morning star.

The golden chain originates in Africa from Nigeria, Togo, and Benin from Yoruba people. The person that was supreme was Olorun who was assisted by a number of heavenly entities called orishas. David A. Anderson/ Sankofa, was the one who written the story of the Golden Chain, who learned it from his bloodline. Whereas the moon and the morning star comes from the Wichita people, of Oklahoma and eastern Texas, which was narrated by the Wichita chief named Tawakoni Jim and, George Dorsey compiled the Wichita stories.

On both stories we have five characters on the Golden Chain we have Olorun, Obatala, Orunmila, the Orishas, and chameleon, while on the Moon And The Morning Star we have the- man -never-known- on- earth, man- with -the -power- to- carry-light, Bright- shining- woman, stranger, and the villagers, who all plays a major role in growing and influencing the storyline. Even though Olorun was the human being with supreme powers, yet he did not create anything, Obatala was a creator in this story. ‘He took some clay and began to Mold it into the shape he had seen in the reflection” (the Golden Chain). In the Wichita story we have the- man – never- known -on -earth who plays the same role as Obatala, of being a creator though he also a supreme being like Olorun. “When he created the world, he created land and water, and still everything was dark. (the moon and the morning star). In the Wichita story we have a stranger that have the ability to see the future, just like Orunmila in the Yoruba story. “Obatala then asked Orunmila, the orisha who knows the future, what should he do to prepare for his mission. The orishas are shown as characters who all have certain powers and support each other when one needs help. The chameleon is revealed to us a character that is a good messenger, as it reported back to the person that had sent it. Meanwhile in the Wichita story we have man- with- the power- to- carry- light and Bright-shining woman who are shown as characters who are good teachers as they teach the villagers, “Man- with- the- power-

to-carry-light and Bright-Shining-Woman went from village to village, teaching the people” (the moon and the morning star). The villagers are revealed to us as people who good learners.

Even though the Wichita story and the Yoruba story both talks about creation but they vary on what was created in each story. The Golden Chain focuses on the creation of the earth, nature and the first people of Ife. Olorun is the supreme being in this story, however he is not the creator, Obatala is. Due to curiosity Obatala asked Olorun to let him make something in the waters. Obatala began his journey of climbing down from the sky with the chain, which took him seven days. As he reached down, he poured the sand in the water to make solid land. His heartbeat broke the sacred egg from it flew a bird Sankofa, bearing the spirits of all the orishas they blew like a storm making dunes and hills and lowlands. He scattered the seeds he brought along with him as he began to go, they grew behind him. He moulded people using clay from the edge of the pond and began to mould it into the shape he had seen in his reflection. Under the influence of alcohol, “he had made many of these bodies from the dark earth at the ponds side... but now he wasn’t careful and made some without eyes or with misshaped limbs” (the golden chain). Olorun hears from the Chameleon that Obatala have created figures of his reflection but had no life. He sends fireballs to Ife, to dry the lands, baking figures and make the earth to spin. He blows breath across Ife and people come to life.

The Wichita story also agree with the fact that the world spin, but it differ on the event of how it began to spin. The main focus the moon and the morning star is the creation on light. After man never known earth created man with the power to carry light and bright shining woman, it was still dark. Man with the power to carry light took a journey to the east walking slow due to darkness, he came across stranger that has powers to see future who told him that there will be many villagers and that its his duty to teach them. As they were having conversation a voice from the east called out to the stranger to shoot a black and a white deer. The stranger had to tell the impatient voice four times that he was preparing a bow. At last, he emerged from his lodge as the deer jumped out of the water, and shot the black and white deer, which meant that the earth would turn, the stars would move and that there would be day and night. The stranger known as the star that is always moving followed the wounded deer while man with the power to carry light remained by the shore. He saw the sun rise for the first time from where he heard the voice. Returned home, moving faster as the was light. The villagers multiplied after the was light as the stranger had predicted.

The moon and the morning star and the golden chain are both myth stories that talks about creation though differ of what was created. These stories talk about the supreme beings who had the ability to create the world and the ability to give life. Although there are differences on events, but both stories do acknowledge the awesome power of nature and the presence of a divine force guiding the course of events.