

School Mate®

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40
LEAVES

THE THREE LEVELS OF ATR.

ATR is objectively defined as the belief, rituals and observances that is derived from African environment which helps them to articulate their dependence and response to the ultimate reality.

These are 3 major aspects of ATR

1. Level of Belief {Supernatural Level}
2. Level of Rituals {Physical Level}
3. Level of Laws {Moral Level}

LEVEL OF BELIEF.

The supernatural level comprises of ideas and spirits, the African worldview, the nature or content of the spirit-world; and mythical gods or genii), the ancestors Supreme Being, minor deities (nature gods, human deities, and mythical gods or genii), the ancestors, and spirit forces.

Themes in the phenomenology of spirits, revelation possession, containment, symbolization and incarnation are contents of this level.

LEVEL OF RITUALS

This Level comprises religious praxis; the major symbols in A.T.R (material-objects, gestures, Verbal and number symbolism); Symbols are of the natural world (heavenly bodies, earth, animals and trees)

This Level consists of the practical celebration involved in A.T.R. It includes sacrifices, rituals, prayers as well as the priests, diviners who conduct them. Rites of passage are in this level. It is a practical and physical level.

LEVEL OF LAWS

This is the moral level Comprising of human conduct, behaviours and observances in the context of religion. It involves the precepts, customs and Taboos of A.T.R

The belief of the people insures the moral conduct and Laws which in turn helps to keep the beliefs.

Explain the term Sacrifice and explain 5 types of Sacrifice.

The Meaning of Sacrifice.

Sacrifice according to Aringe is an act of external and public worship made up of oblation and immolation that signify the exterior disposition with which the individual and community acknowledges God's infinite excellence and avows his subjection to God.

∴ The Object of Sacrifice refers to whom Sacrifice is made. It can be made to God, a Supreme deity or mortal spirit.

TYPES OF SACRIFICE.

1. Thanksgiving Sacrifice :- This is a sacrifice that one offers to a god or deity that has done something for him/her or from whom one received favour.
2. Propitiatory Sacrifice :- This is the kind of sacrifice used to appease a god, who is believed to have been offended.

3. Preventive Sacrifice:- This refers to those sacrifices made in order to avert danger. For instance; a society makes sacrifices in order to avert a curse, sickness or war.

4. Expiatory Sacrifice:- This sacrifice is similar to propitiatory sacrifice, however the difference is that while propitiatory is directed to the offended deity, expiatory is directed to the individual. It is made to cleanse an individual or to purify him. It is also called Scene offering.

5. Funeralry sacrifice:- This is a sacrifice meant to facilitate the passage of the dead to the spirit world.

6. Petitionary Sacrifice:- This is a kind of sacrifice which is made when one is asking for a favour to be granted by the deity.

Explain the meaning Ancestors and what is Ancestor worship.

Ancestors

Ancestors are basically the dead elders of a community, according to James Brown. They are the forefathers and founders of the clan. Ancestors are also regarded as the pristine men and women who originated the lineage, clan, or ethnic group, and who provide the people with their identity. They include the dead of the tribe following the order of primogeniture.

The basic conditions for inclusion into ancestor-hood in Igbo thought includes the fact that the individual must live a good life on earth, die a good death (onwu chi) and have a proper burial.

Ancestors rank among the benign spirits, with favourable disposition towards their living progeny. They act as active mediators between the material and the spiritual worlds in their dual role as members of both. They are also believed to be directly concerned in all affairs of their family and property.

Ancestor worship.

This refers to the view that African worship their ancestors both those who are good and those who are not. It has evoked series of arguments where some people argue that Africans do not worship ancestors and others argue that they do. To clarify this, one needs to understand the term worship.

Worship in Igbo, is translated as Igoli, however it is used in various contexts and in different connotations. Since the term worship denotes something different when it is referred to a man from when it is referred to a deity. It implies that it is the context that impinges the difference. One should note that among the Igbo's, there is a kind of filial piety/veneration a child has for a dead father or a living father. This could be termed as ancestor worship or veneration.