

OKIGWE DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS

# 2023 PHILOSOPHY GRADUANDS

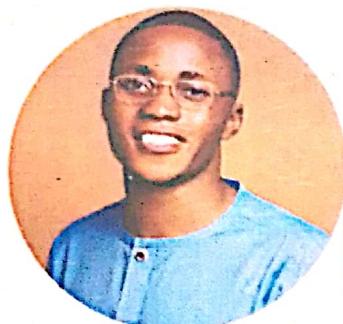
BIGARD MEMORIAL SEMINARY, ENUGU



NZUBECHUKWU  
(Abulo 042)



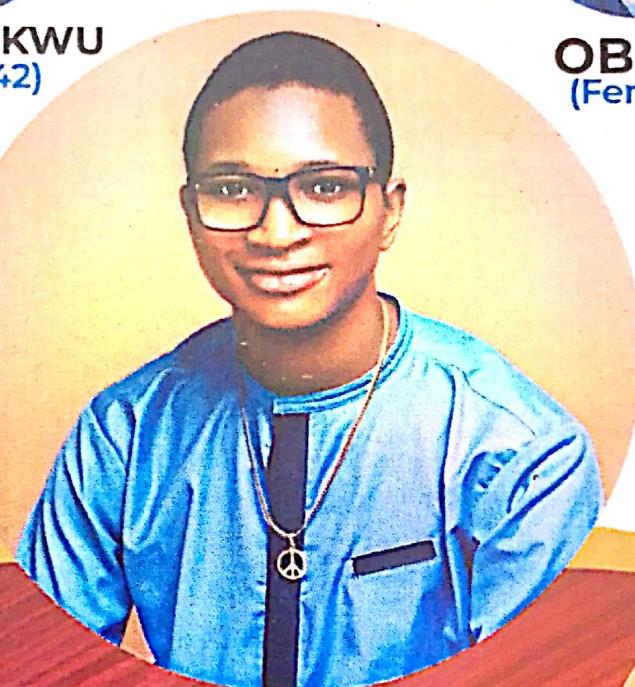
OBINNA  
(Ferguson)



UGOCHUKWU  
(Ajemi)



CHIDEREA  
(Moko)



CHUKWUEBUKA  
(Vincenzo)

*There is no limit to what  
you can achieve.*



CHUKWUNONSO  
(Credo)



CHIBUIKE  
(Skyway)

NAME: Ozode Martin

SCHOOL: R. Sociology of religion.

SUBJECT: R. Sociology of religion.

CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

40 LEAVES

- (Knows the seven types.)*
- ✓ 1. (a) Discuss in details what you understand by sacrifice. (b) Explain only four types of sacrifice you know.
  - ✓ 2. Liturgy is made up of several elements. Discuss five elements of liturgy in any act of worship.
  - 3. (a) What do you understand by the expression "Capacity of religion"? (b) Discuss only two capacities of religion as postulated by Nadel's taxonomy.
  - ✓ 4. It is generally believed that there are three basic elements that are found in each religion or majority of religion. Mention and discuss them.
  - 5. Defend the position that Sociology of religion is a science.

Q. 4.

It is generally believed that there are three basic elements that are found in each religion or major religion. Mention and discuss them.

ANSWER.

There are certain things which characterise most religions. These elements which are generally found in majority of religions are;

1. Belief.
2. Cult.
3. Morals or Laws.

### BELIEF:

A characteristic of religion is that in one way or another it always includes the concept of the supernatural, the extraordinary, the infinite, the power manifesting itself in the universe. Maxime Titiev says that labelling of something as supernatural suggests that it can never be made manifest to human taste, touch, smell, sight or

hearing, even with the aid of devices like powerful telescopes or sound amplifiers.

Belief in a supernatural being, whose existence and worship gives man such confidence and security to the extent that man's fear of the unknown is allayed, forms the first part of man's religious experience.

Belief means the acceptance of any given proposition as true. Such acceptance is essentially intellectual, although it may be strongly coloured by emotion. In any case, it establishes a mental condition in the individual which may act as the basis for voluntary action.

Beliefs fashion the behaviour of individuals. Man's value systems and attitudes are functions of his beliefs. That is why different religions have peculiar ways of fashioning the life-style of their members.

Closely allied to the belief in the supernatural is the belief in the sacred. In most cases the supernatural is believed to be sacred. However, this concept of sacred or holy is very broad and extends beyond the concept of supernatural beings. Its application is almost unlimited.

## CULT.

Cult is a way of reciprocating the good gestures of the Supreme Being by man. It originates from man's desire to enter into a relationship with the Supreme Being. In Cult lies the origin of rituals, worship, sacrifices and prayers in honour of God.

Cult has been defined as a body of religious rites and practices associated with the worship or propitiation of a particular divinity or group of supernatural beings. Cults derive from man's dependency on the Supreme Being, a dependency that necessitates worship or propitiation. Some of the principal components of cult are "Ritual, Prayer and Sacrifice."

### 1. RITUAL.

Rituals are ways in which people communally celebrate the meaning that give them their identities. In this way rituals function is to provide social solidarity. The most important rituals are rites of passage, and they have to do with transitions from one stage of life to another.

By participating in such ritual rites one's identity undergoes an adventurous transformation, usually involving a widening and deepening of relationship to the community and God.

## PRAYER AND SACRIFICE.

Prayer is both petition and expression of gratitude to the sacred power or powers that are believed to govern nature and human life. Sacrifice is a word derived from the Latin, "to make holy". It is at the heart of both petitionary and thankful. Sacrifice is also a gesture indicating a people's grateful acknowledgement of the gifts of food and life as belonging to a wider world than just self interest.

Elements of this sacrificial impulse are witnessed today in Christian sacrifice of the mass. In remembrance of the death and sacrifice of Christ on the cross for the redemption of mankind.

Sacrificial rites are ways in which religious people break out of the circle of the purely human or purely natural to commune with the divine. Since prayer and sacrifice are so much a part of religion, it could be argued that religiosity is most distinctively human characteristic.

## MORAL LAWS.

Moral is one of the three major elements of religion. No religion is without morals. Man believes that God is the overseer of the entire universe, hence he wants to be in a good relationship with him always, so that God would not withdraw his providential care upon him.

Man formulates moral laws that will act as checks and balances for harmonious interaction between man and God.

The major characteristics of religion is to provide the definitions as to what is moral and what is immoral, what is good and what is bad. Morality of an act derives from religion, if the ground is religious if an obligation is imposed by religion, if an action evokes a religious sanction or if it is an indication but not proof that its ground is religious.

With religion understood as providing value judgements it follows that religion will be involved in a given society's definitions of progress. Religion typically enters into decisions as to where society "should be going" or what type of society should be evolving.

Defend the position that Sociology of Religion is  
a science.

Sociology of religion is a discipline  
studying religion as a social and cultural institution.  
It studies the relationship between religion and other social  
and cultural institutions like law and politics  
and economy.

It is a social and cultural discipline which  
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Liturgy is made up of several elements. Discuss 5 elements of Liturgy.

### Introduction

Liturgy is the prescribed forms of ritual for public worship. We can further define Liturgy as a means of communication and communion with deity within the context of worship.

Liturgy is made up of several elements. The presence or absence of any of the elements in any act of worship depends largely on the nature of worship. For example, the morning worship may not be more than pouring libations for the invisible spirits breaking of kola nuts, and committing the family to the divine care. While on the other hand, the public worship and the annual festivals may be accompanied by music, drumming and general rejoicing.

Liturgy is made up of several elements, these include.

1. Libation
2. Invocation
3. Offering
4. Songs
5. Posture and Attitude of worship
6. Sacrifice
7. Praise

## LIBATION

This is the act of pouring some liquid to the spirit and the act is accompanied by prayer. Throughout West Africa, libation is taken to be an essential aspect of worship. Water is most frequently used. But people also use spirits, beer, liquor, or palm wine as occasion demands.

An elder blessing a person will pour out some spirits on the ground for the spirits of the family to sanction the blessing; a person planning to build a house may ask an adult member of his family to bless the plot, the elder in doing this pours a quantity of gin on the ground for invisible spirits and prays that all may be well with the man in this new project.

The significance of libation lies on the belief that since the liquid softens the ground, it symbolically opens the way to the presence of the divine power or powers.

## INVOCATION.

This is the act or form of addressing or calling upon the Supreme Deity or the divinities. It usually

takes place during the pouring of libation. As he pours libation on the ground, the officiant addresses the Supreme Being, the divinity or the ancestor by name, attributes and praise appellations, and invites him to attend and accept the worship. In some cases, a gong orattle is sounded to create an atmosphere of silence and solemnity.

### OFFERING.

This is what is given as a gift or presentation to the spiritual beings in worship. Kola-nut is the frequent offering used by most of the people of Nigeria. Other food items like jam, bitter kola, porridges, rice and fruits can be offered. As the gift is offered, the officiant again invokes the spiritual being to accept the offering. The Igbo invocation offers a striking example "Chukwu, come and eat kola nut." "Aha, Come and eat kola nut."

Ancestors, come and eat kola nut

The kola nut presented is usually a four-valve one. When broken, the officiant asks questions and casts the valve

on the ground as a means of divination. Through casting and falling of the values, the wish of the divine is known, and acceptability of the offering is ascertained. The values may be cast several times until a satisfactory answer is received.

### PRAYER.

This is the petition that specifies the request or desire of the worshipper or worshippers. It is the very essence of worship. West African peoples in general firmly believe in the efficacy of prayer. They know what they are in the hands of deity and all things depend on His will.

The prayer is always offered with a concrete intention. More often than not, people pray for material well-being, good health, peace, fertility and community well-being, protection from danger and against enemies. At times, prayer may take the form of thanking God or the divinity for some help like the delivery of a child, danger and the warding off of epidemics. Usually the demands of the occasion of worship determine the

nature of prayer.

In the context of liturgy, prayer comes immediately after the invocation and as the officiant presents the offering to the divinity. We must remember that prayers are offered by people not only at formal worship, but also at any time and in any place, as the worshippers feels or as occasion demands. Such prayers include ejaculatory prayers which form part and parcel of the common life of West African peoples at all times.

The significance of prayer and invocation in worship can be seen together. From them, we learn the names and attributes of Deity or the divinities, the confidence and hopes of the worshippers, the capabilities attributed to spiritual beings and the general relationship between Deity and men.

### POSTURES AND ATTITUDE AT WORSHIP.

The people of West Africa really believe that the outward form of worship actually has a symbolic significance, totally different from the imaginary

imagination of a casual observer. Intercourse with the divinities, therefore is to be carried on not simply through direct personal comprehension but also through such bodily actions as kneeling and raising up of hands, through sacred dances and songs.

For instance; during congregational worship, each worshipper may stand or kneel while the officiant, usually the priest or priestess, stands, kneels or genuflects in front of the shrine. At times, the worshippers may bare their heads and some parts of their bodies.

All these are the outward expression of reverence and respect before the divine. The acts of kneeling and raising the hands, followed by the bowing of the face to the ground, correspond to the behaviour of the vassal in the presence of his king. Hence, we find sociological patterns giving meaning to a theological phenomenon.

#### - CONCLUSION.

- a. Discuss in detail what you understand by sacrifice.
- b. Explain any four types of sacrifice you know.

### A. The meaning of Sacrifice.

Sacrifice is the act of offering the life of an animal or person, or some object, to the divine power or powers. It forms an essential part of every religious ceremony, and it is fundamental to worship.

Sacrifice is primarily a means of contact or communication between the divine and man. It serves as the best way through which man maintains an established relationship between himself and his object of worship. It is also valued as the most effective means employed by man to influence the divinity to be interested in human affairs.

Different things can be offered to a divinity, depending on his taste and the occasion of the sacrifice. Among other things, sheep, goat, cow, fowl, pigeon, egg, yam and other food items can be offered as sacrifice.

It is believed that primarily, all sacrifices belong entirely

to the divinities. That is why certain sacrifices cannot be shared among worshippers. Also, the way certain sacrifices are treated depends on the prescriptions of the oracle.

In West Africa, people know that whatever a person offers as sacrifice expresses his attitude to God. They, therefore, usually take the caution and reverent step of presenting to the divinities, or to the supreme deity through the divinities, only of the most valuable offerings to them, what is the most valuable offering is the life of that which is offered, and this they find in the life of animal or man. Hence they regard blood offering as the most precious offer they can give in honour of the supernatural to reverence the exaltedness of the spiritual powers.

We can therefore distinguish the following categories of sacrifice notable in West Africa.

1. Meal and drink offering
2. Thanks-offering or the Gift offering
3. Votive Offering
4. Propitiation or Fœpilation
5. Substitutionary Sacrifice or offering

6. Preventive Sacrifice

7. Foundation Sacrifice

FIVE OF THESE WOULD BE EXPLAINED AS FOLLOWS.

### THANKS - OFFERING.

This is a sacrifice made to the divinity in appreciation of blessings received from him, or in soliciting his favour.

The sacrifice of thanks offering is also performed after childbirth, at harvest, when one has won some favour or national title, when one has been successful in an undertake-  
-king or when one has escaped some danger or misfortune.

What is offered also depends largely on the desire of the worshippers. However, the offering may be an animal, a bird, fruits, vegetables or fundamental articles for the use of the temple.

The offering may be shared between the divinity and the worshippers. When an offering is given completely to the divinity, the priest, as the representative of the divinity may appropriate the offering.

## VOTIVE OFFERING.

This is a kind of sacrifice in which worshippers go before the divinity as supplicants, to ask for his favour, blessing of money and material, and for child-birth ... they may make a vow to offer something in return for the blessing received.

This vow will dictate what things to offer as sacrifice because whatever is vowed must be fulfilled, for people believe that there are serious consequences for failing to fulfil a vow. In consequence of this, the person making the vow is often told to think well before making it because it is irrevocable once made.

## PROSTITUTION.

This is a sacrifice of appeasement. It <sup>is</sup> also a sort of atonement made to assuage the wrath of the divinity by self-immolation and reparation. Through this sacrifice, the worshipper expresses regrets for past wrongs and asks that his deeds be forgiven and forgotten. The worshipper who has provoked the wrath of the divinity is thus transferred from a state of defilement to one

of purity.

Most often than not, it is the oracle that reveals the offended divinity, the offender, and what the offence is. The oracle may also prescribe the sacrifice. This may be expensive when the whole community is involved. The sacrifice is never shared. It is given wholly, to the aggrieved divinity - it may be buried or treated with oil and exposed at cross roads or market place.

### SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE.

This as the name implies takes the name place of another person whose life is being threatened, or is about to be terminated. The victim and other items of sacrifice are usually rubbed against the body of the person, and they are treated like a corpse and buried as if the person has been actually buried.

Among the Yoruba, a sheep serves as a substitute for a man, while among the Igbo, a cow is a substitute for a man.

### PREVENTIVE SACRIFICE.

As the name implies, it is to prevent a disaster,

misfortune or calamity. It is to implore protection against enemies or to guard a village or town against an impending doom.

Usually, it is the oracle that prescribes the sacrifice. We know that it is through the oracle that people find out hidden things. Thus when a person is sick, when a chain of misfortunes dogs his steps, when there is an epidemic, the oracle is consulted. At times the oracle may indicate that a national disaster is imminent. In such case, preventive sacrifice is offered.

Defend the position that sociology of religion is a science.