

COURSE: CHRISTIAN ETHICS INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT

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Question 1) Why is communication with the spirit world so important? With whom is this communication done, and why? What are the means of communicating with the spirit world? What is the content of this communication and what is it expected to achieve?

IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY VS CHRISTIANITY

AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

Importance of communication to with Spirit world in African Traditional Society

In African Traditional Society, communication with the spiritual world holds a profound significance because of the following:

Spiritual Guidance and Wisdom. In African Traditional Society, elders often communicate with their ancestors for consultation on different matters in order to gain wisdom and guidance from them, sometimes this knowledge is passed on to the rest of the family or young ones to enrich them with knowledge. For example, in Buganda, people relied on an ancestor commonly known as “Jjaaja Kibuka” for guidance during war.

Healing and Protection. Many of traditional healer communicate with spirits to diagnose and heal different illnesses in order to understand the cause of the illness and for protection against malicious powers like witchcraft through performing rituals against them. For example, a small god known as “Jjaaja Mukasa” was always invoked on matters of health and prosperity.

Preservation of Traditional Norms. In African Traditional Society, communication with the ancestors enables people to preserve traditional rituals and practices which gives them a sense of belonging and promotes togetherness in society. For example, celebration of rituals and making sacrifices.

With whom and why the communication is done, means of communication, content and expected achievements

Communication in African Traditional Society is done through elders of the society commonly known as the “chosen ones” to ancestors, nature spirits for guidance , knowledge and protection on specific matters in society, for example, among the Baganda” Musisi” was known as a god of earth quakes, “Musoke” was known as the god of rainbow, “Kiwanuka”

as the god of lightning , “Kibuka” as the god of guidance during wars and “Mukasa” for health and prosperity.

Communication is done through spiritual possession where an ancestral spirit takes over a body of an individual and a spiritualist communicates with the possessed individual, traditional healers who are central figures trained to understand different spirits, their needs and interpret their messages, rituals and sacrifices like offering animals, local brew which is believed to open mouths of ancestors, drumming and dancing to facilitate a connection with the spirit world.

In conclusion, communication to the spirit world in African Traditional Society mostly comprises requests for guidance and protection, expression of gratitude, seeking forgiveness and honoring ancestors. This is expected to achieve balance and harmony among people in society, guidance and wisdom on different aspects and lastly protection and blessings to the members to the society.

IN CHRISTIANITY

As Christians. communication with the spirit world is crucial due to the following reasons

Direct communication with God. Christians are able to communicate directly to God through prayers to express their needs, joys, troubles. For example, the bible in Matthew 6:6 “But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” This encourages Christians to pray which is a form of direct communication with God.

Guidance and Wisdom. Christians believe they are able to get guidance and wisdom through prayer and scriptures which enables them to handle regular tasks and challenges. For example, Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight”. This urges Christians to seek guidance and trust God in whatever they do.

Healing and Protection. Christians believe that communication with the spirit world in this case through praying, fasting and scriptures, they can receive healing and protection against harm or danger. The Holy trinity which comprises (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is a source of prayer for healing and protection. For example, Psalms 30:2 “Lord my God, I called to You for help and You healed me” calls upon Christians to pray and they will be healed

Comfort and Strength. Through prayer, summons, praise and worship, Christians find peace and comfort especially in times of difficulty. For example, the bible in Isaiah 41:10 “So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and uphold you with my righteous right hand” shows that the Lord offers strength and comfort to His people and urges them not to fear.

Repentance and Personal Growth. Christians seek forgiveness through prayer, repentance and fasting in order to change and reflect upon their behavior, this promotes morality and encourages personal growth since one tries to avoid sin or unethical behavior after

repentance. For example, Matthew 4:17 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” urges Christians to repent and behave appropriately.

With whom and why is the communication done, means of communication, content and expected achievements

Christians communicate primarily with God through Jesus, the Holy Spirit and this is done to seek guidance, protection, wisdom and forgiveness from God.

Communication to the spirit world in Christianity is mainly done through prayer, scriptures, reflection and meditating, praise and worship and confessions.

In conclusion, Christians usually communicate with God to make requests for their needs, seek guidance and protection, seek forgiveness and give thanks to God for His presence in their lives and in return Christians expect God to answer their prayers, protect them, grant the wisdom, favor and comfort and well as forgive their sins as God is known as a forgiving God. For example, in the bible 1 Jon 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Question 2) Why is it necessary for man in traditional Africa to seek to establish links and relationship with the mystical and spiritual powers and forces? What are those spiritual and mystical powers that man is searching for? What does he use these powers for?

It is crucial to establish links and relationship with mystical and spiritual powers and forces in Traditional Africa because these powers are known to play a significant role in creation of balance and harmony between the physical and spiritual world. The reasons include:

Maintaining balance and Harmony. Through these links and relationship, man is able to navigate life challenges because the connection encourages qualities like compassion, forgiveness, self-awareness, kindness which influence the ability of man to handle conflict fairly and respect one another promoting peace and harmony among people in the society.

Seeking guidance and protection. In traditional Africa, it is believed that mystical and spiritual powers enable to man to manage a world believed to be influenced by unseen forces through guidance and protection through life challenges like illnesses, natural calamities, conflict and wars. For example, it is said that among the Baganda a god known as “Kibuka” was their god of war and protection therefore it was necessary to always call upon him for guidance whenever it was time for war.

Gaining wisdom and knowledge. In traditional Africa it is important to have a relationship with the ancestors and spirits in order to gain wisdom and knowledge on different life perspectives. It is believed that wisdom and knowledge come from elders of the society who are known to communicate with ancestral spirits. For example, among the Yoruba in Nigeria “Orumila” is known to be god of wisdom and knowledge.

Prosperity and Fertility. In traditional Africa ancestral spirits and gods are known to be the source of power for fertility of land, abundant harvests and health families. It is believed the Baganda would call upon god of prosperity, harvest and fertility commonly known as “Mukasa” during planting and harvest seasons for prosperity. Therefore, it is advised to have a good relationship with the ancestors.

Some of the spiritual and mystical powers man is searching include cosmic knowledge, healing, protection manifestation and reincarnation among others. Man uses these powers for protection, guidance, wisdom, prosperity, fertility to be able to navigate different challenges, leadership and control and also heal illnesses. For example, kings in traditional Africa are assigned powers from their gods and they usually have an interpreter of messages from the gods for guidance on how to lead the people. Others while feeling ill visit traditional healers for advice and treatment because they believe the illness could have been caused by unseen forces like witch craft.

In conclusion, it is important for man to establish links and relationship with mystical and spiritual forces.