Name

Institution

Course

Date

Kafir

Witchcraft played a role in helping Johannes understand much about his people's way of life. It helped him learn his father's beliefs. For instance, when his father was laid off again, he decided to travel back to the tribal reserve to meet a witchdoctor for the sake of securing a talisman to help him secure and be maintained in employment (86). The trip was also to help the father refill his supply of anti-voodoo medicines. In essence, witchcraft helped Johannes understand the role of African magic in his father's life and, by extension, the whole family. Johannes' father traveled with him to meet the witch in the village, a trip that gave him a chance to have a taste of life in the tribal village. He was shocked by the environment and the witchdoctor’s house, and the activities that went on there. During this trip, he reconfirmed how his father and, by extension, his tribe understand the source of their problems (89-90). Witchcraft was blamed for many of the problems, hence the need to consult a witchdoctor to solve the problems.

Witchcraft also helped Johannes to assign meaning to mysterious things that happened in life. After several arrests of his father, Johannes came to the realization that the life of a black man was full of challenges, which led him to believe stories about witchcraft (100). He was surprised to learn that many Africans believed that witchcraft was the cause of their problems (99-100). To Johannes, anything that a grown-up would not explain was attributed to witchcraft, so he started walking around with paranoia about witchcraft. He noted that an unhealing wound that produces pus would be a sign of having stepped in a spot where a witch had passed water.