Myths and Rituals in Igboland: Their Relatedness

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ABSTRACT

This work sets for itself the goal of finding out the relatedness between myths and their counterpart rituals as seen from the literary perspective. Myth - the literary genre of our study exists alongside the corresponding ritual in a very interesting manner. Different kinds of myths and their resultant rituals have been discussed extensively in this work. This work seeks to show that the nature and quality of ritual performances found in Igbo depend on the nature and quality of their corresponding myths.

A cursory glance at the concepts "myths" and "rituals" may lead one into erroneously discussing them from a myopic viewpoint (as was the case in the past). However, the study of myths and their resultant rituals done in this work has made it clear that this is an area that demands serious attention from modern scholars of oral literature.

The information in this work has helped reveal that the Igbo have very interesting myths which are re-enacted in rituals, and these myths and their resultant rituals exercise much influence on each other. The unique interplay which they have on each other has helped this work to conclude: "Myths and rituals do not exist in isolation from each other; they are usually interrelated".