

AFRICAN TRADITIONAL

“One going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts.”

— Yoruba Proverb

Inception: 100,000 BCE (Religious Practice: Earliest known burial) **Adherents:** 100 Million
Country or Region of Origin: Composite Religion: Greater Africa

Primary Value Proposition: Respect for the dignity of man
The Word of (about and / or attributed to) God

- The Orisha Nla (Chief of the Deities) created the Earth with the instruction and aid of the Supreme Creator.
- The Orisha Nla was also given the task of creating bodies out of clay.
- When this was complete the Supreme Creator secretly placed the spark of life within the forms.
- Throughout Africa God is known as Mulungu (East Africa), Leza (Central Africa), Nyambe (West Tropics), Nyame (Ghana), the Molder, the Giver of Breath and Souls, the God of Destiny, the One Who Exists of Himself, the Inexplicable, the Ancient of Days, the One Who Bends Even Kings, and the One You Meet Everywhere.

Core Beliefs: African traditions share a widespread belief in a supreme God, unique and transcendent. Religion enfolds the whole of life, there is no dichotomy between life and religion. Ancestors mediate between God and man. Pardon is final and acknowledged by all: an offense, once forgiven, is never recalled. Celebratory gatherings focus on the principles of Kwanzaa as:

- **Umoja** (Unity) To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
- **Kujichagulia** (Self-Determination) To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.
- **Ujima** (Collective Work and Responsibility) To build and maintain our community together and make our community's problems our problems and to solve them together.
- **Ujamaa** (Cooperative Economics) To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.
- **Nia** (Purpose) To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
- **Kuumba** (Creativity) To do always as much as we can to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
- **Imani** (Faith) To believe with all our hearts in our people and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Hospitality is the most common value in African Traditional Religion all over Africa.

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