



Handbook of Yoruba Religious Concepts

Baba Ifa Karade

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In this introductory volume, Baba Ifa Karade provides an easily understandable overview of the Yoruba religion. He describes 16 orisha and shows us how to work with divination, to use the chakras to internalize the teachings of Yoruba, and describes howto create a sacred place of worship. Includes prayers, dances, songs, offerings, and sacrifices to honor the orisha and egun. Illustrations, charts, glossary, bibliography, and index.

Handbook of Yoruba Religious Concepts Details

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Author : Baba Ifa Karade

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From Reader Review Handbook of Yoruba Religious Concepts for online ebook

Jeffrey Warner says

This text is about as accessible, straight-forward, and comprehensive an overview as it gets. The author does an excellent job of providing examples from other faiths as a comparative reference for Ifa concepts and beliefs, as well as describing the overall theological framework in layman's terms. Highly recommended as an introductory text.

Kay says

I learned a lot from this book. Very short and precise I learned that the religion truly hasn't grown with the times, at least not according to what Baba Ifa Karade has written. It opened me up to the basic concepts but I can't see myself joining a religion-EVER- thanks to this book. Especially not one that seems to revere the ancestors more than the angels/orishas. I cannot live according to my ancestors who lives hundreds of years before me, in different places and different circumstances. Makes no sense. I do think that I may be able to incorporate parts of this tradition into my life though but I need another book to make sure. Onward!

Jordan says

Really concise and well thought out, a wonderful introduction for those that are unfamiliar with the more in-depth teachings. My only problem with it is that it almost sounded as if, within the religion, there is a hierarchy which places Nigerian pronunciations and customs at the top and Spanish-Speaking Caribbean ones at the bottom. This hierarchy and belittling of tradition was cemented even more throughout the book as, when referencing Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Brazilians, Baba Ifa Karade referred to them--us--as Hispanics, which is like a little jarring. Anyways, que viva la tradición.

Oscar Perez says

Okay book

To general but knowledgeable individual. Be more interesting to learn more not generalize subjects. Still can be readable. Hope he expand this book.

R.K. Byers says

good intel, but I think I'm too old to get with any religion that requires a change of clothing.

Isaac Holloway says

People who are familiar with me personally know that I'm a skeptic, that I favor a epistemic model that prioritizes evidence as the barometer for what we define as "real" or what is known. As a result I struggle with spirituality because it largely operates outside of our ability to test as a matter of course. This limits my engagement largely to ethical and anthropological investigations. Given all of this I'm sure there are things in Karade's writing that I'm simply not appreciating. The Handbook of Yoruba Religious concepts is a basic introduction into the cosmology and religious practices of the Yoruba which form the basis of religious practice of Ifa, Lucumi, Candomblé and Santeria. Karade covers a wide variety of materials that including rituals, traditions, and other basics of the practice. However, the breadth far exceeds the depth of specificity. Perhaps this is purposeful given that these traditions are all initiation based and formerly oral only. Especially when one considers that these traditions are all community based. There are no solitary practitioners. So the level of specificity I would have liked may not be appropriate from Karade's perspective. In some places I did find the text to somewhat pretentious in some places. As though to artificially give the sense of it being deep and insightful. It found it annoying. Luckily it was contained to small parts of the 1st and 2nd chapters. All in all it's a useful introductory text.

Kay says

Not much to say about this book. Face value and current knowledge (which is limited) it seems like this is a good base document or book for exploration of a different religion. Some of the words take a minute to become accustomed to but there is a good reference vocabulary at the back. I can imagine that it would be easier to reference with a physical copy... I could just be a novice kindle reader despite having the thing for over seven years. Anyway, I found this a very interesting read. I especially love the references in the back which allows the reader to find source documentation for further and more in depth exploration.

Helmut says

Zielgruppe beachten

Ich hatte mir dieses Buch gekauft, weil ich einen Überblick über die Yoruba-Religion suchte. Die vorhandenen Bewertungen und der Klappentext spiegeln vor, dass dieses Buch das erfüllt - tut es aber nicht, denn es ist eigentlich rein für beginnende Praktizierende dieser Religion geschrieben. Es werden Gebete zweisprachig angeboten, sowie die Beschreibung, wie man ein spirituelles Bad durchführt, wie man mit Muscheln Vorhersagen trifft (diese Muscheltechnik ähnelt etwas dem chinesischen Yi Jing) und ähnliche praktische Tätigkeiten eines Gläubigen. Selbst der religionstheoretische Unterbau ist immer aus dem Blickwinkel eines Priesters beschrieben, der dem Laien den Glauben erklärt. Die Gegenüberstellung der Prinzipien der Yorubareligion mit anderen Religionen erschöpft sich dann auch darin, kommentarlos einzelne recht willkürlich wirkende Sprüche mit ausgewählten Bibel-, Koran- und Menziuszitaten in eine Tabelle zu stecken. Die angepriesene "Lesbarkeit" des Texts ist gerade zu Beginn auch nicht wirklich gegeben, da der Autor sich in überkomplexen Sätzen ohne viel Inhalt verliert.

Ich hätte mir ein distanzierteres, klareres, wissenschaftlicheres Werk gewünscht, das die Geschichte und die Prinzipien dieser Religion aus einer aufgeklärten Position heraus erläutert. Gewiss kann ich dem vorliegenden Werk nicht vorwerfen, dass es meine Erwartungen nicht erfüllt - doch den anderen

Rezensionen und dem Klappentext schon, und andere Leser sollten sich klarmachen, was sie wollen: Eine präzise Beschreibung einer Religion? Dann sind sie hier falsch. Ein "Handbuch" für den bereits in die Religion Initiierten, der Hilfestellung bei der Ausübung der Religion sucht? Dann können sie zugreifen und meine schlechte Bewertung ignorieren.

Lobenswert ist allerdings die Präsentation mit vielen Fotos und Illustrationen. Papier, Bindung und Einband sind dagegen unauffällig.

Israel Morrow says

The book stays true to its title, sticking to big concepts to deliver a short, accessible volume. I would have preferred more information about certain practices, especially divination, but it's a blessing to have any modern volume about Yoruba religion in English! Karade's insights were helpful during my exploration of West African religions, as described in my memoir, Gods of the Flesh.

Andrew says

A good introduction to the Ifa religion and the history of the Yoruba.

Chris brown says

What an amazing and intriguing read. This book dispels all the negative imagery of traditional African spirituality of west Africa the runs rampant in American and European thought and consciousness with in the first 25 pages. It is a great resource of honest learning and a fabulous introduction to the core of Ifa tradition.

I would recommend this book to anyone that has not had any other formal or indept knowledge of Ifa, Santaria, or any other tradition that has its origins from Ifa. I was surprised by how similar Ifa and Hinduism are, Hinduism: All life & creation, what would be considered gods, angels, demons, spirits, man, plants and trees all just aspects and emanations/personifications of Brahman essentially all things are one and one is all and everything carries the spirit energy of the divine (Prana) with in it. Ifa: All life & creation, what would be considered gods, angels, demons, spirits, man, plants and trees all just aspects and emanations/personifications Olođumare essential all things are one and one is all and everything carries the spirit energy (Ashe) of the divine with in it.

The book, did later discuss how the pools of energy known as "chakras" could be correlated with different orishas and how focusing on them could essentially act in a similar manner. This book is outstanding for the beginner. It is also very engaging, I had not planned on reading the whole thing but a few pages but before I knew it, I was finished.

Its Amazing to me Buddhism, Hinduism, Ifa, and Kabbalah all essentially have some of the same, basic principles yet Hindus have been conditioned to fight Buddhist and vice versa, while Ifa and Kabbalah are considered "devil" worship and witchcraft. While Jews, Christians, and Muslims "supposedly" worship the exact same god. Just think what we, people of all faiths, could show the world, how we could change the whole of humanity if we stopped arguing over our petty and insignificant differences, put aside our, pride,

egos and lust for power and authority and really, truly embraced the basics concepts of our respective faiths.

Petra CigareX says

And now for something completely different.... I am always interested in different philosophies and reading of rituals can be fascinating. In case it doesn't deliver, I have a few customers who like African books, or ones on any form of magic. Obeah is alive and well here, running alongside Christianity in a more covert way. I could phone one customer tomorrow and he'd come running to buy it.

He's an uneducated, clever, but very slightly-odd man from one of the down islands. He can't keep a job despite working in the boat industry where, post-Irma there is no shortage of employment. He comes and sits down for a couple of hours to chat, so I usually leave him with a clerk. He's always looking for books to get his wife back, keep his girlfriend, get money, in a magic, spells kind of way, not so much Wiccan as Voodoo, Obeah, Candomble, anything Santo Domingan (their anointing oils and money-getting candles are sold everywhere). Dolls are banned on the island. Not Barbies, but the ones from Haiti and Jamaica, the voodoo dolls. He wants one of those.

Most expats never see this part of island life. I've only glimpsed it, but sometimes in long stares.

Miyako R says

Highly recommended if you are a spiritual person. I will keep this book for a lifetime.

Funmi Olaosebikan says

I found this a very good introduction into yoruba religious concepts.

Rianne Smith says

This book was extremely insightful and educational. This was the first book I read regarding an in depth view of Ifa. It definitely sparked a dedication in me to explore my relationship with my spirituality. The information was laid out simply which made it much easier to get through. The charts and illustrations were also a great feature. The language Karade uses is very simply and his references are well placed. As someone who identifies as spiritually atheist this book at no point made me uncomfortable. Karade presented scientific and historical facts as they were and did not attempt to skew or change them to fit into some agenda. Great read. I highly recommend it.

It is a quick read and I probably could have finished it in a couple days but I was on vacation and was also studying the GRE alongside reading this.
