



Comparative Religion I World Religions

Tribal Religions

- Heavily Animistic
- Primarily in underdeveloped areas of the world
- "Fulfill your destiny NOW"
- Worship largely out of fear of the gods
- Nothing eternal to look forward to
- Destiny is already decided
- Worship would tend to be more personal than communal
- Belief in a soul or two, perhaps
- Chief Concerns are nature, life and sex, death

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Tribal Religions

Totems
were used
in tribal
religion



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Tribal Religions

EIGHT COMMON TRAITS

1. Animism – Spirits and forces in creation
2. Magic – Attempting to force nature to do one's will
3. Divination – Trying to see into the future and manipulate it through the mediums – Shamans/Witchdoctors
4. Taboo – Certain actions or objects need to be avoided so they do not bring curses from the spirit world

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EIGHT COMMON TRAITS

5. Totems – Identifying with nature or a particular creature by making images of them
6. Sacrifice – One of the most common practices of religion – giving a gift to a spirit – often to appease
7. Rites of Passage – Celebrating life passages by certain rituals – puberty, marriage, etc
8. Worship of Ancestors – Soul of ancestors lives on, so there is a need to worship and please the dead so no harm will come and benefits may be received

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Tribal Religions

Their gods

- Personalized gods
- Tribal gods
- General gods – hunting, land, elements – witchdoctors provide practices to help understand the will of these gods
- Supreme God – Recognition of one GREAT GOD above all others to turn to when the others don't heed
- Names of Supreme God – Ancient of Days, Self-existent One; Limitless One, Creator, Giver of Breath, The One who gives the seasons.

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Tribal Religions

Shamans/Witch Doctors

- Shaman – a Siberian word
- Those set apart to receive special powers to deal with spirits
- Also called medicine men or witch doctors
- Initiation Rites (See MANY PEOPLES, MANY FAITHS)



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A Shaman
in the hills



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Witch
doctor
preparing
her
potions



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A
Mozambique
witch



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Tribal Religions

Shamans/Witchdoctors (Cont.)

- Some have undergone a transformation
- They must learn to control the spirit that possesses them or they will not survive
- In the process, they undergo altered states of consciousness.
- Some Shamans fake their magic with slight of hand or trickery
- Witchdoctors are feared especially if they are malicious and can bring curses on those they dislike

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Tribal Religions

What Am I?

1. The dead more powerful than the living. Eccl. 9:4-5, 10; Eccl. 8:8; Psalm 146:4; Psalm 6:5
2. Animism practiced. Exodus 20:4; Isaiah 44:6,8; 45:20; Romans 1:20-23
3. Fulfill your destiny NOW. I Corinthians 15:19; Matthew 5:48; I Corinthians 15:50-53; Matthew 6:19-20; Romans 8:18
4. Rites of Passage – Some rites are good, some not – Deuteronomy 18:10; Matthew 15:3; Acts 2:38; Matthew 19:13-14; Exodus 30:14
5. Divinations and Magic – Exodus 22:18; Deuteronomy 18:14; Leviticus 19:26; Ezekiel 13:18-23; I Samuel 15:23; 28:7; Micah 5:12; Gal. 5: 20

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Tribal Religions

Essay Question

What area of this religion do you see a Christian would be in agreement? Why?

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WORLD RELIGIONS - Thl 331
Fall Semester
Gary E. Antion

Name: _____

Box: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

WHAT AM I?

TRIBAL RELIGIONS

1. Dead more powerful than living.

2. Animism.

3. Fulfill destiny now.

4. Rites of passage.

5. Divination and magic.