



INTERFAITH  
ALLIANCE  
PROTECTING FAITH AND FREEDOM

## **African Spirituality**

In acknowledging the historical context of African faith traditions pre- and post-colonialism, we cannot establish “facts” through the Eurocentric narrative used to highlight other organized faiths. We instead encourage you to use primary resources from African researchers, authors, professors, and other trusted authorities.

### **[Jacob Olupona on African Religion](#)**

Olupona is a scholar of indigenous African religions at Harvard Divinity School. He has authored or edited eight books and has received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Philosophical Society, the Ford Foundation, the Davis Humanities Institute, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and the Getty Foundation. Olupona has served as president of the African Association for the Study of Religion. Olupona received his B.A. from the University of Nigeria and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Boston University. In 2000, he received an honorary doctorate in divinity from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

### **[Chukwuma O. Okeke on Igbo Religion](#)**

Okeke is a senior lecturer in the Department of Linguistics, Igbo and Other Nigerian Languages at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He has published in many local and international journals in his areas of interest: Igbo language, culture, and translation, including translation of *Animal Farm* into the Igbo language.

### **[Pew Forum on Religious & Public Life: Islam and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa \(2010\)](#)**

#### **[Religious Affiliation](#)**

#### **[Traditional African Religious Beliefs and Practices](#)**

#### **[Sub-Saharan Africa Religion Database](#)**

The Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion & Public Life conducted a major public opinion survey involving more than 25,000 face-to-face interviews in more than 60 languages/dialects in 19 countries, representing 75% of the total population of sub-Saharan Africa. The resulting report offers a detailed portrait of religion and society in a wide variety of countries, some heavily Muslim, some heavily Christian and some mixed.

*This information is not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they encourage you to explore this spirituality more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. In understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity.*

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