

DISSERTATION TITLE : ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES IN IGBO SPIRITUALITY

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ACADEMIC YEAR : 2015

ABSTRACT

In an age of ethical, economic, environmental and ideological crises, the need to gather together into one place and to explain the riches of environmental ethics has remained uncompromisable. Amidst conflicting views on the importance of environmental ethics, a thoroughly grounded work that sifts useful ideas within Igbo indigenous beliefs and practices which are relevant to sound environmental and social development is of paramount importance. This dissertation focuses on Environmental Values in Igbo Spirituality. The need for such a research arises from what the people actually believe and practice. Hence, in spite of the dialogue with modern trends and other world spiritualities, many elements of Igbo spirituality have been viable means of the survival and sustenance of the ecosystem, peace, and progress for the entire community. Employing therefore the expository and methodological tools of hermeneutics, this research argues for ethical dialogue, while examining how to develop a new philosophy of nature rooted in environmental values that are inherent in Igbo spirituality. Considering the nature and diversified forms of challenges to Igbo spirituality in this age of accelerating scientific advancement with some environmental devaluating attitudes of humans, this dissertation calls on mankind to develop a deeper sense of love and care for mother earth as a surer route to harmonious co-existence between the living and the dead in Igbo spirituality. This explains the reality of the environment with its resources as the great source of Igbo spirituality and ethics.