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Hail Orisha!: A Phenomenology of a West African Religion in the Mid-Nineteenth Century (Studies of Religion in Africa)

McKenzie

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McKenzie : Hail Orisha!: A Phenomenology of a West African Religion in the Mid-Nineteenth Century (Studies of Religion in Africa) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hail Orisha!: A Phenomenology of a West African Religion in the Mid-Nineteenth Century (Studies of Religion in Africa):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Response to Shlomas reviewBy EsotericaShloma ben Avram HaKohains review is grossly inaccurate...moreso given the fact that he has never been to Nigeria and therefore has never actually seen Orisa as practiced at the source directly in Yorubaland. In fact, the opposite seems true. Orisa as practiced today in Yorubaland of Nigeria and Benin Republic seems very close to how it was practiced during the era of the ethnographic writings and accounts of earlier europeans travelers used in creating the book. This comes from my own personal experience traveling to various countries such as Brazil, Cuba, and Nigeria where major orisa-worshipping communities exist. There was already aggressive evangelism at the time in West Africa. The difference is now there are many more christians and muslims in Yorubaland and less orisa worshippers - that is until christians and muslims have problems that they cant find the solution to and seek the help of olorisas and babalawos. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Terribly exciting read for the modern-day Orisha devoteeBy Shloma ben Avram

HaKohainPeter McKenzie has sifted through the field notes, diaries, and other archival materials of tourists, adventurers, missionaries, military officials, and others to paint a picture of Orisha worship as it was practiced in Yoruba speaking territories in the mid-nineteenth century. It is very interesting that by comparison it seems that the rituals of veneration of the Orishas on THIS side of the Atlantic in modern times bear more in common with the Orisha worship of the past than the practices in modern day Nigeria. It is as if a snapshot of Orisha worship was taken by the people who would be torn from their homes and enslaved in the "new world" and that it has remained faithful to their socio-religious heritage and, in contrast, the forces of missionary Christianity and Islamic proselytization in Nigeria have birthed a very different form of veneration in the cradle of its own origin.

Orisha worshippers who were not subjected to forced migration to the Americas in the nineteenth century remained their own masters, inhabiting cities, towns and farm villages in their West African kingdoms. This study uses documentation from Yoruba writings and from the written record of European missionaries to describe the various facets of their religious life. Arranged in the form of a phenomenology, the work deals with such matters as the veneration of the environment; carved images of the divine; the orisha celebrated in festival, worship and sacrifice; systems of divination; female and male religious specialists; and the protean divinities themselves. The comprehensive use of archival material will ensure the abiding value of this historical picture of the orisha, useful for comparisons with the present day.

About the AuthorPeter R. McKenzie, Ph.D. (1953), in Church History, University of Edinburgh, is former Head of Department of Religion, University of Leicester, England. He has published extensively on Phenomenology and History of Religion and West African Religious History including *Inter-religious Encounters in West Africa* (Leicester, 1976).