

# Serving The Spirits The Religion Of Haitian Vodou

The Encyclopedia of Religion  
Mama Lola  
Crossing the Water and Keeping the Faith  
Nervous Christians  
Serving the Spirits  
Spirits, Blood and Drums  
Religion and Anthropology  
Serving the Spirits  
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## The Encyclopedia of Religion

The essays in this volume examine the resurgence of the Mother Goddess religion among contemporary Vietnamese following the economic "Renovation" period in Vietnam. Anthropologists explore the forces that compel individuals to become mediums and the social repercussions of their decisions and interactions.

## Mama Lola

Comprising the most up-to-date, interdisciplinary research on the study of Chinese religious beliefs and cultural practices, this volume explores the rich and complex religious and philosophical traditions that have developed and flourished in one of the world's oldest civilizations. Covers the main Chinese traditions of Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism as well as Christianity and Islam  
Features a unique organizational structure, with groups of readings focused on historical, traditions-based, and topical elements of Chinese religion  
Explores a number of contemporary religious topics, including gender, nature, asceticism, material culture, and gods and spirits  
Brings together a team of authors who are experts in their sub-fields, providing readers with the latest research in a rapidly growing discipline

## Crossing the Water and Keeping the Faith

A healing and balanced faith, Haitian Vodou is a member of the African Traditional Religions that came into the Western Hemisphere via the Transatlantic slave trade. Despite a much misunderstood image, Vodou gives its practitioners the tools to understand the world around them. By participating in an annual calendar of observances, rituals and services, servitors can engage with the Vodou "Mysteries", thereby enlisting their aid in helping lead a balanced life. Manbo Vye Zo uses her

own story of becoming manbo or mother of the spirits as a stepping stone for her students and godchildren so they can learn by her example. An educational text as well as story, Manbo helps the reader gain a greater understanding of the faith as she leads us ever deeper into unexplored territory. Come experience the world of Haitian Vodou from an insider's perspective, and leave forever changed in your outlook on the world of Vodou.

## **Nervous Christians**

### **Serving the Spirits**

Religion is one of the most important elements of Afro-Caribbean culture linking its people to their African past, from Haitian Vodou and Cuban Santeria—popular religions that have often been demonized in popular culture—to Rastafari in Jamaica and Orisha-Shango of Trinidad and Tobago. In *Afro-Caribbean Religions*, Nathaniel Samuel Murrell provides a comprehensive study that respectfully traces the social, historical, and political contexts of these religions. And, because Brazil has the largest African population in the world outside of Africa, and has historic ties to the Caribbean, Murrell includes a section on Candomble, Umbanda, Xango, and Batique. This accessibly written introduction to Afro-Caribbean religions examines the cultural traditions and transformations of all of the African-derived religions of the Caribbean along with their cosmology, beliefs, cultic structures, and ritual practices. Ideal for classroom use, *Afro-Caribbean Religions* also includes a glossary defining unfamiliar terms and identifying key figures.

### **Spirits, Blood and Drums**

Sound disc contains: songs performed by Rara bands.

### **Religion and Anthropology**

This book provides an introduction to the extensive anthropological literature on religion that has been produced over the past forty years.

### **Serving the Spirits**

### **Women of the Iberian Atlantic**

Presents the doctrines and beliefs of the Unitarian Universalism

### **Serving the Neighborhood**

An anthropologist demystifies a fascinating , eclectic Caribbean religion.

### **Spirits Rejoice!**

Freedom of religion did not come easily to Cuba or Puerto Rico. Only after the

arrival of American troops during the Spanish-American War were non-Catholics permitted to practice their religions openly and to proselytize. When government efforts to ensure freedom of worship began, reformers on both islands rejoiced, believing that an era of regeneration and modernization was upon them. But as new laws went into effect, critics voiced their dismay at the rise of popular religions. Reinaldo L. Roman explores the changing relationship between regulators and practitioners in neocolonial Cuba and Puerto Rico. Spiritism, Santeria, and other African-derived traditions were typically characterized in sensational fashion by the popular press as "a plague of superstition." Examining seven episodes between 1898 and the Cuban Revolution when the public demanded official actions against "misbelief," Roman finds that when outbreaks of superstition were debated, matters of citizenship were usually at stake. He links the circulation of spectacular charges of witchcraft and miracle-making to anxieties surrounding newly expanded citizenries that included people of color. *Governing Spirits* also contributes to the understanding of vernacular religions by moving beyond questions of national or traditional origins to illuminate how boundaries among hybrid practices evolved in a process of historical contingencies.

### **Tracing the Spirit**

### **The Religion of the Four Palaces**

### **C'est La Vie**

### **Rara!**

### **A Comparison of World Religions**

A comprehensive guide to the history, beliefs, concepts, practices, and major figures of religions past and present.

### **Governing Spirits**

### **Afro-Caribbean Religions**

A healing and balanced faith, Haitian Vodou is a member of the African Traditional Religions that came into the Western Hemisphere via the Transatlantic slave trade. Despite a much misunderstood image, Vodou gives its practitioners the tools to understand the world around them. By participating in an annual calendar of observances, rituals and services, servitors can engage with the Vodou "Mysteries", thereby enlisting their aid in helping lead a balanced life. Manbo Vye Zo uses her own story of becoming manbo or mother of the spirits as a stepping stone for her students and godchildren so they can learn by her example. An educational text as well as story, Manbo helps the reader gain a greater understanding of the faith as

she leads us ever deeper into unexplored territory. Come experience the world of Haitian Vodou from an insider's perspective, and leave forever changed in your outlook on the world of Vodou.

## **The Classification of Religions**

In this day of unsettled world conditions, social tensions, and increasing crime and moral laxity, multitudes of people are emotionally disturbed. Christians, unfortunately, are not immune to mental stress, worry, and the assault of care and anxiety. This need not be so, for Christ and His Word offer the answer. Dr. Little, author of *Nervous Christians*, is a Christian psychiatrist with many years of experience in dealing with the mental and psychological problems of uncounted men and women. He combines the skill of a trained physician with a dedicated Christian's knowledge of God's Word and God's love. He takes into consideration the factors other psychiatrists weigh, but also considers the part played by Satan the deceiver in the life of troubled Christians. A careful reading of this book will help you to understand more clearly why so many people, even Christians, become disturbed and confused, and how such difficulties can be cured through Christ. You will find the book interesting, enlightening, and most helpful.

## **The Sphere of Religion**

This volume represents a collection of contributions presented during the Third Annual University of Chicago Oriental Institute Seminar *Religion and Power: Divine Kingship in the Ancient World and Beyond*, held at the Oriental Institute, February 23-24, 2007. The purpose of this conference was to examine more closely concepts of kingship in various regions of the world and in different time periods. The study of kingship goes back to the roots of fields such as anthropology and religious studies, as well as Assyriology and Near Eastern archaeology. More recently, several conferences have been held on kingship, drawing on cross-cultural comparisons. Yet the question of the divinity of the king as god has never before been examined within the framework of a cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary conference. Some of the recent anthropological literature on kingship relegates this question of kings who deified themselves to the background or voices serious misgivings about the usefulness of the distinction between divine and sacred kings. Several contributors to this volume have pointed out the Western, Judeo-Christian background of our categories of the human and the divine. However, rather than abandoning the term divine kingship because of its loaded history it is more productive to examine the concept of divine kingship more closely from a new perspective in order to modify our understanding of this term and the phenomena associated with it.

## **The Concise Dictionary of Religious Knowledge and Gazetteer**

This cross-cultural text examines social, religious, and cultural approaches to death and dying across Eastern and Western cultures and religious traditions. Organization of the book begins with an examination of death and dying among non-literate peoples in different parts of the world, then covers Hindu, Buddhist, Chinese, and Japanese approaches, Western patterns of transcendence (ancient

Middle East, Judaic, Christian, and Islamic), and concludes with a chapter on death and dying in contemporary America. It discusses four patterns of transcendence: ancestral, experiential, cultural, and mythic.

## **The Three Worlds in Igbo Traditional Religion**

In *Spirits Rejoice!* Jason Bivins explores the relationship between American religion and American music, and the places where religion and jazz have overlapped. Much writing about jazz tends toward glorified discographies or impressionistic descriptions of the actual sounds. Rather than providing a history, or series of biographical entries, *Spirits Rejoice!* takes to heart a central characteristic of jazz itself and improvises, generating a collection of themes, pursuits, reoccurring foci, and interpretations. Bivins riffs on interviews, liner notes, journals, audience reception, and critical commentary, producing a work that argues for the centrality of religious experiences to any legitimate understanding of jazz, while also suggesting that jazz opens up new interpretations of American religious history. Bivins examines themes such as musical creativity as related to specific religious traditions, jazz as a form of ritual and healing, and jazz cosmologies and metaphysics. *Spirits Rejoice!* connects Religious Studies to Jazz Studies through thematic portraits, and a vast number of interviews to propose a new, improvisationally fluid archive for thinking about religion, race, and sound in the United States. Bivins's conclusions explore how the sound of spirits rejoicing challenges not only prevailing understandings of race and music, but also the way we think about religion. *Spirits Rejoice!* is an essential volume for any student of jazz, American religion, or American culture.

## **Brown Girl in the Ring**

This abundantly illustrated anthology brings together sixteen essays by artists, scholars and ritual experts who examine the sacred arts of Haitian Vodou from multiple perspectives. Among the many topics covered are the ten major Vodou divinities: Vodou's roots in the Fon and Kongo kingdoms of Africa and its transformation in the experiences of slavery, and the encounter with European spiritual systems; Vodou praxis, including its bodily and communal disciplines, the cult of St. James Major (Ogou), and the cult of twins. In the final section, essays by Elizabeth McAlister, Patrick Polk, Tina Girouard, and Randall Morris look at Vodou arts and artists, Oleyant, and the legacy of ironworker Georges Liautaud. The *Envoi*, by Donald J. Cosentino, is devoted to the Gedes, spirits of death and regeneration.

## **Seeking the Spirits of Palo Kimbisa**

## **Concise Dictionary of Religious Knowledge**

Palero Tata Rodriguez is your guide through this exploration of Palo Kimbisa, an Afro-Cuban religion where nothing is as it seems: elements of nature become spirits that speak to the Tata and initiates, clay pots become miniature sacred groves, and a chef becomes a Tata--a counselor, protector, and teacher. Palo goddaughter Sophia Kelly Shultz experiences and relates Tata Rodriguez's

practices through anecdotes, firsthand accounts, and exquisite pen-and-ink illustrations. Special passages bring life to concepts represented by each Spirit; others highlight important facets of the palero's beliefs and practices. Stories invite anyone, from future initiates to those who simply wish to know more about this religion, to get a feel for the rules and practicalities--and the magic--of Palo.

## **Patterns of Transcendence**

## **Religion and Development in the Global South**

In this "impressive debut" from award-winning speculative fiction author Nalo Hopkinson, a young woman must solve the tragic mystery surrounding her family and bargain with the gods to save her city and herself. (The Washington Post) The rich and privileged have fled the city, barricaded it behind roadblocks, and left it to crumble. The inner city has had to rediscover old ways--farming, barter, herb lore. But now the monied need a harvest of bodies, and so they prey upon the helpless of the streets. With nowhere to turn, a young woman must open herself to ancient truths, eternal powers, and the tragic mystery surrounding her mother and grandmother. She must bargain with gods, and give birth to new legends.

## **Chinese Religion**

## **A Chosen Faith**

## **Religion and Power**

This highly accomplished macro-economics professor opens tantalizing new perspectives on the American civilization by examining it through the lens of ancient Confucianism.

## **Truth and Religion with Special Reference to Religion**

This catalog is published in conjunction with a touring exhibition titled "Masterworks in Haitian Art from the Collection of the Davenport Museum of Art," February 1995-March 1997. Beginning with a donation of 19 paintings 28 years ago, The Davenport Museum has developed one of the most comprehensive collections of Haitian art in the US. The catalog comprises several essays, interview with contemporary Haitian artists and artist-survivors of the 1991 coup d'Etat, full discussion and color reproductions of highlights from the collection, and brief description of works in the exhibition. Annotation copyright by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

## **Possessed by the Spirits**

This book examines how the beliefs and practices of each of the major world religions, as well as other belief systems, affect the variables that influence growth

and development in the Global South. Evidence suggests that as countries develop, the influence of religion on all aspects of society declines. In stark contrast to the developed world, in the Global South, the role of religion is highly pervasive – the distinctive conclusion of this book is therefore that a lessening of religiosity is a sine qua non for growth and development, including secular laws and constitutions. Offering a ground-breaking study in an area little explored in the English language, this book will satisfy an important gap in the literature on the political economy of development, sociology of religion, law, and anthropology.

## **An Earnest Call To Family-Religion: Or, A Discourse Concerning Family-Worship**

### **Minding the Spirit**

"Brown weaves together fictional, biographical, and ethnological narratives into a moving account of the life of a Vodou community and its leader, Mama Lola. This book belies the stereotypes that still distort the image of this ancient religion in the academic as well as the popular mind."—Albert J. Raboteau, Princeton University  
"An eloquent contribution to the emerging feminist paradigm of scholarship as engaged, embodied, and life-affirming."—Carol P. Christ, author of *Laughter of Aphrodite*  
"A riveting narrative, rich in detail. Karen Brown brings a rare, well-informed regard to her interpretation of Haitian religious life."—Lawrence E. Sullivan, author of *Icanchu's Drum: An Orientation to the Meaning of South American Religions*

### **The Historic Faith**

The ten essays in this interdisciplinary collection explore the lives, places, and stories of women in the Iberian Atlantic between 1500 and 1800. Distinguished contributors such as Ida Altman, Matt D. Childs, and Allyson M. Poska utilize the complexities of gender to understand issues of race, class, family, health, and religious practices in the Atlantic basin. Unlike previous scholarship, which has focused primarily on upper-class and noble women, this book examines the lives of those on the periphery, including free and enslaved Africans, colonized indigenous mothers, and poor Spanish women. Chapters range broadly across time periods and regions of the Atlantic world. The authors explore the lives of Caribbean women in the earliest era of Spanish colonization and gender norms in Spain and its far-flung colonies. They extend the boundaries of the traditional Atlantic by analyzing healing knowledge of indigenous women in Portuguese Goa and kinship bonds among women in Spanish East Texas. Together, these innovative essays rechart the Iberian Atlantic while revealing the widespread impact of women's activities on the emergence of the Iberian Atlantic world.

### **New Catholic World**

## **The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Chinese Religions**

Human beings have inhabited the world for millions of years, and the oldest religious art found in caves and on bones dates as far back as 30,000 years. From earliest times, and still today, people share their ideas and form a group with others who have drawn similar conclusions about the meaning of life and the ultimate reality. They might call their group a religion; others might call it a cult. But the name they give to their concept of God does not mean that they worship a different god, only that they hold a different concept of the Source and Power of that which was, is and always will be. Every religion serves as a way of life, an opportunity to practice ones accepted beliefs, and a way to socialize with those who hold similar views. Religions can be dictated, but beliefs cannot. They are private and unique to the individual. It is ones own experience with that which he or she perceives as God that prompts the acceptance of a belief system, quiet endurance when there seems to be no choice, or the withdrawal from religion altogether. Public and personal wars have been fought in the name of righteous indignation in support of different belief systems that came from efforts to answer the questions of life. Many individuals have lived lives of frustration and confusion as a result of the commonly accepted belief system of the culture into which they were born. In this study we look briefly at the historical and geographical conditions related to the emergence of specific religious views, and the situation of the people whose lives are influenced by them. Our intent is not to determine which religion is right or wrong. Using a comparison point chart, we examine the basic premises of each belief system and how the holding of a premise impacts the lives of those who live it as if it were true.

### **Catholic World**

Beginning in the late 1970s and early 1980s, significant numbers of Haitian immigrants began to arrive and settle in Miami. Overcoming some of the most foreboding obstacles ever to face immigrants in America, they, their children, and now their grandchildren, as well as more recently arriving immigrants from Haiti, have diversified socioeconomically. Together, they have made South Florida home to the largest population of native-born Haitians and diasporic Haitians outside of the Caribbean and one of the most significant Caribbean immigrant communities in the world. Religion has played a central role in making all of this happen. *Crossing the Water and Keeping the Faith* is a historical and ethnographic study of Haitian religion in immigrant communities, based on fieldwork in both Miami and Haiti, as well as extensive archival research. Where many studies of Haitian religion limit themselves to one faith, Rey and Stepick explore Catholicism, Protestantism, and Vodou in conversation with one another, suggesting that despite the differences between these practices, the three faiths ultimately create a sense of unity, fulfillment, and self-worth in Haitian communities. This meticulously researched and vibrantly written book contributes to the growing body of literature on religion among new immigrants, as well as providing a rich exploration of Haitian faith communities.

### **Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodou**

Arranged under five broad headings, these essays create an insightful dialogue on the questions, methods, and critical approaches implemented by the discipline's top scholars.



## **American Civilization Portrayed in Ancient Confucianism**

A new introduction To The field of Chinese religion and culture ideally suited to undergraduate students.

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