

Table of contents

INTRODUCTION: "PRIMITIVE" RELIGIONS?.....	1
I. AFRICAN CONSCIOUSNESS	9
1. Body and soul.....	11
2. Life	14
<i>Continuity</i>	15
<i>Repetition</i>	16
<i>Communal life</i>	17
<i>Interdependence</i>	18
<i>Potentiality</i>	19
3. The Word.....	21
4. Space and time	24
5. Analogous participation.....	30
6. Forming symbols.....	38
<i>Symbol and reality</i>	38
<i>Body symbolism</i>	40
<i>Colour symbolism</i>	45
<i>Medicines</i>	47
7. Participatory thinking.....	49
II. RITUALS	53
1. Rites of passage.....	55
2. Circumcision	59
3. Marriage	69
4. Mourning rituals.....	77
5. Daily life and survival – hunting	92
6. The Smith	98
7. Tools.....	100
III. THE DEPENDENT HUMAN BEING	104
1. Attachment to animals	108
<i>Close attachment</i>	108
<i>Further forms of attachment</i>	110

<i>Totemism</i>	114
2. Veneration of the ancestors.....	120
3. Spirit Possession	136
<i>Theories about the belief in spirits</i>	146
4. Uncontained and Unconditional	148
<i>The divinities</i>	148
<i>The all-embracing God</i>	159
IV. ETHICS.....	174
1. Reverence for your neighbour	174
2. Evil	190
3. Bringers of evil – witches and sorcerers.....	194
4. Defenders of morality – diviners and medicine-men	198
5. Guardians of the law – secret societies.....	205
6. WOMEN IN AFRICAN RELIGIONS (by Renate Sundermeier)....	209
<i>I. Cultic roles</i>	209
<i>II. Signs of change</i>	219
7. Social transformation	224
CONCLUSION: DIALOGUE WITH TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS?.....	233
Bibliography.....	241
Subject index.....	251
Person index.....	256