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CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cultural Convergence: *The Aminikoro Mask and Ogbukele Festival in Igbo and Ijaw Traditions*

By Chuka Odike

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FEATURE
IMAGE

Aminikoro mask Ogbukele festival, Ekpafia Igbo - G.I. Jones, 1930s

Article image · caption retained from the published Ozikoro article

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The Aminikoro Mask and the Ogbukele Festival are cultural elements primarily associated with the Ijaw people. The Ekpeye “Ekpafia,” which is an Igboid group seems to have borrowed the masquerade display and culture.

This is suggesting an overlap or connection between the Ijaw and Igbo people, especially considering their geographical proximity in areas like Rivers and Delta States.



Aminikoro mask Ogbukele festival, Ekpafia Igbo

In Igbo culture, masquerades also hold significant spiritual and cultural value, often representing ancestral spirits or nature deities. While the Aminikoro Mask and Ogbukele Festival are Ijaw in origin, there may be parallels in the Igbo tradition where similar masks and festivals play roles in spiritual and community life.

In some coastal Igbo communities, festivals celebrating water spirits or fertility, which could resemble the Ogbukele Festival, are present.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chuka Odiike

I'm a dedicated civil engineer with a passion for infrastructure development and community empowerment. With a strong background in engineering, my work focuses on creating sustainable solutions for urban and rural development projects. Outside of my professional career, I'm deeply interested in Igbo history and culture. I actively explore ways to impact society by using historical lessons to inspire and educate others about the rich cultural heritage of the Igbo people, aiming to bridge tradition and modern development.



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