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Mourning Rituals of an Ikwerre Igbo Woman

By Chuka Odike

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FEATURE
IMAGE

An Ikwerre Igbo woman mourning the death of her husband. Note the clay hand imprints on her body. Photographed by Percy Amaury Talbot in the his book from tribes of the Niger Delta 1900s

Article image · caption retained from the published Ozikoro article



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This photograph, taken by Percy Amaury Talbot in the early 1900s, captures an Ikwerre Igbo woman mourning the loss of her husband. The clay hand imprints on her body symbolize grief, purity, and connection to ancestral traditions. In many Igbo communities, mourning practices include symbolic gestures, such as body markings, to express sorrow and respect for the deceased. This image provides insight into the cultural heritage and spiritual practices of the Ikwerre people, emphasizing their deep connection to rituals surrounding life and death.

Talbot, P. A. (1915). The tribes of the Niger Delta. London: Oxford University Press.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chuka Odi­ke

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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