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Nnukwu Okpu/Ogidi headdress (Large Cap)

By Chuka Odike

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FEATURE
IMAGE

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An Ndi-Ichie [titled elders] of Onicha (Onitsha) wearing an ogidi headdress also referred to as nnukwu okpu or the ‘Great Crown,’ mainly worn by titled men of Onitsha during the towns annual Ofala festival.

The term “Nnukwu Okpu” translates to “large cap” in Igbo. It is usually made of intricately woven materials, often adorned with beads, feathers, and other decorative elements that denote the wearer’s social status.

The headdress is a symbol of power, leadership, and respect, usually associated with elders, titled men (such as Ozo title holders), or those who have achieved a high level of influence or honor within their communities.

The Ogidi headdress/Nnukwu Okpu is often worn during special occasions such as festivals, title-taking ceremonies, or during the annual Ofala festival in Onitsha, which celebrates the reign of the Obi.

The Ofala festival in Onitsha, in particular, is a significant cultural event where the king and titled men wear their traditional regalia, including the Nnukwu Okpu, to reflect their authority and status.

C. G. Okwu – The Igbo Culture and the Igbo People.

M. A. Nwoga – The Igbo Traditional Leadership and Kingship Institutions.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR****Chuka Odi**

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 explores 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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