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ETHNOHISTORY

Ududo Okwanka a metaphor for creation of the universe in Igbo folklore.

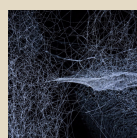
By Chuka Odike

Ozikoro.com · Ethnohistory · 1 min read

FEATURE
IMAGE

The Spider web (Ududo Okwanka)

Article image · caption retained from the published Ozikoro article



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The spider, ududo okwanka, serves as a metaphor for the creation of the universe in Igbo folklore. It represents the creative force from the supreme being that wove a web, eventually forming the cosmos. Everything in the universe is connected through these threads.

During mmanwu performances, ududo symbolizes the creative power behind the masquerade costumes, shaping lives and stories. Young initiates are threatened with dismemberment and being sewn back together by ududo in the ekwuru, where the masquerades rest.

The Milky Way is often compared to a spider's web, and some communities believe the first weaving was inspired by observing the spider's craft. The cosmic spider, ududo okwanka, is the weaver of ideas, continually pulling things together to create something new.

1. Cosmic Creation: Ududo's web-weaving signifies the supreme being's creative power. 2. Connectivity: Threads represent the unity and interdependence of universe's components. 3. Masquerade Performances: Ududo symbolizes creative power shaping lives and stories. 4. Initiatory Rites: Ududo threatens dismemberment and reassembly, emphasizing transformation. 5. Celestial Inspiration: The Milky Way's resemblance to a spider's web inspires cosmic understanding.

1. Creative Force: Weaver of ideas, continually creating anew. 2. Cosmic Order: Maintaining balance and harmony. 3. Ancestral



Wisdom: Guiding generations through folklore.

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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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