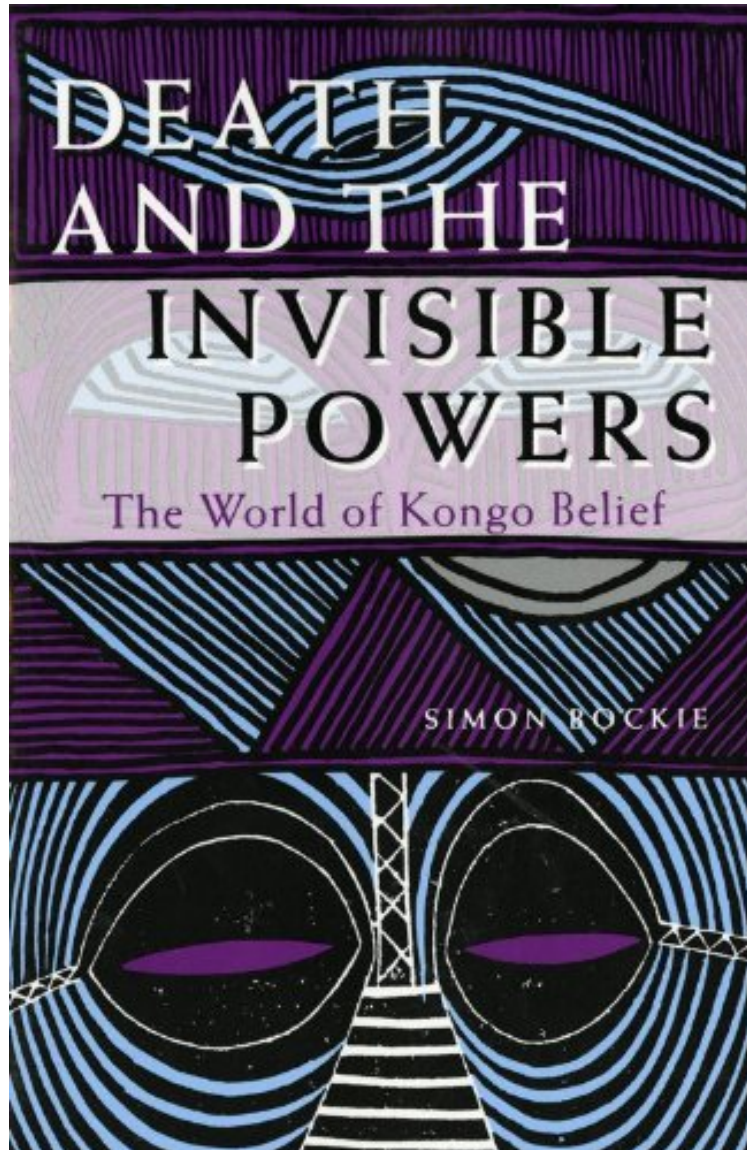


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Death and the Invisible Powers: The World of Kongo Belief

Simon Bockie

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#239314 in Books Simon Bockie 1993-09-22 1993-09-22 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x .52 x 5.501, .49 #File Name: 0253208084176 pages Death and the Invisible Powers The World of Kongo Belief | File size: 45.Mb

Simon Bockie : Death and the Invisible Powers: The World of Kongo Belief before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Death and the Invisible Powers: The World of Kongo Belief:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed this book very much By J. Axtell The author states this book arose out of his doctoral thesis, which explains the rigorous approach to its subject matter. Anyone who has

studied history or anthropology at college could easily understand the author's approach. I was very impressed with this book's presentation of Kongo community, family, education, social mores, and religion. Mr. Bokie himself qualifies as a member of a Christian church, but, as he explains in numerous examples, many if not most Kongo peoples believe and practice Kongo traditions even if they are members of various Christian or syncretic churches. I personally prefer the scholarly over the confessional, though it should be noted the author presents numerous personal anecdotes throughout the book that help further his discussion of the subject matter. All in all I found this to be a very well written, intelligent and thoughtful book. I highly recommend it. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great little book By Kalunga A great book for those interested in Kongo culture. I could deal without the Christian bits, but that's just my personal preference. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Inspired by Invisible Powers By Derric (Rau Khu) Moore author of MAA AANKH vol.I, Kamta: A Practical Kamitic Path for Obtaining Power and Maa: A Guide to the Kamitic Way for Personal Years after I had grown up, went through a number of ordeals that I had to overcome and researching my own book, I came across this book. Because the author wasn't writing about how to perform magical rituals and the like, I didn't read it immediately but off and on, I would thumb through the pages and then put it down. Then one day, I was inspired to read it and when I did, I was just at awe because there was a section that talked about when the people couldn't get change in their lives. They would do their best to offend God. This was powerful to me because when I was a teen, I did the same thing, which inspired me to follow the spiritual path that I am on today. Naturally, I started at the beginning and read the book, because "someone(s)" thought it was important that I read it. Like most thesis turned book, it is composed of a lot of surveys about the Kongo religious beliefs and practices as they exist today. Fortunately, his detailed explanations about the numerous beliefs and practices that continue to exist despite the influence of Christianity compensate for the dry analytical-ness of the book. Such as how the people address certain issues like AIDS from a communal perspective. Unlike in western society where the ailing are isolated and allowed to wither away. It is understandable why the author conducts this type of survey and comparison because otherwise one would not see the uniqueness of these cultural beliefs. It is through such an analysis it becomes clear that being religious and living religious are completely different. The Kongo people as seen through their old beliefs and practices were and are living according to Christian principles before they were Christianized. Anyway, there were a lot of fascinating things I discovered from reading this book. One of the most interesting beliefs I came across was how the people in this particular part of the Kongo viewed ill-intent spirits, as being reptiles. Anyone familiar with the Kamitic (Ancient Africans of Egypt) spiritual beliefs will note that the ill-intents spirits of that tradition were associated with reptiles as well-particularly certain types of snakes. I think after I read this, it became apparent to me why I was inspired to read this book in the first place. It was because I needed it for my book, MAA AANKH: Finding God the Afro-American Spiritual Way, by Honoring the Ancestors and Guardian Spirits. I highly recommend this book because although it is written from an anthropological perspective, it is rich with information on how the Kongo beliefs and practices have survived by molding new concepts like Christianity to it, and not the other way around.

[Bockies] description of Kongo culture is vivid, beautifully clear, and absolutely authentic, as only a native could make it.... I don't know of anything of its kind that is both as good, ethnographically, and as readable." Wyatt MacGaffey Simon Bockie has written an engaging, often personal account of the views and behaviors surrounding death in his own society, the Kongo of Lower Zaire, northern Angola, and the Congo." Cahiers d'Etudes africaines... excellent book of Kongo religious life and thought... " Religion It is a book that is remarkably well written, both for its readability and for its explanatory value.... the book is a superb starting place for understanding Kongo religion, and will work as an introduction to African religion in general as well." International Journal of African Historical Studies... an excellent introduction for anyone seeking to understand Kongo traditional culture and thought." Oshun Rich in anecdote and case histories, Death and the Invisible Powers is a personal account of the spiritual life of the Kongo people. It describes the ancient traditions that nourish a culture whose name symbolizes the heart of Central Africa.

About the Author SIMON BROCKIE was born in Banza-Lele village, Kivunda District, in the Manianga area of Lower Zaire. He holds a Ph.D. in History and Phenomenology of Religion from the Graduate Theological Union and is a government documents librarian at the University of California, Berkeley.