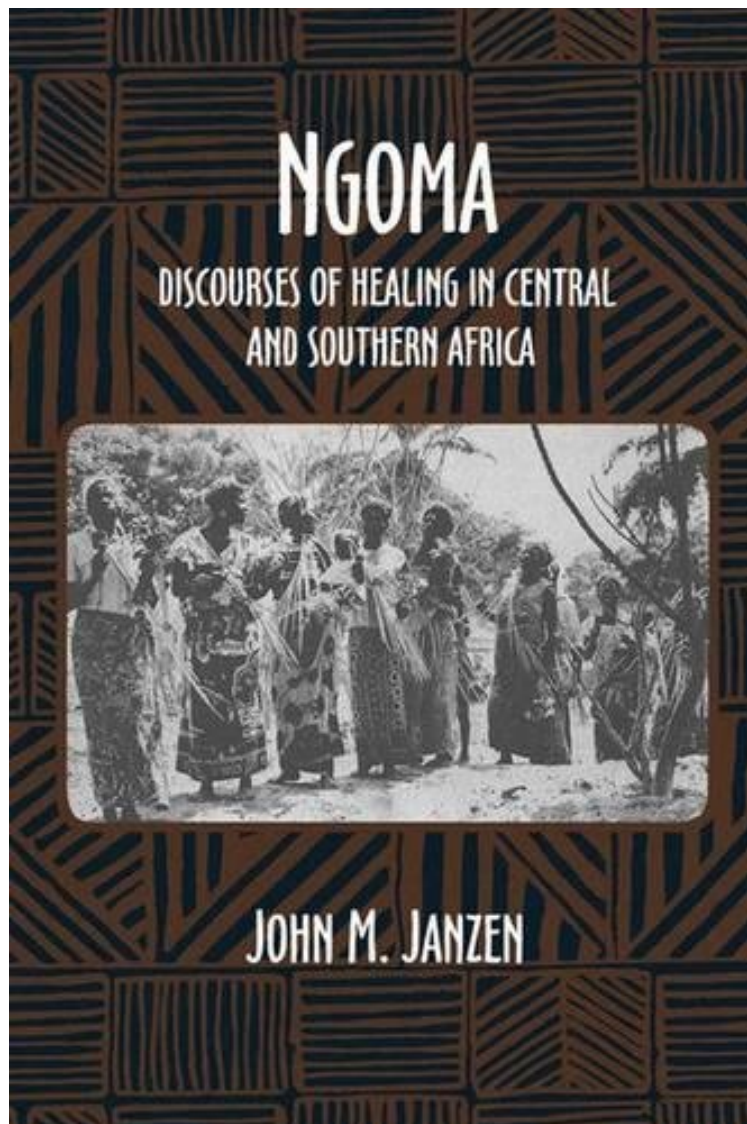


[FREE] Ngoma: Discourses of Healing in Central and Southern Africa (Comparative Studies of Health Systems and Medical Care)

## **Ngoma: Discourses of Healing in Central and Southern Africa (Comparative Studies of Health Systems and Medical Care)**

*John M. Janzen*

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**John M. Janzen : Ngoma: Discourses of Healing in Central and Southern Africa (Comparative Studies of Health Systems and Medical Care)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ngoma: Discourses of Healing in Central and Southern Africa (Comparative Studies of Health Systems

and Medical Care):

Ngoma, in Bantu, means drum, song, performance, and healing cult or association. A widespread form of ritual healing in Central and Southern Africa, ngoma is fully investigated here for the first time and interpreted in a contemporary context. John Janzen's daring study incorporates drumming and spirit possession into a broader, institutional profile that emphasizes the varieties of knowledge and social forms and also the common elements of "doing ngoma." Drawing on his recent field research in Kinshasa, Dar-es-Salaam, Mbabane, and Capetown, Janzen reveals how ngoma transcends national and social boundaries. Spoken and sung discourses about affliction, extended counseling, reorientation of the self or household, and the creation of networks that link the afflicted, their kin, and their healers are all central to ngoma and familiar to Western self-help institutions as well. Students of African healing and also those interested in the comparative and historical study of medicine, religion, and music will find *Ngoma* a valuable and thought-provoking book.

**About the Author** John M. Janzen is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Kansas. His previous books include *Lemba 1650-1930* (1982), and *Quest for Therapy in Lower Zaire* (California, 1978), which won the Wellcome Prize and Medal of the Royal Anthropological Institute.