

Review of: "Nigerian Postcolonial Comedy, Religious Shamanism and Modernity: Soyinka, Osofisan and Kalejaiye"

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The article is a very interesting look at the phenomenon of shamanism embedded in postcolonial discourse in African literature. The author shows shamanism as a political gesture against the Christian or Muslim cultural concept imposed by cultural hegemony. At the same time, using comedy as a tool of social and moral critique, the article reflects on the discursivisation of this attitude. It seems to me that it would be extremely interesting to set the phenomenon of shamanism in the somewhat broader context of the global New Age trend. The abandonment of religion as a social construction towards a form of spirituality such as shamanism is common to today's post-Christian societies. It may be that this trend in Africa corresponds to global mechanisms and is not just a post-colonial reaction. The author notes the tension between the Enlightenment movement in Africa, with which Christianity also came, and the postcolonial reaction. It is worth noting that in the European paradigm, the Enlightenment carried the conviction that the world needed to be 'disenchanted'. Hence the popularity of comedies at the time, which ridiculed religious attitudes as unenlightened, retrograde. A similar phenomenon seems to be observed in the comedies analysed. The examples given exploit shamanistic behaviour as a manifestation of the manipulation of a dumb society that allows itself to be lied to. One can therefore look at this trend not only in a post-colonial spirit but precisely in an enlightened one. This is the new illumination of Africa, as Immanuel Kant wrote - coming of age. Have the courage to use your own understanding. The examples cited in the article clearly demonstrate that this is happening.

I would have paid more attention in the article to demonstrating the parallel between the behaviour of shamans and TV preachers. Perhaps the American media celebrity tradition has more to say here than it might seem on the surface. I would also suggest developing the last part - the conclusions. At present it is only three sentences. It would seem that the conclusions should contain a fuller conclusion and a suggestion of the prospects which this article opens up.