

Review of: "“Healing is having faith in Allah, the healer, and the medicine”: An exploratory qualitative study of Islamic-based healing practices in Northern Ghana"

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This is an interesting article that lays out the varied healthcare systems of the Dagbon of Northern Ghana. The paper's significance lies in the attention it gives to the little-known Islamic healing practices of the Dagbon, with which it filled a gap in the literature. I commend the very explicit methodology used for the study. The uniqueness of the healing philosophy of Muslims in Dagbon lies in the fact that it permits them to access healthcare wherever it can be found. This is crucial in societies with poorly developed modern healthcare systems. Interestingly, a mixed-methods approach that accommodates esoterism (in the form of palm reading and Islamic divination) is evidenced in the Islamic religious healing practices recounted in this paper. The authors identified this as the healers' "additional specialized diagnostic approaches." It aptly gave rise to their conclusion that the ability to see beyond the physical constitutes an essential diagnostic approach in Islamic-based healing. The article is laden with information that is easy to appreciate.