



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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TITLE: THE IDEA OF MYTH AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF AFRICAN THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

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ABSTRACT:

African traditional description of reality is dismissed by the Western orientation as primitive due to its mode of conveying certain world views. It is argued that Africans use mythical participation to manipulate the word, and as Levy-Bruhl hinted, Africans are unable to address contradictions in human existence due to their mythical dispositions and conceptions of reality, which makes it difficult for them to differentiate the supernatural from the reality. This paper interrogates the notion of myth in Western and African tradition of knowledge. Specifically, it examines the notion of myth in African worldview and the role it plays in African theory of knowledge. It contends that myth is part of the human essence and mode of knowing and it has potential to give meaning to life. This argument arises from the fact that ontologically, there is no individual that can live a meaningful life without certain assumptions about himself, about the universe, about the origin of origin, about the purpose and destiny of man, about the actions of man and the consequences of such actions.

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Professor Ndubuisi has published several philosophic books and papers of both local and international repute. He is an attorney at Law, and a newspaper columnist maintaining a column presently with National Mirror Newspaper on Thursdays with the caption: "Existential Humanism," where he also doubles as a visiting member of the Editorial Board.