

10 in the Context of Igbo Worldview: Exploring the Symbolism and Significance of the Number in Igbo Culture

Numbers play a vital role in human cultures, often carrying symbolic meanings and profound significance. In the Igbo culture of southeastern Nigeria, the number 10 holds a particularly important place, representing completeness, perfection, and divinity. This article explores the multifaceted symbolism and meaning of 10 in the Igbo worldview, examining its presence in various aspects of Igbo life, including religion, language, art, and social customs.

10 in Igbo Religion

In Igbo religion, the number 10 is closely associated with the supreme deity, Chukwu. According to Igbo mythology, Chukwu created the world in 10 days, and the number 10 is often used to symbolize his omnipotence and completeness. The Igbo also believe that there are 10 principal deities known as the Ndi Ichie, who serve as intermediaries between Chukwu and humans.



The «Pauline» Spirit World in Eph 3:10 in the Context of Igbo World View: A Psychological-Hermeneutical Appraisal (New Testament Studies in Contextual ... Studien zur kontextuellen Exegese Book 9) by Joshua W. Jipp

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10 in Igbo Language

The Igbo language has several words that relate to the number 10. The word "iri" means "ten," and it is used in a variety of contexts. For example, the phrase "iri afo" means "ten years," and the phrase "iri ego" means "ten pounds." The Igbo also have a special word for the number 100, which is "otu nari."

10 in Igbo Art

The number 10 also appears frequently in Igbo art. For example, many Igbo sculptures and paintings feature 10 fingers or toes, which is believed to symbolize completeness and perfection. The Igbo also use the number 10 to create intricate patterns and designs in their textiles and pottery.

10 in Igbo Social Customs

The number 10 plays an important role in Igbo social customs. For example, in traditional Igbo weddings, the bride and groom are often given 10 gifts, which is believed to bring them good luck and prosperity. The Igbo also have a tradition of giving 10 kola nuts to guests as a sign of welcome and respect.

The number 10 holds great significance in the Igbo worldview, representing completeness, perfection, and divinity. It is a number that is deeply embedded in Igbo religion, language, art, and social customs.

Understanding the symbolism and meaning of 10 in Igbo culture provides a

valuable insight into the rich and complex traditions of this ancient African people.



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