

Elements of Mysticism in the Bathou Indigenous Faith and the Challenges for Religious Renaissance within

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Abstract

Bathou indigenous faith, like any other indigenous faith or religion, carry mystical components in their narratives and practices. While specific mystical practices tend to sustain the uniqueness of the religious faith, there are attempts from within to get rid of the ideas of 'mystical experience' and talk of general spirituality, seemingly linking it with the world religions. The emerging shifts in ritual practices and worldviews has led to the possibility of religious renaissance with serious questions on indigeneity and spiritual progress.

Keywords: *Indigenous faith, Bathou Bwrai, Kherai puja, religious institutionalization, Bwli and Bibar Bathou.*

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