



Daniel Kasomo

The Belief in Mystical Powers in African Traditional Religion

The Meaning, manifestations, Usefulness and effects



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DEDICATION

This Book is dedicated to my beloved parents Francis Kdsomo and Appolonid Kdsomo for the gift of faith and life, their selfless love, care and very responsible parenthood.

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GLOSSARY

The words which are in use in Kikamba, will be explained or defined. Expressions and phrases of the same language will be covered for ease of reading. There might be a slight difference in the dialect since the Kikamba of Machakos or Ukamba is variable in writing and speech.

A

Athani (sing. Mwathani):	Prophets
Aimu (sing. Iimu):	Spirits
Atumia:	Elders
Atumia ma Ithembo:	The religious personnel in charge of the shrine
Aoi (sing. Muoi):	Witches, wizards. Those who tap like water or wealth
Auti:	Sorcerers
Awe ma Kausya, kuusya:	Diviners
Awe ma ng'ondū:	Herbalists who cleanse

I

Ithembo (pl. Mathembo):	Sacrificial place (shrine)
Iumo (sig. Kiumo):	Curse or fig trees

K

Kathambi:	Name of a spirit
Katumulwa:	That which causes sudden death
Kamuti ka wendo:	Love potion
Kavilitya:	That which can crash a person to death

Ketia nthi	That which can kill
Kithangona:	Charm
Kithetha:	Bad omen
Kilumi:	The Akamba dance for women and elders
Kiumo:	Curse
Kinze:	A modern dance
Kisio:	A civil division
Kisuka:	An elders council
Kithitu:	An oath
Kita:	Evil tongue
Kiunya:	That which a witch collects from another sorcery
Kuatha:	To shoot
Kuausya:	To consult
Kuuswa/kuuwa:	To cleanse
Kuthemba:	To sacrifice
Kutonya:	To pierce
Kutonya ngondu:	To pierce a herb used for cleansing
Kuvanda:	To sow
Kuweta:	To mention so as to avoid the ill effects of an evil tongue
Kwathiisya:	To direct an intention
Kwita:	To pour
Kyeni:	Evil eye, evil ejaculation, wish or word

M

Majini:	(Kiswahili word for evil spirits)
Mbai:	Clan
Mbaa mbote:	Of the household
Mbuu:	Divination seeds or pebbles
Mumbi:	Creator
Mundu:	A person
Mundu mue:	Diviner or medicine man
Mundu wa kiunya:	Person who possesses the powers of kiunya
Makimiwa miti:	Herbalist
Muonzo:	Seven
Muonza-u-mwai:	The deadly seven
Muthea:	Medicine of a more or less magic character
Muthembi:	Person who offers a sacrifice
Mwatuangi:	The cleaver

N

Ngai	God
Ndundu:	Oath
Ng'onde	An Akamba purification ritual. A herb used for cleansing
Nthembo:	Sacrifice
Nthoo:	An incision

Nthi:	Earth
Nzevu:	Magical powder

U

Utui:	Village
Uki:	Beer or any alcohol
Uko wa uoi:	The family of witches
Uoi:	Witchcraft witches

S

Syama (sing. Kyama):	Magic, miracle
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