



African Oral Literature: Backgrounds, Character, and Continuity

By Isidore Okpewho

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"... a tour de force of scholarship in which Okpewho casts his net across the African continent, searching for its verbal forms through voluminous recent writings and presents African oral literature in a new voice, proclaiming the literariness of African folklore." ?Dan Ben-Amos

"This is an outstanding book by a scholar whose work has already influenced how African literature should be conceived.... Professor Okpewho is a scholar with a special talent to nurture scholarship in others. After this work, African literature will never be the same."?Mazisi Kunene

Isidore Okpewho, for many years Professor of English at the University of Ibadan, is one of the handful of African scholars who has facilitated the growth of African oral literature to its status today as a literary enterprise concerned with the artistic foundations of human culture. This comprehensive critical work firmly establishes oral literature as a landmark of high artistic achievement and situates it within the broader framework of contemporary African culture.

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Editorial Review

Review

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About the Author

ISIDORE OKPEWHO, Chair of Afro-American Studies at the State University of New York at Binghamton, is author of *The Epic in Africa* and *Myth in Africa* and editor of *The Heritage of African Poetry* and *The Oral Performance in Africa*. He has also published two novels, *The Victims* and *The Last Duty*. He was for many years Professor of English at the University of Ibadan.

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