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Theme: Natural versus Anthropomorphic Environments

Title of the paper: Eco-critical thought on Environment in the African Philosophy

Abstract

Philosophy is embedded in religious culture or civilization; it is useful to treat its manifestations in these ambiances. So it is essential to consider human experiences including myths of origin, ethical values and proverbial lore of human nature in relation to this widespread sphere. Thus the corroboration of such worldviews, similarities and differences and their critique and adaptation, is called as cultural study of philosophy. Pre-colonial Africa has a highly creative metaphysical outlook, multi-layered polyvocal expressions of ecological connections implying recognition and acceptance of interdependence and peaceful coexistence between earth, plants, animals and humans. Indeed Africa is predisposed towards an attitude of ‘live and let live.’ African philosophies provide the intellectual support highlighting trans-indigenous sensibilities that speak about the worldwide crises of environmental politics and actions against marginalization. With a focus on an eco-bio-community, it draws our attention towards movements of community resilience and resistance, cosmological thinking about inter-generational and intra-generational multispecies relations and understandings of Indigenous aesthetics and material ecologies.

The research paper shall focus the thoughts of Akan tradition from Africa. In steering the debate between interdisciplinary realms of ecocriticism, academic theory and people powered pragmatic eco-activism, a study of Akan traditions promises new directions for ecocritical thought and environmental humanities practice, providing thought-provoking insight into what it means to be human in a locally situated, globally networked, and cosmologically complex world.

An African proverb reminds us that, “if one has to go fast, then go alone; but if one has to go far, then better go along with others.”

Key Terms: African Philosophy, Anthropomorphic environment, Eco-criticism, Akan tradition