



## INDIGENOUS WORK ETHICS AMONG AKAN OF GHANA

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### Introduction

Local societies, the world over, engage different occupations meant to provide economic livelihood and nutritional sustenance. Farming, trading, fishing and hunting are pursued on subsistent or commercial levels, for aesthetic or functional reasons. Each work activity has certain stipulated regulations, manners and attitudes, which govern the participants. These ethics of work are often formulated from certain assumed divine directions and/or ideas obtained from the people's religious environments, and experiences and discoveries gathered over the years. This paper examines the phenomenon of work ethics of the indigenous professions of the forest and coastal Akan of Ghana.

It uses ideas from religious studies, history, art and cultural studies, to discuss the ethics of work within the crafts of agriculture and fishing. It explores the spiritual and socio-economic reasons and philosophico-ecological considerations and benefits that shape the ethics. The observance of the work ethics is deemed an act for the engineering and sustaining of a beautiful state of existence –an orderly and agreeable co-existence of humankind with the natural and spirit worlds, whose fruits – health, fertility, longevity, the sense of peace and enjoyment of justice, and pleasure in living – constitute wealth for humankind. It specifically discusses the ethics of the observance of certain days as holy and work free, isolation of

# Akan Ethics

**Godibert Kelly Gharbin**



## **Akan Ethics:**

*The African Philosophy Reader* Pieter Hendrik Coetzee, A. P. J. Roux, 1998 This collection provides a thorough introduction to African philosophy literature religion and anthropology through twenty five readings from key thinkers They discuss topics such as African culture epistemology metaphysics and religion political philosophy aesthetics and explore rationality and explanation in an African context

**The Palgrave Handbook of African Social Ethics** Nimi Wariboko, Toyin Falola, 2020-03-30 This Handbook provides a robust collection of vibrant discourses on African social ethics and ethical practices It focuses on how the ethical thoughts of Africans are forged within the context of everyday life and how in turn ethical and philosophical thoughts inform day to day living The essays frame ethics as a historical phenomenon best examined as a historical movement the dynamic ethos of a people rather than as a theoretical construct It thereby offers a bold incisive and fresh interpretation of Africa's ethical life and thought

*African-American Perspectives on Biomedical Ethics* Harley Flack, Edmund D. Pellegrino, 1992 By analyzing the amalgam of Greek philosophy Jewish and Christian teachings and secular humanism that composes our dominant ethical system the authors of this volume explore the question of whether or not Western and non Western moral values can be commingled without bilateral loss of cultural integrity They take as their philosophical point of departure the observation that both ethical relativism and ethical absolutism have become morally indefensible in the context of the multicultural American life and they variously consider the need for an ethical middle ground

*The Blackwell Companion to Religious Ethics* William Schweiker, 2008-04-15 Written by internationally renowned scholars this Companion maps the moral teachings of the world's religions and also charts new directions for work in the field of religious ethics Now available in paperback this is a rich resource for understanding the moral teachings and practices of the world's religions Includes detailed discussions of issues in moral theory Offers extensive treatment of the world's major religious traditions including Judaism Christianity Islam Buddhism Hinduism Chinese religions and African religions Compares the ways in which the religions provide resources for addressing current moral challenges in areas such as ecology economics global dynamics religious war human rights and other topics

**Ethical Theory in Global Perspective** Michael Hemmingsen, 2024-02-01 Ethical Theory in Global Perspective provides an easy to teach introduction to ethical theory from a uniquely global perspective In addition to key Western ethical theories such as virtue ethics consequentialism various deontological theories and care ethics moral theories from a range of East Asian South Asian and African philosophical traditions and schools are also discussed including Akan philosophy Confucianism Daoism Buddhism and both orthodox and heterodox schools of classical Indian philosophy In short this book is a key resource for educators who want to diversify their ethical theory curricula but are not sure how as well as those currently teaching comparative ethics looking for a single textbook that covers a range of philosophical traditions in a clear approachable way

**The Johannine Gospel's Concept of Community** Godibert Kelly Gharbin, 2025-05-27 The Johannine Gospel's Concept of Community takes

an interdisciplinary approach to contextualizing the New Testament in an African milieu which helps Johannine scholarship intersect with Akan anthropology and sociology through a tripartite frame of interpretation a narratological analysis of community oriented narratives in John the exegesis of the Akan concept of community encapsulated in their proverbial lore the anthology of inestimable information about the Akan conceptualization of communitarianism and an engagement between the two conceptual schemes through an intercultural reading The methodological principles utilized foster a cross pollination of ideas between the Johannine characterization of a community of God and the community concept present in Akan maxims This allows the Akan concept of communitarianism to enrich the reader s understanding of the text It also allows John s theology of community revealed in what Jesus epitomizes prescribes and proscribes for the believing community to serve as a form of discernible evaluation for Akan and other believers on the *modus vivendi* redolent of a believing community In the end it forces a redefinition of community replacing the anthropocentric individualistic and acquisitive elements that have typified the human community with a theocentric and authentically collectivist approach *African Values, Ethics, and Technology* Beatrice Dedaa Okyere-Manu, 2021-04-30 This book charts technological developments from an African ethical perspective It explores the idea that while certain technologies have benefited Africans the fact that these technologies were designed and produced in and for a different setting leads to conflicts with African ethical values Written in a simple and engaging style the authors apply an African ethical lens to themes such as The Fourth Industrial Revolution the moral status of technology technology and sexual relations and bioethics and technology **Library of Congress Subject Headings**

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**Intercultural Aesthetics** Antoon van den Braembussche, Heinz Kimmerle, Nicole Note, 2008-12-03 In this book the editors brought together outstanding articles concerning intercultural aesthetics The concept Intercultural aesthetics creates a home space for an artistic cross fertilization between cultures and for heterogeneity but it is also firmly linked with the intercultural turn within Western and non Western philosophy The book is divided into two parts yet one can sense a clear unity throughout the whole book This unity is related to the underlying subject that the different authors each in their own way and from their own background try to reveal They use related and overlapping terms such as the suchness of things dancing and shaping lives presenting a meaning beyond words presenting the unpresentable experiencing in order to bring to our awareness the genuine importance of the non conceptual next to the conceptual Several authors moreover take on a reflective and at times even a self reflective stance pointing to the intrinsic relation between cultural aesthetics and ethics making this book unique in its kind *Prempeh: Gender, Sexuality and Decolonization in*, 2023-06-02 Since the turn of the millennium in Ghana and in other African countries there has been a vociferous *Moral Reasoning* David R. Morrow, 2018 Offering students an accessible in depth and highly practical introduction to ethics this text covers argumentation and moral

reasoning various types of moral arguments and theoretical issues that commonly arise in introductory ethics courses including skepticism subjectivism relativism religion and normative theories The book combines primary sources in moral theory and applied ethics with explanatory material case studies and pedagogical features to help students think critically about moral issues      **The African Philosophy Reader** P.H. Coetzee,A.P.J. Roux,2004-03 Divided into eight sections each with introductory essays the selections offer rich and detailed insights into a diverse multinational philosophical landscape Revealed in this pathbreaking work is the way in which traditional philosophical issues related to ethics metaphysics and epistemology for instance take on specific forms in Africa s postcolonial struggles Much of its moral political and social philosophy is concerned with the turbulent processes of embracing modern identities while protecting ancient cultures

**The Palgrave Handbook of Ubuntu, Inequality and Sustainable Development** Ezra Chitando,Beatrice Okyere-Manu,Sophia Chirongoma,Musa W. Dube,2025-02-28 The Palgrave Handbook of Ubuntu Inequality and Sustainable Development interrogates the multiple inequalities that subsist in the world and explores how Ubuntu emerging from Africa but being potentially applicable elsewhere holds promise for mitigation and resolution It highlights inequalities that relate to gender climate change the environment race migration and the struggle against poverty It reflects on how and the extent to which Ubuntu can be a strategic resource in pursuit of equality and justice      **What Is a Person?** Nancy S. Jekcer,Professor of Bioethics and Humanities Nancy S Jekcer,Caesar A. Atuire,2024-12-03 Stepping back from the above analysis it is helpful to ask whether the shift to a more individualistic conception of persons carries traction for those who do not share its religious underpinnings Judeo Christian personhood was grounded on the idea that all and only human beings are made in the image of God imago dei for contemporary secular philosophers there seems to be no corollary justification for claiming that all and only human beings qualify as persons Some contemporary Christians such as Noonan have sought to defend an exclusive moral status for human beings by arguing that possessing the human genetic code affords the secular underpinnings for such a position Yet this proposal was eventually rebuffed as speciesist Speciesism a term coined in the 1970s by Ryder and popularized by Singer is the position that assigning moral standing on the basis of species membership is morally arbitrary      **A-E Library of Congress. Office for Subject Cataloging Policy,1990      *State and Society in Pre-colonial Asante* T. C. McCaskie,2003-10-30 Scholarship on the West African kingdom of Asante is at the leading edge of Africanist research In this book T C McCaskie gives a detailed and richly nuanced historical portrait of precolonial Asante His delineation of state and society in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries is centred on an extended analysis of the crucial ritual of the annual Kumase odwira festival It is at once a profound historical reconstruction of an African polity and a deeply informed meditation on key Asante concepts and ideas Throughout the book the Asante experience is consistently discussed in a relation to a broad range of historiography and critical theory      *The Spirit with Us* Clifford Owusu-Gyamfi,2023 In this volume the author shows how the Akan concepts of sunsum and honhom offer a degree of Christian pneumatological**

similarity providing the avenue for translating and contextualizing the doctrine of the Holy Spirit within the context of the Akan people of West Africa      *African-American Perspectives and Philosophical Traditions* John Pittman, John P. Pittman, 1997 This collection of essays and reviews represents the most significant and comprehensive writing on Shakespeare's *A Comedy of Errors* Miola's edited work also features a comprehensive critical history coupled with a full bibliography and photographs of major productions of the play from around the world In the collection there are five previously unpublished essays The topics covered in these new essays are women in the play the play's debt to contemporary theater its critical and performance histories in Germany and Japan the metrical variety of the play and the distinctly modern perspective on the play as containing dark and disturbing elements To compliment these new essays the collection features significant scholarship and commentary on *The Comedy of Errors* that is published in obscure and difficult accessible journals newspapers and other sources This collection brings together these essays for the first time

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