



The Yoruba-speaking peoples of the Slave Coast of West Africa; their religion, manners, customs, laws, language, etc. With an appendix containing a ... of the Tshi, Gã, Ewe, and Yoruba languages

Alfred Burdon Ellis

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1894 Excerpt: ...We find a great change from the customs of the other tribal groups of this family of nations, in the Yoruba manner of tracing descent and blood-relationship; descent and consanguinity being no longer reckoned exclusively in the female line, with succession to chieftdom, office, and property from brother to brother, and then to sister's son; but in the male line, as far as succession to dignities is concerned, and on both sides of the house for blood-descent. The Yoruba family--using the word family as meaning a group of persons who are united by ties of blood--is thus quite a different organisation to that which we found existing among the Tshi and Ewe tribes, where a family consists solely of persons who are connected by uterine ties, and in which, as two persons of the same blood may not marry, the father is never related by blood to his children, and is not considered as belonging to the family. In the Tshi and Ewe tribes the clan-name is the test of blood-relationship, and as property follows the laws of blood-descent, it ensues that property never goes out of the clan; for, with descent in the female line, a family is only a small circle of persons, all of whom bear the same clanname, within the larger circle of the clan itself. clan is prohibited, that of the mother being ignored. The Yorubas have adopted what appears to have been the usual course, and blood-relationship is now traced both on the father's and on the mother's side, as far as it can be remembered, and marriage within the known circle of consanguinity is forbidden. Among the Yoruba tribes the blood-tie between father and child has been recognised, and the result of this recognition has been the inevitable downfall of the clan-system, which is only possible so long as descent is traced sol...

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