

EMURON

Turkana Diviners

EMURON: TURKANA DIVINERS

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Turkana

The Turkana (they refer to themselves as Ngiturkan) are a Nilotic people indigenous to the Nile Valley. They currently reside in Turkana County in northwest Kenya. Their Supreme God is Akuj.

Emuron

Emuron are diviners and prophets among the Turkana people of Kenya. I'm still in the process of getting the right terminology figured out. According to one source, male emuron are known as Ngimurok and female as Ngamurok. Another source has Ngimurok as the plural of Emuron. Below is information on terminology from a third source.

The Dodoth call their religious specialists ngimurok, the plural of emuron; the female form is amuron. - Felicitas D. Goodman

The Dodoth/Dodos are an ethnic group residing in northeastern Uganda. They belong to the Karamojong Cluster, which includes the Karamojong, Jie, Turkana, Iteso, Kumam and Toposa people.

Emuron are capable of interpreting and prediction Akuj's plans. This is done through dreams and other divinatory practices.

The emuron are god's chief representatives, purifiers of age-sets, predictors of the outcome of raids of war, and rainmakers. Their role is not only one of prediction, but also to find the causes and cures of disease, and thus they also function as doctors. When people have troubles, they approach the appropriate emuron, who will divine the proper course of action to take. Often, a diviner will have a certain limited area of responsibilities defined by the extent of their powers. In a case where other skills are needed, they will work together towards the common end. - Jens Finke

Another form of emuron is Ekerujan ("dreamer"). They have the closest union with Akuj (he speaks through dreams).

The role of emuron cannot be learned; neither is it hereditary, although a successful emuron is more likely to have children with the same powers as him - or herself. Instead, the state of prophethood is literally a calling, one chosen by Akuj. - Jens Finke

Among the Turkana, a witch is someone who, by casting the evil-eye, can cause sickness and death. Illnesses caused by witchcraft are termed Ngidekesiney ka ekapilan.

Treatment for Ngidekesiney ka ekapilan involves divination. Most Turkana men know how to 'throw sandals' but if this does not work they will go to an emuron. Emuron (pl. ngimurok) is the generic name for a religious specialist in Turkana. Ngimurok are not healers in the same way as doctors. They are diviner, healer, religious leader, magician and witch-doctor rolled into one. - Simon Harragin

There are certain prophets, ritual specialists, and healers known as ngimurok, who are important in the production and dissemination of oral tradition. They do not act as composers of the narratives but as skilled politico-religious leaders and healers who recall the memories of influential ancestral leaders and make predictions about the future of the tribe during important gatherings. - Mustafa Kemal Mirzeler

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