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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-57181

Title: Ecology and spirituality in Africana indigenous religions (airs): An appraisal

Recommendation:

Accept after major revision

| Rating | Excel. | Good | Fair | Poor |
|----------------|--------|------|------|------|
| Originality | | | ✓ | |
| Techn. Quality | | | | ✓ |
| Clarity | | | | ✓ |
| Significance | | | ✓ | |

Reviewer's ID: JPR- 198

Detailed Reviewer's Report

This manuscript explores the relationship between ecology and spirituality in Africana Indigenous Religions using a qualitative, philosophical, and ethnographic approach. The topic is relevant and intellectually engaging, with strong cultural and ethical implications. However, the manuscript is largely conceptual, lacks methodological rigor, and contains significant language and structural issues.

Strengths

- Strong thematic relevance
- Interdisciplinary perspective (religion + ecology)
- Rich cultural and philosophical context

Major Comments

1. Originality

The integration of eco-spirituality, deep ecology, and Africana Indigenous Religions is interesting. However, much of the discussion reiterates existing philosophical positions without clear novel contribution.

2. Technical Quality

The study claims qualitative and ethnographic methods, but:

- No clear description of fieldwork procedures, sampling, or interview design

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- No presentation of primary data or direct evidence
- Largely theoretical rather than empirical

3. Methodology

Methodology is weak and inconsistent:

- Ethnographic claims are not supported with data
- Case studies are mentioned but not systematically presented
- Heavy reliance on literature review instead of structured analysis

4. Results & Argumentation

The manuscript presents philosophical arguments rather than results:

- Claims about biodiversity conservation and totemism are not supported with measurable evidence
- Assertions (e.g., sacred groves increasing biodiversity) remain anecdotal
- No analytical framework linking theory to outcomes

5. Discussion

The discussion is extensive but:

- Repetitive across sections
- Lacks critical balance (mostly affirmative of indigenous systems)
- Overgeneralizes across diverse cultures and religions

6. Clarity and Writing

Major weakness:

- Frequent grammatical errors and typographical issues
- Poor sentence structure and spacing (e.g., missing spaces, inconsistent formatting)
- Redundant and overly long paragraphs

7. References

Adequate in number but:

- Mixed quality (some weak or non-indexed sources)
- Limited use of recent high-impact journals

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- Citation formatting inconsistent

Minor Comments

- Abstract needs tightening and clearer structure
- Improve flow between sections
- Define key terms (e.g., eco-spirituality, AIRs) more concisely
- Ensure consistency in terminology and formatting