

The book was found

# **Among The Ibos Of Nigeria: An Account Of The Curious & Interesting Habits, Customs, & Beliefs Of A Little Known African People By One Who Has For Many Years Lived Amongst Them (1921)**



## **Among the IBOS OF NIGERIA**

---

**GEORGE THOMAS BASDEN**



## Synopsis

George Thomas Basden ( 1873 – 1944) arrived Onitsha, British Nigeria in 1900 with a goal – “to convert pagans to Christianity” – on behalf of the Church Missionary Society. The time has passed when people say that no one reads a book by a missionary. This class has contributed largely to literature and to various sciences, among them to anthropology. Mr. Basden’s book is one of this latter class. He lived seventeen years among the Ibos, who live in Southern Nigeria, Africa, their territory beginning at the middle of the southern coast of the great bulge of the continent north of the equator. In Basden’s volume dealing with the Ibos of Southern Nigeria, the author has aimed at giving a fairly detailed, though popularly written, account of these interesting natives, and has succeeded in producing an instructive and attractive volume. He sounds a note of caution which may well be taken to heart by globe-trotters and stay-at-home amateurs who, with little or no experience, write books about native ideas and beliefs. He writes: "The longer one lives amongst West African natives, the more one is convinced that it is a practical impossibility for the European to comprehend fully the subtleties of the native character. Some white men claim to have done this, but my experience leads me to think that the claim can rarely, if ever, be substantiated with definite assurance." This is an honest admission on the part of one who has lived long enough among the natives to realise the difficulties involved in the diagnosis of their mentality, and to recognise the fundamental difference between their "philosophy" and ours. The Ibo people, who form nearly one-half the population of Southern Nigeria, occupy the country lying mainly between the Niger and Cross rivers, a huge tract extending from the coast to 7° N. lat. There is a westerly extension across the Niger. The Ibos are not homogeneous, important variations occurring in the extensive area occupied. The environment varies considerably, from the low-lying swamps of the Delta to the higher land around Onitsha. The book is a timely one, since the indigenous customs are very rapidly undergoing changes, though in 1900, when Mr. Basden arrived there, primitive conditions still largely persisted. The general life of the Ibos is well presented. A man’s greatest desire in life is to advance its social status, and many crimes are committed in order to promote this advancement. Theft (to obtain the necessary funds), murder, and head-taking (as a sign of prowess) are very usually the outcome of this craving for higher titles. Cannibalism has been rampant, human flesh being regarded as a valuable food product. Polygamy is favoured equally by both sexes, and will be suppressed only with great difficulty. The first wife takes precedence of all the others, and is regarded as the legal wife, anasi, who is priestess of the household gods. Belief in the survival of the soul prevails, and adequate burial of the dead is a matter of great concern. A first, necessarily hurried burial takes place soon after death, but a second more elaborate and very costly

"burial" by proxy is performed later, with the view of keeping the spirit of the deceased in contentment. Failing this propitiation, the spirit may become restless and malignant. Reincarnation is believed in. Originally published in 1921; reformatted for the Kindle; may contain an occasional imperfection; original spellings have been kept in place.

## Book Information

File Size: 1906 KB

Print Length: 284 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: May 5, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01F9HKEPY

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #395,045 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #7

in [Books > Travel > Africa > Niger & Nigeria](#) #22 in [Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >](#)

[Nonfiction > Travel > Africa > West](#) #43 in [Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Africa >](#)

[West Africa](#)

## Customer Reviews

Great book and a must have for West and Central Africans in need of more proof to their roots in ancient Israel.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Among the Ibos of Nigeria: An Account of the Curious & Interesting Habits, Customs, & Beliefs of a Little Known African People by One who Has for Many Years Lived Amongst Them (1921) African: African Recipes - The Very Best African Cookbook (African recipes, African cookbook, African cook book, African recipe, African recipe book) &#147;It&#146;s Time&#148; for A Country Called Nigeria: The Journey of an African American Businessman Who Lived in Nigeria for More Than Fourteen Years Among the Ibos of Nigeria Among the Ibos of Nigeria (Travellers, Explorers & Pioneers) Curious Baby Music Play (Curious George Board Book & CD) (Curious Baby Curious

George) Wild bush tribes of tropical Africa;; An account of adventure & travel amongst pagan people in tropical Africa, with a description of their manners of ... collected during a sojourn of twelve years, Million Dollar Habits: 27 Powerful Habits to Wire Your Mind For Success, Become Truly Happy, and Achieve Financial Freedom (Habits of Highly Effective People Book 1) Discover Texas Dinosaurs: Where They Lived, How They Lived, and the Scientists Who Study Them Religion and the Making of Nigeria (Religious Cultures of African and African Diaspora People) Breaking Bad Habits: 11 Steps to Freedom (addiction, food addiction, sugar addiction, gambling addiction, addiction recovery, habits, breaking bad habits) Many Many Many Gods of Hinduism: Turning believers into non-believers and non-believers into believers: Culture, Concepts, Controversies Many Many Many Gods of Hinduism: Turning believers into non-believers and non-believers into believers People of the Longhouse: How the Iroquoian Tribes Lived (How They Lived) The Way People Live - Life Among the Ibo Women of Nigeria Interesting History of Lagos [Nigeria] A Political and Economic History of Igalaland, Central Nigeria: A Political and Economic History of Igalaland, Central Nigeria: 1896-1939 NIGERIA Country Studies: A brief, comprehensive study of Nigeria Nigeria 2nd (Bradt Travel Guide Nigeria) Tourism and Ecotourism in Nigeria: Travel, Discover touristic sights in Nigeria, Giant of Africa with giant of attractions

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)