

**NATIONAL MAJOR SEMINARY GGABA
AFFILIATED TO
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**WITCHCRAFT TODAY: AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE FACTORS THAT
INFLUENCE CATHOLICS TO GET INVOLVED IN WITCHCRAFT IN YERYA
PARISH, FORT-PORTAL DIOCESE**

**PRESENTED
BY**

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**A DISERTATION SUBMITTED TO IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTERS DEGREE IN THEOLOGICAL
STUDIES OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

2009/2010

DECLARATION

I Kwikiriza Dominic, hereby declare that this academic work is a result of my personal effort. Where I have borrowed and solicited ideas and opinions from different authors their sources have been acknowledged. I declare to the best of my knowledge that this thesis has never been published or submitted to any university or higher institution of learning for any academic award.

Signed.....

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Date.....

PRINCIPAL SUPERVISOR

I acknowledge that this thesis has been approved for the award of Master's degree in Theological and Religious studies of Makerere University.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated with sincere affection and gratitude to my dear parents: Mrs. Zonia Kwebiha and my late father Joseph Kwebiha, who bore, nurtured and saw the need of educating me. To my beloved friend and parent Fr. Aquirinus Francis Kibira, and my friends Mr. & Mrs. Agaba Vincent for the loving kindness and care they have shown me. May God reward their efforts a hundredfold.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I extend my gratitude first to God without whom nothing could have been achieved.

Secondly to the following people who have contributed to the writing of this thesis. My inmost gratitude goes to his Lordship Robert Muhiirwa for allowing me to undergo seminary formation at Ggaba National Seminary.

Am greatly indebted to Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Bazarwa Atwooki who sacrificed all he had to take me to school. And Rev. Fr. Francis Kibira Araali for his financial and spiritual support that has shaped to what I am today.

Furthermore, I owe a vote of thanks to the teaching staff of Ggaba National Seminary for shaping me intellectually, morally, spiritually and physically.

Notably my thanks go to Rev. Dr. Benedict Ssettuuma and Rev. Dr. Alex Ojacor who tirelessly guided me and gave useful advice in the course of writing report.

Finally my heartfelt gratitude goes to all my informants, in a special way Fr. Br. Wasswa Anatoli who spared his precious time to help me understand prevailing situation of witchcraft. And to Deacon Acema Isaac who spared his time to edit this work. May God reward you abundantly.

ABSTRACT

The study was carried out among the Batooro of Yerya parish Fort portal diocese.

The researcher studied two variables Catholic faith and witchcraft. Which have helped him to discover people's experiences, tensions, hopes and anxieties related to the challenge of being truly Christian and truly African at the same time. He discovered the failures and agonies of many people (Batooro) to live both traditions authentically.

After establishing the above reality at the grassroots, the researcher makes a critical evaluation of why double loyalty or dichotomy in living the two religious traditions existing among the Batooro. A good number of Christians prefer to take some incompatible elements of African traditional religion and stick to them while outwardly they appear to be committed Christians. Thus they prefer the Christian faith and at the same time secretly adhere to their traditional beliefs, including those inconsistent with the Catholic faith. The researcher discovered that there are serious doubts about the efficacy of the Christian faith in people's life situations. The mistrust is evident when people find themselves in serious difficulties. Often the tendency is not to run to the faith for guidance but to witchcraft (Nabuya 2007 and Tusingire (2003). The Christians follow Christ in some way but they do so half-heartedly. The Catholic Church in Fort Portal diocese and Yerya in Particular need to deal with situation more resolutely. In order for the Christians to be more faithful to their calling, there is need of reformation of the hearts and minds.

Given the limited nature of human beings, the faith is always limited in some sense. Therefore, there is need to make Christianity more relevant to each person in his concrete existing context. Theologian scholars, pastoral workers, and some members of the laity themselves have noted that in times of existential crises the average African Christian will revert to traditional African religious beliefs and practices which are not allowed by the Church. In some instances pastors and theologians have fallen victim of this, almost irresistible temptation.

The crisis of African Christianity is basically a worldview crisis. This is because most western missionaries and also some African who embraced Christianity did not take

worldview and religion of the African people seriously. 'They regarded it ridiculously as primitive superstition' (Walt 1994, p.16).

Witchcraft must be understood as part of the mystery of human person. Contrary to what the English word suggests, the reality of witchcraft among the Batooro and in Africa as a whole, is not primarily an "art" or a "craft," Haule correctly identifies it as "mysterious powers," that resides in, and with human beings.

In the area, there is a high tendency of associating any kind of ailment or catastrophe with witchcraft. 19.6% respondents said that people practice witchcraft because of psychological problems. 31.4% agreed that people practice witchcraft because of social pressure, 29.4% for individual gains while 2.9% respondents said that it is a family tree problem (inherited from the grandparents). The majority of the respondents asserted that people practice witchcraft because of social pressure and individual gain respectively.