

# Mystic Ladder In The Yoruba World And Judeo-Christian Thoughts By

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<p>The Yoruba world,whose religion is evident in Trinidad and Tobago,Dominican Republic,Cuba,Puerto Rico,Argentina,Brazil,Venezuela,Colombia,and several parts of the Americas,in relation to Jewish and Christian thoughts,affirms an exemplary symbol which constitutes the cryptic and the inaccessible in its tribal approach to arts and oral tradition.</p> <p>The literary corpus and oracular narrative of Ifa the Yoruban sacred text encompass the themes of mysticism,or the supernatural.</p> <p>Description of Yoruba religious teachings contains the belief in Eternal God,the concepts of creation,the affinity between the visible and the invisible realms,divinity,existence of certain good and demonic beings as messengers of Olodumare(God),Paradise(Orun Rere) and Hell(Orun Apaadi),and the path to spiritual transcendence through good deeds and ritual offerings.</p> <p>The Rabbinic interpretations,presented in the</p>	<p>Zohar the Jewish mystical records,of the ladder(sunam)or stairway to heaven seen in a dream by Jacob the patriarch of the Hebrews on the lone road to Haran the country of Syria(Genesis 28:12)have an unprecedented parallel with the connected rope ladder in the mystical account of Oduduwa(Duduat)the progenitor of the Yorubas who was narrated to have been of Egyptian ancestry.</p> <p>The connected rope ladder,whose exact number of steps is unknown,in Yoruboid culturo-linguistic antiquity signifies a common genetic code,or 'cosmic singularity'between metaphysical forces and the physical planetary formations.</p> <p>In Yoruba spiritual consciousness,balance in discipline and morality is the means to ascend to the world of the ancestors.</p> <p>Jewish mystical equation puts the steps in Jacob's ladder to be four in number,constituting different dimensions of spiritual reality-the</p>
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worlds of  
Action(Asiya),Formation(Yetzira),Creation(Beriya),and

Intimacy(Atzilut)with the ladder'set up on the earth,and the top of it

reached to heaven'as the archetype of prayer centred on Asiya's inward

self-control,'the angels of God ascending and descending on

it'depicting two different temperaments or personalities inhabiting

Yetzira the world of Formation,which posits the need for

honesty,humble disposition and character refinement;Beriya the world

of Creation is the step

to reach to attain rebirth and recreation from unwholesome

traits,while 'the LORD stood above it'represents Intimacy(Atzilut)the

highest and most profound hierachical level of spiritual union or

oneness with the Infinite.

Christian archetype of the mystic ladder is embodied in the supernal

grace,atoning work of the cross and emanations of the Divine as

unified through the Revealed Redeemer.

In the text of John's gospel,Jesus uses the figure of the ladder to

refer to himself.

"Verily,verily,I say unto you,Hereafter ye shall see heaven open,and

the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man"(John

1:51).

In Christian perception,Jesus is the primordial ladder in fleshly body

who bridges the chasm between the tabernacle not made with hands and

the condemned fallen man to reconcile all things to himself(Colossians

1:15-22).

Ladder representations,with diverse meanings,can be found within

different cultures.

The significance of the ladder as a mystical metaphor is prevalent in

virtually all world religions.