

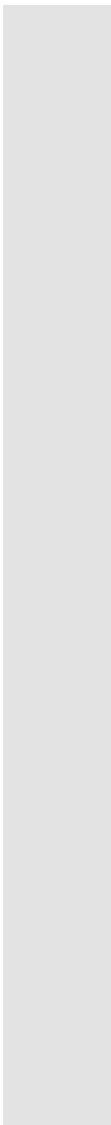
# Igbo Religion & Spiritual Beliefs

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A22



## Supreme God

- The Igbo were polytheistic, as they believed in a supreme god, along with other spirits and deities.
  - The Majority of Igbo people refer to their supreme god as "Chukwu". Several other names exist (such as Chi Ukwu).
  - Igbo people believe that Chukwu provides them with wealth, rain, and children. They also believe that he created and sustains the world.
  - Fathers of families offer prayers to the supreme god every morning.
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# Spirits and Ancestors

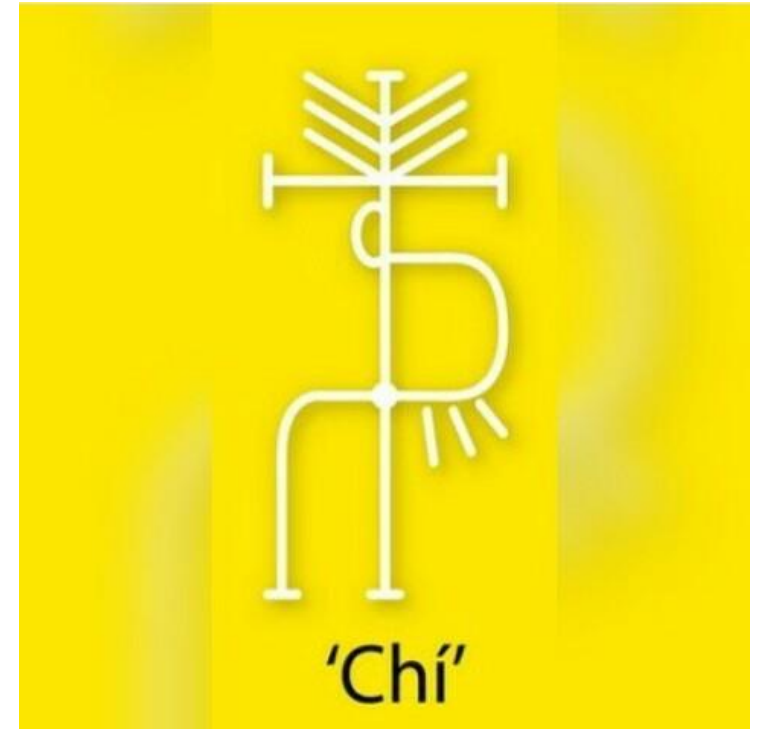
- Spirits and Ancestors are often described as messengers of God.
- They control the minor aspects of human existence, such as the weather.
- Igbo people would sacrifice animals and humans to the spirits.
- Ancestors are believed to protect their living descendants
- Only Igbo people who did not die of inexplicable disease, lived honest lives, and had proper burial rites can become "ancestors".



Igbo people used sculptures to depict their ancestors.

# Concept of Chi

- Chi are spirits Igbo people believe in that determine an individual's future.
- Igbo people pray to their chi for protection and strength. They also pray to their chi for a better future.



The word Chi in Nsibidi, which the Uguakima tribe of the Igbo people speak.

# Beliefs Regarding Death

- Igbo people believe in reincarnation.
- Death in old age is accepted as a blessing.
- Many Igbo people wanted to die within their own town and be buried within its boundaries.
- The head of a family is buried deep beneath his own house upon death
- If an individual lived an honest life, they would watch over their descendants after death



Igbo people partake in extensive ceremonies during a burial. The image above is from Chinua Achebe's own funeral.

## Work Cited

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