

IROKO

Theatre Company

IYE AJA (Umbilical Cord) Project



A fisherman's coffin

Source: <http://coolthingsinrandomplaces.com>

It is a common practice amongst Africans to mourn the dead particular titular men or women. The ceremonies could be for days or even months.

In Ghana, for example, a burial is by no means an ordinary one. That's because each coffin is a small art work, reflecting the fantasy of the local craftsmen or telling the life story of the deceased person.

In some cases, when a man dies, the wife has to stay in the corner of the room for 7 or 14 days, often surrounded by other mothers. On the 7th or 14th day, her hair is shaved and she will carry out the ritual of 'public crying' to the river where she will have her first bath since the death.

After the burial, the woman will continue to be dressed in black until the "second burial" is carried out. In some communities, the wife of the dead man must choose another husband from the immediate family of the deceased as a way of 'securing' continued care by someone within the family.

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