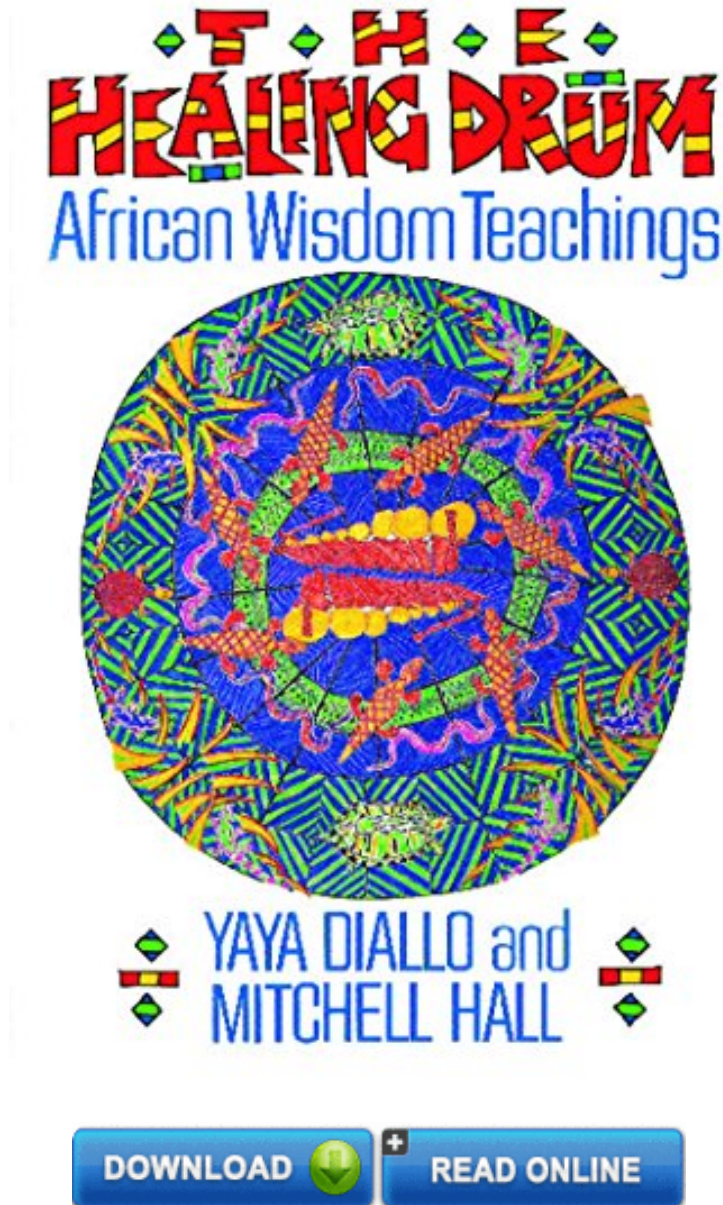


(Read free) The Healing Drum: African Wisdom Teachings

The Healing Drum: African Wisdom Teachings

Yaya Diallo, Mitch Hall

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#899934 in Books Destiny Books 1989-12-01 1989-12-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .70 x 6.00l, .68 #File Name: 0892812567213 pages | File size: 32.Mb

Yaya Diallo, Mitch Hall : The Healing Drum: African Wisdom Teachings before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Healing Drum: African Wisdom Teachings:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Knowledge and EnjoymentBy Dallas O. BradleyThis was a gift to a daughter who has been drumming for several years and has appreciated learning the background of the music she enjoys. She has learned a great deal through it and has shared it with other drummers in her group.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Much wisdom and some sillinessBy An MhuruchOther reviewers have mentioned much

of what is laudable about this book. This is mostly a story of a childhood and youth in a highly traditional village in southern Mali, with some information on Yaya Diallo's life in Bamako, the capital, and in Canada. Not much specific information on drumming itself, as this is an autobiography and not a work of ethnomusicology. Particularly intriguing is Diallo's struggle, and his manifold transformations: seen as a fool and a good-for-nothing in his home village when he was a child, he becomes a star student (not without setbacks). Consequently, he settles into a materially satisfying, but spiritually impoverished existence as a chemist in Canada. Finally, in spite of the stridently modernist spirit of the times, which dictated that most elements of African culture be shed and that one's self become completely "Westernized", Diallo returns to drums, the most important and vital aspect of his culture and his individual self. Mocked and destitute for a while, he succeeds in establishing himself as a musician and as an instructor of drumming. There are several problematic points, but I will concentrate upon one. Having grown up in Christian and atheist household within a multiethnic society, in which people of Muslim origin constituted slightly less than half of the population, I am very sensitive to crude generalizations about religions and ethnicities. Diallo is able to perceive that within "animist" African cultures and within Canada and the so-called "West", there is wide range of sensitivities and individual ways to live. Yet, sadly, his view of Islam, which has existed for a thousand years in west Africa, is surprisingly childish and crude. He has no idea (or at least he feigns ignorance) of Sufi brotherhoods and their music and countless ways in which it is possible to be a Muslim and to be an African musician (remember Ali Farka Toure, Oumou Sangare, Youssou N'Dour?). Instead, Diallo claims that Salafi Saudi Islam (incidentally, propagated through generous American financial support in order to combat "communism" since the 1970s) is the only Islam that there is, and that accordingly Islam is bad, bad, bad. This may sound like music to some of his half-educated readers, but it is nonsense, not fit for an elder who has seen the world beyond his village. Had I known of this jarring matter, I would most likely have decided to peruse the book at my alma mater instead of buying it enthusiastically. To end on a kind note: The CD, which has to be bought separately (not expensive), is very pleasant indeed, although the pieces are very short and amount to samples. They are not discussed in the book explicitly, but I was listening to them while reading the book, creating a nice ambiance until the fatal page 190 and its successor. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By tas Everyone should read this!

The Healing Drum traces the extraordinary cultural legacy of the Minianka tribe of West Africa, for whom music serves a sacred, healing function for the individual and society. The authors explore the Minianka view of humanity, music, and the cosmos relative to work, celebration, herbal medicine, dance, trance, initiation, and death. The first book of its kind, delivering a message of untapped wisdom and power from a little-known culture through the universal medium of music.

"The Healing Drum is more than a literary autobiography; it includes considerable ethnographic information about Minianka culture" (Shaman's Drum) "Together Diallo and Hall have collaborated to produce a text that combines anthropology, sociology, philosophy and music in a potent and thought-provoking read." (The Jazz Report) "This is not actually a scholarly book, but that is part of its strength: the subjects discussed in Part One, about Minianka culture as a whole, are those covered in standard ethnographic studies." (Ethnomusicology) "Part two provides examination of the more public role of music as a sacred healing practice in Minianka culture." (Timothy White, Editor of Shaman's Drum) "I have been searching for an authentic, traditional CD with chanting and singing, and now I have finally found it!" (Body Mind Spirit Magazine, October 2003) About the Author Born and raised in Mali, West Africa into the Minianka (Bamana) tribe, Yaya Diallo learned to play balafon and hand drums under the instruction of his grandfather and spiritual mentor, Nangape.