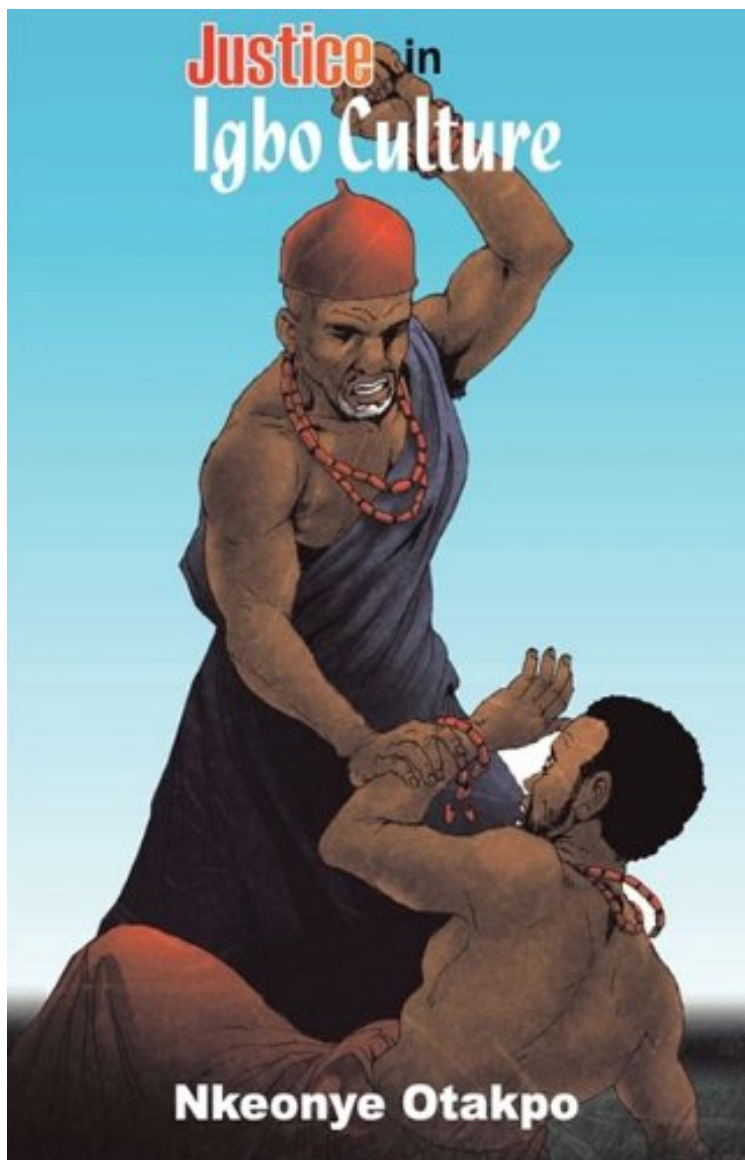


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## Justice in Igbo Culture

*Nkeonye Otakepor*

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Behind the Curtain By Kristopher S. Shoemaker Like the Wizard behind the curtain of Oz this book shows in depth what lies beneath the surface of Igbo culture in the justice system.

There has existed the naive assumption that until the unsolicited advent of colonialism, the so-called "noble and

savage" tribes had no legal system worthy of attention. The Igbo people were not exempted from this assumption. Justice itself cannot be realized outside a system of law and its institutions. It is a system in which law is a vital aspect of man's culture and social existence; embodying the collective will of the community and binding the members of that community in a unity of purpose. In all of these, the exercise of reason is essential and indispensable. In the face of the colonial and neo-colonial assumption of the non-existence of law, the evidence on the ground suggests something totally different. If anything, that evidence shows that the assumption was an essential part of the ideology of colonialism and an important psychological armour which, in conjunction with the Bible and gun-powder, helped to bring about the physical, political, economic, and mental domination of non-Europeans. In this book, an attempt is made to elucidate the logical features of some fundamental concepts and phrases related to justice, dispute settlement, and the organization of life and work in Igbo communities in Aniocha north local government area of Delta State.