

Classification of African masks in ancient societies according to the location of the body

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Eye Masks Classification of masks in terms of their location on the body: there are eye masks, or the head of the wolf as they are called, then the kajol, that is, the mask that hides the head up to the shoulder like the Ku Klux Klan, and then the full mask that reaches to the soles of the feet.. We have mentioned before To the mask as a general concept, it is not limited to that, but is completely related to the complete dress, tattoos and adornment, and other clothes and ornaments that complement it - then the dance designed for it and not others. In principle, we also note that the sizes of the masks vary.. Some of them are small. They may be worn on the finger, or attached to the chest, or kept in clothes.. Or held by the hand. From another angle, we also see moving masks in some regions of the world, that is, they open and close, so they have two shapes - a shape and the mask is folded that gives a specific expression, then gives another shape while the mask is open. This pairing of the mask corresponds to another classification: It is to find two faces for some masks: one from the front and the other from the front Back, or the two faces may be on top of each other or next to each other as well. For every other method of duplication, we move from it to the famous masks of Africa, in which we also find a duplication of a third kind; It is: the duality between the human face and the animal, and perhaps we will recall on this occasion the totemic doctrine that formed most of the world's population from time to time to explain to us the animal-human-or animal-human and so on." Third: Classifying the mask in terms of material and divided into: "A beginning that we do not forget and before Moving on to jobs, we should mention the material, as we can also classify the mask from this angle - there are masks made of expensive materials, such as gold, for example - and these are usually small in size according to the high cost of the material that allows placing fine details - and they are not used as a mask for the face, Rather, they are like pendants attached to the neck, and so on. There are masks made of cloth, for example - or of ropes, i.e. made of cheap materials." "All of these classifications show how varied the subject

we are dealing with, as the shapes are not defined. To take advantage of the existing statues of the face, to confirm it, so that the mask becomes after that, and it seemed completely away from the human form.” A- Dance masks: “There are certain types of masks that are made for the purpose of appearing at dance parties during the agricultural season to bring rain, grow crops, or for the fertility of the land. or to obtain protection for the fields.” “In many cases, as is currently the case with the Messianic tribes, and the Coramba tribes of Upper Volta in West Africa, we find masks for burial rites. Sometimes it aims to capture a soul by embodying its head or body with a statue, and allows the mask-bearer to see the deity in front of the deceased, thus granting him immortality.. And when an old member of the community dies, some of the other members, who are in distant villages, all gather to mourn, To give the dead the highest signs of veneration and honor.” b- Decorations masks: “This reminds us of another type of masks - masks bearing medals and signs that express social status, positions and ranks that distinguished this person in his life; The social role of the mask here is a tangible thing, which appears in the mask’s reception of gifts to express the importance of the position occupied by the late deceased among the mourners, and in their attempt to please and compensate the family of the deceased after his death.” C- Healing masks: “We also find healing masks. People, for the mask appears, and for him he is an imaginary being that is the cause of diseases, and therefore, he becomes the one who helps to cure those diseases. Rather, we find - sometimes - that the disease has become in the eye of the patient, and thus the cure is just around the corner. Then we come after that. To the secret-keeping masks - which receive the members of the tribe who suffer under the burden of their sins - or carry secrets they cannot bear to carry - this mask receives them to receive those secrets from them, so they feel comfortable after they disclose their secrets to the faithful God D - Bell masks: "There are masks called bell masks... Masks appear in celebrations to entertain the residents of the village, so they are the last of these groups, and although their function above all is to be for entertainment, these celebrations often aim for a specific educational purpose... That is because in some cases, while the mask performs its function of entertainment, it accompanies Also with stories and stories of heroes or by broadcasting folk poems to some people. It is worth mentioning here that some of the current masked European holidays, such as Rottweiler Festival, for example, show remnants of the force of the mask, because the party ends with the trial of the responsible person, during which, some demands are made to the municipality, which agrees to meet These demands, in any case, those types mentioned here and others that stand out, were always surrounded by respect and reverence, imbued with fear, because they always appear as a sign of supernatural forces. In order to be fair, it must be said that there is one basis that forms the structure of all production of mask art - that is the symbolism that links it with the complex myths of creation, which are an important part of daily life, for both the group and the individual - so that it expresses that message and makes it understandable. The symbols are woven into the fabric of the shape of masks of various kinds, and these, in turn, are easily perceived by those who relate to this ritual world; This form-based language as a means of understanding and learning makes quick and direct understanding simple and clear, though, for us, it may be incomprehensible and complex.