

Keith E. McNeal

*Ecstasy in Exile*  
**Spirits and Transculturation in the Southern Caribbean**

(November 2009)

TABLE of CONTENTS

prologue. Ecstasy

The Mother Intervenes.  
From Agony to Ecstasy and a Passage to India.  
Ecstasy.  
Meeting Erile.  
Ecstasy in Exile.

ch 1. Catching Power, Playing Deep

Conceptualizing “Power” and the “Powers.”  
“Manifestation” versus “Possession.”  
The Arts of Trance as Alter-Cultural Practice.  
Playing Deep.  
The Anthropological Ethic and the Spirit of Comparison.  
Orientation, Overview, and Methodology.

ch 2. Hierarchy and Heterodoxy in a Maze of Color

Precocious Modernity and the Caribbean as Alter-Native.  
From Colonial Backwater to Slave Society in the Southern Caribbean.  
Creole Society and the Advent of Freedom.  
Enter the East/West Indians.  
Colony into Nation.  
Race and the Politics of Postcolonial Multiculturalism.  
Ecstasy, Hierarchy, Heterodoxy.

ch 3. Serving the Orishas

Tracking the Orisha Circuit.  
Habitats of the African Powers.  
Shango’s Southern Caribbean Genealogy.  
A Prismatic Pantheon.  
Structure and Improvisation in the Feast Script.  
Serving the Orishas.

ch. 4. Doing the Mother's Work

From the Outside-In, From the Inside-Out.

Colonial Precursors: Community Kali Puja and Madrassi Firepass.

Postcolonial Innovations: the First Wave and Beyond.

Another Prismatic Pantheon: Mother Kali and Her Coterie.

Vibrating for the Deotas.

ch. 5. Sides and Paths: Spirits and Transculturation in the Southern Caribbean

Kali and the Transculturation of Shakti Puja.

Shango and the Transculturation of Orisha Worship.

Structural Convergence and Subaltern Liberalization: Shango and Shakti Puja Compared.

ch. 6. Religion and the Politics of Diaspora in an Era of Postcolonial Multiculturalism

Religion and the Maze of Color in an Era of Postcolonial Multiculturalism.

Black Power and the Transformation of Shango into Orisha.

Transforming Shango into Orisha.

“Africanizing” a Problematically “African” Religion.

Hindu Renaissance and the Failure of the Maha Kali Shakti Temple Association.

Religion and the Alter-Nationalist Politics of Diaspora.

epilogue. Ecstasy in Exile

Trance and Transculturation.

Ecstasy in Exile and the Liberal Spirits of Modernity.

appendix. Note on “Creolization” and “Syncretism”