Nina Munge Ajebe, "Entry on: On the Road of an Angel [Sur la route d'un ange] by Thierry Ntamack", peer-reviewed by Daniel A. Nkemleke and Elizabeth Hale. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/217. Entry version as of October 31, 2026.

Thierry Ntamack

On the Road of an Angel [Sur la route d'un ange]

Cameroon (2011)

TAGS: African Traditions Afterlife





We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	On the Road of an Angel [Sur la route d'un ange]
Studio/Production Company	JNBC Film Academy
Country of the First Edition	Cameroon
Country/countries of popularity	Cameroon
Original Language	French
First Edition Date	2011
First Edition Details	*Sur la route d'un ange* [On the Road of an Angel]. Directed by Thierry Ntamack, JNBC Film Academy, August 2011, 26 min.
Running time	26 min
Awards	FESPACO 2013, Ouaga
Genre	Motion picture, Short films
Target Audience	Crossover
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This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children's and Young Adults' Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.

Creators



Thierry Ntamack (Actor, Director)

Thierry Ntamack is a Cameroonian film director, actor and humourist. *Sur la route d'un age* [On the Road of Angels] is his first film produced in 2011. He has also written two other films, namely *La Patrie d'abord* [Fatherland First] (2016) and *Le Blanc d'Eyenga* [Eyenga's European Husband] (2015). The former is a story of the Cameroonian army who have been fighting a war with the terrorist movement, Boko Haram, in the north of the country. The latter is a story of deception in love.

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Additional information

Casting

Thierry Ntamack, acts in the movie as Tony Essakara

Willy Mbo, acts as in the movie Elia (The Ghost)

Clémentine Essono, acts as Mrs Beaufia

Hermine Yollo, acts as Estelle

Léopold Nyom, acts as Priest

Summary

*On the Road of an Ange*l is a very popular Cameroonian movie which confirms the well-known assertion that 'God walks straight on crooked lines'. The movie opens with Mrs Beaufia, the CEO of a company, reciting a Christian prayer (Holy Mary) in the native language, Ewondo*. In front of her are a series of candle lights. She is praying to God for the peaceful ascent of her late daughters' soul in heaven. In the next scene, we are introduced to Tony, the main protagonist in the story, who gets up in the morning, hugs and kisses the picture of his dead grandmother hung on the wall. After the prayer, he leaves for the Basilica, where he usually worships. After the worship session, he encounters a strikingly beautiful lady, driving in a nice car, who pleads to him to lead her to the Municipal Cemetery. While on their way, the lady asks Tony about his profile and realises that he is an unemployed youth in spite of his high level of education. She promises to help him. She gives him a complimentary card and asks him to call the number on it and apply for the post of an Assistant Manager in Mrs Beaufia company. After a few meters, she stops the car and Tony gets out. Tony is amazed at this strange encounter. As he reads the complimentary card, the lady tries to say a few last things to him before take-off. When Tony lifts up his head to respond, he finds no one around. The lady and the car had disappeared.

We are now introduced to the next scene, where Mrs Beaufia and her secretary, Estelle, are seen discussing the need for her to get an Assistant Manager for her company. She tells her secretary to advertise the vacancy right away. While the secretary is still typing this job advertisement, Tony calls the number on the complimentary that had been given to him by the strange lady and it happens to be the number of Mrs Beaufia. Tony explains that he has been directed to

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apply for the job of an Assistant Manager in the company. This makes Mrs Beaufia utterly confused, since she was still about to make the vacancy public. She then asks this "strange" young man (Tony) to come to her office right away. When Tony arrives, Mrs Beaufia demands that he tells her who told him that they were looking for someone with a profile as his. Tony's inability to explain the strange encounter between himself and the strange lady at the cemetery makes Mrs Beaufia very angry. Consequently, she orders that he be arrested. Just at that moment, Tony sees the picture of the strange lady on Mrs Beaufia's table and screams that she is the one who hooked him up. This further complicates issues as Mrs Beaufia tells everyone the lady on the photograph in question that Tony is pointing at is her only daughter who died in a car crash.

A Priest is called in to talk to Mrs Beaufia and Tony separately in order to find out what is really happening. From the discussion with the Priest, it is discovered that Tony is indeed the baby Mrs Beaufia abandoned long ago when she gave birth in secondary school, and had kept this part of her life as a secret. The old woman who adopted Tony was just a foster parent and the only family Tony knew. Mrs Beaufia and Tony are surprised to realise that they are actually mother and son. This incident changes Tony's life as he is made the General Manager in his mother's company. His expertise makes the company prosper and they both live happily ever after.

* One of the local languages spoken in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Analysis

The film highlights the complexities and mysteries that characterize human relationships. More specifically, it foregrounds the Biblical verse that "the rejected stone may be the corner stone"*. This is revealed through the baby whom Mrs Beaufia abandoned at birth, who grows up to be the "savior" of her company and her companion at her old age. The child she kept and invested in does not live long to fulfill her aspirations. The mystery that characterizes the relationship between the abandoned child and the mother is spiritually mediated through the dead daughter. This illustrates the influence of the dead on the living, which is a belief held in many world cultures.

In terms of its religious connection, the events can be linked to divine

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justice and divine providence because inasmuch as she tries to keep her first birth a secret, the gods found a way to reveal it. This mostly happens by way of appearance of the ghost of a dead person, physically or in a dream, which comes for various reasons ranging from punishment and revenge, through warnings and necromancy, to revealing and solving mysteries. Most often, these ghosts reveal sources or causes of their deaths, and often seek revenge if their deaths were caused by someone. These ghosts are believed to speak to humans directly.

Furthermore, the spirit (of the young woman) that drives Tony to his destiny can be considered his guardian angel.

Other themes in the film include religious faith, child abandonment, secrecy and divine justice, and forgiveness.

* Psalmes 118.22. King James Bible (KJV): "The stone [*which*] the builders refused / is become the head [*stone*] of the corner"; English Standard Version (ESV): "The stone that the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone".

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	African Traditions Afterlife
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Abandonment Ghosts Justice Parents (and children) Religious beliefs

Further Reading

Finucane, Ronald C., *Appearances of the Dead: A Cultural History of Ghosts,* New York: Prometheus Books, 1984.

Mbiti, John S., *African Religions and Philosophy*, Portsmouth:

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Heinemann, 1969.

Addenda

First Premiered at: Goethe Institute of Yaoundé.

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