

ABSTRACT. Zimoń Henryk, *Wielowymiarowe znaczenie afrykańskich rytuałów pogrzebowych (na przykładzie ludu Konkomba)* [Multidimensional meaning of the African funeral rituals (The Konkomba people example)]. *O wielowymiarowości badań religioznawczych* [On multidimensionality of the research of religion] edited by Z. Drozdowicz - „Człowiek i Społeczeństwo” vol. XXIX, Poznań 2009, pp. 215-226. Adam Mickiewicz University Press. ISBN 978-83-232-1972-9. ISSN 0239-3271.

The author of the article presents social, religious and symbolic meaning of the African double funeral rituals, with special reference to the Konkomba people of northern Ghana. The African rituals of the first and secondary funerals belong to the most extended of all the rites of passage. They emphasize the changing of the status and social functions of the dead and living people as well as they integrate the family, lineage, clan and supraclan groups. Different rites and symbolic actions of the double funerals confirm the triumph of the community over death, the value of life, beliefs of the Africans in the afterlife and possibility for elderly people (men and women) to attain the dignity of ancestors after death. Spiritual and painful experiences associated with death are expressed among others by such symbols as: a calabash, water, shaving off the head and dances.

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