

"Isangoma" [Digest urth.v024.n014]

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 16 Mar 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/1431>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

John Bishop — 16 Mar 1999, 08:48

It may not be related, but "Isangoma" is a "diviner" in traditional Zulu medicine. Is there a Robert and Marie in South Africa who would be the obvious referents?

<http://www.hst.org.za/update/37/policy4.htm>

(via AltaVista)

-John Bishop

Peter Stephenson — 16 Mar 1999, 14:09 · follows John Bishop

John Bishop wrote:

It may not be related, but "Isangoma" is a "diviner" in traditional Zulu medicine. Is there a Robert and Marie in South Africa who would be the obvious referents?

<http://www.hst.org.za/update/37/policy4.htm>

Looks like you're on to something here, since this document also contains the sentence:

The Thikoloshe is the familiar of the night sorcerer and sent by him.

which is presumably the same as what I remember as `tokoloshe'. `Night sorcerer' is a good description of a torturer in a fuligin cloak.

While I'm showing my incredible grasp of cutting and pasting, it might be worth passing on the central description of `isangoma' from near the bottom:

There are two principal types of Zulu Traditional practitioners. The "doctor" or Inyanga is usually male and has a comprehensive knowledge of Zulu medicines. The skills of this individual are usually passed from father to son. The Isangoma, usually female is a diviner. She is said to be chosen by her ancestors who bestow upon her a clairvoyant diagnostic powers. In addition to these traditional healers there are also a growing number of faith healers who belong to one of the numerous religious sects. The rituals of such sects while nominally Christian are often heavily overlaid with non-Christian traditional features that are characteristic of a culture in transition.

corncrake