

Hadjia Bitamzui

Myth of the Creation of the Giziga People of Maturwa

Cameroon

TAGS: [African Mythologies](#) [African Storytelling](#) [African Traditions](#) [Chaos Gods](#)



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| General information | |
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Creators



Hadjia Bitamzui (Storyteller)

Age of the narrator: 74 (in 2018)

Social status: Commoner

Profession: Cattle farmer

Language of narration: Giziga

Bio prepared by Eleanor A. Dasi, University of Yaoundé 1, wandasi5@yahoo.com and Larissa Aïcha Saïd, University of Yaoundé 1, larissaichasaid@gmail.com



Additional information

Origin/Cultural Background/Dating

Background: The Giziga people are traditionally hunters and cattle farmers and are also involved in subsistence agriculture. They live together with their animals (Fig. 1). They practice polygamy and have elaborate traditional rites associated with births, marriages and deaths. They have a unique style of building houses (see Fig. 2). Each wife would normally have her own individual home/hut in the larger compound of adjoining houses, and the husband would also have his own. A regular time-table is fixed for each wife to meet the husband, and each one has their turn within the month. Although this practice is dying down because of the encroachment of the city which makes it difficult for men to get married to many women, it is still a strong marker of identity for a traditional Giziga man. They worship the *kuli* (i.e. traditional religion) and Christianity and Islam has made little impact on these people.



Fig. 1. A typical outdoor kitchen of a Giziga woman in a polygamous fenced-compound (photo taken by Larissa Aïcha Saïd).



Fig. 2. A typical compound of a Giziga man with adjoining houses for wives (photo taken by Larissa Aïcha Saïd).

Summary

At the beginning of time *haiggibuilmuluung* (the house of the gods or the sky) and the earth were touching each other. Trees and all the vegetation were very tall and even touching *haiggibuilmuluung*. At this time no living thing existed. *Bouilmulvung* (the god) was very angry that his house was being invaded by trees. He was afraid that this encroachment by the vegetation may one day drive him out of his habitation. Then he, *Bouilmulvung*, told the Earth "your trees are usurping my habitat to drive me away, I will punish you for that." *Bouilmulvung* then threw a thunderbolt from the height of *haiggibuilmuluung* onto the Earth and all the vegetation was consumed by fire. After the fire followed torrents of water, which filled the entire space between the Earth and his house. It took three days for the water to retreat. After which, *Bouilmulvung*, whose anger had not yet calmed down, said to the earth again "I will now defile you with faeces, I'll see if you are strong enough to bear the weight." Then he poured down faeces and it formed a pile like a mountain, adding to the water that had been sent down before. The water became the rivers. Seven days later, *Bouilmuvung*, who at this moment has finally forgiven the Earth, sent down from *haiggibuilmuluung* human beings and animals. Every man arrived with his hands full of grains. Half of these provisions were eaten, the other half sown. From these seeds came out the cereals, plants and trees, and all things took the form that they have today. This Earth and the river now became the habitation of the Giziga people, who now still live in that land called Mutturwa.

Analysis Like many other creation myths, this myth echoes the idea of a supreme being at the helm of creation. The myth helps to explain the mystery of the beginnings of life and all things, and also brings to light the cosmology of the Giziga people, while at the same time accentuating their religious beliefs.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts [African Mythologies](#) [African Storytelling](#) [African Traditions](#) [Chaos](#) [Gods](#)

Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture [Humanity](#) [Religious beliefs](#)

Further Reading Sproul, Barbara C., *Primal Myths: Creation Myths around the World*, San Francisco, CA: Harper-Collins, 1991.

[The origin of the Human Races](#), available at creation.com (accessed: April 10, 2019).

Addenda Method of data collection: Recording and note taking

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