



## A Dance of the Forests

*Wole Soyinka*

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This drama was first performed as part of the Nigerian Independence Celebrations.

### A Dance of the Forests Details

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Author : Wole Soyinka

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## From Reader Review A Dance of the Forests for online ebook

### Asser Mattar says

Very poetic and symbolic. It is something more to be felt than understood. Reminded me of Greek tragedies.

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### Varsha Seshan says

I was introduced to Soyinka with relatively simple poems, and was so struck by them that venturing into a full-length play was the natural next step. Quite honestly, the first time I read this one, I understood nothing at all. I stubbornly refused to re-read what I'd already read, in the conviction that if I were watching the play, I would not be able to do that.

Watching a play as complex as this one would be a unique experience, though, totally unlike reading it. In the web of time that Soyinka weaves, watching the play would allow us to associate the same faces with characters in different times - which finally convinced me to go back to parts when I did not quite understand something!

The second reading was thus for me like unravelling a ball of wool. It was mind-opening to understand how wonderfully the play is layered, while accepting that in all likelihood, I still have not understood it very well! I was astounded by its complexity and the courage of a writer who could stage something like this as part of the independence day celebrations!

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### Kukku Siva says

"Leave the dead some room to dance"

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### Samar says

What an incredibly complex and divine play! I had to read it at least thrice before matters became clear to me. Soyinka delves into so many directions, traditions and forms as to boggle the senses. And what's more is the astonishing degree to which I can relate my country's events with Nigeria's post-independence struggle. But then this play lifts up from the day in whose commemoration/critique it was written. (His tongue-in-cheek national concern reminds me somewhat of Anwar Maqsood.) By involving the Yoruba mythology, Soyinka extends the framework to encompass the cosmos to include and mingle the four realms of the living, the ancestors, the un-dead and the godly entities; connected by a strange chthonic void.

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### Vivek says

The presentation of Yoruba worldview to the non-Yoruba is a very significant benefit of reading this book. We get the picture of the African socio-religio structure with a sharp political irony. The political irony is really important to understand the post-colonial picture of independent Nigeria.

Soyinka, is one of the best African writers. Reading him, thus, is significant.

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**Constanze says**

Reading this only led to an incredible amount of confusion. Definitely not my thing.

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**Mehnaaz Zaidi says**

Loved it. The Culture, the Story, the discription... All of it

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**Hope Widmayer says**

pair with zahrah the windseeker for wild forest, forest alive, spirits, tradition, mythology.

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