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### Chapter 3

I loved the opening of this chapter because it teaches us to be open to other cultures. Being that this is a Christian private school. I like that there is a class motivating us to get to know other cultures and acknowledge their beliefs and commemorate them. I grew up with strict Christians that didn't allow us to know of worldly things because they were afraid of us falling into the "incorrect" path of life. When this class shows us to put ourselves in another culture. To feel either a geographical change in culture like traveling, viewing the origin of it a spectacle view or virtual travel seeing pictures videos of other cultures which thanks to the internet we get to virtually travel very often. Or entering the physical world of that dance.

I was very interested by a quote in this chapter that said that sd “it is only when one enters into another society and becomes a different person --a foreigner-- for a while that one can learn what otherness really means” its said to us very simply that we wont know how others really are if we dont put ourselves in a position like foreigners do to learn the ways of others. Many people are lazy settled and closed minded enough that they dont want to experience new things. Or so willing to stay in the same groove that they wonder why they’re so boring. its a big lesson that is being provided to the reader.

As we continue on in chapter 3 we are introduced to the african dance of divine motion. They believe that God came down and shared his most precious gift which to them is Ashe a universal force that is a divine living power that is actived through movement . a divine nature that each person can express.

We ourselves can find “Ashe” in us by preforming basic physical movements. It begins with good straight standing Posture reaching up to the sky and paying homage to our ancestors.

It’s really about saluting yourself before you salute others. Which is highly respected by me because it is a performance of self respect and appreciation to yourself. Many dances don’t have that symbolism. It’s more about impressing others and an individual we are interested in pleasing. This makes the African dance “ the divine motion “ really live up to its name.

Studying a culture is the best way to understand why they do such things . I feel as though that's what allows us to make connections to why things are done the way they should. Which pains me since I know many people who are in such a denial state that they don't want to hear of it.

Being that they're religion doesn't allow it or their parents think it's wrong. Strapping them in bondage and keeping it in their minds that it's totally wrong. Which could even develop fears of it. These motions or dances , the way they see it is that their ancestors did the same movements. To me it's a really a beautiful analogy that you are doing what your ancestors once did . I looked at it like that before I even read this in a sense. Not in a dancing aspect but a more physical and situational aspect. The way I make my decisions or characteristics. Right there is a great example of making connections that this chapter helped me realize. How we have so much in common with said " others". A great way to learn what otherness is.

This dance gets very emotionally deep to me surrendering yourself or I would like to say submitting to doing this dance can take you through a enlightening process getting more intact with mind body soul and spirit. Including rhythm. Taping into these things that I've mentioned can even place you into the tribes that once were in this society.

The best way to describe this dance is like the chapter said "dramatic" after watching a video of this dance I see that it is a group of people that dance to the beat of the drum. Shouting in their natural ways seems to be an expression of enjoyment they go through as they dance.

To master this dance like many other things in the world is all about repetition.

After reading this I feel as though African dance culture has much to do with what culture we live in now. Being that New York is full of so many ethnicities. African American culture when it comes to dancing is very fun.