

WHAT IS ADÜGÜRAHANI OR DÜGÜ?

Reference: "Adugurahani: a Walk Through Garifuna Spiritualism" by I. Myrtle Palacio, June 2011

#WABAROUWAGOUN

Consisting of 9 highly structured rituals, Dügú is a sacrosanct ceremony which is the authority system rooted in the spiritual health of the Garifuna people. Its opening and closing rituals recognize the importance of upholding kinship through the Áfunahoutían, and the Malí ritual as central to the healing process.

Adügürahani is a symbolic marker of the Garinagu of Belize and other Central American countries, whose practice is still embraced. It is a complex system of inter-related rituals based on lineal kinship, and is a natural output of the cultural practices and belief systems. The former demonstrates the significance of the system of agüriahani, an obligatory parent-child-parent relationship cycle and reciprocity with kinfolks through sharing.

Central to the Dügú ceremony is the Malí ritual which this study has identified as the authority system rooted in spiritual health that according to tradition should not be compartmentalized. The primary reason is that the Malí together with the Abelagudahani and Awisahani rituals form a whole in the context of spiritual healing. Each Malí is dedicated to Ancestral spirits or Gubida.

By definition, one of the benefits of Adügürahani is spiritual health. Other outputs are the reinforcement of traditional values and standards of behaviour particularly that of agüriahani or reciprocity which strengthens the bond of kinship. It is in the spirit of Garifunaduáü, of au bún amürü nún (I for you and you for me), a way of life which gives credibility to the Garifuna people.

The ceremony is conducted in a Dabuyaba by a Buyei or Buyenu (plural). Music consists of 3 segunda drums and the Buye's sísira. The songs are called úgulendu. Lastly, Garifuna culture does not espouse the terms Temple, nor Priest/Priestess, but Dabuyaba and Buyei respectively.