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Nigerian Culture (more than money to us)

You've probably heard people say, "money isn't everything," and that's partially true. Everybody wants money, even Nigerians, but our culture plays a significantly important role in our lives which money could never buy. So, that saying "money isn't everything" is fairly true because there are cultural things in Nigeria that money can't buy, and of course plenty of things that money can buy. Culture, on the other hand is a quality instilled in each of us to behave a certain way, and fills up a part of our everyday lives. It's passed on from generations, and leads us through life with our beliefs, religion, and basic moral rules.

Money cannot buy family support. In Nigeria everyone in a village practically knows everybody as if they're all part of the same family. If you are having a difficult time doing something you can usually get some encouragement and support from someone. If your talking about Nigeria don't even try to say people have small families, because most people are brought up with extended relations. That pretty much means both sides of

the family have many siblings, and relatives. This cultural richness, support and interaction are definitely worth more than money.

Our ethnic background/cultural beliefs are a bigger part of our culture than money. Nigeria has over 250 ethnic groups and is about 2 ½ times the size of California. That's huge. But the largest and most well known tribes are of course the Ibo, Yoruba, and Hausa-Fulani. Most of these tribes still highly cherish their traditional languages, literature, music, and dance. Highlife was very popular in the 60's among the Igbo people but slowly started fading away. The most popular and well-known performer of Nigeria was indeed the one and only Fela Kuti. His Afrobeat sound made him the most famous musician in the history of Nigeria. This cultural background and the fact that my parents are Ibo's, is the basis of my knowledge of highlife music.

Nigerian foods are worth more than money. If you're a Nigerian then you've probably eaten yams, rice, soups, stews, chinchin, and chicken. Those are typical foods eaten in Nigeria. Fruits are also enjoyed year-round. These dishes are very flavorful and can only be prepared a certain way by only a Nigerian.

There are many different groups of people in Nigeria and some of those tribes have significantly important beliefs. For example, in the Ibo culture having a baby boy first is significantly important because it shows that there is going to be a continuance in the family.

Nigeria has also made its mark in global sports like soccer, boxing and many others. Nigeria's national soccer team "The Super Eagles" is one of the best teams in Africa, and is making its way to the top. A famous Nigerian based basketball player, who played center for the Houston Rockets was the all-time great, Hakeem Olajuwon. His determination, leadership and skill made him one of the greatest basketball players of all time, were all cultural traits. .

Nigerian culture surely is more than money. With money you could put your parents in a retirement home when they get old, but that's not the Nigerian way. The right way, which is the Nigerian way, is taking care of them, feeding, clothing, and basically switching the role of the parent taking care of the kid. Our culture is a fundamental part of us that can never be lost. Nigerians may often lose patience, but never lose hope.

