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THE KARRAYYUU OROMO FAITH

WAAQEFFANNAA

Waaqeffannaa is the traditional religion of the Karrayyuu. It is a monotheistic religion based on the belief in one supreme God (Waaqa). Waaqa is the creator and guardian of all things. Waaqeffatas believe that God speaks through nature, and his revelations are seen in the happenings that befall them. Abundant rainfall, the birth of children, and the general prosperity of the people and their livestock are seen as God showing his good favor, while drought, illnesses, and deaths signal the opposite.

It is believed that Waaqa gave everything its own specific place in the order of the cosmos.

This goes back to the concept of *Safuu*, which the Karrayyuus follow. The unique characteristics that each individual possesses are thought to be what make this ordering of everything apparent. From each lone tree in the forests to the animals that grace it and the leaves that have already fallen. This distinct character that each plant and animal has is seen as the true manifestation of Waaqa in the world.

Waaqa's creative power is known as *Ayyana* by the Karrayyuu. *Ayyana*, the embodiment of the celestial power that is present in all living creatures, is thought to be what determines





Symbolic offerings to give thanks are a party of all ceremonies of the Karrayyuu as per the traditional Waaqeffannaa faith

the true destiny of every living thing. The Karrayyuu carry out a range of ceremonies in celebration of *Ayyana*, which include the *Atete*, *Hirsii*, *Gamesssa*, *Biyyoo*, *Jinfuu*, *Hujufa*, and *Jaari* Celebrations.

For the Karrayyuu, the *Qaallus* are the most important of all the spiritual leaders. The Karrayyuu oral tradition states that the *Qaallu* come from the same root, so a person can become a *Qaallu* from both the *Dullah* and *Baaso* lines of the Karrayyuu. *Qaallu* is not a gendered role, and, as such, both men and women, who are referred to as *Qalliti*, can become spiritual leaders. This includes women

who marry into the family as well.

Always starting with a general prayer for peace, both the women and men of the Karrayyuu devote a significant part of their day to prayers and blessings. Every day, the Karrayyuu women conduct prayers after making butter and releasing the animals in the morning, and the Karrayyuu men lead the prayers during the coffee ceremonies that are carried out during the day.