



Aidemet Ong

Aid to the Development of the Traditional Medicine

Non-Governmental No-Profit Organization

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"To try to save the indigenous pharmacopoeia that is sinking into oblivion because of the European therapy; to attract the benevolent attention of the pharmacist-chemist on the medicinal plants of Mali; to usefully inform the physician on the nature of the drugs that the sick African has probably consumed before coming to the dispensary, to the ambulance or to the hospital; to help the physician that doesn't always have access to industrial pharmaceutical products; to help the European, that arrives in this earth of Mali, to know more quickly the environment he has called to live within; to incite, finally, other children of this country to devote themselves to modest searches like ours; to let the pharmacist-chemist know the medicinal plants of Mali; like that are our objectives."

"We assisted, in places far from all medical facilities, to *miraculous recoveries by the plants*. We have seen some people completely recovered from the leprosy, from the elephantiasis, from the pulmonary tuberculosis, from the cardiac affections, from the asthma, from the liver cirrhosis, etc. We ourselves, exclusively using the plants, have *saved many human lives* during our trips of prospecting in the villages of the country. *And these plants, we don't look for, they are wherever. It is enough to stretch out one's hands for picking up them.* What is our amazement every time that we hear: "*These medicine misses*", while the most times, the remedy the absence of which is deplored, is in the court of the dispensary or the hospital. What our surprise to see Africa continuing to purchase medicines from foreign countries, instead of being, like is suitable, one of the countries great producers and exporters of pharmaceutical products. She has really everything on the place. What is lacking, they are some well equipped laboratories of research and some serious experts pushed out from a solid spirit of discovery."

DOMINIQUE TRAORE

AFRICAN MEDECINE AND MAGIC OR HOW BLACK PEOPLE TAKES CARE OF HIS HEALTH?

African presence, Paris-Dakar 1983

Abstract from the preface of the book of Dominique Traoré, written by Dr. Jean Noël Gassita of the Institute of Traditional Pharmacopoeia and Medicine, Libreville (Gabon)

" *African Medicine and Magic* is a book of *wisdom* and *hope*, not only destined to the million of men of Africa and of the Third World who doesn't have other resort that the *traditional medicine*, but also to the men of the developed countries who can learn that a *medicine of the total man* exists, a medicine that appeals to all the knowledge and practices, explainable or not, material and immaterial; a medicine that tries to show that, today more than in past, it should not exist only one way of taking care; finally, a medicine which tries to show that every medicine is valid, because its only and extreme purpose is to recover, sometimes, or to mitigate, often, the man from its pains."

Phrases chosen by Dr Rokia Sanogo, President of Aidemet Ong