

God, Family, and Land

During my time as a **Peace Corps volunteer** living in a remote village in Zambia, I discovered that a well-adjusted society operates within a clear hierarchy: **God, Family, and Land**. These three elements form the foundation of life in the village.

God

Regardless of religious affiliation—whether **Atheist, Muslim, Jewish, or Christian**—there is an undeniable recognition of the **divine connection** between the people and the land they inhabit. This spiritual bond reinforces a sense of purpose and belonging within the community.

Family

In the village, **family is government**. Life isn't dictated by external institutions like politicians or lawyers. Instead, the family unit functions as the primary source of governance and support. Each person has a **distinct role to play**, ensuring the well-being of the collective.

"In a thriving community, your life is just as important as your neighbor's."

Meals are shared, responsibilities are distributed, and everyone works together toward a common goal. The family becomes a microcosm of the larger community—a **single tribe, one family**.

Land

The land is both a resource and a responsibility. It provides sustenance and livelihood, grounding the community in a shared effort to thrive. The connection to the land is sacred, emphasizing stewardship and respect for nature.

Final Thoughts

God, family, and land create a harmonious balance in a well-functioning society. These principles remind us that life is about more than individual success—it's about **community, collective responsibility, and a deep connection to the world around us.**