

The Etiology of Evil in the Shona Traditional Religion

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ABSTRACT The notion of “directing evil” implies that the occurrence of evil is not something that just happens but something that has a ‘direction’ and a ‘director’. This is the common sense pattern of thinking that most people subscribe to, especially on matters that relate to the bad, as well as the good things. Naturally humans prefer to predict, prevent and avert evil, and if that is not possible they like to explain and understand it and place it within a certain order and context. The paper thus explores the basic structures along which the evil of illness and disability is perceived and directed and what implications this may have for professional contacts with ill and disabled persons.