

Hazeez Shittu

## Who Am I in Dress?

In the discourse surrounding gender, dress, and society, the power of storytelling emerges as a central theme. Scholars like Eicher, Roach-Higgins, and others have illuminated the expansive nature of dress, highlighting its role as a multifaceted form of self-expression and cultural representation. Within this framework, our T-shirt becomes a canvas upon which we paint our identity, intertwining symbols that hold profound meaning in our life's journey.

The Statue of Liberty, with its torch held high, symbolizes freedom, opportunity, and the pursuit of dreams. It stands as a beacon of hope and inclusivity, embodying the ideals we cherish and strive to uphold. Its presence on our shirt serves as a reminder of the values we hold dear and the aspirations we pursue.

The Nigerian flag, with its bold green and white stripes, evokes a sense of pride in our cultural heritage and identity. It speaks to our roots, tracing back to the land of our ancestors, and serves as a testament to the rich tapestry of traditions and experiences that shape who we are. Through this symbol, we honor our heritage and celebrate the diversity of our background.

The music symbol, with its rhythmic notes and harmonious melodies, represents our passion for creativity and expression. It transcends linguistic and cultural barriers, serving as a universal language that speaks to the depths of the human soul. Music has the power to inspire, uplift, and unite, and its inclusion on our shirt reflects the importance we place on artistic expression and emotional resonance.

The tie-dye technique, using turmeric as the dye, adds another layer of significance to our garment. It is a nod to the ancient art of textile dyeing, rooted in tradition and craftsmanship. The

vibrant hues and intricate patterns created through this process imbue the shirt with a sense of individuality and authenticity, mirroring the complexity of our own identity.

In the realm of gender, our T-shirt challenges stereotypes and defies social perceptions. It transcends the limitations of traditional gendered attire, embracing a fluidity that reflects the diversity of human experience. By incorporating symbols that hold personal significance, we assert our right to self-expression and assert our identity on our own terms.

Our T-shirt is more than just an article of clothing; it is a narrative woven from threads of culture, heritage, and passion. It tells the story of who we are and what we value, inviting others to join us on our journey of self-discovery and self-expression. In the vast tapestry of dress, we find ourselves at the intersection of tradition and innovation, weaving together the strands of our identity to create a narrative that is uniquely ours.

References:

Roach-Higgins, M.E.; Eicher, J.B.. (1992). Dress and identity.. Association of College Professors of Textiles and Clothing. ; International Textile and Apparel Association