

Funga Alafia Greeting Explanation

Funga Alafia is a greeting song and dance throughout parts of West Africa. Some people attribute it to the Hausa people from Nigeria. Alafia is a Hausa greeting and Aasheey means something equivalent to good health and peace be with you. The song is often sung with gestures, touching the head and extending the arms, then the lips, then the heart and showing empty sleeves. These gestures symbolize greeting people with your thoughts, with your words, with your heart and then assuring them that you have no tricks up your sleeve, that you have come in peace.