



Kajuru

The Kajuru - autonym: Ajure - live in Kaduna State (Kajuru LGA). Their language belongs to the Plateau branch of the Niger-Congo language family. The Kajuru had their own small chiefdom until 1810, after which, like so many other peoples, they were overrun by the Fulani invaders.

Both massive sculptures (h: 66 and 64 cm) are virtually mirror images of each other. The expressive head with the large eyes and maw and the horns indicate that these are therianthrope figures, both male. In our opinion, the horns indicate an antelope. In side view, one clearly notices how gracefully the knee, head, torso and upper leg flow into one another. One leg is raised, the other continues horizontally behind the first. The maw rests on the raised knee. In one hand, the creature holds a child, in the other, a sceptre or similar ritual object.

We suspect that these heavily weathered sculptures were either part of a shrine or stood as guards at the entrance to a sacred hut.