

IFA IWA (Lesson 12) *Ọṣé Ifa* Ritual: *Afóṣé*

Greetings: ***Oriire fun owo!*** (Good Tidings to you!)

I pray that you are feeling awake, aware, and elevated in mind, body, and spirit wherever you are, and whatever may be happening around you!

Ase! Ase! Ase o!

I am Baba Umar, *Oluranse Emese*, (Voice of the *Emese*), Member of the *Isoro* Traditional Council of Chiefs, *Oluwo* of the House of Umar, and *Babalawo* of *Ile Awo Orisa*. This *Ile* (Spiritual House), our website, and these video lessons are certified and sanctioned by the *Isoro* Traditional Council of Chiefs in *Ile-Ife*, Nigeria.

Thank you for joining me for another lesson in our Video Series on *Ifa Iwa* (Ifa Practice) where we are discussing the elements of the ***Ose Ifa*** Ceremony with the intention of assisting you in establishing your own regular *Ifa* Practice.

Let me invite you to click the links below to become a Subscriber to this Channel, click the Notification button to stay up to date. Share this resource with your family, friends, associates, and anyone who you feel may benefit from this wisdom.

Homage to the One Who Sends, and to those who are sent!
Homage to *Orisa* and *Egun*!

Our Topic for this lesson is: ***Ọṣé Ifa* Ritual: *Afóṣé* Pt I - *Obi Afóṣé***

In *Ile Awo Ọ̀rìṣà* we use four (4) cowry shells to perform the ***Obi Afóṣé***. When it came time for me to perform the ***Itefa*** for my two new *Babalawos*, I had a question about the use of my cowry shells to pass on the ***Ikin Ifá*** (the ***Ifá*** seeds) to the ***Onitefa*** initiates. Of course, I took my question to the *Isoro* Traditional Council of Chiefs. So, for those who may wonder, the reply was clear:

Regarding the use of cowry shells as opposed to kola nuts or palm nuts:

“My cowries carry the essence of my ***Àṣẹ*** and as the saying goes:

Awo Sọrọ Àṣẹ gún!
The ***Awo***’s words are crowned with ***Àṣẹ***!

Whatever I chose to use as my divination tool only serves as a symbolic representation. The ***Àṣẹ*** is in my essence and my words. My COWRIES ARE MY ***IKIN IFA!***”

The first thing that will happen when using your cowry shells as the technology for divination is that you will greet them with a prayer.

Ago! Ago! Ago Obi mi!

Listen! Listen! Listen my Obi!

Obi mi, mo ki e o!

My Obi, I greet you!

Obi mi, mo ki e o!

My Obi, I greet you!

Obi mi, mo ki e o iki eye!

My Obi, I greet you with honor!

Obi mi, mo ki e o iki i'mo're!

My Obi, I greet you with gratitude!

Ase! Ase! Ase!

In using the *Obi* method of divination, the devotee can get a range of five possible responses to questions asked in a straightforward **yes** or **no** format. Using a **mouth up or open/mouth down or closed** notation for how the cowries fall we get the following possible responses:

- Absolute Yes - 4/0 ***Alafia***
- Conditional Yes - 3/1 ***Etawa***
- Balanced Yes - 2/2 ***Ejife***
- Conditional No - 1/3 ***Okanna***
- Absolute No - 0/4 ***Oyekun***

By understanding the cosmology of ***Odù Ifá***, the meaning of each of the responses, and their ***Òrìṣà*** correspondences, the devotee (or *babaláwo*) is able to obtain deeper and broader significance to the ***Obi*** responses.

This information will be covered in several parts in a separate set of about eight (8) lessons.

During your ***Obi Afòṣé*** performed for your ***Óṣé Ifá*** Ritual, you will ask **only** two (2) questions:

(1) ***Ni Óṣé Ifá mi aruda?***

Is my ***Óṣé Ifá*** acceptable/accepted?

This answer will form the **right leg** of your ***Odù***.

(2) ***Ni ona mi moju?***

Is my way/path clear/open?

This answer will form the **left leg** of your ***Odù***. To determine the ***Odù***, we have to observe how the cowries fall, that is, not just open or close, but also their alignment from top (farthest away from the caster) to bottom (closest to the caster). We get more into that in a later lesson.

When reading an ***Odù Ifá***, note that:

- The **Right Leg** is Male/Masculine, Linear, and Temporal.
- The **Left Leg** is Female/Feminine, Spiritual, and Emotional!

Over the course of the next 4-day cycle, this is the **Odù** that your **Orí** has given you to study.

Consider and **reflect** on these questions:

- *What was the Àṣẹ of the right leg? Ire (Alafia, Etawa, Ejife) - indicating alignment, on path, and strong potential for success; or Ibi (Okanna, Oyekun) - out of alignment, off path (osogbo), unfocused or misguided, resistant to change?*
- *What Òrìṣà were indicated on the right leg?*
- *What was the Àṣẹ of the left leg? Ire (Alafia, Etawa, Ejife) - indicating alignment, on path, and strong potential for success; or Ibi (Okanna, Oyekun) - out of alignment, off path (osogbo), unfocused or misguided, resistant to change?*
- *What Òrìṣà were indicated on the left leg?*
- *What might these energies and Òrìṣà(s) signify with regard to your petitioning, summoning, and your invoking, and evoking of the spiritual forces and entities?*

In order to perform this analysis, you need to know the deeper meaning of the **five responses**. That wisdom will begin with our next video lesson and will continue for about eight (8) additional lessons.

These lessons will unlock the some of the wisdom and methodology of **Obi Afọṣé** for you, and I want you to know that I am approaching these lessons with considerable introspection. In other words, I'm listening carefully to my **Orí** as to how much of this knowledge I should share with you in this open forum, and I am also seeking and listening to the advice of the **Isoro Traditional Council of Chiefs** in that regard. So, be prepared for me to stop these particular lessons whenever my **Orí** or the **Council** says I'm going too far or sharing too much.

Why? Because divination is a serious matter that should not be taken lightly and should not be played with by the insincere or ignorant. It takes knowledge, wisdom, and understanding to know how to approach divination.

- *How should I prepare myself for a divination session?*
- *What questions should I ask?*
- *How should I ask them?*
- *How should I interpret the answers I receive?*
- *What types of questions can I ask and what kinds of questions or issues should I take to my qualified Babalawo or Iyalorisa?*

So, I want you to listen to me carefully! Those of you who have been following these **Ifá Iwa** lessons and the other videos on my channel know that I share with you openly, insightful, and

always with your benefit, growth, and positive transformation in mind and heart. I don't want to put you on a path that might ultimately do you more harm than good.

Therefore, I'm advising you to use this knowledge of **Obi Divination** only as I am instructing you in the context of the **Ọṣẹ Ifá ceremony**. **You will ask two questions! That's it!** I've invited you to a growth process and I want you to trust me in determining the pace of that journey.

I want to read your questions and comments about these lessons below in the comment section, so get engaged if you are serious about traveling with me on this journey.

Also, I'm going to do a short introductory video on a new series of videos that I'm preparing for you. The series will give you a set of **seven (7) meditations** that are designed to help you free yourself from the shackles of **negative social programming** that we have all been subjected to, especially those of us who have been heavily influenced by the **Western Eurocentric Worldview**. The series will speak about our **Ara Ojubo** (Body Temple), our **7 Primary Energy Centers** (the 7 Chakras), the **3 Primary Energy Vessels** (the 3 Dan Tiens), and an extensive set of **Ọrìṣà-based Affirmations** to help you transform your body, mind, and spirit.

If you haven't already done so, Click those **Subscribe** and **Notification Buttons** so that you get your alerts when I upload new videos.

Ise Ọlorun Tobi!

God's Work is Great and Mighty!

Ase! Ase! Ase o!

Ki Olodumare, Oriṣa, ati Egun fifun e ni

Itona, Imoye, ati Opo Ire!

My *Olodumare, Oriṣa*, and Ancestors bestow on you
Guidance, Wisdom, and Abundant Blessings!

Ifokanbole! Peace of Mind from Olodumare!

Ajolo! Ajobo! We go out together! We return together!

Ase! Ase! Ase o!

(See Video Lesson 12 for detailed discussion.)