

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 sanctioned by the Isoro Traditional Council of Chiefs in Ile-Ife, Nigeria.*

Thank you for joining us for another lesson in our Video Blog Series. I invite you to **click the links below** to become a **Subscriber** to this Channel, click the **Notification** button to stay up to date, and **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 in this video review from my December 2016 Blog Post is:

Your Destiny and Your Fate

Many of the inquiries that I receive are from individuals who are seeking to discover or confirm the ***Orisa*** that Crowns their ***Ori***. Many other questions have to do with how one can know when they are On Path to fulfill their ***Destiny***. Although ***Ifa*** can provide us with the answer to these questions, through Divination, the craft of the ***Babalawos, Iyalorishas, Priests, and Priestesses***, many of us live in areas where such assistance is not available. How unfair it would be, not simply unfair but unjust, for ***Olódùmarè*** to put the longing for ***Ifa*** in your heart and then not provide you with a means of satisfying that longing. No soul is abandoned in this world. We all have the opportunity and means to be guided if we seek guidance. That opportunity is provided to you by your ***Ori***, your direct link to the Spiritual World (***Orun***), your assigned share of the ***Omni-Present, Omnipotent, Omniscient*** (All-Knowing Divine Consciousness) and Source of Everything.

Orimi Apere!

My ***Ori***, my Inner Head, Carrier of my Destiny!

In my presentations, where I have talked about the ***History of the Beginning***, I've stated that ***Olódùmarè*** is the ***Realm of Infinite Possibilities***. And further, that this ***Sentient Energetic Entity (SEE)*** decided that IT (***Orisun***) would to experience the fullness of what IT (***Orisun***) is, the fullness of the ***Realm of Infinite Possibilities***. If you can grasp that idea, then you might also grasp the notion that you and I were created as vehicles, mediums through which ***Olódùmarè*** can fulfill IT's own intended purpose for creation. In other words, ***Olódùmarè*** is experiencing the fullness of the Realm of Infinite Possibility through you and me. Or, putting it differently, you are

Olódùmarè expressing itself though the **persona**, the **avatar** (the body, mind, and spirit) that is you!

Now, don't get too cocky with this idea because **Olódùmarè** is also expressing ITSELF through every **insect**, every **bird**, every **fish**, every **animal**, every **tree**, every **rock**, **stone**, and **mountain**, every **force of nature**, every **star**, every **sound**, every **ray of light**, and every **mathematical law** and **quantum characteristic** of the universe. But you and I **are** special! We have been given a level of consciousness that allows us to be **self-aware**, and to review the **past**, choose how we will navigate the **present**, and we can anticipate and even create our **future**.

This understanding sheds light on the verses of the Sacred **Odu Ifa Irosu'wori** (78) that say:

"A wa gegebi Eniyan,
We as human beings,
A wa ni Olódùmarè yan,
We are the God's elect,
Lati lo tun, ile aye se,
Designated to renew the world,
Eni-a-yan ni wa...!"
We are the chosen ones!"

Let's consider the meaning of the name **Olódùmarè** (or *Eledumare*):

Oló òdù ma rè = Elé èdù ma rè

In both cases, the word begins with a **prefix** (**Oló** or **Elé**). These prefixes introduce someone or something who / that has (or possesses) / or has the quality of whatever thing (the noun) that comes next in the construction of the word.

Therefore:

Olódù = the owner of a pot / pot owner because **Èdù = Òdù** = pot or we could say **cauldron**/large pot.

Ma = (that does) not; a word of negation, and

Rè = to become exhausted or empty (of content) or to become finished.

In the Ifá worldview, Olódùmarè (the **Source**), is the Cauldron full of all of the resources and good fortune that humans and the creation need to be sustained forever.

Olódùmarè is:

- The All-Sufficient One!
- The Cauldron That Never Runs Empty!
- The Source of Abundance That Can Never Be Exhausted!
- The Source That Is Always Ready and Able to Provide!

Olódùmarè is the owner and **Source** of **Ifá** and **Ifá** is a kind of **Akasha** (**Akashic Record**).

Olódùmarè / Ifá is the Cauldron of All Time (*igba*), manifested and un-manifested, past, present, and future.

This is what we mean when we say:

Igba Olódùmarè nìgba!
Olódùmarè's time is time!

According to ***Ifá***, before you came into the world you chose your ***Ori***, your ***Orisa***(s), and a purpose for coming (your ***Destiny***). In other words, you choose what role you intend to play in the process of ***Olódùmarè*** experiencing the Realm of Infinite Possibilities. Your chosen ***Destiny*** is your ***Sacred Agreement*** with ***Ọlọrun*** (the aspect of ***Olódùmarè*** that is responsible for the activities of this time-space reality that we call the ***l'oja***). Your ***Ori*** is the divine guardian of your commitment to fulfill your ***Destiny***. It is your ***Ori*** that whispers to you while you are in the process of making your choices once you come into this world (***L'oja*** – the marketplace). Your ***Ori*** is always trying to guide you toward your ***Destiny*** with the least amount of deviation from the Path that you prescribed for yourself. It is your ***Ori***, not your ***Orisa*** that is the ***Carrier of your Destiny***. Your ***Orisa*** and their helpers and allies assist you by carrying out the will of your ***Ori*** or that which your ***Ori*** permits.

Orimi Apesin!
My ***Ori***, the Most Precious!

For the abovementioned reason, your ***Ori*** is the ***Most Precious*** thing that you brought with you into the world. In a sense we could say that it is the ***real you!*** It is the first that you should call to in the morning and the last that you should speak to at night. A believer once asked me, where is ***Olódùmarè*** in our prayers and consciousness. My answer was, your ***Ori*** is your direct link to the Creator and the purpose behind your existence. ***Olódùmarè*** is the One who instructed ***Ajala*** to fashion our ***Ori*** so that this link or connection between the Creator and His creations could be inviolate.

When you acknowledge your Spiritual ***Ori*** you are also paying Homage to the One Who is the Author of your existence. We do call ***Olódùmarè's*** name and pay Homage to ***Ọlọrun*** as the Creator. We demonstrate that our acknowledgement and praise is sincere by following the protocols that the Creator has put in place for our assistance and success in this world. That means calling on your ***Ori***, paying homage to your ***Egun*** and ***Orisa*** and calling on them for assistance through your prayers (***aduras***) and sacrifices (***ebos***), and turning to your priests or Babalawos when their expertise and special knowledge is required to seek ***Orunmila's*** guidance. Ultimately, in order for your prayers, ***ebos***, or divinations to be of any positive consequence they must be in harmony with your ***Ori, the Carrier of your Destiny! The Most Precious!***

Ohun Ori wa se,
Koma ni s alai se eo!
What ***Ori*** comes to fulfill,
It cannot but fulfill it!

Ori comes to fulfill a chosen ***Destiny***. The concept of ***Destiny*** is challenging for many people. First you have to get past the issue of predestination (which I spoke about in my last video), the idea of the divine foreordaining of all that will happen, which of course flies in the face of the

notion of free will and choice. The second obstacle that the concept of **Destiny** presents is expressed in the second question I mentioned above – *how do I know if I am fulfilling my **Destiny**?*

Destiny is not the same thing as predestination. Where predestination implies an absolute framework for every cause and consequence, **Destiny** implies that there is a **purpose** and **destination** that we intend to reach on our journey in the world, and from the *Ifa* perspective that purpose and destination is chosen, not imposed. There are certain events that will happen to you during your journey in this world, but those certainties are based upon your pre-birth and post-birth choices.

Cause and Effect; Choice and Consequence!

Destiny is also related to the concept of **synchronicity**, the simultaneous occurrence of events that appear significantly related but have no discernible causal connection. That **indiscernible causal connection** is the activity of your Spiritual *Ori* guiding you towards your **Destiny** through hints and signs. As believers in *Ifa*, we believe that we each come into the world to fulfill a certain destiny, Your Destiny, My Destiny. In other words, there are certain things that you WILL experience, do, and accomplish in life because they are the reason that you chose to come.

Destiny

Many of us think of our Destiny as some grand threshold that we will cross and all of a sudden life will be different, everything will become clear, and there will be loud music playing in the background in celebration of our grand accomplishment. Maybe, but not necessarily so! Your **Destiny always lies before you and yet you are living it everyday**. Think about that for a moment!

Your Destiny involves the things you say and do, the people you meet, the goals you achieve, the challenges you overcome, the hard lessons you learn, and everything else that is a part of your everyday life. The final chapter of your Destiny is not written when you reach some professional goal, receive some public acknowledgement, or retire from the last job you'll ever work. The final chapter is not written until you complete your journey in the *L'oja* and return to our *Orun N'ile* (Home in Heaven). Your Destiny is about the life that you live everyday because just as other people are being used to help you remember the purpose of your journey, you are also here doing the same thing for other people. People that you meet and interact with everyday in dozens of difference circumstances. This is one of the things that makes in *Iwa Pele* (Good Character) so important.

Fate

Often people use the terms destiny and fate interchangeably. We should make a clear distinction between the two terms. Your **Destiny** is the motivating force for your journey in the world. Your Spiritual *Ori* (inner head) is the Carrier of your Destiny and speaks to you with feelings, impulses, tendencies, desires, wishes, ideas, and inclinations that move and guide you towards Your Destiny. But! You have a **Spiritual Ori** (Ori Inu) and a **Physical Ori** (Ori Ode)! Your physical Ori is what binds your consciousness to the world (*L'oja*) and it is subject to the influences of the marketplace. **The challenge confronting all of us is to align the Choices of our physical Ori with the guidance of our Spiritual Ori.**

Ori inu wa maba tode je!

May our Spiritual Ori not be in conflict with our physical Ori!

- Your Destiny lies before you.
- Your Fate (the consequences of your choices) emerges from your past choices.
- Your Destiny and your Fate overlap in the present moment and they may be aligned or misaligned, in sync or out of sync.

- You are living your Destiny and shaping your Fate everyday with every decision and choice that you make, every action that you take, everything that you choose to do, and to not do.

- In other words, you will live the consequences of your choices!
- That is one of the Divine Laws that govern creation and that you agreed to abide by.
- That too is part of your Destiny!

Every day, you want to be able to say with confidence:

Ise ti Ori ran mi ni monje!

I am doing what I am destined to do.

Ona ti eda, la sile ni mo nto!

I am following my predestined path!

Your heart and your mind should feel in sync with every choice your make and every action you take.

Iba se Orunmila, e leri ipin, ibekeji Olodumare!

Homage to Orunmila, Witness of Fate, Second to the Creator!

Orimi Apesin!

My **Ori**, the Most Precious!

Ise Olorun Tobi!

God's Work is Great and Mighty!

Ase! Ase! Ase o!

Ki Olodumare, Orisa, ati Egun fifun e ni

Itona, Imoye, ati Opo Ire!

My Olodumare, Orisa, 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!