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An Ifá Primer

A Guide to Practicing Ifá Spiritual Science

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1. AN INTRODUCTION TO IFÁ

1.1 What is Ifá?

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In a broad sense, the *Yorùbá* noun **Ifá** refers to the traditional African system of spiritual cultivation that has been practiced in Yorùbáland, which spans southwestern and north central Nigeria, southern and central Benin, and part of Togo. Adherents of *Ifá* revere *Èlédàá* (Creator God, who is the owner of all beings), respect *òrìṣà* (ministerial agents who maintain divine order), and respect *egúngún* (honorable ancestors). Some diasporan traditions of *Ifá* are Cuban *Lucumí* (also called *Santería*), Brazilian *Candomblé*, and Brazilian *Umbanda*.

In a specific sense, the *Yorùbá* noun *Ifá* refers to **Èlà** (also called *Òrúnmilà*), the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom. *Èlà* governs the divination practice called **Ìdáfá** (bringing forth *Èlà*) or **Ifá dídá** (*Èlà* being brought forth). *Ìdáfá* is used by adherents who have been initiated to *Èlà*. Adherents who have been initiated to some other *òrìṣà* make use of the divination practice called **Èḗrìndílógún** (sixteen cowries). In *Lucumí* (the Cuban *Ifá* tradition), *Èḗrìndílógún* is called *Dilogún*.

1.2 The big picture

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The *Yorùbá* noun *orí* means ‘head’, both literally and figuratively. The term *orí-búburú* (bad headway) refers to bad luck, which is a condition in which one experiences an unusual series of unfavorable outcomes. The term *orí-rere* (good headway) refers to good luck, which is a condition in which one experiences an unusual series of favorable outcomes. The term *orí-inú* (inner head) refers to one’s disposition, which is one’s prevailing mental and emotional attitude.

The proper name *Orí* refers to Man’s godself, which is the part of Man’s being that shares in the divine attributes of omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence. On page 115 of his book *Ifá: An Exposition of Ifá Literary Corpus*, Ògúnwándé Abímbólá¹ states:

“The role of the gods is to aid *Orí* in leading every person to his destiny in life. Whatever a man’s *Orí* has refused to approve cannot be granted by any other god.”

Ifá says in *Ìrètè Òfún* that:

Àwọn irúnmọlẹ àtí Orí Èlédàá nlo s’óde Àpéré. Orí nikan dé ibẹ.

The *irúnmọlẹ* (divine ministerial agents) and *Orí Èlédàá* (Man’s godself) were going to the town of Life-fulfilment. *Orí* alone arrived there.

Ñjẹ, Orí gbóná jù òrìṣà lọ. Orí nikan l’ó kó wọn l’ápéré. Kò sí òrìṣà tí ó tó ní ìgbè léyìn Orí eni. Orí mà gbóná jù òrìṣà lọ.

¹ Abímbólá, Wándé, Oxford University Press (1976), ISBN-10: 019575199X, ISBN-13: 978-0195751994.

Therefore, *Orí* is ‘hotter’ than *òrìṣà* (divine ministerial agents). It is *Orí* alone who takes them (people) to life fulfilment. There is no *òrìṣà* who is sufficient in supporting behind the back of one’s *Orí*. *Orí* is indeed ‘hotter’ than *òrìṣà*.

Ifá says in *Ògúndá Méjì* that:

Tal’ó tó aláṣàán bá a rí òkun?

Who is good enough for the devotee in joining him to see the ocean? [Note: The long journey to see the ocean is symbolic of one’s long journey of life].

Ṣàngó ní òun tó aláṣàán bá a rí òkun. Wọn ní: “Bí o bá rìn tíí, bí o bá dé ilé bàbá rẹ, bí wọn bá sè oúnjẹ àyànfẹ rẹ, nkó?” Ṣàngó ní: “Bí mo bá tí yó tán, màá padà s’ilé mi.” Wọn ní Ṣàngó kò tó aláṣàán bá a rí òkun.

Ṣàngó (the deified *Ọyó* king who detests immorality and strikes wrongdoers with lightning) said that he was good enough for the devotee in joining him to see the ocean. They (others) said: “If you happen to walk on-and-on, if you happen to reach the home of your father, if they happen to cook your favorite food, then what about that?” *Ṣàngó* said: “If I happen to have become satisfied completely, then I would return to my home.” They said that *Ṣàngó* was not good enough for the devotee in joining him to see the ocean.

Bẹ̀ẹ̀gẹ̀gẹ̀ ni Ọya, Ọrìṣànlá, Ẹlẹgbára, Ọgún, Ọṣun, àti Ẹlà, wọn kò tó aláṣàán bá a rí òkun.

It was likewise that *Ọya* (the *òrìṣà* of the wind), *Ọrìṣànlá* (the *òrìṣà* of moral sense), *Ẹlẹgbára* (*Èṣù*, the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests), *Ọgún* (the *òrìṣà* of iron and war), *Ọṣun* (the *òrìṣà* of beauty, fertility, childbirth, and child protection), and *Ẹlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), they were not good enough for the devotee in joining him to see the ocean.

Tal’ó tó aláṣàán bá a rí òkun? Orí nìkan l’ó tó aláṣàán bá a rí òkun.

Who is good enough for the devotee in joining him to see the ocean? It is *Orí Ẹlédàá* (Man’s godself) alone who is good enough for the devotee in joining him to see the ocean.

Ire gbogbo tí mo bá ní l’áyé, Orí ni màá rò fún. Orí pẹlẹ, atètè níran, atètè gbè ẹni kí òòṣà. Kò sí òrìṣà tí ó tó gbè lẹyìn Orí ẹni.

Every good thing that I happen to have in life, it is *Orí* of whom I will think well. Hail *Orí*, the one who quickly remembers (me), the one who quickly supports a person before *òrìṣà* (divine ministerial agents). There is no *òrìṣà* who is sufficient to give support behind the back of one’s *Orí*.

The power of God is within you, and so you can transcend any circumstance, habit, or personality trait. Attune yourself to *Orí Ẹlédàá* (Man’s godself) so that you may fully develop your life potential.

Fully developing your own life potential is tied to helping others to do the same. *Ifá* says in *Ìrosùn Ẫwòrì* that:

Kí a fi inúdídùn ẹ é. Ẹni tí ó maa lọ, kí ó maa lọ. Ẹni tí ó maa dẹhìn, kí ó maa dẹhìn. Dandan èyàni ni a yàn kí wọn mú ire lọ s’áyé.

We ought to use gladness to do it. One who is intending to leave, he ought to get leaving. One who is intending to turn back, he ought to get turning back. Surely it is human beings whom were chosen to take good things away to the world.

Mòràn-tán, awo Èlà, l'ó dífá nígbàtí àwọn ọmọ ayé òbòwá láti bi Èlà léèrè ọ̀ràn kan. A ní kí Èlà wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

It was Knowledgeable-completely, the priest of Èlà (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), who performed *Ifá* divination when the people of the world were coming to ask Èlà about a matter. It was said that Èlà ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

N'íjọ kan, onírúurú èyàn (àwọn èyàn rere àti àwọn èyàn tí kò jékí èyàn sunwọn) gbàràjọ. Wọn tò Èlà wá. Wọn ní: "Ìpààrà ayé yìí sù wa, Èlà. Nítorínàà, kí ó jòwọ jékí a simi s'ọrun."

One day, different kinds of people (good people and people who did not allow that people be well) gathered together. They approached Èlà. They said: "This going back and forth to the world tires us, Èlà. Therefore, please allow that we rest in heaven."

Èlà ní: "Èyin kò lè ṣàì maa pààrà ọ̀de ayé tíí èyin ọ̀ò fi dé ipò rere tí Èlédàá ti yàn fún gbogbo èyàn. Lèhìn-nàà ni èyin ọ̀ò simi s'ọrun."

Èlà said: "You are not able to fail to be going back and forth to earth town until you will make happen the good situation that Èlédàá (Creator God) has chosen for all people. It is afterward that you will rest in heaven."

Wọn ní: "Kíni ipò rere?"

They said: "What is the good situation?"

Èlà ní: "Ipò rere nàà l'ayé rere – ayé àmòtán ohun gbogbo; ayọ̀ níbigbogbo; wíwà láísí ominú tàbí ibèrù ọ̀tá; wíwà láísí ijà ejò tàbí ẹ̀ranko búburú òmíràn; wíwà láísí ibèrù ikú, àrùn, ẹ̀jọ, ọ̀fò, ọ̀sọ, àjẹ, tàbí Èṣù; wíwà láísí ibèrù ifarapa omi tàbí iná; àti wíwà láísí ibèrù àìní tàbí ọ̀ṣì – nítorí agbára inú, iwà rere, àti ogbón."

Èlà said: "It is the aforementioned good position that is a good world – a world of perfect knowledge of everything; joy everywhere; being without worry or fear of opponents; being without fighting with snakes or other bad wild animals; being without fear of death, illness, litigation, loss, male bird-people, female bird-people, or Èṣù (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests); being without fear of injury from water or fire; and being without fear of poverty or misery – because of inner strength, good conduct, and wisdom."

Èlà ní: "A dé ipò rere nígbàtí ẹnì kò jalè mó nítorí ẹ̀dùn tí ó wà nínú rẹ̀ fún olúwa ohun-ìní àti nítorí àbùkù tí ó wà nínú iwà yìí fún wa níwájú Èlédàá àti àwọn ẹ̀gbẹ̀ rere míràn tí ó wà l'ọ̀run, tí íbá wa ṣe ọ̀rẹ̀, tí ífẹ̀ ire sí wa. Ìwà burúkú gbogbo ní ajádèhìnbọ̀."

Èlà said: "We reach the good situation when one does not take part in stealing anymore because of the pain that is in it for the owner of the thing possessed and because of the stain blemish that is in this behavior for us in front of Èlédàá and other good comrades who are in heaven, who are engaging us in being friends, who are wishing good things to us. Every nasty behavior has repercussions."

Èlà ní: "Ohun tí yòò gbé wa dé ipò rere nàà: ogbón tí ó pọ̀ tọ̀ èyítí a lè fi ṣàkóso ayé; irúbọ; iwà ifẹ̀ràn ooreṣiṣe fún gbogbo èyàn, ní-pàtàkì àwọn tí iṣe aláìní àti àwọn tí ífẹ̀ irànlówọ̀ lódò wa; itara fún àti síṣà ipá láti fi kún ire tí ó wà l'áyé, láijékí ire, èyíkéyíí tí a ti ní, lọ."

Èlà said: "That which will carry us to reach the aforementioned good situation: wisdom that is plentiful to educate the ones whom we are able to use to govern the world; doing *ẹbọ*; the conduct of loving the doing of acts of kindness for all people, chiefly the ones who are poor and the ones who want aid from us; enthusiasm for and the application of efforts

to make full the good things that are in the world, without allowing that good things, any that we have possessed, to go away.”

Èlà ní: “Àwọn èyàn óò maa lọ s’òrun. Wọn óò sì maa padà wá s’óde ayé lèhìn iparadà wọn tíí eni kòòkan óò fi dé ipò rere náà. Nítorínàà, nígbà tí àwọn ọmọ Èlédàá péjọ, àwọn tí ó yàn láti kó ire wá s’óde ayé l’a pè lí ‘èyàn’.”

Èlà said: “People will be going to heaven. They will moreover be turning back to come to earth town after their transfiguration until each person will make happen the aforementioned good situation. Therefore, when the children of *Èlédàá* assemble together, it is those whom he chose to bring good things to earth town whom we call ‘human beings’.”

You are in the world in order to help to make it a better living space for everyone.

1.3 The 16 Ìdáfá words

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Ìdáfá (bringing forth *Èlà*) or **Ifá dídá** (*Èlà* being brought forth) is the divination practice used by adherents who have been initiated to *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom. *Ìdáfá* uses a set of 16 ‘words’ as the basic constituents of its messages. Each of these oracular words is a four-tiered figure that consists of single and/or double marks. TABLE 1.3a presents the sixteen *Ìdáfá* words ranked from 01 to 16.

TABLE 1.3a: The oracular words of Ifá dídá

I I I I	II II II II	II I I II	I II II I	I I II II	II II I I	I II II II	II II II I
01 Ogbè	02 Ọyẹkú	03 Ìwòrì	04 Òdí	05 Ìrosùn	06 Ọwọnrín	07 Ọbàrà	08 Ọkànràn
I I I II	II I I I	II I II II	II II I II	I II I I	I I II I	I II I II	II I II I
09 Ọgúndá	10 Ọsá	11 Ìká	12 Òtúrúpòn	13 Òtúra	14 Ìrètẹ	15 Ọsẹ	16 Òfún

Èrìndilógún (sixteen cowries) is the divination practice used by adherents who have been initiated to an *òrìṣà* other than *Èlà*. In this practice, one casts 16 consecrated cowry shells. Each cowry shell has a curved opening that is called its **mouth**. A cast cowry’s mouth is said to be open if it is facing up. *Èrìndilógún* uses a set of 16 oracular words. Each of these oracular words is a

nonzero total of open mouths among the cast cowries. TABLE 1.3b presents the sixteen *Ejèrindilógún* words.

TABLE 1.3b: The oracular words of *Ejèrindilógún*

Oracular Word	Open Mouths	Oracular Word	Open Mouths
Òkànràn	1	Òsá	9
Èjì Òkò	2	Òfún	10
Ògúndá	3	Òwónrín	11
Ìrosùn	4	Èjilá Aṣẹbọra	12
Òṣé	5	Métàlá	13
Òbàrà	6	Mérinlá	14
Òdí	7	Méèédógún	15
Ogbè	8	Mèrindínlógún	16

Let's examine the sixteen *Ìdáfá* words, many of which are also *Ejèrindilógún* words.

Ìdáfá word #01 is **Ogbè**. In *Ejèrindilógún*, it is a total of eight open mouths.

On interpreting the name *Ogbè* as the expression *o-gbè* (you bring benefit), this oracular word carries the message of 'a wholesome road'. The adjective 'wholesome' means 'contributing to physical, moral, or social well-being'.

Ìdáfá word #02 is **Òyèkú**. Some *Ejèrindilógún* diviners equate *Òyèkú* with *Èjì Òkò* (a total of two open mouths).

On interpreting the name *Òyèkú* as the noun *ò-yè-ikú* (one who habitually displaces death), this oracular word carries the message of 'averting ruin'.

On interpreting the name *Òyèkú* as the expression *òyè-kú* (morning twilight is congratulated), this oracular word carries the message of 'not missing out on bright possibilities'.

Ìdáfá word #03 is **Ìwòrì**.

On interpreting the name *Ìwòrì* as the expression *ìwò-ìrì* (looking at and finding), this oracular word carries the message of 'good things becoming seen'.

On taking the name *Ìwòrì* punningly as the expression *ìwò-rí* (you see), this oracular word carries the message of 'seeing things clearly'.

Ìdáfá word #04 is **Òdí**. In *Ejèrindilógún*, it is a total of seven open mouths.

On taking the name *Òdí* punningly as the noun *òdídí* (blockage), this oracular word carries the message of 'blockage'.

On taking the name *Òdí* punningly as the nouns *òdì* (contrariness) and *odì* (ill will), this oracular word carries the message of ‘enemies’.

On taking the name *Òdí* punningly as the noun *ìdí* (buttocks), this oracular word carries the message of ‘having a sound foundation’.

Ìdáfá word #05 is **Ìrosùn**. In *Èrìndilógún*, it is a total of four open mouths.

On interpreting the name *Ìrosùn* as the expression *ìro-ìsun* (aching and exuding tears), this oracular word carries the message of ‘patiently persevering through difficulty’.

We may associate *Ìrosùn* with astrological Saturn, which represents restriction, structure, and slow change. Saturn is the bringer of challenges that require patient perseverance in order for one to prevail. Spiritually speaking, Saturn is the energy associated with Man’s ability to patiently persevere (that is, to calmly remain constant to a purpose in spite of obstacles). Saturn is nobly expressed whenever one stabilizes one’s heart (that is, one’s prevailing mental and emotional attitude), so that one may think clearly and respond properly to situations in life, instead of reacting according to habit or impulse.

Ìdáfá word #06 is **Òwónrín**. In *Èrìndilógún*, it is a total of eleven open mouths.

On taking the name *Òwónrín* punningly as the expression *ò-wòn-ìrìn* (one who habitually measures steps), this oracular word carries the message of ‘taking measured action’.

On taking the name *Òwónrín* punningly as the expression *òwò-ńrìn* (honor is walking), this oracular word carries the message of ‘walking honorably’.

Èrìndilógún associates *Òwónrín* with *egúngún* (honorable ancestors), who are the custodians of the ethics and traditions of one’s tribe. Those who walk honorably in the earthly realm are on the way to becoming honorable ancestors in the heavenly realm.

Ìdáfá word #07 is **Òbàrà**. In *Èrìndilógún*, it is a total of six open mouths.

On taking the name *Òbàrà* punningly as the expression *òba-àrà* (king of thunder), this oracular word refers to *Şàngó* (the deified *Ọyó* king who detests immorality and strikes wrongdoers with lightning), and it carries the message of ‘asserting oneself with dignity’.

Èrìndilógún associates *Òbàrà* with *Şàngó*, who is the deified *Ọyó* king who detests immorality and strikes wrongdoers with lightning. He corresponds to astrological Sun, which represents vitality, self-esteem, volition, and leadership. Spiritually speaking, Sun is the energy associated with Man’s will – one’s ability to deliberately decide on a course of action, one’s freedom to choose between right and wrong. Sun is nobly expressed whenever one asserts oneself with dignity by using their will to rise above course and unsavory things.

Ìdáfá word #08 is **Òkànràn**. In *Èrìndilógún*, it is a total of one open mouth.

On interpreting the name *Òkànràn* as the noun *ò-kàn-òràn* (one who habitually gives matters their turns of opportunity), this oracular word carries the message of ‘giving something good its turn’.

On interpreting the name *Òkànràn* as the noun *ò-kàn-òràn* (one who habitually touches trouble), this oracular word carries the message of ‘touching trouble’.

Èḗrìndìlógún associates *Òkànràn* with *Èṣù*, who is the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests. He corresponds to astrological Mercury, which represents mobility of thought, word, and deed. Spiritually speaking, Mercury is the energy associated with Man’s verbal mind – one’s ability to think logically and to express oneself through words. Mercury is nobly expressed whenever one uses their cleverness and verbal facility to further that which is wholesome.

Ìdáfá word #09 is **Ògúndá**. In *Èḗrìndìlógún*, it is a total of three open mouths.

On interpreting the name *Ògúndá* as the expression *Ògún-dá* (*Ògún* creates), this oracular word refers to *Ògún* as the pioneer who goes in advance to prepare the road for others, and it carries the message of ‘clearing a way’.

On interpreting the name *Ògúndá* as the expression *Ògún-dá* (*Ògún* is good), this oracular word refers to *Ògún* and carries the message of ‘having the courage to take right action’.

Èḗrìndìlógún associates *Ògúndá* with *Ògún*, who is the *òrìṣà* of iron and war. He corresponds to astrological Mars, which represents courage, enthusiasm, assertiveness, and pioneering. Spiritually speaking, Mars is the energy associated with Man’s sense of justice. Being just with all people in all situations requires one to have a warrior’s courage and zeal for righteousness, even at the cost of personal loss. Mars is nobly expressed whenever one has the courage to take right action.

Ìdáfá word #10 is **Òsá**. In *Èḗrìndìlógún*, it is a total of nine open mouths.

On interpreting the name *Òsá* as the noun *ò-sá* (one who habitually flees or runs away), this oracular word carries the message of ‘running away from a challenge’.

The oracular word *Òsá* brings to mind the noun *sáà* (season), which is a period of time that is marked by special activities or events. In this regard, on taking the name *Òsá* punningly as the noun *ò-sà* (one who habitually applies a remedy), this oracular word carries the message of ‘taking timely action’.

Ìdáfá word #11 is **Ìká**. Some *Èḗrìndìlógún* diviners equate *Ìká* with *Mètàlá* (a total of thirteen open mouths).

On taking the name *Ìká* punningly as the noun *ikà* (evil), this oracular word carries the message of ‘engaging in ill conduct’.

On interpreting the name *Ìká* as the noun *iká* (turning against someone), this oracular word carries the message of ‘experiencing ill luck’.

On interpreting the name *Ìká* as the noun *iká* (plucking fruit), this oracular word carries the message of ‘reaping a reward’.

Èḗrìndìlógún associates *Mètàlá* with *Olóde* (also called *Babalúayé*), who is the *òrìṣà* of the outdoors. He punishes Man’s excessive conduct with diseases, especially smallpox. We may associate *Olóde* with astrological Saturn, which represents restriction, structure, and slow

change. Saturn is the bringer of challenges that require patient perseverance in order for one to prevail. In astrology, Saturn's intrinsic attributes make it the natural representative of chronic ailments, that which is old and decaying, and death.

Ìdáfá word #12 is **Òtúrúpòn**.

On taking the name *Òtúrúpòn* punningly as the noun *ò-tú-erù-pòn* (one who habitually releases a load and back-carries it), this oracular word refers to a mother who births a child and carries it on her back, and it carries the message of 'being productive'.

Ìdáfá word #13 is **Òtúrá**. Some *Èjèrìndílógún* diviners equate *Òtúrá* with *Méèédógún* (a total of fifteen open mouths).

This oracular word brings to mind the noun *itura* (ease of body and mind), and it carries the message of 'averting a worrisome situation'.

Ìdáfá word #14 is **Ìrètè**. Some *Èjèrìndílógún* diviners equate *Ìrètè* with *Mèrìndínlógún* (a total of sixteen open mouths).

On taking the name *Ìrètè* punningly as the expression *iré-itè* (being friendly with imprinting), this oracular word carries the message of 'making one's mark' (that is, achieving something of lasting impact).

On taking the name *Ìrètè* punningly as the expression *iré-itè* (being friendly with *Ifá* initiation), this oracular word carries the message of 'practicing *Ifá*'.

On taking the name *Ìrètè* punningly as the expression *iré-òtè* (being friendly with conspiracy), this oracular word carries the message of 'being unwholesomely influenced'.

We may associate *Ìrètè* with astrological Moon, which represents receptivity, adaptability, and devotion. Spiritually speaking, Moon is the energy associated with Man's trance ability, which enables one to learn and to change. In a trance state, one has a heightened receptivity in which beliefs, images, and words become empowered to create or undo habits. Moon is nobly expressed whenever one is receptive to and compliant with right guidance.

Ìdáfá word #15 is **Òşé**. In *Èjèrìndílógún*, it is a total of five open mouths.

On interpreting the name *Òşé* as the noun *ò-şé* (one who habitually overcomes) and on bringing to mind the nouns *ìşé* (poverty) and *òşé* (hurt), this oracular word carries the message of 'overcoming trouble'.

Èjèrìndílógún associates *Òşé* with *Òşun*, who is the *òrìşà* of beauty, fertility, childbirth, and child protection. She corresponds to astrological Venus, which represents affection, enjoyment, attractive power, and harmony. Spiritually speaking, Venus is the energy associated with Man's visual mind – one's imagination, which enables one to form mental images. When intensely entertained with aroused feelings of enjoyment, mental images gain the power to attract the necessary resources for their realization. Venus is nobly expressed whenever through joyful optimism, one attracts the necessary resources for faring well.

Ìdáfá word #16 is **Òfún**. In *Eèrìndílógún*, it is a total of ten open mouths.

On interpreting the name *Òfún* as the expression *ò-fún* (one who habitually gives) and on bringing to mind the adjective *funfun* (the color white, which symbolizes the effort to maintain cleanness because white clothing most easily picks up a stain), this oracular word carries the message of ‘acting with rectitude’. Rectitude is right conduct and right judgment.

On interpreting the name *Òfún* as the expression *ò-fún* (one that is habitually narrow), this oracular word carries the message of ‘efforts of limited success’.

Eèrìndílógún associates *Òfún* with *Òrìṣànlá* (also called *Òbàtálá*), who is the *òrìṣà* of moral sense. He corresponds to astrological Jupiter, which represents virtuous optimism (that is, the belief that virtuous action eventually brings the best outcome) and expansion (material and spiritual). Because one’s optimism draws positive circumstances to oneself, Jupiter is the bringer of good luck (that is, favorable circumstances that are beyond willful control). Spiritually speaking, Jupiter is the energy associated with Man’s moral sense – one’s intuitive ability to distinguish right from wrong. Jupiter is nobly expressed whenever one acts with good character and good judgment.

1.4 The 256 *Ìdáfá* sentences

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Each *Ìdáfá* message is called an **Odù**, which is a ‘sentence’ consisting of two *Ìdáfá* words placed side by side. Each of these oracular sentences is read from right to left. The *Ìdáfá* word on the right is called the **masculine leg**, while the *Ìdáfá* word on the left is called the **feminine leg**. TABLE 1.4a presents some examples.

TABLE 1.4a: Some examples of Odù

I I I I I I I I	II II I I I I II II	II II I I II II I I	II II I I II I I II	II II I I I II II I
Èjì Ogbè	Ìwòrì Méjì	Òfún Méjì	Ìwòrì Òfún	Òfún Ìwòrì

The 256 *Ìdáfá* sentences are broadly categorized into two groups: the **Ojú Odù** and the **Àmúlù Odù**. The *Ojú Odù* is the group of 16 *Ìdáfá* sentences, each one consisting of a doubling of an *Ìdáfá* word. We may refer to each of the *Ojú Odù* by the name of its common *Ìdáfá* word followed by the adjective *méjì* (which means ‘taken twice’). For example, the name *Òbàrà Méjì* means ‘*Òbàrà* taken twice’. We may alternatively refer to each of the *Ojú Odù* by the noun *èjì* (which means ‘two of ...’) followed by the name of its common *Ìdáfá* word. For example, an alternative name of *Òbàrà Méjì* is *Èjì Òbàrà*, which means ‘two of *Òbàrà*’.

The *Àmúlù Odù* is the group of 240 *Ìdáfá* sentences, each one consisting of different *Ìdáfá* words. The name of each *Àmúlù Odù* is the name of its right (masculine) leg followed by the name of its left (feminine) leg.

TABLE 1.4b: Themes of the sixteen *Ìdáfá* words

Word	Themes
<i>Ogbè</i>	A wholesome road.
<i>Ọyèkú</i>	Averting ruin. Not missing out on bright possibilities.
<i>Ìwòrì</i>	Good things becoming seen. Seeing things clearly.
<i>Òdí</i>	Blockage or enemies. Having a sound foundation.
<i>Ìrosùn</i>	Patiently persevering through difficulty.
<i>Ọwónrín</i>	Taking measured action. Walking honorably.
<i>Ọbàrà</i>	Asserting oneself with dignity.
<i>Ọkànràn</i>	Giving something good its turn. Touching trouble.
<i>Ọgúndá</i>	Clearing a way. Having the courage to take right action.
<i>Ọsá</i>	Running away from a challenge. Taking timely action.
<i>Ìká</i>	Ill conduct or ill luck. Reaping a reward
<i>Ọtúrúpon</i>	Being productive.
<i>Ọtúra</i>	Averting a worrisome situation.
<i>Ìrètẹ̀</i>	Making one's mark. Practicing <i>Ifá</i> . Unwholesome influences.
<i>Ọsẹ̀</i>	Overcoming through joyful optimism. Overcoming trouble.
<i>Ọfún</i>	Acting righteously and judiciously. Efforts of limited success.

Each *Odù* (oracular sentence) describes a situation. Its right (masculine) leg indicates the foremost aspect of the situation, while its left (feminine) leg indicates pertinent circumstances. For your *Odù* of interest, use the themes of TABLE 1.4b to examine possible meanings. For example, *Ogbè Ọkànràn* is an *Odù* that could mean that *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is helped by *Ọkànràn* (giving something good its turn). Moreover, *Ogbè Ọkànràn* could mean that *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is hindered by *Ọkànràn* (touching trouble).

2. IFÁ DÍDÁ

2.1 Ìjúbà (paying homage)

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Before performing any type of spiritual work, you ought to pay homage to higher authorities. Begin the homage by sprinkling some drops of cool water on the ground while saying:

Omi tútù. Ilẹ̀ tútù.

Cool water. Cool earth.

Bí omi bá balẹ̀, omi ọ̀ò nípa. Bí omi bá balẹ̀, omi ọ̀ò là ilú. Bí omi bá balẹ̀, omi ọ̀ò nípa.

If water happens to touch the ground, then water will be potent. If water happens to touch the ground, then water will enrich the town. If water happens to touch the ground, then water will be potent.

This incantation contains an excerpt from *Èjì Ogbè*.

Now speak as follows:

Ìbà Èlédàá, t'ó wá ẹ̀ Ẹ̀sù Èlẹ̀gbára, t'ó wá ẹ̀ Ọ̀gún, alá dá méjì, t'ó wá ẹ̀ Ọ̀sun (oore yèyé o!), t'ó wá ẹ̀ Yemoja, olódò, t'ó wá ẹ̀ Sàngó (ká bí yèsì o!), t'ó wá ẹ̀ Ọ̀rìsànlá, bàntà-banta nínú àlà, t'ó wá ẹ̀ Èlà, ẹ̀lẹ̀rìí ipín, t'ó wá ẹ̀ gbogbo ọ̀rìsà.

Reverence to *Èlédàá*, who comes being *Èsù*, the Forceful-one, who comes being *Ọ̀gún*, the owner of two machetes, who comes being *Ọ̀sun* (benevolent great mother!), who comes being *Yemoja*, the owner of rivers, who comes being *Sàngó* (that we question him does not exist!), who comes being *Ọ̀rìsànlá*, the immense one in white clothing, who comes being *Èlà*, the witness to destiny, who comes being every *ọ̀rìsà*.

Ilẹ̀, mo júbà. Bàbá, mo júbà. Yèyé, mo júbà. Ìbà bọ̀rọ̀kìnní ọ̀run.

Mother Earth, I give reverence. Father, I give reverence. Mother, I give reverence. Reverence to respectable persons of heaven.

Èdú, mo júbà. Ìbà Akódá. Ìbà Aşèdá. Ìbà Adéşiná. Ìbà Olúwo. Ìbà Ojùgbọ̀nà.

Èdú (Jet-black, a name of *Èlà*), I give reverence. Reverence to *Akódá* (a famous *Ifá* disciple). Reverence to *Aşèdá* (a famous *Ifá* disciple). Reverence to *Adéşiná*. Reverence to (my) *olúwo*. Reverence to (my) *ojùgbọ̀nà*.

Bí ekòlò bá júbà ilẹ̀, ilẹ̀ á lànà. Ọ̀mọ̀dé kì íjúbà kì ìbà pa á. Àşẹ!

If the earthworm pays respect to the earth, then the earth will give it access. A youngster never gives reverence and then the reverence kills him. So be it!

In this homage, you are expressing respect for Creator God, Man's godself, *ọ̀rìsà* (divine ministerial agents), Mother Earth, *bọ̀rọ̀kìnní ọ̀run* (respectable persons of the spirit world), and the people who have contributed significantly to your spiritual development. Note that the noun *Èlédàá* refers both to Creator God (who is the owner of all beings) and to *Ori* (Man's godself).

In this homage, I mention *Adéşínà*, who was an *Ifá* priest brought from Nigeria to Cuba, where he lived under the name ‘Remigio Herrera’. He is a representative of enslaved Africans who brought *Ifá* to the Americas.

2.2 Enhancing the diviner

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Here is an incantation that makes your hands effective and that offers you protection from hexes:

Òtún pèlẹ́, awo wọn l’óde Àbá. Òsì pèlẹ́, awo wọn l’óde Àboşẹ. Àti Òtún àti Òsì kì íşẹbọ àìfín. Àti Òtún àti Òsì kì íşẹbọ àìmaadà.

Hail Right-hand, the priest of those in the town of Earnest-attempt. Hail Left-hand, the priest of those in the town of *Ebo*-coming-to-pass. Both Right-hand and Left-hand never do *ẹbọ* that is not acceptable. Both Right-hand and Left-hand never do *ẹbọ* that is not going to be effective.

Àşẹwélé ni wọn dífá fún, ọmọkúnrin Dèpènú. Dèpènú, dèpènú. Àbáà dà ègún dà èpè lé awo lóri, kò lè jà láláláí.

It was *Àşẹwélé* for whom they performed *Ifá* divination, the son of He-repels-hexes. He repels hexes, he repels hexes. Even if we were to heap inheritable curses and heap non-inheritable curses on a priest, they could not put up a fight ever.

Àşẹwélé, o dé o, ọmọkúnrin Dèpènú!

Àşẹwélé, you have arrived, the son of He-repels-hexes!

This incantation comes from *Òwónrin Òbàrà*.

2.3 Opening the divination session

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WARNING: If you are not an *Ifá* initiate, then do not perform *Ifá* divination! Look, but don’t touch! Òòdínà, dí ọ̀nà ibi o! Òòdínà, dí ọ̀nà ibi o! Òòdínà, dí ọ̀nà ibi o! Òòşínà, şí ọ̀nà ire o! Òòşínà, şí ọ̀nà ire o! Òòşínà, şí ọ̀nà ire o!

In order to get ready to perform *Ìdáfá*, begin by getting ritually clean – have a clean body and a clear mind. Now call on *Orí* (Man’s godself):

Orí pèlẹ́, atètè níran, atètè gbè ẹni kí òòşà. Kò sí òrişà tí ó tó gbè lẹyìn Orí ẹni.

Hail *Orí*, the one who quickly remembers (me), the one who quickly supports a person before *òrişà*. There is no *òrişà* (divine ministerial agent) who is sufficient to give support behind the back of one’s *Orí*.

Orí ẹni l’awúre ẹni o! Orí, máşẹ pa ilẹkùn dé. Lódò rẹ ni mo mbò. Wá şẹ ayé mi di rere.

It is one’s *Orí* who is one’s charm for blessings! *Orí*, do not shut the door (on me). It is your presence to which I am coming. Come cause my life in the world to become goodness.

This incantation contains excerpts from *Ògúndá Méjì* and *Ogbè Ògúndá*.

Now call on *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom):

Èlà pèlẹ́, èlẹ́rìí ipín, alátúnṣe ayé, aso-òrò-di-ayò.

Hail *Èlà*, the witness to destiny, the master of improving one's life in the world, the one who converts trouble into joy.

Èlà, rọ̀; Èlà, rọ̀; Èlà, rọ̀.

Èlà, descend; *Èlà*, descend; *Èlà*, descend.

Ifá, bí o jí, o jí mi o! Ewé ogbó l'ó ní kí N gbó Ifá bí ará ìṣáájú. Ifá, bí o jí, o jí mi o! Tèmi tirẹ̀ ni imùlẹ̀. Šebí bákahnùn l'a jọra.

Ifá, whenever you wake up, wake me up! It is *ogbó* leaves that say that I ought to understand *Ifá* like the people of the past. *Ifá*, whenever you wake up, wake me up! It is mine and yours that is a covenant. Accept as true likewise that we are alike.

This incantation contains an excerpt from *Ọ̀bàrà Ìwòrì*. Now enhance yourself by using the incantation of Section 2.2.

2.4 Readyng the divination apparatus

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WARNING: If you are not an *Ifá* initiate, then do not perform *Ifá* divination! Look, but don't touch! Òòdínà, dí ọ̀nà ibi o! Òòdínà, dí ọ̀nà ibi o! Òòdínà, dí ọ̀nà ibi o! Òòṣínà, sí ọ̀nà ire o! Òòṣínà, sí ọ̀nà ire o! Òòṣínà, sí ọ̀nà ire o!

Here we assume that you are performing *Ìdáfá* with an *òpẹ̀lẹ̀*, which consists of eight half-pods strung together on a cord or chain. When held at its middle, an *òpẹ̀lẹ̀* has four half-pods hanging down on each side. Each side of an *òpẹ̀lẹ̀* has a distinct arrangement of tassels at its end. Use this distinction to choose one side of an *òpẹ̀lẹ̀* as its right-hand side and the other side as its left-hand side. Use this choice continually.

Ọ̀pọ̀n Ifá is a divining tray that represents the totality of creation. When performing *Ìdáfá* with an *òpẹ̀lẹ̀*, you do not use an actual tray, but instead create a virtual one on your divining surface. Envision a circular area in front of you – this is your virtual tray. With your right hand, pick up the *òpẹ̀lẹ̀* at its middle and touch its ends to the tray's head (*iwájú*), foot (*ẹ̀yìn*), right-hand (*òtún*), left-hand (*òsì*), and center (*àárín*) while saying:

Iwájú ọ̀pọ̀n, o gbó. Ẹ̀yìn ọ̀pọ̀n, o gbó.

Forefront of the *Ifá* tray, you heard. Rear of the *Ifá* tray, you heard.

Olùmú l'ótún. Ọ̀lókànràn l'òsì.

Olùmú is on the right. *Ọ̀lókànràn* is on the left.

Àárín ọ̀pọ̀n n'íta ọ̀run.

It is the center of the *Ifá* tray that is the open space of heaven.

The center of the *Ifá* tray, which is the working area during divination, represents the place where all things can be seen.

2.5 Consulting the oracle

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WARNING: If you are not an *Ifá* initiate, then do not perform *Ifá* divination! Look, but don't touch! Òòdínà, dí ọ̀nà ibi o! Òòdínà, dí ọ̀nà ibi o! Òòdínà, dí ọ̀nà ibi o! Òòsínà, sí ọ̀nà ire o! Òòsínà, sí ọ̀nà ire o! Òòsínà, sí ọ̀nà ire o!

In order to consult the oracle effectively, you must know how to query it properly. On pages 19-21 of her book *Learning the Tarot: A Tarot Book for Beginners*, Joan Bunning² offers some suggestions for framing proper questions. Here are three of them:

- **Accept responsibility.** Don't deflect personal responsibility by asking questions about things that lie within the realm of exercising your free will.
- **Stay neutral.** Don't assume that the oracle sees things in the same way as you do. Don't bias your questions toward what you think the answers must be. Ask neutral questions.
- **Find the best level of detail.** Seek the fine line between wording that is too vague and wording that is too detailed. Include only the details that are necessary to make clear what you want to know.

Come to the oracle with respect and view it as a trusted friend.

The following questions are useful to receive the oracle's advice or insight:

- Person *P* divines about action *A* (or event *E* or situation *S*).
- What is it important for me to know about event *E* (or person *P* or situation *S*)?
- What if person *P* were to do action *A*?
- How might I best deal with person *P* (or situation *S*)?
- What is the most important thing for me to learn and master in order to open the way for me to fulfill my destiny?

When faced with choices, ask a separate question for each choice and compare the various responses.

Once you have a proper question in mind, do the following:

- Hold the *ọ̀pẹ̀lẹ̀* in your hands and meditate in silence on your question.
- Invoke the oracle by saying: “*Akínmọ̀ràn, Akínmọ̀ràn, Akínmọ̀ràn!*” The expression *Akínmọ̀ràn* calls on divine omniscience and is probably a contraction of the expression *a-kún-imò-ọ̀ràn*, which means ‘one who is full of knowledge of matters’.
- Ask your question either aloud or softly to yourself.

² Joan Bunning, Weiser Books (1998), ISBN-10: 1578630487, ISBN-13: 978-1578630486.

- Cast the *òpèlè* onto your virtual tray by: [1] using your right hand to pick it up at its middle and then throwing the middle away from you; and [2] arranging the fallen *òpèlè* into two parallel lines of four half-pods each.
- On a piece of paper, record the oracle's response as follows. Each half-pod has a concave and a convex side. If a half-pod falls concave-side up, then represent it by a single mark (as **I**). If a half-pod falls convex-side up, then represent it by a double mark (as **II**). For both lines of the cast *òpèlè*, record the symbol of each half-pod from top to bottom. These two columns of four-tiered marks form an *Odù*.

This cast of the *òpèlè* yields the *Odù* that carries the oracle's response to your question. As an aid to understanding this response, it is helpful to cast a second *Odù*. The message of this second *Odù* will supplement the message of the first *Odù*.

For a Yes/No question, cast two *Odù* – their combined message usually provides pertinent guidance that suggests an affirmative or negative response.

In order to interpret the oracle's response, use Appendix A.

2.6 Closing the divination session

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Conclude your divination session by touching your head to the ground while saying:

Mo dúpé lówó Èlédàá. Àbọrú, àbọyè, àbọsíṣẹ. Àṣẹ! Tó!

I give thanks at the hands of *Èlédàá*. May *ẹbọ* be done, may *ẹbọ* be approved, may *ẹbọ* be fulfilled. So be it! It is enough!

Be blessed!

3. MAGICAL WORK

3.1 Èbọ and ìbọ

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The *Yorùbá* verb **bọ** refers to using magical work to bring oneself into harmony with one or more spiritual entities. Magic is the use of incantations and suitable materials to invoke spiritual entities to influence events. From the verb *bọ*, we get the nouns *ẹbọ* and *ìbọ*.

Èbọ is a type of magical work that is prescribed for furthering one's well-being (that is, one's state of being happy, healthy, and prosperous). *Èbọ* is done whenever *Ìdáfá* or *Èjẹrìndílógún* has prescribed it. *Èbọ* items are usually presented at the prime talisman of *Èṣù* (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests). The *ẹlẹbọ* (person for whom *ẹbọ* is being done) is not free to make personal use of the *ẹbọ* items after they have been ritually presented.

Ìbọ is a type of magical work that is aimed at strengthening one's connection with a particular spiritual entity. *Ìbọ* can be done whenever desired. *Ìbọ* items are presented at the talisman of the spiritual entity of interest. The person for whom *ìbọ* is being done is free to make personal use of the *ìbọ* items after they have been ritually presented. *Èbọ* must be done before *ìbọ* whenever pertinent.

For a particular *ẹbọ*, the items to be used depend on the nature of the situation for which the *ẹbọ* has been prescribed. For a particular *ìbọ*, the items to be used depend on the nature of the spiritual entity of interest. Some possible *ẹbọ/ìbọ* items are: [1] incantations, [2] food and drink, [3] herbal concoctions, [4] votive candles, and [5] animals. Consider the following:

[1] Incantations: Many divination messages from *Ìdáfá* and *Èjẹrìndílógún* contain words that can serve as prayerful affirmations. For those who are somewhat biblically inclined, there are many prayerful affirmations in the book of Psalms.

[2] Food and drink: *Epo* (palm oil) is a very useful food item for spiritual work. *Epo* is used to tone down that which is potentially unruly. *Ọtí* (alcoholic beverage) is a very useful drink item for spiritual work.

[3] Herbal concoctions: Many divination messages from *Ìdáfá* and *Èjẹrìndílógún* prescribe herbal concoctions as part of *àkóse Ifá* (*Ifá* medicine). If the prescribed herbs are not readily available, then feel free to use available herbs that can get the job done. A very useful herbal item is Van Van oil, which is a hoodoo formula that dispels negative energy and that attracts positive energy. Visit the website <<https://originalbotanica.com/blog>>, where you can learn about Van Van oil from the blog post *Van Van Conjure Oil: A Staple of Hoodoo and Rootwork* (19 August 2024).

[4] Votive candles: A votive candle is lit for conveying a prayerful affirmation in behalf of the *ẹlẹbọ*. After ritually preparing the candle, place it in a glass container. Write the prayerful affirmation on a small piece of paper and then fold it to a small size. After placing the paper underneath the candle's glass container, light the candle and speak the prayerful affirmation.

After the candle has finished burning, consider having the *elẹbọ* to carry the paper on her/his person or to leave it at a crossroads.

[5] Animals: Many divination messages from *Ìdáfá* and *Ẹ̀rìndìlógún* prescribe animals among the *ẹ̀bọ/ìbọ* items. In many cases, these prescribed animals are meant to serve both as *ẹ̀bọ/ìbọ* items and as sources of food for the household of the person who is officiating the *ẹ̀bọ/ìbọ*. Within reason, do not use animals as *ẹ̀bọ/ìbọ* items if there is no intention to also use them to feed people.

When considering *ẹ̀bọ/ìbọ* items, be reasonable and use whatever gets the job done, while being mindful of pertinent taboos.

3.2 Performing spiritual work

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Ifá says in *Ìretẹ̀ Ọ̀yẹ̀kú* that:

Bí o bá rúbọ, kí o bẹ̀rẹ̀síí ooreşíşe láti òní lọ jù t'àtẹ̀yìnwá. Lásán l'ọ rúbọ bí o bá dín iwà-rere.

If you happen to do *ẹ̀bọ*, then you ought to begin good-doing from today onward more than in the past. It is in vain that you do *ẹ̀bọ* if you happen to diminish good conduct.

In order for *ẹ̀bọ/ìbọ* to be effective, the person for whom it is offered must supplement it with good conduct.

Ifá says in *Ọ̀gúndá Mèjì* that:

Gbogbo isòrò Ọ̀pẹ̀, níbo l'ẹ̀bọ wà? Ẹ̀nu èyàn l'ẹ̀bọ wà.

All *Ifá* practitioners, where is *ẹ̀bọ* located? It is the mouth of human beings where *ẹ̀bọ* is located.

Ifá says in *Ọ̀şẹ̀ Ọ̀tírá* that:

Àkéké ni íbà igi şá. Ẹ̀nu awo n'ìbà òun àşẹ̀ wà. Nígbatí awo bá ní àá n'íre gbogbo, a maa n'íre gbogbo. Àkéké ni íbà igi şá. Ẹ̀nu awo n'ìbà òun àşẹ̀ wà.

It is the axe that is landing on the tree to cut it. It is the mouth of the priest where reverence and spiritual power exist. When the priest happens to say that we will have every good thing, we will be having every good thing. It is the axe that is landing on the tree to cut it. It is the mouth of the priest where reverence and spiritual power exist.

If the person who is officiating the *ẹ̀bọ/ìbọ* is attuned to divine purpose, then whatever they say will come to pass.

Here we present a procedure for doing *ẹ̀bọ*. You may use this procedure to do *ìbọ* by making suitable adaptations.

STEP #1: Pay homage to higher authorities according to Section 2.1. Enhance yourself by using the incantation of Section 2.2. Ask the *elẹbọ* to assert what they want the *ẹ̀bọ* to achieve.

STEP #2: Say the following formula, which contains an excerpt from *Òdí Méjì*:

Èbọ tí (...) fún Èṣù, aládó àsùre, ó rú u kí ó baà lè sún àlààfià rẹ síwájú.

An *èbọ* that (the name of the *èlẹbọ*) gives to *Èṣù*, the possessor of the calabash of blessings, they do it so that they may be able to further their well-being.

Òòdínà, dí ọ̀nà ibi o [ẹ̀ẹ̀mẹ̀ta]! Òòsínà, sí ọ̀nà ire o [ẹ̀ẹ̀mẹ̀ta]!

Road-blocker, block the road of bad things [3 times]! Road-opener, open the road of good things [3 times]!

STEP #3: At the prime *Èṣù* talisman, do a libation of water and properly present the *èbọ* materials.

STEP #4: Say the following Kemite formula, which declares your intrinsic divinity and furthers healing:

Anok Atoum, waakou. Anok nouter oi hōper jesəf. Anok ati hōsəfəf əm nouterou.

I am *Atum* (the All), I am alone (that is, one and only). I am the great divine entity who came into existence by himself. I am one not having his opposition from divine entities.

Er (...), dōri joout nibet eretəf (or eretəs).

As for (the name of the *èlẹbọ*), I get rid of every bad thing pertaining to him (or her).

This formula is based on excerpts from Incantation 17 of *Rw nw prt em hrw*, ‘Utterances of coming forth by day’, which is a descendant of Incantation 335 of the Coffin Texts.

STEP #5: When all is satisfactory, touch your head to the ground while saying:

Mo dúpẹ̀ lówọ̀ Èlédàá. Àbọ̀rú, àbọ̀yè, àbọ̀síṣẹ̀.

I give thanks at the hands of *Èlédàá*. May *èbọ* be done, may *èbọ* be approved, may *èbọ* be fulfilled.

3.3 Some incantations

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[1] An excerpt from *Ọ̀sá Méjì*:

Ọ̀sá Méjì l’ó ni kí gbogbo ibi ó sá fún mi.

It is *Ọ̀sá Méjì* who tells all bad things to run away from me.

This incantation runs harmful influences away.

[2] An excerpt from *Ọ̀wónrín Ogbè*:

Olú Kinndínrin, Èṣù Ọ̀wónrín Ṣogbè, pè ire gbogbo wá.

Chief *Kinndínrin*, *Èṣù* of *Ọ̀wónrín Ṣogbè*, summon every good thing to come forth.

This incantation calls on *Èṣù* to bring blessings.

[3] An excerpt from *Òbàrà Òsá*:

Ọmọ Ọbàrà Ọsá ni mo ẹ. Ọmọ Ọbàrà Ọsá kì ísá. Ikú kì ípa ọmọ Ọbàrà Ọsá. Àrùn kì ípa ọmọ Ọbàrà Ọsá. Ọmọ Ọbàrà Ọsá kì ítẹ.

It is a child of *Òbàrà Ọsá* that I am. A child of *Òbàrà Ọsá* never runs away. Death never overwhelms a child of *Òbàrà Ọsá*. Illness never overwhelms a child of *Òbàrà Ọsá*. A child of *Òbàrà Ọsá* never falls into disgrace.

This incantation repels fear and agents of distress.

[4] An excerpt from *Ìrètẹ Ọşé*:

Gbogbo ibi ayé, Ifá, bá mi sọ ọ di irọrùn l'ára mi. Ìrètẹ tútù l'ó ní kí gbogbo ibi ó tẹbalẹ l'ára mi o!

Every bad thing of the world, *Ifá*, help me to transform it into a convenience for me. It is cool *Ìrètẹ* who tells every harmful influence to bow down to me!

This incantation turns intended evil into eventual good.

[5] A *Kôngo* saying:

Buka mu kati, ya buka ku mbazi.

(You, the divine in me) minister to the inside, (while) I minister to the outside.

This incantation furthers complete healing.

[6] A biblical saying [The Bible, Psalm 51:10]:

Leb ʔahōr bārā lī ʔElōhīm wərūah nakōn ʔaddeš bəqirbī.

Create in me *ʔElōhīm* a clean heart and reestablish a stable spirit within me.

This incantation furthers spiritual cleansing. *ʔElōhīm* is Creator God and her/his ministerial agents. The heart here refers to one's prevailing mental and emotional attitude.

4. SOME READINGS

4.1 Introduction

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In this section, we present a number of readings in which I consulted the *Yi-Jing* Oracle together with the *Ifá* Oracle. The *Yi-Jing* Oracle speaks through 64 basic message constituents called *hexagrams*. The *Ifá* Oracle speaks through 256 basic message constituents called *Odu*. In order to interpret the *Yi-Jing* response, we will make use of my book entitled *The Yi-Jing Oracle, A Guide to Your Best Life*. This book is posted on my website < <https://www.ifakunle.net/>>. In order to interpret the *Ifá* response, we will make use of Appendix A.

4.2 A reading: Doing a spiritual check-up

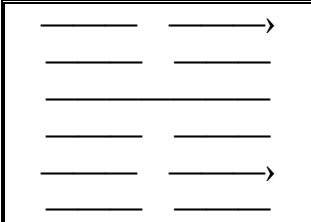
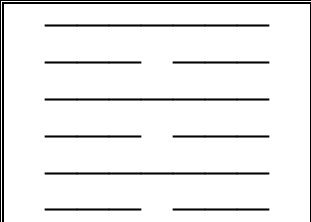
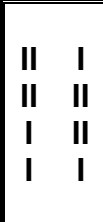
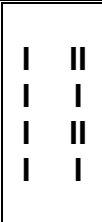
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On Monday, 02 February 2026 (*Ọsẹ Ifá*) at 02:32 pm, EST, I posed the following query:

Query: I divine about furthering my well-being.

FIGURE 4.2 presents the divination results.

FIGURE 4.2: The oracular responses

Primary Figure	Secondary Figure	Secondary	Primary
			
Hexagram 16 YÜ	Hexagram 64 WÈI Jì	Òdí Ọwónrín	Òfún Ogbè

The *Yi-Jing* response is: Hexagram 16 (YÜ, ‘enthusiasm’) changing at Lines 2 and 6, thereby showing Hexagram 64 (WÈI Jì, ‘not yet across the river’). For the primary hexagram, we have:

Enthusiasm. It is beneficial for the king to establish marquis titles of nobility in order to gather support and to mobilize an army. In the matter in question, achieving success depends on resonating with those who can give one proper support. Someone here ought to mobilize their army of support by invoking the heavenly hands that govern a successful outcome.

LINE 2. One is steady as a rock, and one has not yet finished the day – this is an omen of auspiciousness. YÙ bridges here to Hexagram 40 (JIĚ, ‘setting free’). Someone here ought not to get caught up in an unwholesome current of thoughts and feelings. At the first sign of such danger, they ought to set themselves free without delay. They ought to be steady as a rock, and they ought to examine their situation so that they may respond properly.

LINE 6. Here is dark enthusiasm. Being all right requires changing one’s direction. There is no fault. YÙ bridges here to Hexagram 35 (JĪN, ‘advancing’). For someone here, their enthusiasm has no light to lead it in the proper direction. Nevertheless, if they get proper guidance and change their direction accordingly, then they will be able to make wholesome progress.

For the secondary hexagram, we have:

Not yet across the river. Make spiritual efforts to get divine help. The little fox nearly crosses the river; it gets its tail wet – there is nowhere that is beneficial. In the matter in question, follow the example of the old fox, who treads cautiously because it has learned that there may be more to the situation than meets the eye. Do not follow the example of the little fox, who overestimates its cleverness and rushes in overconfidently.

The *Ifá* response is: *Òfún Ogbè* supported by *Òdí Òwónrín*. The primary *Odù* tells us that: *Òfún* (acting with rectitude) helps *Ogbè* (a wholesome road). This *Odù* says that:

Egúngún (honorable ancestors) never damage a person. *Òrìṣà* (divine ministerial agents) never cause a human being pain. It is mistakes (that is, wrong actions, beliefs, or judgments) alone that compel us to utter a very painful cry.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 22:5] Thorns (and) snares are in the path of a wayward one; one who watches over his spirit will be far from them.

The secondary *Odù* tells us that: *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) helps *Òwónrín* (walking honorably). This *Odù* says that:

It was ‘I am not going to die; it is life that I will be living’ who performed *Ifá* divination for Palm-tree (who symbolizes a child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom).

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Èlà*, the master of improving one’s life in the world, the one who converts trouble into joy. It was in this manner that he would cause (his) base to be established. It was in this manner that he would not die.

Palm-tree will be firmly rooted. Palm-tree will survive.

Extra: *Ifá* will help one to become soundly established in the earthly land of the living.

4.3 A reading: The prison-industrial complex

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The prison-industrial complex is a network of actors who are motivated by making profit, instead of being motivated solely by punishing or rehabilitating criminals or by reducing crime rates.

On Sunday, 25 October 2015 (*Ọ̀ṣẹ̀ Ọ̀riṣànlá*), I posed the following query:

Query: Please comment on the prison-industrial complex in the United States of America as it relates to black people in this country.

FIGURE 4.3 presents the divination results.

FIGURE 4.3: The oracular responses

Primary Figure	Secondary Figure	Secondary	Primary
Hexagram 12 Pǐ	Hexagram 41 SŪN	Ogbè Ọ̀kànràn	Ọ̀ṣẹ̀ Ọ̀sá

The *Yi-Jing* response is: Hexagram 12 (Pǐ, ‘contrariness’) changing at Lines 1, 2, 4, and 5, thereby showing Hexagram 41 (SŪN, ‘decreasing’). For the primary hexagram, we have:

The contrariness of unrighteous people. Something unbeneficial for the noble person is the oracular prediction. That which is great heads away; that which is small comes near. In the matter in question, noble influences are in decline, while ignoble influences can now rise to positions of great power. One ought not to give in to the prevailing forces of decadence. One ought not to compromise good standards.

LINE 1. One pulls out some grass and its attached roots because of their bunching together – this is an omen of auspiciousness. Make spiritual efforts to get divine help. Pǐ bridges here to Hexagram 25 (WÚ WÀNG, ‘unfalse’). ‘Blades of grass united at the roots’ symbolize those having similar values and goals. Inferior standards now prevail, and one may feel tempted to go along to get along. One ought to be strong. By rooting oneself in what is noble, one will attract the right associates.

LINE 2. One takes charge and takes the place of predecessors. Regarding the small person, this is auspicious. Regarding the great person, this is contrary to what is right and good. Make spiritual efforts to get divine help. Pǐ bridges here to Hexagram 06 (SÒNG, ‘contending’). Inferior standards have taken control and become the norm. Consequently,

people of good character and good judgment are in contention with the prevailing order of things.

LINE 4. One has a mandate – there is no fault. Comrades cling to blessings. Pǐ bridges here to Hexagram 20 (GUĀN, ‘scrutinizing’). In the matter in question, someone here is called to play a leading role in furthering positive change. Taking a thoughtful look at things will help them to take proper action. They will then attract the right associates.

LINE 5. One stops that which is contrary to what is right and good. Regarding the great person, this is auspicious. Will it (the contrariness) pass away, will it pass away? One ties oneself to a budding mulberry tree. Pǐ bridges here to Hexagram 35 (JĪN, ‘advancing’). The mulberry tree is a plant that protected Chinese dwellings from wind and rain. ‘Tying something to a mulberry tree’ means to secure it. Someone here is making progress in changing things for the better, but they ought not to take things for granted. They ought to secure their efforts by helping others to gain a firm footing.

For the secondary hexagram, we have:

Decreasing. One has an undeviating commitment – this is first-rate auspicious; there is no fault. Here is a fitting model to exemplify. It is beneficial to have a purposeful direction to go. What is it to be used? Two bamboo baskets of grain are fitting to be used to make a ritual offering for divine help. In the matter in question, someone here is called to develop their inner strength. In order to do so, they must decrease their emotionalism and sensualism. In this way, one will be able to enjoy worldly things without letting them control one.

The *Ifá* response is: *Ọ̀ṣẹ́ Ọ̀sá* supported by *Ogbè Ọ̀kànràn*. The primary *Odù* tells us that: *Ọ̀ṣẹ́* (overcoming trouble) is helped by *Ọ̀sá* (taking timely action). This *Odù* says that:

Whether *Ọ̀ṣẹ́* runs away or whether *Ọ̀ṣẹ́* does not run away, *Ọ̀ṣẹ́* will arrive at the place of the fight.

Ifá divination was performed for She-goat, Sheep, and Hen when they were going to the war of House-of-burs (which symbolizes trouble that sticks to oneself). It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. It was Hen alone who was behind doing *ẹbọ*.

They arrived at the war of House-of-burs. The war took She-goat. The war took Sheep. The war did not take Hen.

Extra: Do not involve yourself with anything that would bring you sticky trouble.

The secondary *Odù* tells us that: *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is hindered by *Ọ̀kànràn* (touching trouble). This *Odù* says that:

It was ‘Withered *irókò* twigs’, the priest of *Ọ̀ró*-plant (which is a cactus-like plant), who performed *Ifá* divination for *Ọ̀ró*-plant, the one who was tender to be chewed in the mouth of the birds (a reference to bird-people), when she was in difficulty because of the birds.

It was said that she ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. She heard; she did *ẹbọ*. She moreover did *ìpèsè*. When *Ọ̀ró*-plant had done *ẹbọ* completely, the birds were not able to drink her blood (which

had become skin-irritating sap) anymore. They were not moreover able to perch on her anymore (because she had developed a thorny exterior).

Travelers to *Ìpo* town, travelers to *Òfà* town, come join us in stirring up victory.

Ifà says that there is someone who is in difficulty because of *ẹleyẹ* (bird-people, a nickname of psychic agents). They do not allow that the person in question solve the problems of her life; they do not allow that she have importance. She ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. She ought moreover to come doing *ìpèsè*. It is in this manner that she will overcome *ẹleyẹ*.

4.4 A reading: Racial relations in America

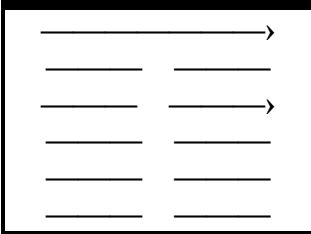
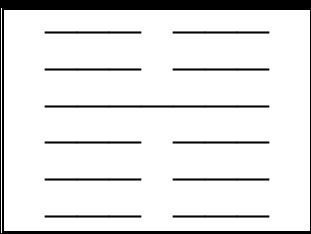
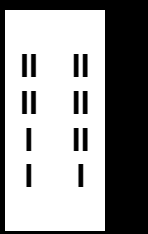
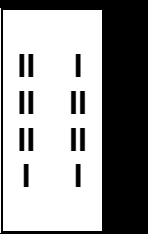
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On Saturday, 15 February 2025 (*Òsẹ Ifà*) at 07:58 am, EST, the following question formed in my mind:

Query: What are African Americans to learn from our historical interactions with Caucasian Americans in this country?

FIGURE 4.4 presents the divination results.

FIGURE 4.4: The oracular responses

Primary Figure	Secondary Figure	Secondary	Primary
			
Hexagram 23 BŌ	Hexagram 16 YÙ	Òkànràn Òwónrín	Òdí Òkànràn

The *Yi-Jing* response is: Hexagram 23 (BŌ, ‘deteriorating’) changing at Lines 4 and 6, thereby showing Hexagram 16 (YÙ, ‘enthusiasm’). For the primary hexagram, we have:

Deteriorating. It is not beneficial to have a purposeful direction to go. In the matter in question, there is a force of deterioration at work. If someone here does not deal with it properly, then they ought not to pursue any goals right now.

LINE 4. It deteriorates the bed at the surface skin – this is inauspicious. BŌ bridges here to Hexagram 35 (JĪN, ‘advancing’). For someone here, a force of deterioration is weakening their well-being, and there is nothing that they can do to stop its advance. In spite of the trouble that it brings, they ought to take action that is aimed at faring well in the long run.

LINE 6. The large fruit is uneaten. The noble person gets a carriage; the small person deteriorates their small simple house. BŌ bridges here to Hexagram 02 (KŪN, ‘submissiveness’). Deterioration has ended, and better times are returning. The uneaten large fruit symbolizes the seeds of improvement that have yet to take root. The spiritually mature person submits to the spirit of improvement and makes progress. The spiritually immature person rejects the spirit of improvement and loses stability.

For the secondary hexagram, we have:

Enthusiasm. It is beneficial for the king to establish marquis titles of nobility in order to gather support and to mobilize an army. In the matter in question, achieving success depends on resonating with those who can give one proper support. Someone here ought to mobilize their army of support by invoking the heavenly hands that govern a successful outcome.

The *Ifá* response is: *Òdí Òkànràn* supported by *Òkànràn Òwónrín*. The primary *Odu* tells us that: *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) helps *Òkànràn* (giving something good its turn). This *Odu* says that:

Òdí Òkànràn, Ifá divination was performed for ‘Mine will be good’.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover got initiated to *Ifá*. It was in this manner that great blessings would reach him.

Mine will be better than theirs! Mine will be better than that of deceitful people. Mine will be better than theirs!

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 16:20] One who gives attention to divine instruction will attain to what is good, and one who puts trust in *Ha’el* (God), how blessed is he!

The secondary *Odu* tells us that: *Òkànràn* (touching trouble) is hindered by *Òwónrín* (walking honorably). This *Odu* says that:

‘Let him do evil’ benefits the evildoer. ‘Let him do bad things’ benefits the doer of bad things. *Ifá* divination was performed for those of disobedience, who were saying that *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) was warning against trouble too much. It was what was in their minds that they were doing. They were doing evil. They were doing bad things. Things of the world were looking good for them. We (others) went reporting to *Èlà*.

Èlà said: “If it happens to take a long time on-and-on, then the dispenser of rewards will be coming around. He will solve burdens to the last one. He will do quietly his doing. When he happens to arrive, all of them (the wrongdoers) will run away.”

It was said that we ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that ‘Let him do evil’ and ‘Let him do bad things’ may not see the opportunity to enter our insides, so that companions and peers may not ridicule us in the end.

Extra: Do not allow negative influences to gain a foothold.

4.5 A reading: The coronavirus pandemic

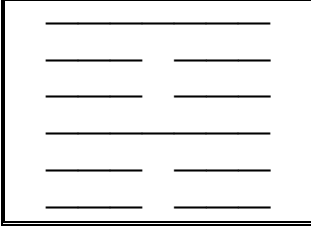
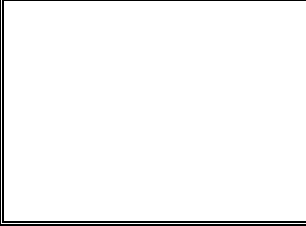
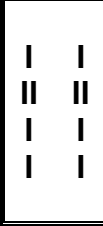
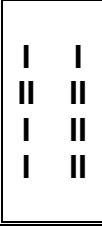
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On Tuesday, 17 March 2020 (*Ọsẹ Ifá*), I posed the following query:

Query: What is there for people to learn from the current pandemic of the COVID-19 virus?

FIGURE 4.5 presents the divination results.

FIGURE 4.5: The oracular responses

Primary Figure	Secondary Figure	Secondary	Primary
			
Hexagram 52 GÈN	None	Òtúrá Méjì	Òbàrà Òtúrá

The *Yi-Jing* response is: Hexagram 52 (GÈN, ‘keeping still’) with no changing lines. For the primary hexagram, we have:

Keeping one’s back still. One does not feel one’s body. One moves about one’s courtyard; one does not see one’s people. There is no fault. The back contains the nerve fibers that mediate movement. ‘Keeping the back still’ means to become oblivious to the influences that urge one to do things. In the matter in question, someone here ought to ‘keep their back still’ so that they may approach things with composure, instead of reacting according to habit or impulse. In this way, they will function within proper bounds.

Although there are no changing lines here, it is useful to read the messages of Lines 2 and 5 in order to aid our understanding:

LINE 2. One keeps one’s leg calves still. This does not help that which follows. One’s heart is not pleased. GÈN bridges here to Hexagram 18 (GŪ, ‘spoilage’). After charging into a situation impulsively, someone here now sees that they have moved in the wrong direction. They ought to ‘keep their leg calves still’ by stopping and reconsidering. Nevertheless, they cannot immediately halt the consequences of what they have already set in motion.

LINE 5. One keeps one’s jaws still; one’s words have a reasonable order. Regretting causes fault to pass away. GÈN bridges here to Hexagram 53 (JIÀN, ‘moving gradually’). The movement from thought to speech ought to be a gradual process. Someone here ought to give thought to their words and to speak only what is worthwhile to say.

In my book on the *Yi Jīng* Oracle, I associate the trigram GÈN (and hence the hexagram GÈN) with astrological Saturn, which represents restriction, structure, and slow change. In astrology, Saturn is the natural representative of chronic ailments, that which is old and decaying, and death. With regard to our query, Saturn refers to *Olóde* (also called *Babalúayé*), who is the *òrìṣà* of the outdoors. He punishes Man's excessive conduct with diseases, especially smallpox. I believe that the hexagram GÈN is the oracle's way of saying that the coronavirus pandemic is an activity of *Olóde*.

The *Ifá* response is: *Òbàrà Òtúrá* supported by *Òtúrá Méjì*. The primary *Odù* tells us that: *Òbàrà* (asserting oneself with dignity) helps *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation). This *Odù* says that:

It was 'One who kills and kills those of the farm', 'one who plucks them in town and plucks them in the countryside', who performed *Ifá* divination for 'Chicken head-of-household' and her children.

It was said: "An opponent who is more powerful than y'all, he is coming to meet y'all. If y'all happen to run away and leave town to go away to the countryside, then the opponent will again come looking for y'all in the countryside. But if y'all happen to do *ẹbọ*, then respect will comply with y'all."

It was said: "The hawk is not able to see causing the snail to be harmed. The hawk looks at the snail hostilely but being powerless to act."

The secondary *Odù* is the doubling of *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation). This *Odù* says that:

The log of the banana tree is free from the hands of the carpenter. The vulture is free from the hands of the meat-eater. The hair of the vagina is free from the hands of the hairdresser.

Ifá divination was performed for Slender-*òro*-tree (whose edible pulpy fruit is well-liked by *Yorùbá* people) of the deep forest, on whom people of the world would heap respect. It was said that she ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that she may be able to get kept safe. She heard; she did *ẹbọ*.

I am free from their hands at this time. I am slippery like the *ẹkukù* leaf. I am free from their hands at this time.

4.6 A reading: The Osirian legend

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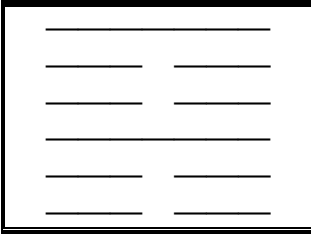
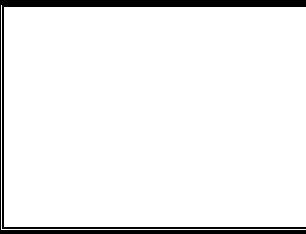
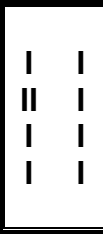
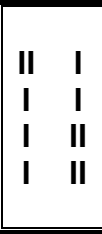
The legend of **Osiris** (Middle Egyptian *wsir*; Coptic *ousire*) was the premier story of the people of **Kemet** (Middle Egyptian *kmt*; Coptic *kēme*), or ancient Egypt. It is useful to view the characters of the Osirian legend as symbols of shaping forces that operate in Man's being. The character Osiris symbolizes Man's godself, which is the part of Man's being that shares in the divine attributes of omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence. One of the titles of Osiris is *Wennefer* (Middle Egyptian *wnn-nfrw*; Coptic *ouenofre*), which means both 'being of goodness' and 'being of perfection'. The Kemite pictorial portrayal of Osiris as a mummy symbolizes his incorruptibility against forces of decay.

On Wednesday, 19 November 2014 (*Òsẹ̀ Òrìṣànlá*), I posed the following query:

Query: Please give insight into the Osirian legend.

FIGURE 4.6 presents the divination results.

FIGURE 4.6: The oracular responses

Primary Figure	Secondary Figure	Secondary	Primary
			
Hexagram 52 GÈN	None	Ogbè Òtúrá	Ìrosùn Òsá

The *Yi-Jing* response is: Hexagram 52 (GÈN, ‘keeping still’) with no changing lines. For the primary hexagram, we have:

Keeping one’s back still. One does not feel one’s body. One moves about one’s courtyard; one does not see one’s people. There is no fault. The back contains the nerve fibers that mediate movement. ‘Keeping the back still’ means to become oblivious to the influences that urge one to do things. In the matter in question, someone here ought to ‘keep their back still’ so that they may approach things with composure, instead of reacting according to habit or impulse. In this way, they will function within proper bounds.

Although there are no changing lines here, it is useful to read the messages of Lines 2 and 5 in order to aid our understanding:

LINE 2. One keeps one’s leg calves still. This does not help that which follows. One’s heart is not pleased. GÈN bridges here to Hexagram 18 (GŪ, ‘spoilage’). After charging into a situation impulsively, someone here now sees that they have moved in the wrong direction. They ought to ‘keep their leg calves still’ by stopping and reconsidering. Nevertheless, they cannot immediately halt the consequences of what they have already set in motion.

LINE 5. One keeps one’s jaws still; one’s words have a reasonable order. Regretting causes fault to pass away. GÈN bridges here to Hexagram 53 (JIÀN, ‘moving gradually’). The movement from thought to speech ought to be a gradual process. Someone here ought to give thought to their words and to speak only what is worthwhile to say.

The *djed*-pillar hieroglyph (Middle Egyptian *ḏd*; Coptic *jōt*) means ‘stability’, and it symbolizes the backbone of Osiris. The *djed* pillar refers to ‘keeping the back still’.

The *Ifá* response is: *Ìrosùn Ọsá* supported by *Ogbè Ọtúrá*. The primary *Odù* tells us that: *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) helps *Ọsá* (taking timely action). This *Odù* says that:

A breeze caused the top of the tree to gasp. It was a strong wind that was pushing the leaves. It was the coconut that was refusing to fall.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọmọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom). It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may be able to use calmness and sober thinking to handle life. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. It was in this manner that he would overcome opponents. It was in this manner that he would see the back side of blockages.

Extra: [The Bible, Psalm 112:7] Of bad tidings he (a righteous one) does not feel afraid; stable is his heart (that is, prevailing mental and emotional attitude), trust being put in *Ha²el* (God) to not fail.

The secondary *Odù* tells us that: *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) helps *Ọtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation). This *Odù* says that:

If a person has money, if he does not have character, then the money of someone else it is. Character, it is character that we are looking for, character! If a person begets children, if he does not have character, then the children of someone else they are. Character, it is character that we are looking for, character!

If a person builds a house, if he does not have character, then the house of someone else it is. Character, it is character that we are looking for, character! If a person has good things, if he does not have character, then the good things of someone else they are. Character, it is character that we are looking for, character!

Extra: 1. [an *Ifá* saying] *Ìwà rere l'òṣọ èyàn* (It is good character that is the adornment of a human being). 2. [*Dilogún* 8-15 revised] Bad character is what leads a man to fail in his endeavors.

4.7 A reading: The door to destiny

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On Tuesday, 29 October 2013 (*Ọsẹ Ọgún*), the following query was posed about someone whom I will refer to as AJL for the sake of anonymity:

Query: What is the most important thing for AJL to learn and master in order to open the way for him to fulfill his destiny?

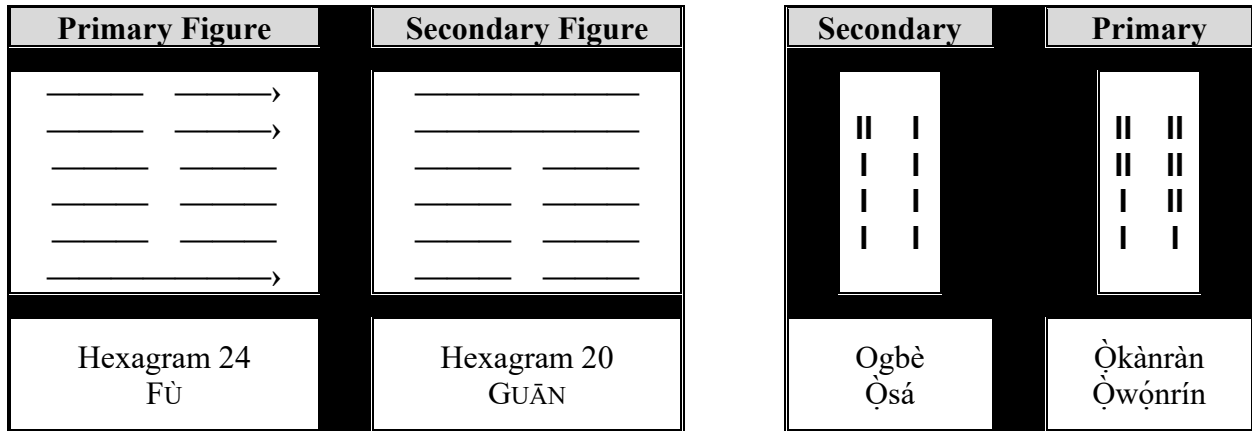
FIGURE 4.7 presents the divination results.

The *Yi-Jing* response is: Hexagram 24 (FÙ, ‘returning’) changing at Lines 1, 5, and 6, thereby showing Hexagram 20 (GUĀN, ‘scrutinizing’). For the primary hexagram, we have:

Returning to soundness. Make spiritual efforts to get divine help. Going out and coming in do not have unhealthiness. Friends come without fault. Recurring is its path; in seven days, it comes returning. It is beneficial to have a purposeful direction to go. We see an example of *fù* in the winter solstice, which is the ‘seventh day’ after a six-month decline of the earth’s ability to externally manifest her bounty. In this regard, *fù* refers to the resurgence of

yáng energy, which governs the ability to achieve things externally. If someone here has taken a wrong course, then time now favors them to return to what is proper. If they are undertaking something new, then their ability to turn plans into reality is just now returning from its low point, and so they ought to take timely action.

FIGURE 4.7: The oracular responses



LINE 1. One does not return to soundness from afar – there is no considerable regret; this is first-rate auspicious. FÙ bridges here to Hexagram 02 (KŪN, ‘submissiveness’). If someone here has taken a wrong course, then they ought not to go further. They ought to submit to following a suitable course of action.

LINE 5. One sincerely returns to soundness – there is no regret. FÙ bridges here to Hexagram 03 (ZHŪN, ‘the sprout’). For someone here, they ought to sincerely handle their shortcomings by sinking their roots deeply into what is proper.

LINE 6. One confusedly returns to soundness – this is inauspicious; they have a disastrous error. One applies oneself to mobilizing an army. The ending has a great defeat because of one’s national ruler – this is inauspicious. Going as far as ten years, one is not able to take military action again. FÙ bridges here to Hexagram 27 (YÍ, ‘nourishing’). If someone here misses this opportune time to return to what is proper, then they must wait for the next opportune time to come. Consequently, any efforts of change that they may make during the intermediate period will meet with failure.

For the secondary hexagram, we have:

Scrutinizing. One has washed in performing ablution, but so far, one has not made the ritual offering. One has an undeviating commitment that is solemn accordingly. The interval between performing ablution and performing the ritual offering offers the devotee an opportunity to ponder their life and to see that their faults are the things that they must sacrifice in order to live truth. In the matter in question, someone here ought to take a thoughtful look at things, seeking to get a broad view. Moreover, they ought to put trust in God and to do what is right.

The *Ifá* response is: *Òkànràn Òwónrín* supported by *Ogbè Òsá*. The primary *Odù* tells us that: *Òkànràn* (touching trouble) is hindered by *Òwónrín* (walking honorably). This *Odù* says that:

‘Let him do evil’ benefits the evildoer. ‘Let him do bad things’ benefits the doer of bad things. *Ifá* divination was performed for those of disobedience, who were saying that *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) was warning against trouble too much. It was what was in their minds that they were doing. They were doing evil. They were doing bad things. Things of the world were looking good for them. We (others) went reporting to *Èlà*.

Èlà said: “If it happens to take a long time on-and-on, then the dispenser of rewards will be coming around. He will solve burdens to the last one. He will do quietly his doing. When he happens to arrive, all of them (the wrongdoers) will run away.”

It was said that we ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that ‘Let him do evil’ and ‘Let him do bad things’ may not see the opportunity to enter our insides, so that companions and peers may not ridicule us in the end.

Extra: Do not allow negative influences to gain a foothold.

The secondary *Odù* tells us that: *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is helped by *Òsá* (taking timely action). This *Odù* says that:

If affliction happens to be coming over an *Ifá* priest, then the *Ifá* priest ought not to lie. If affliction happens to be coming over an herb doctor, then the herb doctor ought not to deceive. A person ought not to lie; a person ought not to deceive. Because of the sleeping of our bodies (that is, our eventual passing) this is.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọmọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) when People-of-ignorance were making fun of him. *Ọmọ-Èlà* was practicing righteousness, but he was doing everything for which (each) one did not find an answer. People-of-ignorance were practicing double-dealing, but they were doing everything to completion.

It was said that he ought not to cease practicing righteousness. He ought moreover to have patience. He ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. It was said: “If it happens to take a long time on-and-on, then the dispenser of rewards will be coming around. He will solve burdens to the last one.”

Extra: **1.** [a saying from Martin Luther King Jr.] The time is always right to do what is right. **2.** [The Bible, Proverbs 24:19-20] You ought not to rouse yourself to anger because of the wrongdoers (and) you ought not to be envious of the unrighteous ones, because there will not be a (good) ending for someone bad; the candle of unrighteous ones will be extinguished.

4.8 A reading: Performing *Ifá* divination

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On Sunday, 14 April 2013 (*Ọsẹ Òrìṣànlá*), I posed the following query:

Query: Please comment on what you require for a person to meet your approval to perform *Ifá* divination.

FIGURE 4.8 presents the divination results.

FIGURE 4.8: The oracular responses

Primary Figure	Secondary Figure	Secondary	Primary
Hexagram 05 XŪ	Hexagram 11 TÀI	Ìrẹ̀tẹ̀ Òfún	Òtúrá Ìrosùn

The *Yi-Jing* response is: Hexagram 05 (XŪ, ‘waiting in need’) changing at Line 5, thereby showing Hexagram 11 (TÀI, ‘peacefully prosperous’). For the primary hexagram, we have:

Waiting in need. One has an undeviating commitment. Making bright spiritual efforts to get divine help is an omen of auspiciousness. It is beneficial to ford great rivers. In the matter in question, someone here is advised to wait and to develop themselves spiritually. At the proper time, they will be able to successfully ‘ford great rivers’ (that is, undertake major endeavors).

LINE 5. One waits in need at wine and food – this is an omen of auspiciousness. XŪ bridges here to Hexagram 11 (TÀI, ‘peacefully prosperous’). A possible message here is that someone here ought to seek divine help through ritual offerings of food and drink. Another possible message here is that someone here ought to take a suitable break from a difficult situation in order to rest and recuperate.

For the secondary hexagram, we have:

Peacefully prosperous. That which is small heads away; that which is great comes near. It is auspicious to make spiritual efforts to get divine help. In the matter in question, ignoble influences are in decline, while noble influences can now rise to positions of great power.

The *Ifá* response is: *Òtúrá Ìrosùn* supported by *Ìrẹ̀tẹ̀ Òfún*. The primary *Odu* tells us that: *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) helps *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty). This *Odu* says that:

It was Subtly who performed *Ifá* divination for those at an impasse. It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that everything that they were going to do, it may not make an impasse. They did not do *ẹbọ*.

It was in this manner that they dealt with a matter of money, and it became an impasse. They moreover dealt with a matter of spouses, and it became an impasse also. Everything that they were dealing with, it was arriving at an impasse.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may not get seeing a matter of impasse, so that a thing that he takes hold of, it may not get free from his hands and he not moreover be able to hold on to anything.

Extra: [an *Ifá* saying] *Rírú ẹbọ ni igbè ẹni; àírú kì igbè èniyàn* (It is doing *ẹbọ* that benefits a person; not doing it never benefits a person).

Moreover, the primary *Odù* tells us that: *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) is helped by *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty). This *Odù* says that:

Òtúrá glows very red. *Ìrosùn* glows very red.

Ifá divination was performed for White-cloth (which symbolizes the effort to maintain cleanness), who was headed for a life of not having disgrace. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

The wearer of white cloth never goes sitting down in the market stall of the palm-oil seller.

Extra: [The Bible, Psalm 37:23-24] Because of *Ha'el* (God), the steps of a heroic person are made firm, and in his (the person's) path does he (*Ha'el*) take pleasure. Although he (the person) may stumble, he will not be thrown down, because *Ha'el* is one who props up his hand.

The secondary *Odù* tells us that: *Ìrẹtẹ* (making one's mark) hinders *Òfìn* (efforts of limited success). This *Odù* says that:

The *irúnmolẹ* (divine ministerial agents) and *Orí Ẹlédàá* (Man's godself) were going to the town of Life-fulfilment. *Orí* alone arrived there.

Therefore, *Orí* is 'hotter' than *òrìṣà* (divine ministerial agents). It is *Orí* alone who takes them (people) to life fulfilment. There is no *òrìṣà* who is sufficient in supporting behind the back of one's *Orí*. *Orí* is indeed 'hotter' than *òrìṣà*.

Extra: The power of God is within you, and so you can transcend any circumstance, habit, or personality trait. Attune yourself to *Orí Ẹlédàá* (Man's godself) so that you may fully develop your life potential.

APPENDIX A

Some Ìdáfá messages

Introduction

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In this appendix, I use excerpts of *Ifá* stories together with wise sayings to present oracular messages from a limited number of *Odù*. Note that because each *Odù* has numerous associated stories, it is possible that the story presented here is not the one that pertains to your situation.

TABLE A: Themes of the sixteen Ìdáfá words

Word	Themes
<i>Ogbè</i>	A wholesome road.
<i>Òyèkú</i>	Averting ruin. Not missing out on bright possibilities.
<i>Ìwòrì</i>	Good things becoming seen. Seeing things clearly.
<i>Òdì</i>	Blockage or enemies. Having a sound foundation.
<i>Ìrosùn</i>	Patiently persevering through difficulty.
<i>Òwónrín</i>	Taking measured action. Walking honorably.
<i>Òbàrà</i>	Asserting oneself with dignity.
<i>Òkànràn</i>	Giving something good its turn. Touching trouble.
<i>Ògúndá</i>	Clearing a way. Having the courage to take right action.
<i>Òsá</i>	Running away from a challenge. Taking timely action.
<i>Ìká</i>	Ill conduct or ill luck. Reaping a reward
<i>Òtúrúpòn</i>	Being productive.
<i>Òtúrá</i>	Averting a worrisome situation.
<i>Ìrètè</i>	Making one's mark. Practicing <i>Ifá</i> . Unwholesome influences.
<i>Òşé</i>	Overcoming through joyful optimism. Overcoming trouble.
<i>Òfún</i>	Acting righteously and judiciously. Efforts of limited success.

Each *Odù* describes a situation. Its right (masculine) leg indicates the foremost aspect of the situation, while its left (feminine) leg indicates pertinent circumstances. For your *Odù* of interest, use the themes of TABLE A to examine possible meanings. For example, *Ogbè Òkànràn* is an *Odù*

that could mean that *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is helped by *Òkànràn* (giving something good its turn). Moreover, *Ogbè Òkànràn* could mean that *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is hindered by *Òkànràn* (touching trouble).

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A01 Ogbè as the right leg	A09 Ògúndá as the right leg
A02 Òyèkú as the right leg	A10 Òsá as the right leg
A03 Ìwòrì as the right leg	A11 Ìká as the right leg
A04 Òdí as the right leg	A12 Òtúrúpòn as the right leg
A05 Ìrosùn as the right leg	A13 Òtúrá as the right leg
A06 Òwónrín as the right leg	A14 Ìretè as the right leg
A07 Òbàrà as the right leg	A15 Òsé as the right leg
A08 Òkànràn as the right leg	A16 Òfún as the right leg

A01 Ogbè as the right leg

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Èjì Ogbè	Ogbè Ìrosùn	Ogbè Ògúndá	Ogbè Òtírà
Ogbè Òyèkú	Ogbè Òwónrín	Ogbè Òsá	Ogbè Ìretè
Ogbè Ìwòrì	Ogbè Òbàrà	Ogbè Ìká	Ogbè Òsé
Ogbè Òdí	Ogbè Òkànràn	Ogbè Òtúrúpòn	Ogbè Òfún

Èjì Ogbè

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01.01a *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is doubled.

Kí a má fi kánjúkánjú jẹ ayé. Kí a má fi wàràwàrà ta okùn ọrọ. Ohun tí àbá fi ẹ àgbà, kí a má fi ẹ ikánjú.

We ought not to use haste to enjoy life. We ought not to use haste to shoot for the royal beads of wealth. The thing that we ought to do maturely (that is, with due consideration and know-how), we ought not to do (it) hastily.

Bí a bá dé ibi tí ó tutù, kí a simi-simi. Kí a wò ijọ iwájú tílọ. Kí a tún rò èyìn ọràn wò. Nítorí àtisùn ara ẹni ni.

If we happen to reach a place that is cool, then we ought to rest fully. We ought to look at the days ahead continually. We ought to work at carefully considering the back end of matters (that is, how matters will turn out). Because of the sleeping of our bodies (that is, our eventual passing) this is.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 21:5] Plans of a diligent one surely are headed for gain, but everyone who makes haste surely is headed for deficiency.

01.01b *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is doubled.

Èbìtì já fi àyà lù ilẹ.

The animal trap fell and used (its) chest to hit the ground. [Note: The animal trap here has actually fallen flat on its face. ‘Falling flat on one’s face’ idiomatically means ‘to fail completely in an attempt to do something, especially in an embarrassing way’].

A dífá fún Yèyé ‘Alé tì lé’, tí ifi omi ojú sògbéré ire, tí ísọ ìretí nù. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ ibọ fún Èlà, alátúnṣe ayé, asọ-ọrọ-di-ayọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Mother ‘Night has not yet fallen’, who was using teardrops to cry about good things, who was losing hope. It was said that she ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. She heard; she did *ẹbọ*. She moreover did *ibọ* for *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), the master of improving one’s life in the world, the one who converts trouble into joy.

Kò pé; kò jinnà. Ire gbogbo wá yá dé tùtúru.

It did not take long; it was not far away. Every good thing came flooding in to arrive plentifully.

Ñjẹ, alẹ ajẹ kì ilẹ fún awo – ẹhìn wà. Kí ẹnì má rò Ẹdú pin – ẹhìn wà. Alẹ aya kì ilẹ fún awo – ẹhìn wà. Kí ẹnì má rò Ẹdú pin – ẹhìn wà.

Therefore, the night (that is, loss of opportunity) of money never falls for a priest – the future exists. We ought not to write Ẹdú (Jet-black, a name of Ẹlà) off – the future exists. The night of spouses never falls for a priest – the future exists. We ought not to write Ẹdú off – the future exists.

Alẹ omọ kì ilẹ fún awo – ẹhìn wà. Kí ẹnì má rò Ẹdú pin – ẹhìn wà. Alẹ ire gbogbo kì ilẹ fún awo – ẹhìn wà. Kí ẹnì má rò Ẹdú pin – ẹhìn wà.

The night of children never falls for a priest – the future exists. We ought not to write Ẹdú off – the future exists. The night of every good thing never falls for a priest – the future exists. We ought not to write Ẹdú off – the future exists.

Extra: [The Bible, Psalm 55:22] Cast upon *Ha'el* (God) your matter of concern, and he will sustain you; he will not permit for long the losing of footing for the righteous one.

Ogbè Ọyẹkú

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.02 *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) helps Ọyẹkú (not missing out on bright possibilities).

Ogbè Ọyẹkú ni bàbá àmúlù. Orí ogbó, orí atọ ni bàbá ẹdan. Ọşòrọ ni bàbá ọjò.

It is *Ogbè Ọyẹkú* that is the father of *Odu* combinations. It is a destiny of longevity and a destiny of vitality that are the fathers of an *Ọgbóni* staff (which could last in an *Ọgbóni* spiritual house for several hundred years). It is a torrent that is the father of rain.

A dífá fún Kìniún, tí yòò fi itọ gbà ijù lówọ ẹranko. Gbogbo àwọn ẹranko ni íşáátá Kìniún. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ó baà lè l'ówọ lójú àwọn ẹgbẹ rẹ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Lion, who would use urine to take over the wilderness from the hands of the wild animals. It was all of the wild animals who were belittling Lion. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may be able to have respect in the presence of his associates. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Nígbàtí Kìniún rúbọ tán, bí ó bá dùbúlẹ s'ibikibi, yòò maa tọ yí ara ká. Bí ẹranko bá ti dá itọ kojá, yòò di òkú.

When Lion had done *ẹbọ* completely, if he happened to lie down at any place, then he would keep urinating all around himself. If a wild animal happened to have passed over the urine, then it would become a corpse.

Bàyí ni Kìniún di ẹnì ẹrù láárín àwọn ẹranko. Bí wọn bá gbọ ohùn rẹ, ẹrù ọò bá wọn. Láti igbà náà ni Kìniún ti jọba lóri gbogbo ẹranko.

It was in that manner that Lion became a person of fear among the wild animals. If they happened to hear his voice, then fear would meet them. It is since that time that Lion has reigned over every wild animal.

Ẹbọ: Fi ìgò ọ́tí méjì àtí owó. Fi àkóse Ifá.

An *ẹbọ*: Use two bottles of alcoholic beverage and money. Use *Ifá* medicine.

Àkóse Ifá: Gbo ewé ọ̀wọ̀ sínú akèrègbè omi. Dà ọ́tí sí i fún mímu.

Ifá medicine: Juice ọ̀wọ̀ leaves (*Brillantaisia patula*: used to bring respect to someone) into a calabash of water. Pour alcoholic beverage to it for drinking.

Extra: Take your rightful place of importance and respect.

Ogbè Ìwòrì

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.03 *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) helps *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen; seeing things clearly).

Ogbè Wẹ̀yìn, a dífá fún Àdímú nígbàtí kò lè ká ayé nítorí tí kò dì Òrìṣànlá mú.

Ogbè Wẹ̀yìn ('*Ogbè* looks backward', same as *Ogbè Ìwòrì*), *Ifá* divination was performed for Taking-hold when he was not able to handle life successfully because he was not taking hold of *Òrìṣànlá* (the *òrìṣà* of moral sense).

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì tàn fitilá fún Òrìṣànlá. Báyii ni Òrìṣànlá óò tàn iná ire fún un.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover lit a candle for *Òrìṣànlá*. It was in this manner that *Òrìṣànlá* would light the fire of good things for him.

Ọfọ: Òrìṣànlá pẹ̀lẹ́, bàntà-banta nínú àlà. Ọ̀dúnnì l'Òrìṣànlá tàn iná ire fún mí.

Incantation: Hail *Òrìṣànlá*, the immense one in white clothing (which symbolizes the effort to maintain cleanness). It is this year that *Òrìṣànlá* lights the fire of good things for me.

Àkóse Ifá: Lọ ewé ẹ̀funṣẹ́fun. Pè ọfọ nàá s'ẹ̀tù yìí tí o ti tẹ lí Ogbè Ìwòrì. Dà ẹ̀tù yìí sínú ọ̀kan nínú fitilá pẹ̀lú òrí. Tàn fitilá yìí l'ọ̀jó méje.

Ifá medicine: Grind *ẹ̀funṣẹ́fun* leaves (*Aerva lanata*: used to attract prosperity and to ward off negative energy) into a powder. Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to this powder that you have imprinted with *Ogbè Ìwòrì*. Pour this powder into a candle together with shea butter (which is used to dispel negative energy and to attract positive energy). Light the candle for 7 days.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 21:21] One who runs after righteousness and loving-kindness attains to life, prosperity, and honor.

Ogbè Òdí

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.04 *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is hindered by *Òdí* (blockage or enemies).

Ogbè Òdí pẹ̀rẹ̀pẹ̀, a dífá fún Orí-àpéré, tí ó kúnlẹ́, tí ó yàn ìpín rẹ́, tí elénìní kò jẹ́kí ó ẹ́ ẹ́.

Ogbè Òdí abundantly, *Ifá* divination was performed for Personal-destiny, who knelt (before God), who chose his portion in life, whom people of ill will did not allow that he carry it out.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Lẹhìn tí ó rúbọ tán, ohun gbogbo tí íṣe, ó gún, ó l'ónà.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. After he had done *ẹbọ* completely, everything that he was doing, it became right, it had a road (to success).

Ifá ní òun rí aláròmọ tí kò fẹ kí a ẹ nkan ẹni. Ifá ní òun bá ẹni ẹgun aláròmọ náà. Ifá ní kí a wá rúbọ.

Ifá says that he sees an ill-wisher (that is, one who desires ill luck to another) who does not want that we do something of ours. *Ifá* says that he will join us in overcoming the aforementioned ill-wisher. *Ifá* says that we ought to come doing *ẹbọ*.

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, one will overcome someone or something that is working against their best interests.

Ogbè Ìrosùn

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.05a *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) helps *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty).

Àlùkínrínjin l'ó dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlà. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ibi má bá bá a fi ẹsẹ wọ ilé rẹ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

It was *Àlùkínrínjin* who performed *Ifá* divination for *Ọmọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom). It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that bad things may not happen to join him in using the feet to enter his house. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

A ẹ àkóse Ifá fún Ọmọ-Èlà. A ẹ fitílà ìṣẹgun fún un kí ó tàn án l'álaalé.

Ifá medicine was made for *Ọmọ-Èlà*. A candle of victory was made for him so that he may light it every night.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 16:17] The high way of upright ones is to turn themselves aside from what is bad; one who watches over his spirit is one who safeguards his conduct.

01.05b *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is helped by *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty).

Message: [*Dilogún* 8-4] He who corrects his shortcomings transforms his enemies.

Ogbè Ọwónrín

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.06a *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is helped by *Ọwónrín* (taking measured action).

Òní, Ogbè òkùn sínú. Ọlà, Ogbè òkùn sínú. Ẹ jẹkí a fi ohun Ogbè fún Ogbè kí ó baà yé kùn.

Today, *Ogbè* is muttering discontentedly. Tomorrow, *Ogbè* is muttering discontentedly. Allow that we give the things of *Ogbè* to *Ogbè* (that is, give *Ogbè* his due) so that he may cease grumbling.

Extra: Described here is someone who has not been receiving something deserved.

01.06b *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) helps *Òwónrín* (walking honorably).

Ifá ní kí a má fi ojú tẹ̀mbẹ̀lú ẹ̀nikẹ̀ni.

Ifá says that we ought not to use (our) eyes to belittle anyone.

Extra: Do not look down on anyone.

Ogbè Ọ̀bàrà

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.07 *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is helped by *Ọ̀bàrà* (asserting oneself with dignity).

Ìmọ̀nà mọ̀nà sán kàn ilẹ̀. Ìmọ̀nà mọ̀nà sán kàn ọ̀run.

Lightning flashes and touches the earth. Lightning flashes and touches the sky.

A dífá fún Igún n'íjọ́ tí íbọ́ l'óde ayé. A ní àkókò tí ojú bá maa tí í, tí ebi bá maa pa á, n'ìṣẹ̀lẹ̀ óò ṣe. A kò ní gbọ́ ikú Igún. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ́. Ó gbọ́; ó rúbọ́.

Ifá divination was performed for Vulture on the day when she was coming to earth town. It was said that the time when shame happened to be coming over her, when hunger happened to be overwhelming her, it was then when an event would happen. We will not hear of the death of Vulture. It was said that she ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ́*. She heard; she did *ẹ̀bọ́*.

Ifá ní ẹ̀nikan wà tí kí ó wá rúbọ́ kí bí ojú bá tí í, ẹ̀nikẹ̀jì rẹ̀ ọ̀run baà lè rán lówó.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ́* so that if shame happens to come over him, then his companion of heaven may be able to render help.

Ogbè Ọ̀kànràn

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.08a *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is helped by *Ọ̀kànràn* (giving something good its turn).

Ogbè ñkàn ọ̀ràn.

Ogbè is touching the matter (firmly).

Ifá ní ẹ̀nikan wà tí kí ó wá rúbọ́. Kí olúwarẹ̀ sì wá ṣe ibọ́ fún Orí Ẹ̀lédàá. Báyii l'ayé rẹ̀ óò di rere. Orí Ẹ̀lédàá ni irò ẹ̀ni tààrà fi í jọba.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ́*. The person in question ought moreover to come doing *ibọ́* for *Orí Ẹ̀lédàá* (Man's godself). It is in this manner that his life in the world will become that which is good. It is *Orí Ẹ̀lédàá* who considers a person straightway to cause him to be enthroned as the king (of his own life).

Orí pẹ̀lẹ̀, atètè níran, atètè gbè ẹ̀ni kí òṣà. Kò sí ọ̀rìṣà tí ó tó gbè léyìn Orí ẹ̀ni.

Hail *Orí*, the one who quickly remembers (a person), the one who quickly supports a person before *ọ̀rìṣà* (divine ministerial agents). There is no *ọ̀rìṣà* who is sufficient to give support behind the back of one's *Orí*.

Extra: By attuning yourself to *Orí Ẹ̀lédàá*, you take noble charge of the powers within your being.

01.08b *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is hindered by *Òkànràn* (touching trouble).

Ìṣéṣé ìròkò, awo Ọrọ, l'ó difá fún Ọrọ, arò-bùjẹ l'ẹnu ọmọ ẹyẹ, nígbàtí íbẹ nínú ìṣòro nítorí àwọn ọmọ ẹyẹ.

It was 'Withered *ìròkò* twigs', the priest of *Ọrọ*-plant (which is a cactus-like plant), who performed *Ifá* divination for *Ọrọ*-plant, the one who was tender to be chewed in the mouth of the birds (a reference to bird-people), when she was in difficulty because of the birds.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ ipèsè. Nígbàtí Ọrọ rúbọ tán, àwọn ọmọ ẹyẹ kò lè mu ẹjẹ rẹ mọ. Wọn kò sì lè bà lé e mọ.

It was said that she ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. She heard; she did *ẹbọ*. She moreover did *ipèsè*. When *Ọrọ*-plant had done *ẹbọ* completely, the birds were not able to drink her blood (which had become skin-irritating sap) anymore. They were not moreover able to perch on her anymore (because she had developed a thorny exterior).

Èrò Ìpo, èrò Ọfà, ẹ wá bá ẹni ní àrúṣẹgun.

Travelers to *Ìpo* town, travelers to *Ọfà* town, come join us in stirring up victory.

Ifá ní ẹnikan wà tí íbẹ nínú ìṣòro nítorí àwọn ẹlẹyẹ. Wọn kò jẹkí olúwarẹ rí ojútúú ayé rẹ; wọn kò jẹkí ó ní láárí. Kí ó wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì wá ẹ ipèsè. Báyí ni yóò ṣẹgun àwọn ẹlẹyẹ.

Ifá says that there is someone who is in difficulty because of *ẹlẹyẹ* (bird-people, a nickname of psychic agents). They do not allow that the person in question solve the problems of her life; they do not allow that she have importance. She ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. She ought moreover to come doing *ipèsè*. It is in this manner that she will overcome *ẹlẹyẹ*.

Ìpèsè: Fi epo, obì méjọ, òkété, àti orógbó pèsè fún ẹlẹyẹ.

An *ipèsè*: Use palm oil (which is used to tone down that which is potentially unruly), 8 kola nuts (which are used to further peaceful prosperity), a giant rat, and a bitter-kola nut to provide for *ẹlẹyẹ*.

Ogbè Ògúndá

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.09 *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is helped by *Ògúndá* (having the courage to take right action).

Ìbínú kò dá nkan rere fún ẹni. Sùúrù ni bàbá ìwà. Ẹni tí ó ní sùúrù, yóò jẹ ogbó, yóò jẹ atọ.

Anger does not produce anything good for a person. It is patience that is the father of (good) character. The person who has patience, he will enjoy longevity, he will enjoy vitality.

A difá fún Ìwà. A bù fún Orí. A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ kí Ìwà má baà bínú kí ó bà Orí jẹ. Wọn gbọ; wọn rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Character. It (this divination) was shared with Personal-destiny. It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that Character may not get angry and consequently ruin Personal-destiny. They heard; they did *ẹbọ*.

Ọfọ: Ìwà nìkan l'ó sọrọ. Orí kì íburú lí Ọtu-Ifẹ. Ìwà nìkan l'ó sọrọ.

Incantation: It is character alone that speaks. Personal destiny is never bad in *Ilé-Ifẹ* (a *Yorùbá* town that symbolizes earthly life). It is character alone that speaks.

Àkóse Ifá: Pò ewé òdúndún, ewé tètè, èkọ, àti òrí pò sínú omi. Pè ọfọ náà s'ìyèròsùn tí o ti tẹ lí Ogbè Ògúndá. Pò ìyèròsùn yíi pèlú àpòpò náà. Fi owó kan bọ àkópò yíi. Lẹhin tí o fi owó yíi kàn idodo rẹ, fi í n'ídí Èsù. Mu àkópò náà.

Ifá medicine: Mix *òdúndún* leaves (*Kalanchoe pinnata*: used to cool down 'hot' or negative situations), *tètè* leaves (*Amaranthus viridis*: used to dispel negative energy), maize porridge, and shea butter (which is used to dispel negative energy and to attract positive energy) together into water. Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to *ìyèròsùn* that you have imprinted with *Ogbè Ògúndá*. Mix this *ìyèròsùn* together with the aforementioned mixture. Dip one cowry into this combination. After using this cowry to touch your navel, put it at the base of the prime talisman of *Èsù* (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests). Drink the aforementioned combination.

Extra: **1.** [The Bible, Proverbs 29:22] A person of anger stirs up contention, and one possessing the heat of anger is someone abundant in rebellious action. **2.** It is your character that makes or breaks you.

Ogbè Ọsá

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.10a *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is helped by *Ọsá* (taking timely action).

Bí ojú bá ńpọn babaláwo, kí babaláwo má purọ. Bí ojú bá ńpọn onísẹ̀gùn, kí babaláwo má ẹ̀ké. Kí ẹnì má purọ; kí ẹnì má ẹ̀ké. Nítorí àtisùn ara ẹnì nì.

If affliction happens to be coming over an *Ifá* priest, then the *Ifá* priest ought not to lie. If affliction happens to be coming over an herb doctor, then the herb doctor ought not to deceive. A person ought not to lie; a person ought not to deceive. Because of the sleeping of our bodies (that is, our eventual passing) this is.

A dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlà nígbàtí Ẹni-àimọ nífi í rẹrín. Ọmọ-Èlà ńsòdodo, ẹ̀gbọ́n ó ńse ohun gbogbo tí ọkan kò yànjú. Ẹni-àimọ ńse àbòsì, ẹ̀gbọ́n wọ́n ńse ohun gbogbo tán.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọmọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) when People-of-ignorance were making fun of him. *Ọmọ-Èlà* was practicing righteousness, but he was doing everything for which (each) one did not find an answer. People-of-ignorance were practicing double-dealing, but they were doing everything to completion.

A ní kí ó má dẹkun isòdodo. Kí ó sì ní sùurù. Kí ó wá rúbọ. A ní: “Bí ó bá pẹ títi, ẹ̀lẹsan òò maa bọwá àyíká. Yòò tùmọ l'ẹrù kalẹ.”

It was said that he ought not to cease practicing righteousness. He ought moreover to have patience. He ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. It was said: “If it happens to take a long time on-and-on, then the dispenser of rewards will be coming around. He will solve burdens to the last one.”

Extra: **1.** [a saying from Martin Luther King Jr.] The time is always right to do what is right. **2.** [The Bible, Proverbs 24:19-20] You ought not to rouse yourself to anger because of the wrongdoers (and) you ought not to be envious of the unrighteous ones, because there will not be a (good) ending for someone bad; the candle of unrighteous ones will be extinguished.

01.10b *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is helped by *Ọsá* (taking timely action).

Ogbè sá rẹ̀ ilé. Ọsá sá rẹ̀ oko. A dífá fún Ẹni-ayé-kàn. A bù fún Ẹ-é-rere.

Ogbè ran away to go to the town. *Ọsá* ran away to go to the countryside. *Ifá* divination was performed for ‘One to whom life gives his turn of opportunity’. It (this divination) was shared with Do-it-well.

Ẹ-é-rere, gbé ẹ̀rù rere o! Ẹni-ayé-kàn, ẹ̀ ẹ̀ ẹ̀ ayé ire. Bí ó jẹ̀ ìwọ̀ l’ayé kàn, kí o ẹ̀ ẹ̀ ayé ire. Bí ó jẹ̀ èmi l’ayé kàn, kí N ẹ̀ ẹ̀ ayé ire. Ẹ-é-rere, gbé ẹ̀rù rere o! Ẹni-ayé-kàn, ẹ̀ ẹ̀ ẹ̀ ayé ire.

Do it well, carry the load well! ‘One to whom life gives his turn of opportunity’, make a world of good things. If it is you to whom life gives your turn, then you ought to make a world of good things. If it is me to whom life gives my turn, then I ought to make a world of good things. Do it well, carry the load well! ‘One to whom life gives his turn of opportunity’, make a world of good things.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 3:27] You ought not to withhold what is good from its owners (that is, those to whom it is due), in that it has come to be in the power of your hand to do (it).

Ogbè Ìká

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.11 *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) hinders *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck).

Ogbè, kí a rẹ̀ ilé, ọ̀mọ ọ̀şin. Ogbè, kí a rẹ̀ ilé, ọ̀mọ ọ̀rà. Ogbè, kí a rẹ̀ ilé, ọ̀mọ alá-kòko Ọ̀gún lélé alẹ̀de.

Ogbè, let us go home, child of one who has everyone at his command. *Ogbè*, let us go home, child of one who is living his life to the fullest. *Ogbè*, let us go home, child of the keeper of the *akòko* tree (whose leaves confer honor, renown, and a life of longevity and vitality) of *Ọ̀gún* (the *òrìşà* of iron and war) on the ground outside in front.

Ẹşin gbé ọ̀wọ̀ jó, şùgbón kò jó. Adiyẹ gbé ẹ̀şẹ̀ gẹ̀, şùgbón ẹ̀şẹ̀ má yẹ̀.

The horse lifted (his) hands to dance, but he did not dance. The hen lifted (her) legs to sit comfortably, but (her) legs did not move.

A dífá fún Ogbè nígbàtí íjẹ̀ ayé èlẹ̀ kákááká, tí íjẹ̀ ayé èlẹ̀ bí ọ̀ta. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀. Ó sì ẹ̀ ẹ̀ ibọ̀ fún Èlà, asọ-òrọ̀-di-ayọ̀.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ogbè* when he was experiencing a life of hardship of scanty-scanty, when he was experiencing a life of hardship like a stone. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ̀*. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ̀*. He moreover did *ibọ̀* for *Èlà* (the *òrìşà* of knowledge and wisdom), the one who converts trouble into joy.

Kò pé; kò jìnnà. Ire gbogbo wá yá dé tùtùru.

It did not take long; it was not far away. Every good thing came flooding in to arrive plentifully.

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, hardship will give way to peaceful prosperity.

Ogbè Òtúrúpòn

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.12a *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) helps *Òtúrúpòn* (being productive).

Ogbè, tún ọmọ pòn. Ogbè, tún ọmọ sún. Àgbàpòn kò lérè. Bí ọmọ bá òkè, iyá l'áá gbé e fún.

Ogbè, work at back-carrying (your) child. *Ogbè*, work at adjusting (your) child. Receiving and back-carrying (someone else's child) are not rewarding. If a child happens to be crying out, then it is the mother to whom we will hand him over.

A dífá fún Àpáta-àdirò, àwọn tí ó kò ògiri wọn sílẹ̀. Ohun gbogbo tí a fi lórí wọn, ó já nínú iná.

Ifá divination was performed for Hearthstones (two stones that form a triangular fireplace with the side of a wall), the ones who abandoned their wall (in order to go it alone). Everything that was put on top of them, it fell into the fire.

Kíni Àpáta-àdirò lè ẹ̀ se kí ayé baà lè yẹ wọn? A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ. Kí wọn sì gbé ògiri pòn tímótímọ. Wọn gbọ; wọn rúbọ. Wọn sì padà sí ògiri wọn.

What was it that Hearthstones were able to do so that life may be able to be right for them? It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. They ought moreover to pick up (their) wall to back-carry it closely. They heard; they did *ẹbọ*. They moreover returned to their wall.

Ìgbà tí Àpáta-àdirò gbé ògiri pòn, l'a bá òní ire gbogbo.

It was the time when Hearthstones picked up the wall to back-carry it, that we happened to be having every good thing.

Ẹbọ: Fi àgbébọ méréni àti owó.

An *ẹbọ*: Use 4 egg-laying hens and money.

Extra: One cannot fare well single-handedly – one needs the right help.

01.12b *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) helps *Òtúrúpòn* (being productive).

Ẹsẹ ibi kò yà sílẹ̀ aláta. Ẹsẹ ibi kò yà sílẹ̀ onírú. Ẹsẹ ibi kò yà sílẹ̀ oníyọ.

The feet of bad spirits do not branch off to the house of the pepper seller. The feet of bad spirits do not branch off to the house of the seller of locust-bean spice. The feet of bad spirits do not branch off to the house of the salt seller.

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì wá ẹ̀se ibọ fún Èlà, asọ-òrọ-di-ayọ. Báyii ni olúwarẹ óò bó lẹsẹ ibi.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He ought moreover to come doing *ibọ* for *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), the one who converts trouble into joy. It is in this manner that the person in question will be free from the feet of bad spirits.

Ẹbọ: Fi ata díẹ, irú díẹ, àti iyọ díẹ.

An *ẹbọ*: Use a little pepper, a little locust-bean spice, and a little salt.

Ogbè Òtúrá

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.13 *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) helps *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation).

Bí ẹnì lówó, bí kò n'íwà, owó olówó ni. Ìwà, iwà l'a n'wá o, iwà! Bí ẹnì bímọ, bí kò n'íwà, ọmọ ọlómọ ni. Ìwà, iwà l'a n'wá o, iwà!

If a person has money, if he does not have character, then the money of someone else it is. Character, it is character that we are looking for, character! If a person begets children, if he does not have character, then the children of someone else they are. Character, it is character that we are looking for, character!

Bí ẹnì kólé, bí kò n'íwà, ilé onilé ni. Ìwà, iwà l'a n'wá o, iwà! Bí ẹnì n'íre, bí kò n'íwà, ire oníre ni. Ìwà, iwà l'a n'wá o, iwà!

If a person builds a house, if he does not have character, then the house of someone else it is. Character, it is character that we are looking for, character! If a person has good things, if he does not have character, then the good things of someone else they are. Character, it is character that we are looking for, character!

Extra: 1. [an *Ifá* saying] *Ìwà rere l'òşó èyàn* (It is good character that is the adornment of a human being). 2. [*Dilogún* 8-15 revised] Bad character is what leads a man to fail in his endeavors.

Ogbè Ìrètè

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.14 *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) hinders *Ìrètè* (unwholesome influences).

Bí iwájú ikà bá dára l'áyé, èyìn ikà kò ní sunwọ̀n. A kì ifi ikà dì ẹ̀rù kí ó gún gégé.

If the front part of evil happens to be good-looking in life, then the back part of evil will not be good. We never use evil to tie a load (for undertaking a journey) for it to be exactly right.

A dífá fún Ọmọ-òtító-inú, ọmọ afi ìrèlẹ̀ tẹ̀lẹ̀, nígbàtí ohun ayé ndára fún aṣe-ibi, nígbàtí aṣe-rere nbùkù. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì ní sùúrù.

Ifá divination was performed for Child-of-truthfulness, child of the one who uses humility to walk on the earth, when things of the world were looking good for the one who practices that which is bad, when the one who practices that which is good was getting reduced in importance. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He ought moreover to have patience.

Ẹ̀lédàá l'ó n'ílẹ̀. Ẹ̀lédàá l'ó n'ídájọ. Ẹ̀san ni t'Ẹ̀lédàá. Yòò san án fún oníkálùkù gégébi isẹ ọwọ wọ̀n.

It is *Ẹ̀lédàá* (Creator God) who owns the earth. It is *Ẹ̀lédàá* who owns judgment. It is payment of reward that is a matter of *Ẹ̀lédàá*. He will pay it to each one according to the works of their hands.

Extra: 1. [The Bible, Psalm 18:24] And *Ha'el* (God) gives rewards to me according to my rightness, according to the cleanness of my hands in front of his eyes. 2. [The Bible, Proverbs 11:18] An unrighteous one achieves a sham reward, but one who sows righteousness (achieves) a reward truly.

Ogbè Ọ̀ṣẹ̀

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.15 *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is helped by Ọ̀ṣẹ̀ (overcoming through joyful optimism).

Ogbè Ọ̀ṣẹ̀, a dífá fún Ọ̀mùgò, tí ó l'óun kò ní ọ̀ore mó. A ní kí ó má dẹkun ọ̀ore. Ọ̀gbò n kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ogbè Ọ̀ṣẹ̀, Ifá divination was performed for Foolish-one, who said that he would not do kindly acts anymore. It was said that he ought not to cease doing kindly acts. But he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Ọ̀jẹ, yóò l'ájé tí ó tẹ̀rùn. Aṣe-rere, kò ọ̀sà l'ájé tí ó tẹ̀rùn. Yóò l'áya tí ó tẹ̀rùn. Aṣe-rere, kò ọ̀sà l'áya tí ó tẹ̀rùn.

Therefore, he will have money that is satisfactory. One who practices that which is good, he will not fail to have money that is satisfactory. He will have spouses who are satisfactory. One who practices that which is good, he will not fail to have spouses who are satisfactory.

Yóò bímọ tí ó tẹ̀rùn. Aṣe-rere, kò ọ̀sà bímọ tí ó tẹ̀rùn. Yóò n'ire gbogbo tí ó tẹ̀rùn. Aṣe-rere, kò ọ̀sà n'ire gbogbo tí ó tẹ̀rùn.

He will beget children who are satisfactory. One who practices that which is good, he will not fail to beget children who are satisfactory. He will have every good thing that is satisfactory. One who practices that which is good, he will not fail to have every good thing that is satisfactory.

Extra: **1.** Do not give up on doing what is good. **2.** By practicing what is good, you will enjoy things within proper bounds.

Ogbè Ọ̀fún

[\[Back to Ogbè\]](#)

01.16a *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is helped by Ọ̀fún (acting with rectitude). *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) hinders Ọ̀fún (efforts of limited success).

Mo sí apá, mo yanngede.

I raise (my) arms, I walk majestically.

A dífá fún Ọ̀mọ-Èlà, tí maa gbé ẹ̀rù tirẹ̀ dé orí. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ̀ ibọ fún Èlà, asọ-òrò-di-ayọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Ọ̀mọ-Èlà (child of Èlà, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) when he was intending to head-carry his load (that is, to bear his responsibilities). It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for Èlà, the one who converts trouble into joy.

Èlà bá mi gbé ẹ̀rù tẹ̀mi dé orí. Ohun tí ó wúwo jù kì ídẹ sí Èlà. Ọ̀jẹ, mo sí apá, mo yanngede.

Èlà is joining me in head-carrying my load. A thing that is too heavy never reaches Èlà. Therefore, I raise (my) arms, I walk majestically.

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, one will be able to handle any matter in a masterly way.

01.16b *Ogbè* (a wholesome road) is helped by *Òfún* (acting with rectitude).

Ogbè Òfún, a difá fún Ọrùn nígbà tí ó maa gbà Ikó sílé. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. A ní kí ó má gbà àlejò ọràn.

Ogbè Òfún, Ifá divination was performed for Neck when he was intending to accept Cough as a guest in his home. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. It was said that he ought not to accept a troublesome guest.

Ọrùn pè awo l'éké. Ó pè Èṣù l'ólè. Ó kọ; kò rúbọ. Nítorínáà, Ikó l'ó sọ ilé Ìwémè di ilé ipónjú.

Neck called the priest a deceiver. He called *Èṣù* (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests) a thief. He refused; he did not do *ẹbọ*. Therefore, it was Cough who transformed the home of Neck into a home of misery.

Extra: Do not allow troublesome persons or things into your psychological comfort zone.

A02 Òyèkú as the right leg

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[Òyèkú Ogbè](#)

[Òyèkú Ìrosùn](#)

[Òyèkú Ògúndá](#)

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Òyèkú Ogbè

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02.01 *Òyèkú* (averting ruin; not missing out on bright possibilities) is helped by *Ogbè* (a wholesome road).

Ayé l'ọjà, ọrun n'ilé.

It is earth that is a market place, it is the spirit world that is home. [Note: A market place offers a variety of experiences to each person].

A dífá fún Ori-àpéré. Bí ẹ dé ilé ayé, bí ẹ gbàgbé ọrun, ayé l'ọjà, ọrun n'ilé.

Ifá divination was performed for Personal-destiny. If you reach the abode of earth, if you forget the spirit world, then it is earth that is a market place, it is the spirit world that is home.

Ẹ ọò jẹ iyìn, ẹ ọò jẹ àbò ohun tí ẹ rí.

You will answer for the praise (that you have earned), and you will answer for the other half of that which you experienced.

Òyèkú Méjì

[\[Back to Òyèkú\]](#)

02.02a *Òyèkú* (averting ruin) is doubled.

Ìwọ ọyẹ. Èmi ọyẹ.

You are one who habitually displaces things. I am one who habitually displaces things.

A dífá fún Bàbá 'Ọyẹ ikú', n'ijọ tí ó fẹ maa yẹ ikú lórí takọ-tabo. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Father 'Ọyẹ ikú' (one who habitually displaces death), on the day when he wanted to displace death from the heads of men and women. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Ọfọ: Kíni yòò yẹ ikú nù lórí awo? Èjì Ọyẹ, Ifá ni yòò yẹ ikú nù lórí awo, Èjì Ọyẹ o!

Incantation: What is it that will displace death to be lost at the head of the priest? *Èjì Ọyẹ* (same as *Òyèkú Méjì*), it is *Ifá* that will displace death to be lost at the head of the priest, *Èjì Ọyẹ!*

Àkóse Ifá: Pè ọfọ náà s'iyèròsùn tí o ti tẹ lí Èjì Ọyẹ. Fi iyèròsùn náà sà fún orí.

Ifá medicine: Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to *iyèròsùn* that you have imprinted with *Èjì Ọyẹ*. Use the aforementioned *iyèròsùn* to apply to the head.

02.02b *Ọyèkú* (not missing out on bright possibilities) is doubled.

Ọpèlẹ l'ó yó tán, l'ó dakùn délẹ.

It is the *ọpèlẹ* that is satisfied completely with food and riches, that lies flat on its belly. [Note: The *ọpèlẹ* lies flat on its belly whenever it shows *Ọyèkú Méjì*].

A dífá fún Ọyẹ. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ó baà lè gbà ojú-ọrun là bí ọberẹkẹ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Predawn-light. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may be able to take over the sky and come into full display like a bright light. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Ọyẹ ẹşẹşẹ nílà bọ lókè. Wọn şebí ojúmọ ni ímọ. Ojúmọ ire tí yòò maa mó l'òní o!

Predawn-light is just appearing and approaching on high. They (people) assume that it is dawn that is (already) breaking. It is a dawn of good things that will be breaking today!

Ojúmọ ajé tí ó mó mi l'òní o! Ojúmọ aya tí ó mó mi l'òní o! Ojúmọ ọmọ tí ó mó mi l'òní o! Ojúmọ ire tí ó mó mi l'òní o!

It is a dawn of money on me that today is! It is a dawn of spouses on me that today is! It is a dawn of children on me that today is! It is a dawn of good things on me that today is!

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, one's light will shine (that is, one will give full display to the fruits of one's abilities).

Ọyèkú Ọdí

[\[Back to Ọyèkú\]](#)

02.04 *Ọyèkú* (not missing out on bright possibilities) is helped by *Ọdí* (having a sound foundation).

Lèşelẹşẹ l'a nífẹ. Ọrìşà, má jékí a dájólé ohun tí a kò lè şe.

It is achievement that we are wanting. *Ọrìşà* (divine ministerial agents), do not allow that we embark on a thing that we are not able to do.

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó şojú Ọgún kí ó tó şe nkan. Kí olúwarẹ wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì wá şe ibọ fún Ọgún. Báyiì ni yòò ká ọràn l'áyé.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to grab the attention of *Ọgún* (the *òrìşà* of iron and war) before he reaches the point of doing something. The person in question ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He ought moreover to come doing *ibọ* for *Ọgún*. It is in this manner that he will successfully handle matters in life.

Ọyèkú Ịrosùn

[\[Back to Ọyèkú\]](#)

02.05 *Ọyèkú* (averting ruin; not missing out on bright possibilities) helps *Ịrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty).

Òyèkú Ìrosùn, a dífá fún Ìyè, ọmọ Olúìgbó, tí ífi omi ojú sògbéré ire. A ní: “Ikin ni yóò gbé ẹ là.”

Òyèkú Ìrosùn, Ifá divination was performed for Wood-dust (a reference to ìyèròsùn, a fine wooden powder that is used in Ifá divination), child of Olúìgbó (the spirit of the forest), who was using teardrops to cry about good things. It was said: “It is ikin (sacred palm kernels that are used to perform Ifá divination) that will lift you up to become prosperous.”

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

It was said that she ought to come doing ẹbọ. She heard; she did ẹbọ.

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó dì Èlà mú. Kí olúwarẹ wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì wá ẹ ibọ fún Èlà. Kí olúwarẹ lọ tẹfá. Báyii n’ire nlá oò dé sí i.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to take hold of Èlà (the òrìṣà of knowledge and wisdom). The person in question ought to come doing ẹbọ. He ought moreover to come doing ibọ for Èlà. The person in question ought to go get initiated to Ifá. It is in this manner that great blessings will reach him.

Òyèkú Ọbàrà

[\[Back to Òyèkú\]](#)

02.07 Òyèkú (averting ruin) is helped by Ọbàrà (asserting oneself with dignity).

Èkúté ilé kò ní mu oje ògìrì kí ó yè.

A house rat will not drink the sap of fermented melon seeds and then survive.

A dífá fún L’ásílọ, tí ó dá egbò s’ẹsẹ òsì, ẹ̀gbón ó lọ ńmọ t’òtún. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó kọ; kò rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘At shifting things around’, who presented a sore on the left leg, but went limiting himself to the right leg. It was said that he ought to come doing ẹbọ. He refused; he did not do ẹbọ.

Èyàn tí ó dá egbò s’ẹsẹ òsì, ẹ̀gbón ó lọ ńmọ t’òtún, ara rẹ l’ó ńtàn án jẹ.

The person who presents a sore on the left leg, but goes limiting himself to the right leg, it is his own self whom he is deceiving.

Extra: Be honest with yourself about your shortcomings.

Òyèkú Ọkànràn

[\[Back to Òyèkú\]](#)

02.08a Òyèkú (averting ruin; not missing out on bright possibilities) is helped by Ọkànràn (giving something good its turn).

Aboógún, wón kò fọhùn ibi. Abòòṣà, wón kò fọhùn odì.

Those who practice the customs of egúngún (honorable ancestors), they do not verbally dwell on bad things. Those who practice the customs of òrìṣà (divine ministerial agents), they do not verbally dwell on ill will.

Extra: [a saying from Shirley MacLaine] Dwelling on the negative simply contributes to its power.

02.08b *Òyèkú* (averting ruin; not missing out on bright possibilities) is hindered by *Òkànràn* (touching trouble).

Àtòrì rọra yọ. Ilé l’á bá irókò ńgbé.

The *àtòrì* tree (which is associated with *egúngún*, honorable ancestors) gently rejoices. It is home that we make with the *irókò* tree (which is sacred and inhabited by a powerful spirit).

A dífá fún Ìràwọ-ṣààṣà. A ní bí kò bá fi t’Èlédàá ṣe ọ̀nà, àá pa ọ̀lá mọ ọ l’ára. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó kọ; kò rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Giant-star. It was said that if he did not happen to use the way of *Èlédàá* (Creator God) to make a way, then honor would be kept safe from him. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He refused; he did not do *ẹbọ*.

Nítòrínàà, n’íjọ tí Èlédàá bá rò t’ìgbéraga ìràwọ kan, l’áá rí tí ìràwọ nàà ṣì dí lójìjì. Yòò ṣì wọ òòkùn.

Therefore, it is on the day when *Èlédàá* happens to think on the matter of a star’s arrogance, that we will see that the aforementioned star becomes pale and opaque suddenly. It will moreover go into darkness.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 29:23] Arrogance of a person will bring him low, but a humble one of spirit will take hold of honor.

Òyèkú Ọsá

[\[Back to Òyèkú\]](#)

02.10 *Òyèkú* (averting ruin; not missing out on bright possibilities) is helped by *Ọsá* (taking timely action).

Òyèkú ńlọ rẹ wò Ọsá.

Òyèkú went aiming to give attention to *Ọsá*.

A dífá fún Ojú, tí ilọ wá ibi rere láti jókòó. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ṣe ibọ fún Èlà, alátúnṣe ayé, asọ-ọ̀rọ-dí-ayọ. Báyii ni yòò bọ lówọ ariwo.

Ifá divination was performed for Eye, who went looking for a good place to sit down (that is, to relax comfortably). It was said that she ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. She heard; she did *ẹbọ*. She moreover did *ibọ* for *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), the master of improving one’s life in the world, the one who converts trouble into joy. It was in this manner that she would get free from the hands of noisy disorder.

Òyèkú Ọṣẹ

[\[Back to Òyèkú\]](#)

02.15 *Òyèkú* (averting ruin) helps *Ọṣẹ* (overcoming trouble).

‘Kí a má tètè kú’ l’awo ilé aláyọ. ‘Àitètè-kú iṣẹ’ l’awo wọ̀n n’ilé ibanújé. ‘Bí ikú bá dé, kí a yìn Èlédàá l’ógo’ l’awo ilé olóótọ.

It was ‘Let us not quickly die’ who was the priest of the house of the possessors of joy (that is, those whose primary interest is enjoyment). It was ‘Not quickly dying of deficient

circumstances’ who was the priest of those in the house of disheartening sadness. It was ‘If death happens to arrive, then let us praise *Ẹlédàá* (Creator God) with great praise’ who was the priest of the house of truth-doers.

A dífá fún àwọn amòye tí ó wá níwí: “Ètírí tí kò sí ẹni tí kì ikú?”

Ifá divination was performed for the wise people who came saying: “Why is there no one who never dies?”

Ifá ní: “Oore l’Ẹlédàá nífi ikú ẹ. Omi tí kò sán síwájú, tí kò sán sẹhìn, yòò di ọ̀gòdò omi ibàjẹ, ọ̀gòdò omi àrùn. Olókùnrùn, kí ó rẹ̀ ilé lọ̀ gbà awọ̀ titun. A-ẹ-ibàjẹ, kí ó rẹ̀ ilé lọ̀ gbà iwà titun. Kíni kò dùn?”

Ifá said: “It is a kindly act that *Ẹlédàá* is causing death to be. Water that does not flow forward or that does not flow backward, it will become a swamp of water bearing pollution, a swamp of water bearing illness. The chronically ill person, he ought to go home in order to go receive a new skin. One who makes corruption, he ought to go home in order to go receive a new character. What is it that is not pleasant?”

Àwọn amòye foríbalẹ̀ fún Ifá níwí: “Àbọ̀rú, àbọ̀yè, àbọ̀sísẹ̀.” Wọ̀n túkà lọ̀. Wọ̀n kò gbà ikú sí ọ̀ràn ẹ̀dùn mó.

The elders made obeisance to *Ifá* saying: “May *ẹbọ* be offered, may *ẹbọ* be approved, may *ẹbọ* be fulfilled.” They dispersed and went away. They did not take death as a matter of sadness anymore. [Note: It is helpful here to view death as an ending that facilitates transformation].

Extra: [The Bible, Romans 12:2] And do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind for the purpose of you discerning what is the will of God – that which is good, fully acceptable, and complete.

A03 Ìwòrì as the right leg

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[Ìwòrì Ogbè](#)

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Ìwòrì Ogbè

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03.01 *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen) helps *Ogbè* (a wholesome road).

Ònà wúrúwùrù yìi, ẹ jékí a jọ yè ẹ wò.

This undeveloped path, allow that we come together to look into it.

A dífá fún Ìwòrì, èyítí ìlọ bá Ogbè rẹ ilé ire. A ní ònà kan m̀bẹ tí àwọn méjèèjì òò jọ là á. Sùgbón kí wón wá rúbọ. Wón gbọ; wón rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ìwòrì*, the one who went joining *Ogbè* in going to the house of good things. It was said that there was a road that the two of them would come together to make it. But they ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. They heard; they did *ẹbọ*.

Ìwòrì Bogbè rere o! Ìwòrì wá bì Ogbè s'ílẹ ajé. Ìwòrì Bogbè rere o! Ìwòrì wá bì Ogbè s'ílẹ aya.

Good *Ìwòrì Bogbè* (same as *Ìwòrì Ogbè*)! *Ìwòrì* comes pushing *Ogbè* along to the house of money. Good *Ìwòrì Bogbè*! *Ìwòrì* comes pushing *Ogbè* along to the house of spouses.

Ìwòrì Bogbè rere o! Ìwòrì wá bì Ogbè s'ílẹ ọmọ. Ìwòrì Bogbè rere o! Ìwòrì wá bì Ogbè s'ílẹ ire gbogbo. Ìwòrì Bogbè rere o!

Good *Ìwòrì Bogbè*! *Ìwòrì* comes pushing *Ogbè* along to the house of children. Good *Ìwòrì Bogbè*! *Ìwòrì* comes pushing *Ogbè* along to the house of every good thing. Good *Ìwòrì Bogbè*!

Ìwòrì Òyèkú

[\[Back to Ìwòrì\]](#)

03.02 *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen) helps *Òyèkú* (not missing out on bright possibilities).

Ohun tí yòò ẹ ẹnì, kò gbai ẹ ẹnì.

That which will damage a person, it will not damage him very much.

A dífá fún Ọlọfin. A ní ọmọ titun tí ó bí yìi, bí ó bá pẹ, yòò ẹ aláìsàn kan. Wón òò wò ó sà, sùgbón yòò sọdi ayèkún.

Ifá divination was performed for the *Ifẹ* king. It was said that this new child whom he begot, if he happened to last long, then he would be a sick person. They would heal him, but he would become a lame person.

A ní kí Ọlòfin má bínú. Bí ó bá rúbọ, ọmọ náà òò rí ire dandan.

It was said that the *Ifẹ* king ought not to be angry. If he happened to do *ẹbọ*, then the aforementioned child would see good things surely.

Extra: One can still make progress in spite of the limitations presented to them.

Ìwòrì Méjì

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03.03 *Ìwòrì* (seeing things clearly) is doubled.

Ọwọ ẹwe kò tó pepe. T'àgbàlágba kò wọ akèrègbè. Iṣẹ tí ẹwe bá bẹ àgbà, kí ó máṣe kò. Gbogbo wa l'a n'íṣẹ tí a jọ mbẹ ara wa.

The hands of a youngster do not reach a shelf. Those of an elder do not enter a small-necked calabash. The task that a youngster happens to beg of an elder, he (the elder) ought not to refuse it. It is all of us who have tasks that we come together making requests of one another. [Note: The message here is that one person alone is sometimes not enough to meet a situation].

A dífá fún babaláwo, èyítí akápò rẹ òò pè é l'ẹjọ lódò adájọ gbọn. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for an *Ifá* master priest, the one whom his disciple would call him to court in the presence of a wise judge. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Adájọ wá ránṣẹ sí babaláwo pé kí ó wá sọ ìdí tí kò figbè akápò rẹ. Nígbà tí babaláwo dé iwájú adájọ, ó ní òun sà gbogbo agbára òun fún akápò. Ó ní ipín akápò ní kò gbọ.

The judge came sending a message to the priest that he (the priest) ought to come telling the reason why he did not show support for his disciple. When the priest arrived in front of the judge, he (the priest) said that he applied all of his ability for the disciple. He said that it was the fate of the disciple to not understand.

Ìgbà náà ni ọrọ náà tó wá yé adájọ yékeyéke. Inú rẹ sì dùn pé kò dájọ ẹnu apákan.

It was at that time that the aforementioned matter reached the point of coming to be clear to the judge thoroughly. His insides moreover were happy that he did not judge from the narration of one side only.

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó má dájọ ẹnu apákan. Kí olúwarẹ wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì wá ẹ ibọ fún Èlà, afi inú ẹ ogbọn.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought not to judge from the narration of one side only. The person in question ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He ought moreover to come doing *ibọ* for *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), the one who uses (his) insides to practice wisdom.

Extra: Decide matters equitably.

Ìwòrì Ìrosùn

[\[Back to Ìwòrì\]](#)

03.05 *Ìwòrì* (seeing things clearly) is helped by *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty).

Bí ojúmọ bá ńmọ, a kò ní yà ọgbèrì bí ọjọ ànà. A dífá fún Kò-ìmọ, tí íronú sí bí òun tí maa ẹ kìní yìí l’áná. Ó ronú tí tí ó sùn. Nígbà tí ojúmọ mọ, tí ọyẹ là, kò ì mọ èyítí òun maa ẹ dandan.

If dawn happens to break, then we will not be unknowing people like yesterday. *Ifá* divination was performed for ‘He does not yet know’, who was contemplating this way that he was doing things yesterday. He pondered until he fell asleep. When dawn broke, when twilight appeared, he still did not know what he was going to do exactly.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí èrò rẹ baà lè ẹ orí. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that his ideas may be able to make headway. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Ñjẹ, kí a jẹkí ọjọ bọrí ọjọ. Bí kò bá tó, kí oşu bọrí oşu. Bí ó bá pẹ tí tí, àà mọ èyítí a maa ẹ.

Therefore, let us allow day by day to get through what has to be done. If it does not happen to be enough, then let us endeavor month after month. If it happens to take a long time on-and-on, then we will know what we are going to do.

Extra: Through careful consideration and suitable spiritual effort, one will eventually determine a proper course of action.

Ìwòrì Ọbàrà

[\[Back to Ìwòrì\]](#)

03.07 *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen; seeing things clearly) is helped by *Ọbàrà* (asserting oneself with dignity).

Ifá ní ẹnìkàn wà tí kí ó ńwọ nínú iwà tí kò sunwọ. Kí olúwarẹ wá rúbọ. Bá yíí l’òràn bàràbàrà kò ní bá a.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to stop working in behavior that is not good. The person in question ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. It is in this manner that hasty trouble will not encounter him.

Ìwòrì Ọkànràn

[\[Back to Ìwòrì\]](#)

03.08 *Ìwòrì* (seeing things clearly) hinders *Ọkànràn* (touching trouble).

Ó bè ilẹ wò, ó bè ilẹ wò. Bí ewúré bá maa dùbúlẹ, yòò bè ilẹ wò.

She inspects the ground, she inspects the ground. If a she-goat happens to be lying down, then she will inspect the ground.

A dífá fún ‘Má kánjú hùwà, ìrìn gbé èrè ọlá’. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ohun tí maa ẹ yíí, ó má baà dá ọràn s’ọrùn fún un. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Bá yíí l’èrò rẹ ọò ẹ orí.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘Do not be in a hurry to take action, walking carries the gain of honor’. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that this thing that he was intending to do, it may not create a ‘pain in the neck’ for him. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. It was in this manner that his ideas would make headway.

Extra: Put forth effort judiciously.

Ìwòrì Ògúndá

[\[Back to Ìwòrì\]](#)

03.09 *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen) is helped by *Ògúndá* (clearing a way).

Olórí-búburú mu omi; ó pa á l'òfun. Òkúùgbé jẹ ògèdè; ó há l'órùn.

The possessor of bad luck drinks water; it overwhelms him in the throat. The despicable person eats a banana; it gets entangled in the neck.

A dífá fún Olórí-búburú. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí orí-búburú baà lè di orí-ire. Ó kò; kò rúbọ. Ó ní kò ní ifẹ s'ẹbọ rírú.

Ifá divination was performed for 'Possessor of bad luck'. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that bad luck may be able to become good luck. He refused; he did not do *ẹbọ*. He said that he did not have an interest in doing *ẹbọ*.

Ñjé, kí Olórí-búburú má kò mi.

Therefore, may 'Possessor of bad luck' not come face-to-face with me.

Ifá ní ẹnìkàn wà tí kí ó wá rúbọ. Kí olúwarè sì wá ẹ ibọ fún Èṣù. Báyií ni yóò lè yera Olórí-búburú.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. The person in question ought moreover to come doing *ibọ* for *Èṣù* (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests). It is in this manner that he will be able to avoid 'Possessor of bad luck'.

Extra: Distance yourself from someone or something that is entrenched in bad luck.

Ìwòrì Òsá

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03.10 *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen; seeing things clearly) is hindered by *Òsá* (running away from a challenge).

Atikárarè-ṣe-tè, awo ọrun, l'ó dífá fún àwọn ọmọ aráyé nígbàtí wọn nsàré sí Èlédàá nítorí ohun gbogbo.

It was 'One who makes himself bend (over backward)', the priest of heaven, who performed *Ifá* divination for the people of the world when they were running to *Èlédàá* (Creator God) because of every (single) thing.

Olúkúlùkù nké: "Bàbá, Bàbá, mo dé. Gbà mi, jòwọ gbà mi." Èlédàá ní: "Ètírí? Ẹni tí mo fún l'ágbára, kò lò agbára. Ẹni tí mo fún l'ògbón, kò lò ogbón."

Each one was crying out: "Father, Father, I have arrived. Rescue me, please rescue me." *Èlédàá* said: "Why? The person whom I gave ability, he does not use the ability. The person whom I gave wisdom, he does not use the wisdom."

Èlédàá fi asà òkùnkùn s'ójú ayé. Ọmọ tí kò rí bàbá rẹ, yóò sà ipá inú tirẹ.

Èlédàá put a shield of darkness over the face of the world. The child who does not see his father, he will apply his own inner force.

Extra: [an old saying] God helps those who help themselves.

Ìwòrì Ìká

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03.11 *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen; seeing things clearly) is hindered by *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck).

Orí ni íṣe ẹni. Ìdí kì íṣe èyàn.

It is the head that is doing us in. The buttock never works against a human being.

A dífá fún Ìwòrì, tí yòò rẹrù ká ayé. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ṣe ibọ fún Èlà àti Orí Èlédàá. Báyii ni kò ní ronú s'óhun tí yòò dá ọràn s'ọrùn fún un.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ìwòrì*, who would bear a burden all around the world. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) and *Orí Èlédàá* (Man's godself). It was in this manner that he would not give thought to that which would create a 'pain in the neck' for him.

Kò pé; kò jinnà. Ẹ wá bá ẹni ní jẹbútú ire.

It will not take long; it is not far away. Come join us in plenty of good things.

Extra: Described here is someone whose way of thinking is making trouble for oneself.

Ìwòrì Òtúrúpon

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03.12 *Ìwòrì* (seeing things clearly) helps *Òtúrúpon* (being productive).

Ìwòrì tutù nini gégébi ẹni tí ídà.

Ìwòrì is very cool just like the person who is casting (*Ifá*).

A dífá fún Olú, èyítí yòò rí àrùn orí.

Ifá divination was performed for Chief, the one who would see an illness of the head.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó kọ; kò rúbọ.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He refused; he did not do *ẹbọ*.

Olú ibá mọ, ibá wá fowókàn ẹbọ.

If Chief had known, then he would have come laying hands on *ẹbọ*.

Extra: **1.** Without suitable spiritual effort, one's *orí-inú* (prevailing mental and emotional attitude) will incline toward unwholesomeness. **2.** Without suitable spiritual effort, one will incline toward mental illness.

Ìwòrì Òtúra

[\[Back to Ìwòrì\]](#)

03.13 *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen; seeing things clearly) helps *Òtúra* (averting a worrisome situation).

Ìwòrì Wòtu pẹ̀rẹ̀pẹ̀, a dífá fún ẹni jánhínjánhín, èyítí yòò sì wá di ẹni rẹ̀gìrẹ̀gì. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì tẹfá.

Ìwòrì Wòtu (same as *Ìwòrì Òtúrà*) abundantly, *Ifá* divination was performed for a person of little importance, the one who would moreover come turning into a very important person. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover got initiated to *Ifá*.

Kò pé; kò jinnà. Ẹ wá bá ẹni ní jẹbútú ire.

It will not take long; it is not far away. Come join us in plenty of good things.

Ẹni jánhínjánhín ni mo wà. Ọpẹ Ifá l'ó sọ mi di Ọgbóni o!

It was a person of little importance that I used to be. It was the palm tree of *Ifá* that transformed me into an *Ọgbóni* (that is, someone who carries a high level of power and prestige)!

Extra: It is *Ifá* that will make you worthy of power and prestige.

Ìwòrì Ìrètẹ̀

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03.14 *Ìwòrì* (seeing things clearly) is helped by *Ìrètẹ̀* (practicing *Ifá*). *Ìwòrì* (seeing things clearly) hinders *Ìrètẹ̀* (unwholesome influences).

Ìwòrì, tejúmọ ohun tí íṣe ẹni. Bí o bá tẹfá tán, kí o tún iyè rẹ tẹ.

Ìwòrì, take an earnest look at that which works against a person. If you happen to become initiated to *Ifá* completely, then you ought to work at imprinting your mind (with wisdom).

Ìwòrì, tejúmọ ohun tí íṣe ẹni. Awo, má fi ẹjá igbà gun ọpẹ. Awo, má fi àìmòwẹ wò omi.

Ìwòrì, take an earnest look at that which works against a person. Priest, do not use a tattered tree-climbing rope to climb a palm tree. Priest, do not use not-knowing-how-to-swim to enter the water.

Ìwòrì, tejúmọ ohun tí íṣe ẹni. Awo, má fi ìbínú yọ ọbẹ. Awo, má fi kánjúkánjú jẹ ayé, má fi wàràwàrà jẹ ọrọ.

Ìwòrì, take an earnest look at that which works against a person. Priest, do not use anger to pull out a knife. Priest, do not use haste to enjoy life, do not use haste to enjoy wealth.

Ìwòrì, tejúmọ ohun tí íṣe ẹni. Awo, má ṣèké, má ṣòdàlẹ. Awo, má ṣe igbéraga sí àgbà.

Ìwòrì, take an earnest look at that which works against a person. Priest, do not deceive, do not be treacherous. Priest, do not practice arrogance toward an elder.

Ìwòrì, tejúmọ ohun tí íṣe ẹni. Awo, má sọ ìrètí nù. Awo, má sán bàntẹ alábàntẹ.

Ìwòrì, take an earnest look at that which works against a person. Priest, do not throw hope away. Priest, do not tie on the apron of someone else (that is, do not sleep with someone else's wife).

Ìwòrì, tejúmọ ohun tí íṣe ẹni. Bí o bá tẹfá tán, kí o tún iyè rẹ tẹ.

Ìwòrì, take an earnest look at that which works against a person. If you happen to become initiated to *Ifá* completely, then you ought to work at imprinting your mind (with wisdom).

Àkóse Ifá: Lò ewé ẹsọ láti sè jẹ gégébí ọbẹ pẹlú ẹja àrọ.

Ifá medicine: Use *ẹsọ* leaves (*Elytraria marginata*: used to further careful attention) to cook and eat according to a soup together with a mudfish (which is used to bring about tranquility).

Ìwòrì Ọ̀ṣẹ̀

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03.15a *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen) is helped by *Ọ̀ṣẹ̀* (overcoming through joyful optimism).

Ìpónjù kì ídè kí ó má mú ire rẹ̀ bọ̀ ẹ̀ni. Tibi-tire, èjì wá pọ̀.

Distress never arrives and then not bring its good things to us. Bad things and good things, both come together.

A dífá fún ‘Èyàn kò sunwòn’. A ní ojú tí ó rí ìpónjù, kí ó má barajé, kí ó tójú orúkọ rere rẹ̀. Adùn nígbèyìn ewúro.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘Person is not doing well’. It was said that the one who experiences distress, he ought not to break down and cry, he ought to take care of his good name. Sweetness is at the end of *ewúro* leaves (whose bitter taste is removed by cooking them).

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀ kí ìpónjù baà lè di ìrọ̀rùn fún un.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ̀* so that distress may be able to turn into convenience for him.

Àkòsè Ifá: Gún ewé ewúro, ewé ojúsàájú, àti ọ̀ṣẹ̀ pọ̀ fún wíwè.

Ifá medicine: Pound *ewúro* leaves (*Vernonia amygdalina*: used to remove bitterness), *ojúsàájú* leaves (*Petiveria alliacea*: used to help someone to think favorably of another), and soap to be together for cleansing yourself.

Extra: Something good can come out of a bad situation.

03.15b *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen) is helped by *Ọ̀ṣẹ̀* (overcoming trouble).

Bí a kọ̀ wọn l’órọ̀, wọn kì ígbọ̀. T’ínú wọn ní wọn nṣe.

If we teach them about matters, then they never listen. It is what is in their minds that they are doing.

A dífá fún Aní-ìwòn-ìkà, tí ílépa Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà kiri. Ó ní Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà nídí òun l’ówọ̀. Ó ní kí Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà jékí òun ṣìṣẹ̀ ibi ọ̀wọ̀ òun. Ó bèrèsí kó iṣẹ̀ búburú t’Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà. Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà wá nílá àlákálá.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘One who has some evil’, who was pursuing *Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) from place to place. He said that *Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà* was hindering him. He said that *Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà* ought to allow that he work the evil of his hands. He began to take up nasty works with regard to *Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà*. *Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà* came dreaming bad dreams.

A ní kí Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà wá rúbọ̀. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀. Ọ̀wọ̀ kò ká Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà. Ibi padà; ó lọ bá oníbi. Aní-ìwòn-ìkà lólù ẹ̀wòn ara rẹ̀ nígbà tí ífi orí-kunkun lépa Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà, nígbà tí kò gbà imòràn idékun iwà ìkà tí ífi ojojúmọ̀ hù.

It was said that *Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà* ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ̀*. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ̀*. Hands did not dominate *Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà*. Evil turned back; it went to meet the evildoer. ‘One who has some evil’ got entangled in his own prickly bush when he was using stubbornness to pursue *Ọ̀mọ̀-Èlà*, when he did not accept the advice of ceasing the unrighteous conduct that he was using each day to develop.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 21:7] Damaging action of unrighteous ones will drag them away to ruin because they refuse to deal justly.

Ìwòrì Òfún

[\[Back to Ìwòrì\]](#)

03.16a *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen) is helped by *Òfún* (acting with rectitude).

Awo rere l'ó dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlà, tí ísawo rè ọsà, tí ísawo rè òkun.

It was a good priest who performed *Ifá* divination for *Ọmọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), who was going on a spiritual mission to the lagoon, who was going on a spiritual mission to the ocean.

A ní Ọmọ-Èlà òò maa gbà iyì, òò maa gbà èyẹ àti ọlá. Ọmọ-Èlà sì òò rí ire ajé láti gbé e wá ilé. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

It was said that *Ọmọ-Èlà* would keep receiving respect, that he would keep receiving dignity and honor. *Ọmọ-Èlà* moreover would see monetary well-being in order to bring it home. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 21:21] One who runs after righteousness and loving-kindness attains to life, prosperity, and honor.

03.16b *Ìwòrì* (seeing things clearly) hinders *Òfún* (efforts of limited success).

Enini bélébélé ni iwẹ orí ẹmọ. Tòtò balàbalà ni iwẹ idí àdán.

It is misty dew that is washing the head of the brown rat. It is misty urine that is washing the lower parts of the bat.

A dífá fún Ìwòrì nígbàtí ilọ rè wẹ orí Òfún. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Lẹhin tí Ìwòrì rúbọ tán, Òfún bèrèsí l'ájé, Òfún bèrèsí l'áya, Òfún bèrèsí n'ire gbogbo.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ìwòrì* when he went aiming to cleanse the head of *Òfún*. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. After *Ìwòrì* had done *ẹbọ* completely, *Òfún* began to have money, *Òfún* began to have spouses, *Òfún* began to have every good thing.

Tani yóò wá wẹ orí mi fún mi? Ìwòrì Òfún ni yóò wá wẹ orí mi fún mi láti dá ayò àti iretí.

Who will come cleansing my head for me? It is *Ìwòrì Òfún* who will come cleansing my head for me in order to bring forth joy and hope.

Ọfọ: Awẹde wẹ ilẹkẹ, wẹ orí mi. Wẹ orí mi kí N n'ire. Awẹde wẹ ilẹkẹ, wẹ orí mi.

Incantation: *Awẹde* (that) cleanses *òrìṣà* beads, cleanse my head. Cleanse my head so that I may have good things. *Awẹde* (that) cleanses *òrìṣà* beads, cleanse my head.

Àkóse Ifá: Lọ ewé awẹde pẹlú orí àwọn ẹmọ àti ẹmú àwọn àdán. Pẹ ọfọ náà s'ẹtù yìí tí o ti tẹ lí Ìwòrì Òfún. Pò ẹtù pẹlú ọṣẹ. Bọ sínú odò láti fi ọṣẹ yìí fún wíwẹ orí.

Ifá medicine: Grind *awẹde* leaves (*Oxalis corniculata*: used to wash away cloudiness caused by negative thoughts and feelings) together with the heads of brown rats (which are used to help someone to be resourceful) and the pincers of bats (whose pincers exert a firm grasp on things). Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to this powder that you have imprinted

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with *Ìwòrì Òfún*. Mix the powder together with soap. Come into a stream in order to use this soap for cleansing the head.

Extra: [The Bible, Psalm 51:10] Create in me *ʔElōhīm* (Creator God and his ministerial agents) a clean heart (that is, prevailing mental and emotional attitude) and reestablish a stable spirit within me.

A04 Òdí as the right leg

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Òdí Ogbè	Òdí Ìrosùn	Òdí Ògúndá	Òdí Òtúrá
Òdí Òyèkú	Òdí Òwónrín	Òdí Òsá	Òdí Ìretè
Òdí Ìwòrì	Òdí Òbàrà	Òdí Ìká	Òdí Òşé
Òdí Méjì	Òdí Òkànràn	Òdí Òtúrúpòn	Òdí Òfún

Òdí Òyèkú

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04.02 *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) helps *Òyèkú* (averting ruin; not missing out on bright possibilities).

Şákáşáká l'òmòdé kékeré kófá kí ó baà lè rí ilè Ifá tán.

It is earnestly that a small youngster studies *Ifá* so that he may be able to see the expanse of *Ifá* completely.

Ìyà owó tí òmò-awo ti je, Ifá ñpadà bọ şesan rẹ. Àşalù-àşalù ni t'ęsan Ifá. Ìyà aya tí òmò-awo ti je, Ifá ñpadà bọ şesan rẹ. Àşalù-àşalù ni t'ęsan Ifá.

The distress (from the lack) of good things that the student priest has tasted, *Ifá* is coming back to reward him. It is numerous and varied that is the reward of *Ifá*. The distress (from the lack) of spouses that the student priest has tasted, *Ifá* is coming back to reward him. It is numerous and varied that is the reward of *Ifá*.

Ìyà òmò tí òmò-awo ti je, Ifá ñpadà bọ şesan rẹ. Àşalù-àşalù ni t'ęsan Ifá. Ìyà ire gbogbo tí òmò-awo ti je, Ifá ñpadà bọ şesan rẹ. Àşalù-àşalù ni t'ęsan Ifá.

The distress (from the lack) of children that the student priest has tasted, *Ifá* is coming back to reward him. It is numerous and varied that is the reward of *Ifá*. The distress (from the lack) of every good thing that the student priest has tasted, *Ifá* is coming back to reward him. It is numerous and varied that is the reward of *Ifá*.

Extra: By sticking with *Ifá* through thick and thin, the distress of today will become the ease of tomorrow.

Òdí Ìwòrì

[\[Back to Òdí\]](#)

04.03 *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) helps *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen; seeing things clearly).

Bí a l'ògbón nínú, bí a kò lò ó, àà di ògbèrì. Bí a lágbára nínú, bí a kò lò ó, àà di òlẹ.

If we have wisdom within, if we do not use it, then we will become ignorant people. If we have ability within, if we do not use it, then we will become lazy people.

A dífá fún àwọn èyàn ‘Má bá ọlọgbón rìn; má bá aṣiṣé rẹ’, èrò isàlẹ ayé.

Ifá divination was performed for the people of ‘Do not walk with wise ones; do not be friendly with workers’, travelers of the bottom part of the world.

Ifá mbá wọn wí, ó ni: “Ìwọ kò bá ẹni-rere rìn. Ìwọ kò bá ẹni-rere rẹ. Orí-búburú ni ímú bá èyàn bí irú yín.”

Ifá was rebuking them, he said: “You do not walk with good people. You are not friendly with good people. It is bad luck that takes hold and meets people like your type.”

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 13:20] One who walks with wise ones will grow wise, but one who flocks together with fatheads will cry out in distress.

Òdí Méjì

[\[Back to Òdí\]](#)

04.04a *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) is doubled.

‘Yímíyímí abèyìn páálí? I’ó dífá fún Orí, tí íbẹ́ I’ógbèrè òun nìkanṣoṣo gírogíro. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ́ ibọ́ fún Orí Ẹlédàá.

It was ‘Dung beetle having a cardboard back’ who performed *Ifá* divination for Head, who was in abundance of himself being alone lonesomely (that is, he was in excessive loneliness). It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Orí Ẹlédàá* (Man’s godself).

Etí wá; etí bá Orí dúró. Kẹ̀rẹ̀kẹ̀rẹ̀, orí mi kò Ẹ̀lẹ̀ni. Imú wá; imú bá Orí dúró. Kẹ̀rẹ̀kẹ̀rẹ̀, orí mi kò Ẹ̀lẹ̀ni.

Ears came; Ears joined Head in staying. Little by little, my head does not fail to become one that is loved by many. Nose came; Nose joined Head in staying. Little by little, my head does not fail to become one that is loved by many.

Ojú wá; Ojú bá Orí dúró. Kẹ̀rẹ̀kẹ̀rẹ̀, orí mi kò Ẹ̀lẹ̀ni. Ẹ̀nu wá; Ẹ̀nu bá Orí dúró. Kẹ̀rẹ̀kẹ̀rẹ̀, orí mi kò Ẹ̀lẹ̀ni.

Eyes came; Eyes joined Head in staying. Little by little, my head does not fail to become one that is loved by many. Mouth came; Mouth joined Head in staying. Little by little, my head does not fail to become one that is loved by many.

Ìbọ́: Fi epo, obì, orógbó, àtí ọ̀tí fún Orí Ẹlédàá.

An *ibọ*: Use palm oil (which is used to tone down that which is potentially unruly), kola nuts (which are used to further peaceful prosperity), bitter-kola nuts, and alcoholic beverage for *Orí Ẹlédàá*.

Extra: **1.** With suitable spiritual effort, one will inspire others to comply with his cause. **2.** Faring well depends on various factors working together in harmony.

04.04b *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) is doubled.

Message: [*Dilogún* 4-4] One can repent of one’s past mistakes or actions, but one has to bear the consequences.

Òdí Ìrosùn

[\[Back to Òdí\]](#)

04.05 *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) helps *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty).

Message: [*Dilogún* 7-4] Not all that glitters is gold (that is, not everything that looks good is truly good).

Òdí Òwónrín

[\[Back to Òdí\]](#)

04.06 *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) helps *Òwónrín* (walking honorably).

‘Èmi kò maa kú; yíyè ni mo maa yè’ l’ó fún Òpè.

It was ‘I am not going to die; it is life that I will be living’ who performed *Ifá* divination for Palm-tree (who symbolizes a child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom).

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ṣe ibọ fún Èlà, alátúnṣe ayé, asọ-òrò-di-ayọ. Báyii ni yóò fi ìdí múlẹ. Báyii ni kò ní kú.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Èlà*, the master of improving one’s life in the world, the one who converts trouble into joy. It was in this manner that he would cause (his) base to be established. It was in this manner that he would not die.

Òpè òò tirinmọlẹ. Òpè òò yè.

Palm-tree will be firmly rooted. Palm-tree will survive.

Extra: *Ifá* will help you to become soundly established in the earthly land of the living.

Òdí Òkànràn

[\[Back to Òdí\]](#)

04.08 *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) helps *Òkànràn* (giving something good its turn).

Òdí Òkànràn, a dífá fún Tèmi-òò-sunwọ̀n.

Òdí Òkànràn, *Ifá* divination was performed for ‘Mine will be good’.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì tẹfá. Báyii n’ire nlá òò dé sí i.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover got initiated to *Ifá*. It was in this manner that great blessings would reach him.

Tèmi òò sunwọ̀n jù tiwọ̀n lọ o! Tèmi òò sunwọ̀n jù t’èké lọ. Tèmi òò sunwọ̀n jù tiwọ̀n lọ o!

Mine will be better than theirs! Mine will be better than that of deceitful people. Mine will be better than theirs!

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 16:20] One who gives attention to divine instruction will attain to what is good, and one who puts trust in *Ha’el* (God), how blessed is he!

Òdí Ògúndá

[\[Back to Òdí\]](#)

04.09 *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) is helped by *Ògúndá* (having the courage to take right action).

Èlà ní idí Ọmọ-Ògún dá. Mo ní idí Ọmọ-Ògún dá.

Èlà (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) said that the bottom part of *Ọmọ-Ògún* (child of *Ògún*, the *òrìṣà* of iron and war) is lacking. I said that the bottom part of *Ọmọ-Ògún* is lacking.

A dé ilé Ọmọ-Ògún. A kò bá ẹnikan. Mo ní: “Ètírí tí a dé ilé Ọmọ-Ògún, tí a kò bá ẹnikan? Gbogbo ilé dá kése-kése.” Wọ̀n ní: “Ìwà Ọmọ-Ògún kò sunwọ̀n.”

We arrived at the home of *Ọmọ-Ògún*. We did not encounter anyone. I said: “What is it that has happened so that we have arrived at the house of *Ọmọ-Ògún* and have not encountered anyone? The entire house is wholly quiet.” They (others) said: “The character of *Ọmọ-Ògún* is not good.”

Ẹ̀jẹ̀, bí a bá wí pé kí ilé Ọmọ-Ògún kún, ẹ̀bọ̀ ni kí a ẹ̀.

Therefore, if we happen to say that the home of *Ọmọ-Ògún* ought to be full, then it is *ẹ̀bọ̀* that ought to be done.

Extra: [*Dilogún* 7-3] Offensive actions do not give rise to love.

Òdí Ọsá

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04.10 *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) is helped by *Ọsá* (taking timely action).

Ìdí sá; mi ò sá. Ìdí yàgò; mi ò yàgò.

Buttock ran away; I did not run away. Buttock gave way; I did not give way.

A dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlà nígbà tí t’ajogun níkan ilèkùn rẹ̀. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀. Ó sì ẹ̀ ibọ̀ fún Èṣù àti Èlà. Bá yí ni kò yàgò fún àwọ̀n ajogun.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọmọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) when a distressful situation was knocking on his door. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ̀*. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ̀*. He moreover did *ibọ̀* for *Èṣù* (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests) and *Èlà*. It was in this manner that he did not give way to *ajogun* (agents of distress).

Extra: Do not give way to the distressful situation knocking on your door.

Òdí Ọtúra

[\[Back to Òdí\]](#)

04.13 *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) helps *Ọtúra* (averting a worrisome situation).

Ohun tí ojú wá l’ojú ní.

It is the thing that the eyes looked for that the eyes are seeing.

A dífá fún Adábàá nígbà tí ifẹ̀ sún àláàfià rẹ̀ síwájú. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀. Ó sì ẹ̀ ibọ̀ fún Èlà àti Orí Èlédàá. Bá yí ni yóò ẹ̀gun.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘One who proposes’ when he was wanting to further his well-being. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) and *Orí Èlédàá* (Man’s godself). It was in this manner that he would be victorious.

Àbá tí mo dá l’Èlà gbà. Àbá tí mo dá l’Orí gbà. Àbá rere l’àbá mi o!

It is the proposal that I put forth that *Èlà* accepts. It is the proposal that I put forth that *Orí* accepts. It is a good proposal that my proposal is!

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 16:3] Turn your works over to *Ha’el* (God) and your plans will be firmly established.

Òdí Ìrẹ̀tẹ̀

[\[Back to Òdí\]](#)

04.14 *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) is helped by *Ìrẹ̀tẹ̀* (practicing *Ifá*). *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) is hindered by *Ìrẹ̀tẹ̀* (unwholesome influences).

Òdí Ìrẹ̀tẹ̀, a difá fún Tèmi-lékè. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ̀ ibọ fún Òrìṣànlá àti Èlà. Báyì n’ire nlá óò dé sí i.

Òdí Ìrẹ̀tẹ̀, *Ifá* divination was performed for ‘Mine is superior’. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Òrìṣànlá* (the *òrìṣà* of moral sense) and *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom). It was in this manner that great blessings would reach him.

Bí Òrìṣànlá kò bá mi wí, bí Èlà kò bá mi jà, tèmi l’ó lékè jù tiwọ̀n lọ o! Tèmi l’ó lékè jù t’èké lọ. Tèmi l’ó lékè jù tiwọ̀n lọ o!

If *Òrìṣànlá* does not admonish me, if *Èlà* does not engage me in fighting, then it is mine that is superior to theirs! It is mine that is superior to that of deceitful people. It is mine that is superior to theirs!

Extra: **1.** [The Bible, Proverbs 10:28] That which is hoped for by righteous ones (will be) a glad outcome, but that which is longed for by unrighteous ones will come to nothing. **2.** [*Dilogún* 7-16] Misfortune stems from malevolence and not from fate.

Òdí Òfún

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04.16 *Òdí* (having a sound foundation) hinders *Òfún* (efforts of limited success).

Message: [*Dilogún* 7-10 revised] He goes astray because he does not want to see his proper path.

A05 Ìrosùn as the right leg

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[Ìrosùn Ogbè](#)

[Ìrosùn Méjì](#)

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Ìrosùn Ogbè

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05.01 *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) helps *Ogbè* (a wholesome road).

Message: Stick to good principles through thick and thin.

Ìrosùn Òyèkú

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05.02 *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) helps *Òyèkú* (averting ruin).

Igbá kẹ̀lẹ̀ kì ifọ̀. Àwo kẹ̀lẹ̀ kì ifàya. Aṣọ̀ kẹ̀lẹ̀ kì igbó. Ohun tí a bá fi ẹ̀sò mú kì ibàjẹ̀. Ohun tí a bá fi agbára mú nì ilẹ̀ kò bí ọ̀tá.

A calabash handled with care never breaks. A plate handled with care never breaks into pieces. A cloth handled with care never wears out. A thing that we happen to use carefulness to take never gets spoiled. It is a thing that we happen to use forcefulness to take (it) that is able to confront (us) like an opponent.

A dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlà, tí ilọ̀ gbé Kẹ̀lẹ̀ n'iyàwó. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀. Ó sì ẹ̀ ibọ̀ fún Èlà, afi inú ẹ̀ ogbón.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọmọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), who went taking Handled-with-care as a wife. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Èlà*, the one who uses (his) insides to practice wisdom.

Kíl' a fi mú Kẹ̀lẹ̀ délé? Ẹ̀sò l'awa fi mú Kẹ̀lẹ̀ délé, ẹ̀sò nì.

What is it that we use to take Handled-with-care home? It is carefulness that we use to take Handled-with-care home, carefulness it is.

Extra: Faring well depends on being cautious and considerate.

Ìrosùn Òdí

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05.04 *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) is helped by *Òdí* (having a sound foundation).

Message: [*Dilogún* 4-7] Set goals that are in accordance with your abilities and possibilities.

Ìrosùn Méjì

[\[Back to Ìrosùn\]](#)

05.05a *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) is doubled.

Ení pòropòro l'áá gún odó. Èjì pòropòro l'áá gún osùn.

It is one by one that we will pound a mortar. It is two by two that we will pound camwood.
[Note: Here are two activities that require patience and perseverance].

A dífá fún Bàbá 'Bí o l'ējó, o bá ipín rẹ wí' nígbàtí írí ayé isòro. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ ibọ fún Orí Èlédàá.

Ifá divination was performed for Father 'If you have an issue, then engage your destiny in telling it' when he was experiencing a life of difficulty. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Orí Èlédàá* (Man's godself).

Kò pẹ; kò jìnnà. Ire gbogbo wá yá dé tùtùru.

It did not take long; it was not far away. Every good thing came flooding in to arrive plentifully.

Ọrọ kò kàn egúngún. Kò kàn òrìṣà. Èlédàá ẹni l'órọ lóòókán.

The matter does not touch *egúngún* (honorable ancestors). It does not touch *òrìṣà* (divine ministerial agents). One's *Èlédàá* has the matter exactly on the spot.

Extra: [a saying from Ra Un Nefer Amen] As long as you are anything less than the vehicle of God, you will go through experiences that will make you suffer as spurs to your spiritual realization.

05.05b *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) is doubled.

Ìgbà òò rú ilá. Ìgbà òò rú ikàn. A kì íwá ayé àinígbà.

Time will arouse okra to develop. Time will arouse eggplant to develop. We never come to earth not having (our own) times.

Extra: Each person or thing develops according to its own time.

Ìrosùn Ọbàrà

[\[Back to Ìrosùn\]](#)

05.07 *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) is helped by *Ọbàrà* (asserting oneself with dignity).

Bù fún mi kí N bù fún ọ. Báyií l'ayé òò maa gún.

Take off a portion for me and I take off a portion for you (that is, let us engage in give-and-take). It is in this manner that life will always be right.

A dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlè, tí ilọ sí Ọtu-Ifẹ. Yòò maa kọ wọn n'íṣe ilé. Yòò maa kọ wọn n'íṣe oko. Yòò maa kọ wọn n'íwà tí ó bójúmu.

Ifá divination was performed for *Omọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), who was going to *Ilé-Ifẹ̀* (a *Yorùbá* town that symbolizes earthly life). He will be teaching them about town customs. He will be teaching them about rural customs. He will be teaching them about behavior that is decent.

A ní: “Omọ-Èlà òò wí fún wọn. Wọn òò gbọ́.” Şùgbọ́n kí ó wá rúbọ́ kí ó tó lọ wí fún wọn. Ó gbọ́; ó rúbọ́.

It was said: “*Omọ-Èlà* will tell them. They will listen.” But he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* before he reached the point of going away to tell them. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Ẹbọ: Fi ọ̀pọ̀lọ̀pọ̀ orógbó, ọ̀gẹ̀dẹ̀-àgbágbà, àti ẹgbàájọ owó. Fi àkóse Ifá.

An *ẹbọ*: Use plenty of bitter-kola nuts, plantains, and money worth 16000 cowries. Use *Ifá* medicine.

Àkóse Ifá: Gún ewé ọgbọ àti ọṣẹ pọ fún wíwẹ.

Ifá medicine: Pound *ọgbọ* leaves (*Parquetina nigrescens*: used to convey prayerful affirmations, to dispel negative energy, and to attract positive energy) and soap to be together for cleansing yourself.

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, one will succeed in furthering decent behavior.

Ìrosùn Ọkànràn

[\[Back to Ìrosùn\]](#)

05.08a *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) hinders *Ọkànràn* (touching trouble).

Olú kì íran iwọ̀sí. Olú kòyà iwọ̀sí. Ẹni tí kò lè kòyà iwọ̀sí, iyà kì íyẹ, wọn níjẹ ẹ.

A chief never sends insults. A chief deflects insults. (For) the person who is not able to deflect insults, suffering never ceases, they (insults) are inflicting him.

A dífá fún Ọlọgbọ́n, tí íṣe ọmọ awo. Ọlọgbọ́n ní òun yòò maa ṣẹgun ọ́tá, òun òò maa rí ẹ̀yìn ọ̀dídí. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ́. Ó gbọ́; ó rúbọ́.

Ifá divination was performed for Wise-person, who was a child of a priest. Wise-person said that he would be overcoming opponents, that he would be seeing the back side of blockages. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Extra: Do not be intimidated – take assertive, noble-minded action.

05.08b *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) hinders *Ọkànràn* (touching trouble).

Message: [*Dilogún* 4-1] Acting on impulse gives rise to loss.

Ìrosùn Ọ̀gúndá

[\[Back to Ìrosùn\]](#)

05.09 *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) is helped by *Ọ̀gúndá* (having the courage to take right action).

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó wá rúbọ́. Kí ó sì wá ṣe ìbọ́ fún Orí Ẹ̀lẹ̀dàá. Báyii l’orí-inú rẹ̀ kò ní bà orí-àpéré rẹ̀ jẹ́.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He ought moreover to come doing *ibọ* for *Orí Èlédàà* (Man's godself). It is in this manner that his *orí-inú* (that is, prevailing mental and emotional attitude) will not ruin his personal destiny.

Extra: [The Bible, Psalm 51:10] Create in me *ʔElōhīm* (Creator God and his ministerial agents) a clean heart (that is, prevailing mental and emotional attitude) and reestablish a stable spirit within me.

Ìrosùn Ọsá

[\[Back to Ìrosùn\]](#)

05.10 *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) helps *Ọsá* (taking timely action).

Afẹfẹ ẹ orí igi mí hẹlẹhẹlẹ. Ẹfúùfù lílẹ ni ìtì ewé. Àgbọ̀n ni ìkọ̀ rọ̀.

A breeze caused the top of the tree to gasp. It was a strong wind that was pushing the leaves. It was the coconut that was refusing to fall.

A dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlà. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ́ kí ó baà lè fi ifarabalẹ́ ká ayé. Ó gbọ́; ó rúbọ́. Báyii ni yóò ẹ̀gun ọ́tá. Báyii ni yóò rí ẹ̀yin ọ̀dídí.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọmọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom). It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may be able to use calmness and sober thinking to handle life. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. It was in this manner that he would overcome opponents. It was in this manner that he would see the back side of blockages.

Extra: [The Bible, Psalm 112:7] Of bad tidings he (a righteous one) does not feel afraid; stable is his heart (that is, prevailing mental and emotional attitude), trust being put in *Haʔel* (God) to not fail.

Ìrosùn Ọtúra

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05.13 *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) is helped by *Ọtúra* (averting a worrisome situation).

Bí ewúré bá ńrìn lókè ògiri, ẹ̀yin ni, ẹ̀yin èyàn. Ẹ̀yin èyàn lè ńṣe bẹ̀ẹ̀. Ẹ̀nià, ẹ̀nià.

If a she-goat happens to be walking upon a wall, then it is (because of) you, you human beings. You human beings are able to be causing (something) like that. Be humane, be humane.

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó ẹ̀nià. Kí olúwarẹ́ wá rúbọ́. Kí ó sì wá ẹ̀ ibọ́ fún Èlà. Báyii ni kò ní tẹ́ nítorí àṣiṣe.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to be humane. The person in question ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He ought moreover to come doing *ibọ* for *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom). It is in this manner that he will not fall into disgrace because of mistakes (that is, wrong actions, beliefs, or judgments).

Extra: [a saying from Clive Staples Lewis] Free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having.

Ìrosùn Ìrètè

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05.14 *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) is hindered by *Ìrètè* (unwholesome influences).

‘Ògbó tètè’, awo alède, l’ó dífá fún wọn ní Odò-mégbè, ibi tí wọn m̀bè láàárín ìnira nítorí tí baba nlá wọn m̀bè l’áìsimi. Wọn kò r̀ò baba nlá wọn nítorí tí kò mò orò tí àwọn baba nlá.

It was ‘Elder tètè-plant’, the priest of the frontage, who performed *Ifá* divination for those at ‘Dried-up river’, the place where they were in the midst of burdensome difficulties because their ancestors were in unrest. They did not put their ancestors at ease because they did not know the rituals pertaining to ancestors.

A ní kí wọn wá r̀ub̀ò. Wọn gb̀ò; wọn r̀ub̀ò. Wọn sì ̀̀e ib̀ò fún baba nlá wọn. Báyii ni ìnira wọn òò l̀ò.

It was said that they ought to come doing *eb̀ò*. They heard; they did *eb̀ò*. They moreover did *ib̀ò* for their ancestors. It was in this manner that their burdensome difficulties would go away.

̀̀jé, àwa ní baba nlá lónií o, a ní baba nlá!

Therefore, we have ancestors today, we have ancestors!

Extra: One will not be at ease until one puts one’s ancestor(s) at ease.

Ìrosùn Ọ̀ṣé

[\[Back to Ìrosùn\]](#)

05.15 *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty) is helped by *Ọ̀ṣé* (overcoming through joyful optimism).

Ọ̀fò: Èl̀à ní: “Ó ̀̀e p̀̀r̀é.” Mo ní: “Ó ̀̀e p̀̀r̀é.” Ó ní: “Ó ̀̀e p̀̀r̀é fún iṣu tí íta.” Èl̀à ní: “Ó ̀̀e p̀̀r̀é.” Mo ní: “Ó ̀̀e p̀̀r̀é.” Ó ní: “Ó ̀̀e p̀̀r̀é fún àgbàdò tí iyò ̀̀m̀ò.” Èl̀à ní: “Ó ̀̀e p̀̀r̀é.” Mo ní: “Ó ̀̀e p̀̀r̀é.” Ó ní: “Ó ̀̀e p̀̀r̀é fún àgàn tí ídì ̀̀l̀m̀ò.”

Incantation: *Èl̀à* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) said: “It is getting better (literally, it is made to open widely).” I said: “It is getting better.” He said: “It is getting better for the yam that is sprouting.” *Èl̀à* said: “It is getting better.” I said: “It is getting better for the maize that is getting rid of offspring (that is, ears of corn).” *Èl̀à* said: “It is getting better.” I said: “It is getting better.” He said: “It is getting better for the barren woman who is becoming a possessor of children.”

Ifá ní ̀̀nikan wà tí yòò ̀̀e p̀̀r̀é fún un. Kí ó wá r̀ub̀ò. Báyii l’ohun kan tí yòò maa ̀̀e, yòò di ̀̀ni iyì nìb̀è.

Ifá says that there is someone for whom it will get better. He ought to come doing *eb̀ò*. It is in this manner that a thing that he will be doing, he will become a person of honor there.

Àkòṣe Ifá: L̀ò ewé ̀̀fúnṣ̀fún, ewé ̀̀fúnl̀è, àti ewé ire p̀̀l̀ú orí eku méjì àti orí ̀̀ja méjì. P̀ò ̀̀t̀ù yì p̀̀l̀ú ̀̀ṣ̀. Pa ̀̀yèl̀é àti t̀è orí r̀è m̀ò ̀̀ṣ̀ nàà. P̀è ̀̀f̀ò nàà s’iyèr̀òsùn tí o ti t̀è lí Ìrosùn Ọ̀ṣé. K̀ò ̀̀ṣ̀ nàà sínú igbá p̀̀l̀ú iyèr̀òsùn yì. Wíwè ni.

Ifá medicine: Grind *̀̀fúnṣ̀fún* leaves (*Aerva lanata*: used to attract prosperity and to ward off negative energy), *̀̀fúnl̀è* leaves (*Evolvulus alsinoides*: used to dispel negative energy and to attract positive energy), and *ire* leaves (*Funtumia elastica*: used to attract blessings) together

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with the heads of two rats (which are used to help someone to be resourceful) and the heads of two fishes. Mix this powder together with soap. Kill a pigeon (which is used to help someone to fly majestically above dangers) and press its head onto the aforementioned soap. Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to *ìyèròsùn* that you have imprinted with *Ìrosùn Ọṣé*. Take the aforementioned soap into a calabash together with this *ìyèròsùn*. A cleansing it is to be.

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, it will get better for someone here.

A06 Òwónrín as the right leg

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[Òwónrín Ogbè](#)

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Òwónrín Ogbè

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06.01 *Òwónrín* (walking honorably) is helped by *Ogbè* (a wholesome road).

Bonranhún l'awo òde Ìdó. Òpè gọrọngọbì l'awo òde Ìjẹṣà. Èrìgì dúdú l'awo òde Ìmọṣàkun.

It was *Bonranhún* who was the priest of *Ìdó* town. It was *Òpè gọrọngọbì* who was the priest of *Ìjẹṣà* town. It was *Èrìgì dúdú* who was the priest of *Ìmọṣàkun* town.

A dífá fún Olófin Òbèlẹnjé, tí íbá ibi ísùn lọ, tí íbá ibi íjì. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for King *Òbèlẹnjé*, who was falling asleep with nasty energy, who was waking up with nasty energy. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Oní l'aládé sìn ibi rè ẹlùjù. Oní l'aládé kó ire wá ilé. Igba ewé olówònràn-nṣánṣán ní kí ibi dì ẹrù kí ó maa lọ o!

It is today that the king escorted nasty energy to go to the deep forest. It is today that the king brought good energy home. Two hundred *olówònràn-nṣánṣán* leaves (*Sida acuta*: used to sweep away negative energy) told nasty energy to tie its load (for undertaking a journey) and to get going!

Òwónrín Ìwòrì

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06.03 *Òwónrín* (walking honorably) helps *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen).

Òwónrín wé rere. Ìwòrì wé rere.

Òwónrín coils around that which is good. *Ìwòrì* coils around that which is good.

A dífá fún Ejò. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ó baà lè fi ẹnu rè n'íyọrísí gbígbóra. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Lẹhìn tí ó rúbọ tán, ó lè fi ẹnu rè sọ oró.

Ifá divination was performed for Snake. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may be able to use his mouth to have a powerful effect. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. After he had done *ẹbọ* completely, he was able to use his mouth to emit venom.

Kò pé; kò jìnnà. Ẹ wá bá ẹnì ní jẹbútú ire.

It will not take long; it is not far away. Come join us in plenty of good things.

Extra: Described here is someone whose words have a beneficial penetrating influence on others.

Òwónrín Òdí

[\[Back to Òwónrín\]](#)

06.04 *Òwónrín* (walking honorably) is helped by *Òdí* (having a sound foundation).

Òwónrín dí ọwọ mọ. Òwónrín dí ẹsẹ mọ. A ní kí ó fi ohun tọrẹ kí afẹfẹ baà lè maa fẹ èrè wá ilé. Ó ní òun kò fi ohun tọrẹ.

Òwónrín holds (his) hands firmly. *Òwónrín* holds (his) feet firmly. It was said that he ought to give generously so that the wind may be able to get blowing gains to come home (that is, to come his way). He said that he was not giving generously.

A dífá fún Alábawun-ìjápá. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ọràn ìpónjú má baà lè dé sí i.

Ifá divination was performed for Stingy-turtle. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that a matter of hardship may not be able to reach him.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 11:24-25] There is one who gives freely but is increased repeatedly and (there is) one who withholds more than what is appropriate but surely is headed for deficiency. A person who furthers the well-being of others will be made to fare well, and one who waters others, he also will be watered.

Òwónrín Méjì

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06.06 *Òwónrín* (walking honorably) is doubled.

Àti Ẹṣin àti Àgbò, awo ilé Ọ̀ṣeni Alà̀nà̀kà̀n-È̀sùú, dífá fún Ọ̀ṣeni nígbà̀tí kò júbà̀ àwọ̀n baba nlá rẹ̀ mọ, nígbà̀tí یشه̀ ohun gbogbo tí ọ̀kan kò yànjú. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Both Horse and Ram, the priests of the house of King *Alà̀nà̀kà̀n-È̀sùú*, performed *Ifá* divination for the *Ifẹ* king when he did not pay respect to his ancestors anymore, when he was doing everything for which (each) one did not find an answer. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Ìbà Bàbá. Ìbà Yèyè. Ìbà Olúwo. Ìbà Ojùgbòná. Ìbà Akódá, tí ikó gbogbo ayé n'Ífá. Ìbà Aşèdá, tí ikó gbogbo àgbà n'ímòrà̀n.

Reverence to Father. Reverence to Mother. Reverence to the priest who initiated me. Reverence to the priest who assisted him during initiation. Reverence to *Akódá* (a famous *Ifá* disciple), who taught the whole world about *Ifá*. Reverence to *Aşèdá* (another famous *Ifá* disciple), who taught all of the elders about wise counsel.

Àyàfi èyítí mo dáşe, kí Orò má şài gbà.

Except that which I do without approval from a higher authority, may *Orò* (a revered *Yorùbá* ancestor) not fail to accept.

Extra: Your honorable elders are your partners for faring well.

Òwónrín Òbàrà

[\[Back to Òwónrín\]](#)

06.07a Òwónrín (taking measured action) helps Òbàrà (asserting oneself with dignity).

Ó rí mi, sùgbón mi ò rí i. Èlà ní ohun tí kí a maa rí, ó mbẹ nítòsí ẹni. Sùgbón òkùnkùn inú ẹni ni kò jẹkí a rí i.

It sees me, but I do not see it. Èlà (the òrìṣà of knowledge and wisdom) said that the thing that we ought to be seeing, it is near us. But it is our inner darkness that does not allow that we see it.

Ifá ní ẹnikan wà tí kí ó wá rúbọ kí ohun tí kí ó maa rí, ó baà lè rí i dájúdájú. Èlà óò fi í hàn.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to come doing ẹbọ so that the thing that he ought to be seeing, he may be able to see it surely. Èlà will make it visible.

Extra: A lack of clear-sightedness has caused one to miss seeing something that is important and obvious.

06.07b Òwónrín (walking honorably) is helped by Òbàrà (asserting oneself with dignity).

Òwónrín l’awo Pa-arò. Òbàrà l’awo Ẹ-ayò.

It is Òwónrín who is the priest of ‘He overwhelms sadness’. It is Òbàrà who is the priest of ‘He undergoes joy’.

A difá fún Omọ-Sàngó, tí yóò sẹgun ọ́tá, tí yóò rí ẹ̀yìn òdídí.

Ifá divination was performed for Omọ-Sàngó (child of Sàngó, the deified Ọ̀yọ king who detests immorality and strikes wrongdoers with lightning), who would overcome opponents, who would see the back side of blockages.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ̀ ẹ̀bọ fún Sàngó, Jénrọ́lá, ari igba ọ́ta sẹgun. Báyii ni yóò lè ẹ̀ ẹ̀pinnu tí ó sún àláàfià rẹ̀ síwájú.

It was said that he ought to come doing ẹbọ. He heard; he did ẹbọ. He moreover did ẹbọ for Sàngó, ‘Allow me to see honor (a praise name of Sàngó)’, the one who finds 200 stones in order to be victorious. It was in this manner that he would be able to make decisions that further his well-being.

Extra: By tapping into the energy of Sàngó, one will prevail through dignity and decisiveness.

Òwónrín Òkànràn

[\[Back to Òwónrín\]](#)

06.08 Òwónrín (taking measured action) helps Òkànràn (giving something good its turn).

Message: Use a tried-and-true methodology that ensures a worthy outcome.

Òwónrín Ògúndá

[\[Back to Òwónrín\]](#)

06.09 Òwónrín (walking honorably) is helped by Ògúndá (having the courage to take right action).

Mo jí; t'Ifá mi ni mo n̄ṣe. Mo m̀òràn; t'Òpè mi ni mo òtò lẹ̀yìn. Bí mo bá kọ gbáangan-gbàngan, mi ò n'ílẹ̀ oníyẹ̀yẹ̀ dé. Bí Ifá bá wí fún mi ni mo n̄ṣe.

I wake up; it is according to my *Ifá* that I am acting. I am knowledgeable; it is according to my *Òpè* (Palm-tree, a name of *Ifá*) that I am following behind. If I happen to cry out in great confusion, then I will not have the house of a flippant person to arrive at. It is as *Ifá* happens to tell me that I am acting.

A dífá fún Ṣòótọ̀ṣòótọ̀. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀ kí nkan rẹ̀ baà lè gún. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀. Ṣòótọ̀ṣòótọ̀ m̀bá òótọ̀ lọ. Nkan rẹ̀ gún. Ayé yẹ̀ é.

Ifá divination was performed for Truth-doer. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that his affair may be able to be in good order. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. Truth-doer was going along with truth. His affair was in good order. Life was right for him.

Mo jí; t'Ifá mi ni mo n̄ṣe. Mo m̀òràn; t'Òpè mi ni mo òtò lẹ̀yìn. Bí mo bá kọ gbáangan-gbàngan, mi ò n'ílẹ̀ oníyẹ̀yẹ̀ dé. Bí Ifá bá wí fún mi ni mo n̄ṣe.

I wake up; it is according to my *Ifá* that I am acting. I am knowledgeable; it is according to my *Òpè* that I am following behind. If I happen to cry out in great confusion, then I will not have the house of a flippant person to arrive at. It is as *Ifá* happens to tell me that I am acting.

A dífá fún Ṣìkàṣìkà. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀ kí ó má baà ṣìkà m̀. Ó kò; kò rúbọ̀. Ṣìkàṣìkà n̄ṣe tírẹ̀. Kò gbádùn. Ara kò rójú t̀ù ú.

Ifá divination was performed for Evildoer. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may not do evil anymore. He refused; he did not do *ẹbọ*. Evildoer was doing his own thing. He was not in a state of well-being. (His) body did not have the opportunity to calm him.

Gbogbo ẹ̀ni tí ó bá n̄ṣìkà, kí ó ṣíwọ̀. Oore ni kí ó maa ṣe.

Every person who happens to be practicing evil, he ought to desist. It is kindness that he ought to be practicing.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 12:15] The way of a wayward one is satisfactory in his own eyes, but one who listens obediently to sagacious advice is a wise one.

Òwónrín Òsá

[\[Back to Òwónrín\]](#)

06.10 *Òwónrín* (walking honorably) is helped by *Òsá* (taking timely action).

Message: [*Dilogún* 11-9] In order to not go through disgrace, be circumspect and wise like the ant.

Òwónrín Ìkà

[\[Back to Òwónrín\]](#)

06.11 *Òwónrín* (taking measured action) helps *Ìkà* (reaping a reward).

Èlà ní Òwónrín Ìkà. Mo ní Òwónrín Ìkà. Mo ní: “È̀étírí tí Òwón òrín kàrà-kàrà?” È̀là dàhùn, ó ní: “Òwón òrín kàrà-kàrà nítorí tí ohun rere gbogbo wà n'ílẹ̀.”

Èlà (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) said *Òwónrín Ìkà*. I said *Òwónrín Ìkà*. I said: “How is it that *Òwón* is laughing loudly-loudly?” *Èlà* answered, he said: “*Òwón* is laughing loudly-loudly because every good thing is in the home.”

Ayé Ọwón gún gégé. Ọwón nǹgbé ohun gbogbo wá sórí iwón. Ọwón kì íjẹun kí ó má wón ọn kí ó tó jẹ ẹ. Ọwón kì ímu omi kí ó má wón ọn kí ó tó mu ú. Ọwón kì ilò aṣọ kí ó má wón ọn kí ó tó lò ó. Ọwón kì íkólé kí ó má wón ọn kí ó tó kọ ọ.

The life of Ọwón is exactly right. Ọwón brings everything to the scale. Ọwón never eats food so that he does not measure it before he reaches the point of eating it. Ọwón never drinks water so that he does not measure it before he reaches the point of drinking it. Ọwón never uses cloth so that he does not measure it before he reaches the point of using it. Ọwón never builds a house so that he does not measure it before he reaches the point of building it.

A dífá fún ‘Afi iwón ẹ ohun gbogbo’. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ó má bá jù iwón nù láílái. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘One who uses measurement to do everything’. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may not happen to throw balance away ever. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Extra: Do not overstep fitting limits.

Ọwónrín Ọtúra

[\[Back to Ọwónrín\]](#)

06.13 Ọwónrín (taking measured action) helps Ọtúra (averting a worrisome situation).

Ìjámíjà kò múrasílẹ̀ lẹ̀ẹkan. A dífá fún Ìgbín, tí ilọ bá Ẹkùn jà jújà òjìjì.

A great fighter is not in readiness for one instance only. *Ifá* divination was performed for Snail, who went engaging Leopard in sudden fighting.

A ní: “Ẹkùn wá n’ímúratélé nígbàgbogbo. Kí Ìgbín má ẹ. Ẹni tí a kò lè mú, Ẹlédàá l’áá fún.” A ní kí Ìgbín wá rúbọ kí ipín baà jà fún un. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

It was said: “Leopard comes in prior preparedness every time. Snail ought not to take action as intended (that is, Snail ought not to fight Leopard toe-to-toe). The person whom we are not able to get, it is *Ẹlédàá* (Creator God) to whom we will give him.” It was said that Snail ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that destiny may fight for him. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Ọwónrín Ìrètẹ̀

[\[Back to Ọwónrín\]](#)

06.14a Ọwónrín (taking measured action; walking honorably) hinders Ìrètẹ̀ (unwholesome influences).

Kò sí ogun ní pápá. Kò sí ọ̀tẹ̀ láárín ilú.

There is no war in the fields. There is no conspiracy within the cities.

A dífá fún Ọlọ́fin Iwajọ. A ní ọ̀tẹ̀ rẹ̀ lórí oyè òò sunwón. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ayọ̀ ìgbà rẹ̀ má baà mú ọ̀pọ̀lọ̀pọ̀ èyàn di ọ̀lẹ̀ tàbí asínwín. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for King *Iwajọ*. It was said that his time at the head of the chieftancy would be good. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that the joy of his time may not cause plenty of people to become lazy or insane. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Extra: Regarding the matter in question, do not take any drastic action at this time.

06.14b *Òwónrín* (taking measured action; walking honorably) hinders *Ìrètè* (unwholesome influences).

Èyítí íbẹ̀ nínú ẹ̀, kò sí nínú mí. Èyítí íbẹ̀ nínú mí, kò sí nínú ẹ̀.

That which is in your mind, it is not in my mind. That which is in my mind, it is not in your mind.

A dífá fún Onínúre, tí wọn maa fi ọ̀ràn ìkà lòdì sí i. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Kindhearted-person, whom they (others) were intending to use a matter of evil against him. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ*. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ*.

Ifá wá rí nínú o! Ilẹ̀ rí ìkà. Ẹ̀ni tí íṣe rere, Ẹ̀lédàà mò.

Ifá comes seeing that which is in the mind! Mother Earth sees (that is, recognizes) evil. The person who practices goodness, *Ẹ̀lédàà* (Creator God) knows.

Ifá ní ẹ̀nikan wà tí kí ó ṣe rere nígbàgbogbo. Ìwà rere ni yòò sún aláàfià ẹ̀ síwájú. Ẹ̀gbón kí olúwarẹ̀ wá rúbọ.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to practice goodness at all times. It is good character that will further his well-being. But the person in question ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ*.

Òwónrín Òfún

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06.16 *Òwónrín* (taking measured action) hinders *Òfún* (efforts of limited success).

Bí ohun bá nù fún ẹ̀ni, kí ohùn má nù fún ní.

If a thing gets lost for a person, then (his) voice ought not to get lost for having it (that is, he ought not to stop laying claim to it).

A dífá fún ẹ̀ni tí ifi omi ojú sògbéré̀ ire. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for a person who was using teardrops to cry about good things. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ*. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ*.

Bí ohun bá nù fún ẹ̀ni, kí ohùn má nù fún ní.

If a thing gets lost for a person, then (his) voice ought not to get lost for having it.

Extra: Lay claim to the good things that are rightfully yours.

A07 Òbàrà as the right leg

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Òbàrà Ogbè

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07.01 Òbàrà (asserting oneself with dignity) helps Ogbè (a wholesome road).

Ikú, yòrò o! Àrùn, yòrò o!

Death, melt away! Illness, melt away!

A dífá fún wọn l'óde Ìdó nígbàtí ajogun ká wọn mó pítipiti. A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ. Wọn gbọ; wọn rúbọ. Wọn sì se ibọ fún Èlà, alátúnṣe ayé, asọ-òrò-di-ayò.

Ifá divination was performed for those in Ìdó town when *ajogun* (agents of distress) encircled them completely. It was said that they ought to come doing *ebọ*. They heard; they did *ebọ*. They moreover did *ibọ* for Èlà (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), the master of improving one's life in the world, the one who converts trouble into joy.

Ikú tí ibẹ n'ílẹ̀ yìí, àrùn tí ibẹ̀ n'ílẹ̀ yìí, ajogun gbogbo tí ibẹ̀ n'ílẹ̀ yìí, kí ó dẹ̀rù kí ó maa lọ o, Òwìrìwìrì! Àá fi iná Ifá wì í lára o, Òwìrìwìrì!

Death that is in this house, illness that is in this house, every *ajogun* that is in this house, it ought to tie its load (for undertaking a journey) and to get going, *Òwìrìwìrì!* We will use the fire of *Ifá* to singe it, *Òwìrìwìrì!*

Jó itùfù méréin kí èéfin wọn oò kún ilé. Jẹkí èéfin yìí kàn ohun ebọ.

Burn 4 *itùfù* (which are grass incense bundles used for house cleansing) so that their smoke will fill the house. Allow that this smoke touches the *ebọ* items.

Ìbọ: Fi iṣu tí o sè láti fún Èlà.

An *ibọ*: Use a yam that you have cooked in order to give to Èlà.

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, one will dispel agents of distress.

Òbàrà Ìwòrì

[\[Back to Òbàrà\]](#)

07.03a Òbàrà (asserting oneself with dignity) helps Ìwòrì (good things becoming seen; seeing things clearly).

Òrò bántà oò wúwo bí owú.

Important matters will be heavy like an anvil.

A dífá fún ayé nígbàtí àwọn ọmọ aráyé ñpón owó. Wọn ní kò sí ohun tí ó n'íyì nínú ayé tí ó jù owó lọ. Nítorináà, owó l'ohun soṣo tí àwọn ọò maa sáré lé.

Ifá divination was performed for the world when the people of the world were smothering money with praise. They said that there was no thing that had respect in the world that surpassed money. Therefore, it was money that was the only thing that they would be pursuing.

Èlà ní bèèni àti bèèkó. 'Agbé ẹni ga' l'a pè owó. 'Abà iwà jé' l'a pè owó. Ẹni tí ó bá fẹràn owó l'áfẹjù, iwà rẹ ọò bàjé. Iwà rere l'òṣò èyàn.

Èlà (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) said that it was so and that it was not so. It is 'One that elevates a person' that money is called. It is 'One that spoils character' that money is called. The person who happens to love money with an intense affection, his character will be spoiled. It is good character that is the adornment of a human being.

Owó níní kò ní kí ẹ má di afọjú. Owó níní kò ní kí ẹ má di arọ. Owó níní kò ní kí ẹ má di aṣiwèrè. Owó níní kò ní kí ẹ má di olókùnrun àti bèbèbè.

Money possession does not say that you do not become a blind person. Money possession does not say that you do not become a lame person. Money possession does not say that you do not become an insane person. Money possession does not say that you do not become a chronically ill person and so forth.

Ogbón ni kí a maa yé. Òun ni kí a maa bù iyìn fún. Iwà rere ni kí a maa yé. Òun ni kí a maa bù iyìn fún.

It is wisdom that we ought to be holding in high regard. It is that to which we ought to be portioning out praise. It is good character that we ought to be holding in high regard. It is that to which we ought to be portioning out praise.

Ẹjẹ, ẹ jẹ tún ogbón gbón, kí ẹ tún èrò gbà, kí ẹ mú iwà rere hù. Kí ẹ sì wá rúbọ kí ara baà lè rọ yín tinú-tòde.

Therefore, be willing to work at wisdom to be wise, so that you may work at (which) thoughts to accept, so that you may take good character to develop. Y'all ought moreover to come doing *ẹbọ* so that (your) bodies may be able to put you at ease inside and outside.

Extra: [The Bible, 1 Timothy 6:10-11] For a root of all types of bad things is the excessive love of money, and some persons, by longing for it, have been led astray from trust (in God) and have wounded themselves deeply with many sorrows. But you, O person of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, having trust (in God), kindheartedness, patient perseverance, and gentleness.

07.03b *Ọbàrà* (asserting oneself with dignity) is helped by *Ìwòrì* (seeing things clearly).

Ohun tí a baà lè ẹ l'áà dáwólé e. A kì ídáwólé ohun tí a kò baà lè ẹ.

That which we may be able to do, it is that on which we will embark. We never embark on that which we may not be able to do.

Ifá ní ẹnikan wà tí kí ó wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì wá ẹ ibọ fún Ẹṣù. Báyii ni kò ní tọ ọ lówó.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He ought moreover to come doing *ibọ* for *Ẹṣù* (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests). It is in this manner that he will not go astray.

Òbàrà Òdí

[\[Back to Òbàrà\]](#)

07.04 Òbàrà (asserting oneself with dignity) is helped by Òdí (having a sound foundation).

Igbá-lórí-àmù, awo àwọn obìnrin, l’ó dífá fún Alágbèrè. Gbogbo ọkùnrin ni ifi idí bá idí rẹ.

It was ‘Calabash on top of the large water pot’, the priest of women, who performed *Ifá* divination for Prostitute. It was every man who was using (his) lower parts to meet her lower parts. [Note: Prostitute was allowing every man to have his way with her].

A ní: “Òwò àipé l’o nṣe. Obìnrin àgbèrè kì íní iyì di alẹ. Obìnrin kì ifi òwò idí ilà.” A ní kí Alágbèrè jẹwọ ọbùn rẹ. Kí ó sì wá rúbọ.

It was said: “It is a business that amounts to nothing that you are undertaking. A woman of prostitution never has honor to late in life. A woman never uses the business of lower parts to be prosperous.” It was said that Prostitute ought to confess her foul condition. She ought moreover to come doing *ẹbọ*.

Àkóse Ifá: Lọ ewé ẹsọ àti iyèré diẹ láti sè gégẹbí ọbẹ pẹlú igbín. Tún lọ ewé ẹsọ kí o baà lè pò wọn pò òrí fún ríra òbò rẹ. Gún ewé ẹsọ àti oṣẹ pò fún wíwẹ.

Ifá medicine: Grind *ẹsọ* leaves (*Elytraria marginata*: used to further careful attention) and a few Ashanti peppers to cook according to a soup together with snails (whose slow movement symbolizes calmness and caution that avert trouble). Grind *ẹsọ* leaves again so that you may be able to blend them with shea butter (which is used to dispel negative energy and to attract positive energy) for rubbing your vagina. Pound *ẹsọ* leaves and soap to be together for cleansing yourself.

Extra: Do not allow ignoble influences to have their way with you.

Òbàrà Ìrosùn

[\[Back to Òbàrà\]](#)

07.05 Òbàrà (asserting oneself with dignity) helps Ìrosùn (patiently persevering through difficulty).

Òbàrà, sísùn tí sùn l’ogun fi kó ilé Alára. Òbàrà, sísùn tí sùn l’ogun fi kó ilé Ijerò. Òbàrà, sísùn tí sùn l’ogun fi kó Òkè-Ìtasẹ.

Òbàrà, it is the sleep that you slept that war used to plunder *Alára* town. Òbàrà, it is the sleep that you slept that war used to plunder *Ijerò* town. Òbàrà, it is the sleep that you slept that war used to plunder *Òkè-Ìtasẹ*.

A dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlà nígbàtí t’ajogun nkàn ilẹkùn rẹ. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọmọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) when a distressful situation was knocking on his door. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Ñjẹ, Ikú o, maa lọ! Àrùn o, maa lọ! Ejó gbé mi tí. Òfò o, maa lọ! Ajogun gbogbo, maa lọ! “Maa lọ, maa lọ” l’èse nké.

Therefore, Death, get going! Illness, get going! Litigation, get going! Loss, get going! Every *ajogun* (agent of distress), get going! It is “Get going, get going” that the cat is crying out. [Note: Many people believe that cats can remove negative energy from their environment].

Extra: Wake up and deal with the distressful situation knocking on your door.

Òbàrà Méjì

[\[Back to Òbàrà\]](#)

07.07 Òbàrà (asserting oneself with dignity) is doubled.

Ó ẹ́ẹ̀ mi pẹ̀lẹ̀ngẹ̀, ọ̀wọ̀ mi ọ̀tún. Ó rọ̀ mi mìnìjò, ọ̀wọ̀ mi òsì. Ewé kókò méjì ni ìlù ara wọn pẹ̀lẹ̀ngẹ̀-pẹ̀lẹ̀ngẹ̀. Abẹ̀bẹ̀ ọ̀jẹ̀ ni ìmú ojú ọ̀lọ̀jà tutù nini.

It overcomes me delicately, my right-hand side. It soothes me smoothly, my left-hand side. It is two cocoyam leaves that are beating each other very delicately. It is a fan of lead that is making the king's face very cool. [Note: Each preceding statement describes a situation of ease and enjoyment].

A dífá fún èyítí yóò di Olú Ìdó, abẹ̀jìgbàrà-ilẹ̀kẹ̀, nígbà tí tí ilọ̀ rẹ̀ bá wọn múlẹ̀ ibùdó.

Ifá divination was performed for the one who would become the *Ìdó* chief, possessor of *ẹ̀jìgbàrà* beads (which are worn by royalty), when he went aiming to join them (others) in establishing a settlement.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀. Lẹ̀hìn tí ó rúbọ̀ tán, ó di àpésìn, ó di Olú Ìdó.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ̀*. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ̀*. After he had done *ẹ̀bọ̀* completely, he became a leader who had a large number of followers, he became the *Ìdó* chief.

Kí'ó sọ Olú Ìdó di ọ̀ba? Èjì Òbàrà, Ifá l'ó sọ Olú Ìdó di ọ̀ba, Èjì Òbàrà o!

What was it that transformed the *Ìdó* chief into a king? *Èjì Òbàrà* (same as *Òbàrà Méjì*), it was *Ifá* that transformed the *Ìdó* chief into a king, *Èjì Òbàrà*!

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, one will create their own domain of peaceful prosperity.

Òbàrà Ọ̀sá

[\[Back to Òbàrà\]](#)

07.10 Òbàrà (asserting oneself with dignity) hinders Ọ̀sá (running away from a challenge).

Oṣó rí mi; ó ní ọ̀mọ̀ tani mo ẹ̀? Mo ní: “Ọ̀mọ̀ Òbàrà Ọ̀sá ni mo ẹ̀.” Àjẹ̀ rí mi; ó ní ọ̀mọ̀ tani mo ẹ̀? Mo ní: “Ọ̀mọ̀ Òbàrà Ọ̀sá ni mo ẹ̀.”

A male psychic attacker saw me; he said whose child am I? I said: “It is a child of *Òbàrà Ọ̀sá* that I am.” A female psychic attacker saw me; she said whose child am I? I said: “It is a child of *Òbàrà Ọ̀sá* that I am.”

Ikú rí mi; ó ní ọ̀mọ̀ tani mo ẹ̀? Mo ní: “Ọ̀mọ̀ Òbàrà Ọ̀sá ni mo ẹ̀.” Àrùn rí mi; ó ní ọ̀mọ̀ tani mo ẹ̀? Mo ní: “Ọ̀mọ̀ Òbàrà Ọ̀sá ni mo ẹ̀.” Èṣù rí mi; ó ní ọ̀mọ̀ tani mo ẹ̀? Mo ní: “Ọ̀mọ̀ Òbàrà Ọ̀sá ni mo ẹ̀.”

Death saw me; he said whose child am I? I said: “It is a child of *Òbàrà Ọ̀sá* that I am.” Illness saw me; he said whose child am I? I said: “It is a child of *Òbàrà Ọ̀sá* that I am.” *Èṣù* (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests) saw me; he said whose child am I? I said: “It is a child of *Òbàrà Ọ̀sá* that I am.”

Ọ̀fọ̀: Ọ̀mọ̀ Òbàrà Ọ̀sá ni mo ẹ̀. Ọ̀mọ̀ Òbàrà Ọ̀sá kì ísá. Ikú kì ípa ọ̀mọ̀ Òbàrà Ọ̀sá. Àrùn kì ípa ọ̀mọ̀ Òbàrà Ọ̀sá. Ọ̀mọ̀ Òbàrà Ọ̀sá kì íté.

Incantation: It is a child of *Òbàrà Òsá* that I am. A child of *Òbàrà Òsá* never runs away. Death never overwhelms a child of *Òbàrà Òsá*. Illness never overwhelms a child of *Òbàrà Òsá*. A child of *Òbàrà Òsá* never falls into disgrace.

Àkóse Ifá: Gún ewé jàsókè àti oṣẹ pọ. Kó oṣẹ yìi sínú igbá àdému dárádára kan. Pè oṣẹ náà s'iyèròsùn tí o ti tẹ lí Òbàrà Òsá. Kó iyè yìi sínú igbá oṣẹ. Gbé igbá oṣẹ sínú àpò aṣọ funfun; fi kọ sókè bí o bá fẹ. Bù oṣẹ náà fi wẹ.

Ifá medicine: Pound *jàsókè* leaves (*Ehretia cymosa*: used to dispel negative energy and to attract positive energy) and soap to be together. Take this soap into a good calabash with a cover. Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to *iyèròsùn* that you have imprinted with *Òbàrà Òsá*. Take this powder into the calabash of soap. Place the calabash of soap into a white cloth bag (which symbolizes the effort to maintain cleanness); make it hang from above if you happen to want to. Portion out the aforementioned soap to use to cleanse yourself.

Extra: Stand your ground against ruinous influences.

Òbàrà Òtúra

[\[Back to Òbàrà\]](#)

07.13 *Òbàrà* (asserting oneself with dignity) helps *Òtúra* (averting a worrisome situation).

A-pa-pa-t'oko, a-tu wọn-n'ilé-tu-wọn-l'oko, l'ó difá fún Onilé-adiyẹ àti àwọn ọmọ rẹ.

It was 'One who kills and kills those of the farm', 'one who plucks them in town and plucks them in the countryside', who performed *Ifá* divination for 'Chicken head-of-household' and her children.

A ní: “Òtá tí ó lágbára jù yín, ó ñbọwá bá yín. Bí ẹ bá sá kúrò n'ilé lọ s'oko, ọtá oò tún wá bá yín l'oko. Sùgbón bí ẹ bá ṣẹbọ, ọwọ oò jẹ fún yín.”

It was said: “An opponent who is more powerful than y'all, he is coming to meet y'all. If y'all happen to run away and leave town to go away to the countryside, then the opponent will again come looking for y'all in the countryside. But if y'all happen to do *ẹbọ*, then respect will comply with y'all.”

A ní: “Àwòdì kò lè rí fi ìgbín ṣe. Àwòdì wò ìgbín kọrọ.”

It was said: “The hawk is not able to see causing the snail to be harmed. The hawk looks at the snail hostilely but being powerless to act.”

Àkóse Ifá: Lọ ewé ọwọ láti sè jẹ gégé bí ọbẹ pẹlú ìgbín.

Ifá medicine: Grind *ọwọ* leaves (*Brillantaisia patula*: used to bring respect to someone) to cook and eat according to a soup together with snails (whose slow movement symbolizes calmness and caution that avert trouble).

Òbàrà Ìrẹtẹ

[\[Back to Òbàrà\]](#)

07.14 *Òbàrà* (asserting oneself with dignity) is helped by *Ìrẹtẹ* (practicing *Ifá*).

Òbàrà Ìrẹtẹ, a difá fún Ọmọ-Èlà. A ní kí òun wá rúbọ kí ohun tí ó wúwo jù má baà lè dé sí òun, kí òun baà lè tẹ orí ohun gbogbo. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Òbàrà Ìrètè, *Ifá* divination was performed for *Omọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom). It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that a thing that was too heavy may not be able to reach him, so that he may be able to step on the top of everything. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

A ní: “Ohun tí ó wúwo jù kì idé sí Èlà. Èlà l’ó tẹ ara rẹ ní Ifá. Òun ni yóò tẹ wọn níbigbogbo.”
It was said: “A thing that is too heavy never reaches *Èlà*. It is *Èlà* who initiated himself to *Ifá*. It is he who will initiate them (others) everywhere.”

Extra: By practicing *Ifá*, you will steer every matter to a fitting end.

Òbàrà Òṣé

[\[Back to Òbàrà\]](#)

07.15 *Òbàrà* (asserting oneself with dignity) is helped by *Òṣé* (overcoming through joyful optimism).

Wọn ní omọ tani mo ẹ? Mo ní: “Omọ Òbàrà Òṣé ni mo ẹ.” Wọn bì mi. Wọn gbà mi lójú. Wọn kàn mi n’íkùn.

They (others) said whose child am I? I said: “It is a child of *Òbàrà Òṣé* that I am.” They shoved me. They slapped me in the face. They punched me in the belly.

Ofọ: Omọ Òbàrà Òṣé ni mo ẹ. Ìyà kì ijẹ omọ Òbàrà Òṣé. Òtá kótá tí ó bá pè mi s’ibi, èmi kò níi sàì sẹgun wọn.

Incantation: It is a child of *Òbàrà Òṣé* that I am. Suffering never consumes a child of *Òbàrà Òṣé*. Whichever opponents happen to summon me to bad things, I will not fail to overcome them.

Àkóse Ifá: Lọ ewé àrèrè àti ewé ejá tí wọn wọ silẹ. Pè ofọ nàà s’ètù yù tí o ti tẹ lí Òbàrà Òṣé. Dà ètù nàà s’ójú igbín kan. Fi aṣọ dúdú wé igbín nàà. Fi òwú dúdú dì í danindanin. Dí ojú àti jù ú nù sínú igbó.

Ifá medicine: Grind *àrèrè* leaves (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*: used to dispel negative energy) and *ejá* leaves (*Mallotus oppositifolius*: used to dispel negative energy) that fell to the ground. Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to this powder that you have imprinted with *Òbàrà Òṣé*. Pour the aforementioned powder on the face of a snail (whose slow movement symbolizes calmness and caution that avert trouble). Use a piece of black cloth to wrap around the aforementioned snail. Use black thread to bind it tightly. Close your eyes and throw it away into the woods.

Extra: Move yourself from being a victim of trauma to being its victor.

Òbàrà Òfún

[\[Back to Òbàrà\]](#)

07.16 *Òbàrà* (asserting oneself with dignity) is helped by *Òfún* (acting with rectitude).

Ahéré oko l’abidí beṣeṣe-beṣeṣe. Àgbàlágba ejò ni ídòbálẹ ara rẹ wọ ilẹ.

It is the farmhouse that is the possessor of a base of thatch. [Note: Here is a case of roofing material ‘humbling itself’ by being at the house’s base]. It is the elder snake that is prostrating its body to crawl on the ground.

A dífá fún babaláwo méta. A bù fún olùmòrán méfà n’ijó tí wọn ñjà ijà àgbà lí Òtu-Ifẹ. A ní: “Ifá l’àgbà, ùgbón ìmòrán l’a kókó ndá kí a tó dáfá.”

Ifá divination was performed for three *Ifá* priests. It (this divination) was shared with six wise men on the day when they were fighting a fight for seniority at *Ilé-Ifẹ*. It was said: “It is *Ifá* that is the elder, but it is careful consideration that we first cast before we reach the point of performing *Ifá* divination.”

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó mò pé Ifá kì íní ohun tí ó lòdì sí làákàyè. Kí olúwarẹ wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì wá ẹ ìbọ fún Èlà, afi inú ẹ ogbón.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to know that *Ifá* never says a thing that is contrary to good sense. The person in question ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He ought moreover to come doing *ibọ* for *Èlà* (the *òrìsà* of knowledge and wisdom), the one who uses (his) insides to practice wisdom.

Extra: *Ifá* never says anything that is contrary to good sense.

A08 Òkànràn as the right leg

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08.01 Òkànràn (touching trouble) is hindered by *Ogbè* (a wholesome road).

A kì íṣe ọmọ babaláwo kí a bínú. A kì íṣe ọmọ oníṣẹ̀gùn kí a ṣàì gbóràn. A kì íṣe ọmọ baálẹ̀ kí a bà ilú jé.

We will never be the children of an *Ifá* priest and then be angry. We will never be the children of an herb doctor and then fail to be obedient. We will never be the children of a community chief and then spoil the community.

A dífá fún Adékàmbí, tí íṣe ọmọ Òkànràn-so-idè.

Ifá divination was performed for *Adékàmbí* (a personal name meaning ‘it is my turn to birth a crown’, that is, it is my turn to become enthroned as the king of my life), who was a child of ‘Òkànràn ties an *òrìṣà* necklace’ (that is, Òkànràn gets initiated to an *òrìṣà*, a divine ministerial agent).

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ṣe ìbọ fún Èlà, afi inú ṣe ọgbón.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ìbọ* for *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), the one who uses (his) insides to practice wisdom.

Mo gbọ pé awo ñsodè. Mo bá wọn so o!

I heard that priests were tying *òrìṣà* necklaces. I joined them in tying!

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 16:17] The high way of upright ones is to turn themselves aside from what is bad; one who watches over his spirit is one who safeguards his conduct.

Òkànràn Òyèkú

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08.02 Òkànràn (touching trouble) is hindered by *Òyèkú* (averting ruin).

‘Tẹ ẹ kiti’ l’awo ọmọdẹ. ‘Tẹ ẹ kàtà’ l’awo àgbàlágba. Ó kù ìka kan kí ó di Èjì Òyẹ.

It is ‘Imprint it hastily’ who is the young priest. It is ‘Imprint it patiently’ who is the elder priest. There remains one imprint before it becomes *Èjì Òyẹ* (same as *Òyèkú Méjì*).

A dífá bọrọkinní ayé. A bù fún bọrọkinní ọrun. A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ kí bọrọkinní ayé má bàà tẹ nítorí àṣiṣe. Wọn gbọ; wọn rúbọ. Wọn sì ṣe ìbọ fún Ẹgbé.

Ifá divination was performed for respectable persons of earth. It (this divination) was shared with respectable persons of heaven. It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that respectable persons of earth may not fall into disgrace because of mistakes (that is, wrong actions, beliefs, or judgments). They heard; they did *ẹbọ*. They moreover did *ibọ* for *Egbé* (comrades of heaven).

Egbé, ẹ gbà mi o! Bọ̀rọ̀kìnní ọ̀run ọ̀ò gbẹ̀jà bọ̀rọ̀kìnní ayé. Bọ̀rọ̀kìnní ọ̀run kò ní jẹ́kí bọ̀rọ̀kìnní ayé ọ̀ò tẹ. Èyàn rere kì ítẹ̀ bọ̀rọ̀.

Egbé, rescue me! Respectable persons of heaven will fight on behalf of respectable persons of earth. Respectable persons of heaven will not allow that respectable persons of earth would fall into disgrace. Good human beings never fall into disgrace easily.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 16:17] The high way of upright ones is to turn themselves aside from what is bad; one who watches over his spirit is one who safeguards his conduct.

Òkànràn Òdí

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08.04 Òkànràn (giving something good its turn) is helped by Òdí (having a sound foundation).

Message: [*Dilogún* 1-7] He who does not follow his (destined) course does not meet his blessings.

Òkànràn Ìrosùn

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08.05 Òkànràn (touching trouble) is hindered by Ìrosùn (patiently persevering through difficulty).

Ìmọ̀mọ̀şẹ ibi kò sunwọ̀n. Èni tí ı̀şẹ ibi, bí ó bá bẹ̀bẹ̀ ọ̀rà̀n, ọ̀rà̀n ọ̀ò tán. Gbogbo ayé ni iforíjì àìmọ̀. Ìmọ̀mọ̀şẹ ibi kò sunwọ̀n.

Knowingly doing bad things is not good. The person who is doing bad things, if he happens to beg for forgiving the trouble, then the trouble will come to an end. It is the whole world who forgives ignorance. Knowingly doing bad things is not good.

A dífá fún ‘Ó şẹ ọ̀rà̀n şẹ akin’. Gbogbo wọ̀n ni ifi ẹ̀jọ̀ rẹ̀ sùn. Bí ó bá bẹ̀bẹ̀ ọ̀rà̀n, wọ̀n ọ̀ò wí pé ó tán. Nítorínáà, a ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘He makes trouble bravely’. It was all of them (others) who were complaining about his issues. If he happened to beg for forgiving the trouble, then they would say that it has come to an end. Therefore, it was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Àkóşẹ Ifá: Gún ewé ojúsàájú, ewé oríjì, àti ọşẹ̀ pọ̀ fún wíwẹ̀.

Ifá medicine: Pound *ojúsàájú* leaves (*Petiveria alliacea*: used to help someone to think favorably of another), *oríjì* leaves (*Hannoa undulata*: used to help someone to forgive another’s mistakes), and soap to be together for cleansing yourself.

Extra: **1.** [The Bible, Proverbs 28:13] One who covers up his rebellious acts will not fare well, but one who confesses (them) and forsakes (them) will be shown compassion. **2.** [*Dilogún* 1-4] He who remedies the damage that he has done lessens his fault.

Òkànràn Òwónrín

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08.06 Òkànràn (touching trouble) is hindered by Òwónrín (walking honorably).

‘Jékí ó ùkà’ ñgbè òùkà. ‘Jékí ó ẹ̀ ibi’ ñgbè aṣe ibi. A dífá fún àwọn àfòìgbó, tí íwí pé Èlà ñkílò ọ̀ràn jù. T’ínú wọn ni wọn ñṣe. Wọn ñṣe ikà. Wọn ñṣe ibi. Ohun ayé ñdára fún wọn. A lọ wí fún Èlà.

‘Let him do evil’ benefits the evildoer. ‘Let him do bad things’ benefits the doer of bad things. *Ifá* divination was performed for those of disobedience, who were saying that Èlà (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) was warning against trouble too much. It was what was in their minds that they were doing. They were doing evil. They were doing bad things. Things of the world were looking good for them. We (others) went reporting to Èlà.

Èlà ní: “Bí ó bá pé tíí, ẹ̀lẹ̀san oò maa bọwá àyíkà. Yóò tùmò l’ẹ̀rù kalẹ̀. Yóò ẹ̀ jẹ́jẹ́ ẹ̀ṣẹ̀. Nígbàtí ó bá dé, gbogbo wọn oò sá.”

Èlà said: “If it happens to take a long time on-and-on, then the dispenser of rewards will be coming around. He will solve burdens to the last one. He will do quietly his doing. When he happens to arrive, all of them (the wrongdoers) will run away.”

A ní kí ẹ̀ni wá rúbọ̀ kí ‘Jékí ó ùkà’ àti ‘Jékí ó ẹ̀ ibi’ má baà rí àyè bọ̀sì ikùn ẹ̀ni, kí àwọn ẹ̀gbé àti ọ̀gbà má baà fì ẹ̀ni rẹ̀rín nígbèyìn.

It was said that we ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ̀* so that ‘Let him do evil’ and ‘Let him do bad things’ may not see the opportunity to enter our insides, so that companions and peers may not ridicule us in the end.

Extra: Do not allow negative influences to gain a foothold.

Òkànràn Òbàrà

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08.07 Òkànràn (giving something good its turn) helps Òbàrà (asserting oneself with dignity).

Agogo-ṣékété, awo ilé Ọ̀lọ̀bà, l’ó dífá fún Ọ̀lọ̀bà nígbàtí ẹ̀ṣe ohun gbogbo tí ọ̀kan kò yànjú.

It was *Agogo-ṣékété* (a bell that is beaten when greeting Èlà, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), the priest of the house of the king of Òbà town, who performed *Ifá* divination for the Òbà king when he was doing everything for which (each) one did not find an answer.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀ kí nkan ogún àwọn baba nlá rẹ̀ má baà run. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀. Lẹ̀hìn tí ó rúbọ̀ tán, nkan rẹ̀ bẹ̀rẹ̀sì gún. Ayé yẹ̀ ẹ̀.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ̀* so that something inherited from his ancestors may not pass away. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ̀*. After he had done *ẹ̀bọ̀* completely, his affair began to be in good order. Life was right for him.

È má jékí wọn run. Egúngún ilé, ẹ̀ má jékí wọn run. Òrìṣà ilé, ẹ̀ má jékí wọn run. Gbogbo ohun ogún àwọn baba nlá tí íbẹ̀ n’ílẹ̀, ẹ̀ má jékí wọn run.

Do not allow that they pass away. *Egúngún* (honorable ancestors) of the house, do not allow that they pass away. *Òrìṣà* (divine ministerial agents) of the house, do not allow that they pass away. All ancestrally inherited things that are in the house, do not allow that they pass away.

Extra: Be worthy of assistance from ancestral guardians by valuing and preserving the good things that they have brought forth.

Òkànràn Méjì

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08.08 Òkànràn (giving something good its turn; touching trouble) is doubled.

Òkànràn kan níhín, Òkànràn kan lóhún – Òkànràn di méjì di ire.

One Òkànràn here, one Òkànràn over there – Òkànràn becomes two to become good things.

A dífá fún Ọmú nígbàtí wọn tí lọ s'áyà ọkùnrin. Ọkùnrin gùn igi; ọkùnrin lọ jagun. Ọmú kò n'ísimi. A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ. Wọn gbọ; wọn rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Breasts when they had gone to the chest of men. Men climbed trees; men went fighting wars. Breasts did not have tranquility. It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. They heard; they did *ẹbọ*.

Lèhìn tí Ọmú rúbọ tán, wọn lọ s'áyà obìnrin. Obìnrin kò gùn igi; obìnrin kò lọ jagun. Ọmú n'ísimi. Nígbèhìn, Ọmú rí ẹwà àtí ọwọ.

After Breasts had done *ẹbọ* completely, they went to the chest of women. Women did not climb trees; women did not go fighting wars. Breasts had tranquility. Ultimately, Breasts experienced beauty and respect.

Extra: Get to a situation that supports the proper development of your potential.

Òkànràn Ògúndá

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08.09 Òkànràn (giving something good its turn) is helped by Ògúndá (having the courage to take right action).

Eni tí ọwọ n'áyá fún ire l'Ògún ígbè n'íjọ ijà. Èyànràn tí kò lè jà, tí kò lè sọrọ, kò ní lè gbé nínú ayé pẹ. Ijà n'şe ọlá; ijà n'şe iyì.

It is the person whose hands are quick for good things whom Ògún (the *òrìşà* of iron and war) supports on the day of the fight. The person who is not able to fight, who is not able to speak up, he will not be able to live in the world for long. Fighting makes dignity; fighting makes respect.

A dífá fún Ògúngbèmi. A ní bí kò tilẹ ní finràn nígbàkígbà tí ijà bá dé sí i, kí ó má maa sá o! Alágbára l'ó l'áyé. Kò sí eni tí ó jẹ buyì fún ọlẹ. Akin l'ó l'áyé. Wọn kì ibù ọlá fún ojo.

Ifá divination was performed for Ògúngbèmi (a personal name meaning 'Ògún benefits me'). It was said that if he would not even take part in a dispute whenever the fight happened to reach him, then he ought not to be running away! It is the powerful person who possesses the world. There is no person who is willing to portion out respect to the lazy person. It is the brave person who possesses the world. They (others) never portion out honor to the coward.

A ní kí Ògúngbèmi wá rúbọ kí agbára inú má baà rà, kí ara baà lè le.

It was said that Ògúngbèmi ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that (his) inner strength may not rot, so that (his) body may be able to be strong.

Extra: [The Bible, Psalm 16:8] I have gained advantage by putting *Ha'el* (God) in front of me always; because (he is) at my right hand, I cannot be unnerved.

Òkànràn Òsá

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08.10a *Òkànràn* (giving something good its turn) is helped by *Òsá* (taking well-timed action).

Àwọn ọkọ, bí wọn ti gbójú tó, wọn kò lè fi ara wọn roko. Àwọn èyàn ni ísẹ elégbè lẹyìn wọn. Àwọn àdà, bí wọn ti mú tó, wọn kò lè fi ara wọn sán igbó. Àwọn èyàn ni ísẹ elégbè lẹyìn wọn. A mú iṣu wá ilé odó; kò lè tìkárarẹ̀ gún un n'íyán. Àwọn èyàn ni ísẹ elégbè lẹyìn wọn.

Hoes, as sufficiently brave as they already are, they are not able to use themselves to till a farm plot. It is human beings who are the supporters behind them. Machetes, as sufficiently razor-sharp as they already are, they are not able to use themselves to cut down the forest. It is human beings who are the supporters behind them. A yam is brought to the abode of the mortar; it is not able by itself to pound itself into pounded yam. It is human beings who are the supporters behind them.

A dífá fún Ọmọ-èyàn. A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ. Wọn gbọ; wọn rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for human beings. It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. They heard; they did *ẹbọ*.

Ñjé, tani nṣe elégbè lẹyìn èyàn, àyàfi Ẹlédàá, àyàfi èyàn?

Therefore, who are the supporters behind human beings, apart from *Ẹlédàá* (Creator God), apart from human beings?

Àkóse Ifá: Sè ewé ọ̀wọ̀ àti ìgbín m̀erindínlógún láti jẹ ní kùtùkùtù kí o tó fòhùn sí ẹni.

Ifá medicine: Cook *ọ̀wọ̀* leaves (*Brillantaisia patula*: used to bring respect to someone) and 16 snails (whose slow movement symbolizes calmness and caution that avert trouble) to eat in the early morning before you reach the point of talking to someone.

Extra: Work at playing a meaningful role in helping someone or something to realize its potential.

08.10b *Òkànràn* (touching trouble) is helped or hindered by *Òsá* (running away from a challenge).

‘Má já, má sá’ l’àiṣò akín. Akín tí ó mò jà, tí kò mò sá, yóò bá akín ibòmíràn lọ.

It is ‘Do not fight or do not flee’ that is the ignorance of the brave person. The brave person who knows how to fight, (but) who does not know how to back off, he will meet another brave person and perish.

A dífá fún Akínṣuyì. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ó baà lè maa mò ìgbà tí yera àti àiyera fún ijà, kí ó baà lè maa n’íyì l’òjọ̀ gbogbo. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for *Akínṣuyì* (a personal name meaning ‘bravery produces honor’). It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may be able to be knowing when to avoid and when not to avoid fighting, so that he may be able to be having respect every day. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Àkóse Ifá: Gbo ewé ojúsàájú, ọ̀jẹ̀lẹ̀ ewé ọ̀mọ̀, àti imọ̀ sínú omi fún wíwẹ̀. Maa lò aṣọ ẹ̀tù.

Ifá medicine: Juice *ojúsàájú* leaves (*Petiveria alliacea*: used to help someone to think favorably of another), tender young *ọ̀mọ̀* leaves (*Cordia millenii*: used to dispel negative energy), and palm fronds into water for cleansing yourself. Get to wearing *ẹ̀tù* cloth.

Extra: [a saying from Sūnzī] He will win who knows when to fight and when not to fight.

Ọ̀kànràn Ìká

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08.11 *Ọ̀kànràn* (touching trouble) is helped by *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck).

Kò sí ẹnì tí ilẹ̀ rẹ̀ kò lè di oko. Kò sí ẹnì tí oko rẹ̀ kò lè di igbòrò. Ọ̀tító inú kò maa jẹ́kí tẹ̀mí di oko.

There is not a person whose town is not able to become countryside. There is not a person whose countryside is not able to become bush. [Note: The preceding statements tell us that everything can be taken over by unwholesome influences if not given proper attention]. Truthfulness in me is not allowing that mine become countryside.

A dífá fún Àpáta. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ́ kí ó má baà kú láíláí fún koriko hù. Ó gbọ́; ó rúbọ́.

Ifá divination was performed for Rock. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ* so that he may not die ever for grass to sprout. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ*.

Extra: Things go to ruin whenever they are not given proper attention.

Ọ̀kànràn Ọ̀túrúpọ̀n

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08.12 *Ọ̀kànràn* (giving something good its turn) helps *Ọ̀túrúpọ̀n* (being productive).

Ifá kíkọ̀ ní ímú ẹnì mọ̀ Ifá. Ọ̀nà ẹ̀sì ní ímú ẹnì mọ̀ ọ̀nà. Ọ̀nà tí a kò rìn rí n'íṣe ẹnì ẹ̀báṣìbo.

It is learning *Ifá* that causes a person to become acquainted with *Ifá*. It is missing a way that causes a person to become acquainted with the roads. It is a road that we have not traveled previously that makes us uneasy.

N'íjọ́ kan, Ọ̀sányìn mbá Ẹ̀là kó ajá kan àti ewúré kan l'ẹ̀bọ́. Nígbà tí Ọ̀sányìn nímú ajá náà kítà-kítà láti pa á, ọ̀bẹ́ tí ó mú lówọ́ bọ́ lù ú l'ẹ̀sẹ́. Ọ̀sányìn sì gbà ogbẹ́ nlá.

One day, *Ọ̀sányìn* was helping *Ẹ̀là* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) to get a dog and a she-goat for an *ẹ̀bọ*. When *Ọ̀sányìn* was taking the aforementioned dog with difficulty to kill it, the knife that he took slipped from his grasp and hit him in the leg. *Ọ̀sányìn* moreover received a large wound.

Ẹ̀là wò ó sà̀n, ẹ̀sẹ́ Ọ̀sányìn kò dára fún iṣẹ́ líle mọ́. Ẹ̀là ẹ̀sàánú rẹ̀. Ó nífún un l'ógún ewé Ifá lórí àrùn kọ̀ọ̀kan kí ó baà lè maa fi jẹun. Báyii ní Ọ̀sányìn di oníṣẹ̀gùn.

Ẹ̀là healed him, but the leg of *Ọ̀sányìn* was not good for hard tasks anymore. *Ẹ̀là* pitied him. He (*Ẹ̀là*) gave him (*Ọ̀sányìn*) twenty *Ifá* leaves governing each illness so that he may be able to be using them to make a living. It is like this that *Ọ̀sányìn* became an herb doctor.

Extra: Faring well depends on taking an unexpected road.

Òkànràn Òṣé

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08.15a Òkànràn (touching trouble) is hindered by Òṣé (overcoming trouble).

Ìṣé igún ni kò di alé. Ìyà àkàlà ni kò di òwúrò. Kíkún odò ni kò l'ópin.

It is the poverty of the vulture (which is a carrion-eating scavenger) that does not last until night. It is the suffering of the hornbill (which is a carrion-eating scavenger) that does not last until morning. It is the fullness of the stream that does not have an end.

A dífá fún Òkànràn nígbàtí írù igbá ìṣé kiri. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Òkànràn when he was carrying the calabash of deficient circumstances from place to place. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Ọfọ: Ìṣé mi tán o; ọrò l'ó kù! Mo bọ sínú odò; mo wẹ ìṣé nù.

Incantation: My deficient circumstances have come to an end; it is ample circumstances that remain! I came into the stream; I washed deficient circumstances away.

Àkóse Ifá: Pè ọfọ náà s'éejú tí o ti tẹ lí Òkànràn Òṣé. Pò eérú yìi pèlú ọṣé. Bọ sínú odò látí fi ọṣé yìi wẹ.

Ifá medicine: Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to ashes that you have imprinted with Òkànràn Òṣé. Mix these ashes together with soap. Come into a stream in order to use this soap to cleanse yourself.

08.15b Òkànràn (touching trouble) is hindered by Òṣé (overcoming trouble).

Òkànràn dà ìṣé nù. Awo rere ni ìṣe o!

Òkànràn gets rid of deficient circumstances. It is a good priest that he is!

A dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlà nígbàtí àwọn ará rẹ maa rò ó pin. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ṣe ìbọ fún Èlà, alátúnṣe ayé, asọ-òrò-di-ayò.

Ifá divination was performed for Ọmọ-Èlà (child of Èlà, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) when members of his community were intending to write him off. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ìbọ* for Èlà, the master of improving one's life in the world, the one who converts trouble into joy.

Ọfọ: Arò-ẹni-pin kò mò ọla o! Bí a kò kú, ìṣe kò tán. Arò-ẹni-pin kò mò ọla o!

Incantation: 'One who writes a person off' does not know tomorrow! If we have not died, then taking action has not come to an end. 'One who writes a person off' does not know tomorrow!

Àkóse Ifá: Pè ọfọ náà s'éejú tí o ti tẹ lí Òkànràn Òṣé. Pò eérú yìi pèlú ọṣé. Bọ sínú odò látí fi ọṣé yìi wẹ.

Ifá medicine: Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to ashes that you have imprinted with Òkànràn Òṣé. Mix these ashes together with soap. Come into a stream in order to use this soap to cleanse yourself.

Extra: Do not give up on yourself or allow others to write you off.

Òkànràn Òfún

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08.16 *Òkànràn* (giving something good its turn) hinders *Òfún* (efforts of limited success).

Bí orí-búburú bá pẹ́ tí tí lórí olúwarè, orí-búburú óò di orí-ire.

If bad luck happens to last a long time on-and-on on the head of the person in question, then bad luck will become good luck.

A dífá fún Òkànràn. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Bá yí ni yòò yá fún ire tí íbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for *Òkànràn*. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. It was in this manner that he would be ready for the blessings that were approaching.

Extra: Time now favors one to go from bad luck to good luck.

A09 Ògúndá as the right leg

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Ògúndá Ogbè

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09.01 Ògúndá (having the courage to take right action) helps Ogbè (a wholesome road).

Odò àbàtà sègìsègì kò bà akàn l'èrù. Akàn gbé inú òkun jùgbàdà-jùgbudu.

A muddy swamp does not frighten a crab. The crab inhabits the belly of the ocean with hearty enjoyment.

A dífá fún Ọ̀nì àwààkà. Wọn nífẹ̀ lé e kúrò n'ílẹ̀ bàbá rẹ̀. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀. Ó sì ẹ̀ ibọ̀ fún baba nlá rẹ̀.

Ifá divination was performed for mighty Crocodile. They (others) were wanting to drive him away from the home of his fathers. It was said that he ought to come doing ẹbọ. He heard; he did ẹbọ. He moreover did ibọ for his ancestors.

Ọ̀nì àwààkà, iwọ l'ó l'ódò, iwọ l'ó n'ibú. Tani yóò gbà odò lówó Ọ̀nì? Tani yóò gbà ilẹ̀ bàbá ọmọ lówó ọmọ? Kò sí ẹnì tí yóò gbà odò lówó Ọ̀nì.

Mighty Crocodile, it is you who possesses the river, it is you who possesses the deepest waters. Who will take the river from the hands of Crocodile? Who will take the home of a child's father from the hands of the child? There is no one who will take the river from the hands of Crocodile.

Extra: **1.** Have the courage to be where you belong. **2.** There is something of ancestral importance to which you ought to lay claim.

Ògúndá Òyèkú

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09.02 Ògúndá (having the courage to take right action) helps Òyèkú (averting ruin; not missing out on bright possibilities).

Message: [*Dilogún* 3-2] To live on illusions, only to die of disappointments.

Ògúndá Ìwòrì

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09.03 Ògúndá (having the courage to take right action) is helped by Ìwòrì (seeing things clearly).

Wèrè òyò ọ̀bẹ. Wèrè òyò èlè. Wèrè òsọ ọ̀rọ̀ tí kò sunwọ̀n s'ẹ̀tí ayé. Wèrè òlẹ̀ wọ̀n kiri. A kò fẹ̀ wèrè.

The madman is taking out a knife. The madman is taking out a machete. The madman is saying words that are not good to the ears of the world. The madman is chasing them (others) from place to place. We do not want the madman.

Ọ̀mọ-Ọ̀gún dì wèrè. Kíl'a lè ẹ̀se fún Ọ̀mọ-Ọ̀gún? Ẹ̀ jẹ́kí a rẹ̀ ilé Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là bèèrè. A dé ilé Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là. Ó gbé Ifá silẹ̀; ó dífá. Ó rí Ọ̀gúndá Ìwòrì.

Ọ̀mọ-Ọ̀gún (child of *Ọ̀gún*, the *òrìṣà* of iron and war) became a madman. What is it that we are able to do for *Ọ̀mọ-Ọ̀gún*? Allow that we go to the house of *Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là* (child of *Ẹ̀là*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) to investigate. We reached the house of *Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là*. He brought *Ifá* down; he performed *Ifá* divination. He saw *Ọ̀gúndá Ìwòrì*.

Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là ní: “Ọ̀gúndá Ìwòrì o! Èmimi iwọ̀ ni. Èmimi iwọ̀ kì íjá èso ìrókò. Èmimi iwọ̀ mà kún inú ayé. Kí a borí èmimi iwọ̀. Kí a lágbara bí Ọ̀gún. Kí a gbọ̀n bí Ifá. Ẹ̀ mú wèrè wá. Wèrè ọ̀ò sà̀n o!”

Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là said: “*Ọ̀gúndá Ìwòrì!* There are poisonous aura vibrations (that is, energy emanations belonging to the auras that radiate from persons and things). Poisonous aura vibrations never pluck the fruit of the *ìrókò* tree (which is sacred and inhabited by a powerful spirit). Poisonous aura vibrations indeed fill the insides of the world. Let us prevail over poisonous aura vibrations. Let us be powerful like *Ọ̀gún*. Let us be wise like *Ifá*. Bring the madman. The madman will get well!”

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 29:18] With no spiritual insight, people are let loose (to disregard restraints of good conduct), but one who conforms to divine instruction, how blessed is he!

Ọ̀gúndá Ìrosùn

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09.05 *Ọ̀gúndá* (having the courage to take right action) helps *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty).

Ọ̀tí ní ipa wọ̀n lókèèrè ìhín. Ẹ̀mu ní ipa wọ̀n lókèèrè ọ̀hún.

It is alcoholic beverage that is overwhelming them way over here. It is palm wine that is overwhelming them way over here. [Note: Intoxicants impair one's self-control].

A dífá fún Ọ̀lá-kò-mọ̀ nígbàtí íbẹ̀ láàárín ọ̀tá. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀. Ó sì ẹ̀se ìbọ̀ fún Ẹ̀là àtí Ọ̀gún.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘Dignity is not limited’ when he was in the midst of opponents. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ̀*. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ̀*. He moreover did *ìbọ̀* for *Ẹ̀là* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) and *Ọ̀gún* (the *òrìṣà* of iron and war).

Wọ̀n ẹ̀bí ọ̀lá mi tán. Mo ní ọ̀lá mi kù. Nínú àpò òmìnìjẹ̀kùn l'ọ̀lá mi wà o!

They (others) assumed that my dignity had come to an end. I said that my dignity remains. It is inside the *Ifá* priest's sacred utility bag (that is, in the domain of *Ifá*, an expert system of spiritual cultivation) where my dignity is!

Extra: [The Bible, Psalm 103:6] How blessed are those who conform to justice (and how blessed is) one who practices righteousness at all times!

Ògúndá Òwónrín

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09.06 Ògúndá (clearing a way) is helped by Òwónrín (taking measured action).

Òkun kún nò réré. Òsà kún lègbẹ̀-lègbẹ̀. Ọl'Ówá ñrè Ówá. Al'Àsàn ñrè Àsàn.

The ocean is full and stretches afar. The lagoon is full at high tide. The person having Ówá town (as a destination) is going to Ówá town. The person having Àsàn town (as a destination) is going to Àsàn town.

A dífá fún àwọn ará Ifẹ̀ nígbàtí nkan wọn kò l'ójútùú, nígbàtí wọn kò dì ìṣẹ̀ṣe mú.

Ifá divination was performed for the inhabitants of Ilé-Ifẹ̀ (a Yorùbá town that symbolizes earthly life) when their affair did not have a solution, when they did not take hold of ìṣẹ̀ṣe (a system of spiritual cultivation that is centered on one's intrinsic divinity and ancestral guardians).

A ní kí wọn wá ṣe ìbọ̀ fún Orò, tí ṣe baba nlá wọn. Kí wọn wá ṣe ìbọ̀ fún bàbá tí ó bí wọn. Kí wọn sì wá ṣe ìbọ̀ fún iyá tí ó bí wọn. Kí wọn wá ṣe ìbọ̀ fún Orí Èlédàá. Báyi ni wọn yóò dì ìṣẹ̀ṣe mú. Wọn gbọ̀; wọn ṣe ìbọ̀.

It was said that they ought to come doing ìbọ̀ for Orò (a revered Yorùbá ancestor), who was their ancestor. They ought to come doing ìbọ̀ for the fathers who begot them. They ought moreover to come doing ìbọ̀ for the mothers who birthed them. They ought to come doing ìbọ̀ for Orí Èlédàá (Man's godself). It was in this manner that they would take hold of ìṣẹ̀ṣe. They heard; they did ìbọ̀.

Lèhìn tí wọn ṣe ìbọ̀ tán, ire gbogbo tọ̀ wọn lówó. Àwọn ará Ifẹ̀ ñjọ̀; wọn ñyọ̀. Wọn ñkọ̀rin: “Bàbá ẹ̀ni n'ìṣẹ̀ṣe ẹ̀ni. Iyá ẹ̀ni n'ìṣẹ̀ṣe ẹ̀ni. Ikin ẹ̀ni n'ìṣẹ̀ṣe ẹ̀ni. Orí ẹ̀ni n'ìṣẹ̀ṣe ẹ̀ni.”

After they had done ìbọ̀ completely, every good thing touched them in (their) hands. The inhabitants of Ilé-Ifẹ̀ were dancing; they were rejoicing. They sang: “It is one's father who is one's ìṣẹ̀ṣe. It is one's mother who is one's ìṣẹ̀ṣe. It is one's *ikin* (sacred palm kernels that are used to perform Ifá divination) that are one's ìṣẹ̀ṣe. It is one's Orí who is one's ìṣẹ̀ṣe.”

Extra: [a Kòngó saying] *Simba simbi* (Hold up that which holds you up).

Ògúndá Méjì

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09.09 Ògúndá (clearing a way; having the courage to take right action) is doubled.

Oore kì ígbé; ikà kì írẹ̀ dànù. Oore l'ó pé; ikà kò sunwọn.

Kindliness never perishes; evil never tires to be discarded. It is kindliness that amounts to something beneficial; evil is not good.

A dífá fún Àgànná, tí yóò jọba Òkò lẹ̀yìn ikú Olókò.

Ifá divination was performed for Àgànná, who would be enthroned as the king of Òkò after the death of the king of Òkò town.

Nígbàtí Àgànná dé Òkò, ó dáko l'ójú ọ̀nà. Bí ẹ̀nikan bá kojá, Àgànná fún un ní àgbàdo tàbí nkan. Ìwọn kan tí Àgànná bá rí n'ítà, ó fi tọ̀rẹ̀. Bí ẹ̀nikan ṣe àròyẹ̀ owó, Àgànná fún un. Àgànná ñṣe bẹ̀ẹ̀ tí. Nígbàtí Olókò kú, ará ọ̀de ní kí Àgànná jọba.

When *Àgànná* arrived at *Òkò*, he made a farm by the side of the road. If someone happened to pass by, *Àgànná* gave him maize or something. A particular portion that *Àgànná* happened to see from selling, he used it to give as gifts. If someone made a complaint about money, *Àgànná* gave to him. *Àgànná* was doing this on-and-on. When the *Òkò* king died, the townspeople said that *Àgànná* ought to be enthroned.

Kí'ó fi Àgànná jẹ Olókò? Oore l'ó fi Àgànná jẹ Olókò, oore ni.

What was it that caused *Àgànná* to be enthroned as the king of *Òkò*? It was kindness that caused *Àgànná* to be enthroned as the king of *Òkò*, kindness it was.

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó má dẹkun iṣoore. Ṣùgbọ́n kí olúwarẹ wá rúbọ.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought not to cease doing kindly acts. But the person in question ought to come doing *ẹbọ*.

Extra: One's sincere efforts will attract the support of those who can help one to rise to prominence.

Ògúndá Ìká

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09.11 *Ògúndá* (clearing a way) helps *Ìká* (reaping a reward).

Ẹ̀tì pìrì sí kírì. Sí kírì ẹ̀tì pìrì.

Difficulty immediately moved on and roamed about. Moved on and roamed about did difficulty immediately do.

A dífá fún Ọmọ-Ògún, tí íṣòwò, tí àkà rẹ̀ kò jẹ́kí ó rí èrè jẹ. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ̀ ẹ̀bọ fún Ọgún àti Ẹ̀là.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọmọ-Ògún* (child of *Ògún*, the *òrìṣà* of iron and war), who was taking part in business, whom his harvest storehouse did not allow that he see a gain to enjoy (that is, it showed no evidence that he had made any progress). It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Ògún* and *Ẹ̀là* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom).

Ẹ̀tì pìrì sí kírì. Ọmọ-Ògún ká àkà, ajé dé. Ẹ̀tì pìrì sí kírì. Ọmọ-Ògún ká àkà, aya dé.

Difficulty immediately moved on and roamed about. *Ọmọ-Ògún* dominated the harvest storehouse, and money arrived. Difficulty immediately moved on and roamed about. *Ọmọ-Ògún* dominated the harvest storehouse, and spouses arrived.

Ẹ̀tì pìrì sí kírì. Ọmọ-Ògún ká àkà, ọmọ dé. Ẹ̀tì pìrì sí kírì. Ọmọ-Ògún ká àkà, ire gbogbo dé.

Difficulty immediately moved on and roamed about. *Ọmọ-Ògún* dominated the harvest storehouse, and children arrived. Difficulty immediately moved on and roamed about. *Ọmọ-Ògún* dominated the harvest storehouse, and every good thing arrived.

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, one will prevail over the difficulty halting his progress.

Ògúndá Ìrètè

[\[Back to Ògúndá\]](#)

09.14 Ògúndá (clearing a way; having the courage to take right action) is helped by Ìrètè (practicing Ifá).

Ògún l'ó dá àkètè, l'ó sọwọ agada.

It is Ògún (the òrìṣà of iron and war) who puts on a straw hat, who waves a scimitar.

A dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlà nígbàtí íbẹ láàárín ọtá, nígbàtí ífí ojojúmọ kọminú. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ ibọ fún Èlà àti Ògún.

Ifá divination was performed for Ọmọ-Èlà (child of Èlà, the òrìṣà of knowledge and wisdom) when he was in the midst of opponents, when he was using every day to feel troubled. It was said that he ought to come doing ẹbọ. He heard; he did ẹbọ. He moreover did ibọ for Èlà and Ògún.

Kò pé; kò jinnà. Ẹ wá bá ẹnì ní àrúṣégun.

It will not take long; it is not far away. Come join us in stirring up victory.

Ògúndá Òfún

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09.16a Ògúndá (having the courage to take right action) helps Òfún (acting with rectitude).

Ògúndá Òfún, a dífá fún Ọmọ-Òrìṣànlá nígbàtí ífí omi ojú sògbéré ire.

Ògúndá Òfún, Ifá divination was performed for Ọmọ-Òrìṣànlá (child of Òrìṣànlá, the òrìṣà of moral sense) when he was using teardrops to cry about good things.

Kíni Ọmọ-Òrìṣànlá lè ẹ kí ayé bá yẹ é? A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. A ní yóò gbà iyì. A ní kò níí tẹ láílái. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ ibọ fún Òrìṣànlá, bàntà-banta nínú àlà.

What was it that Ọmọ-Òrìṣànlá was able to do so that life may happen to be right for him? It was said that he ought to come doing ẹbọ. It was said that he would receive honor. It was said that he would not fall into disgrace ever. He heard; he did ẹbọ. He moreover did ibọ for Òrìṣànlá, the immense one in white clothing (which symbolizes the effort to maintain cleanness).

Òrìṣànlá, lékèlékè, sà àmì sí mi. Òrìṣànlá, làbàlàbà, sà àmì sí mi.

Òrìṣànlá, superior one, put (your) mark on me. Òrìṣànlá, grand one, put (your) mark on me.

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó dì Òrìṣànlá mú. Kí olúwarè wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì wá ẹ ibọ fún Òrìṣànlá. Bá'yí n'ire òò tọ ọ lówọ.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to take hold of Òrìṣànlá. The person in question ought to come doing ẹbọ. He ought moreover to come doing ibọ for Òrìṣànlá. It is in this manner that good things will touch him in (his) hands.

Extra: Improving your life depends on following the manner of Òrìṣànlá.

09.16b *Ògúndá* (having the courage to take right action) hinders *Òfún* (efforts of limited success).

Şèkéşèké şe èké – èké ké e. Şikàşikà şe ikà – ikà kà á. Ara kì irò èké. Ọkàn òşikà kò balẹ̀ bọ̀rọ̀. Aşeni nşe ara rẹ̀ l’óşé.

The deceiver practices deception – deception cuts him to pieces. The evildoer practices evil – evil numbers his days. The body never puts the deceiver at ease. The heart of the evildoer does not feel secure easily. The underminer is doing himself harm.

A dífá fún şèkéşèké, şikàşikà, àti aşeni n’ijó tí wọn wá di ọmọ ikófá, n’ijó tí Ifá óò gbà iwà búburú lówó wọn. A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ. Wọn gbọ; wọn rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for the deceiver, the evildoer, and the underminer on the day when they came becoming *Ifá* students, on the day when *Ifá* (an expert system of spiritual cultivation) would sweep nasty conduct away from their hands. It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. They heard; they did *ẹbọ*.

Ifá ni kí ẹ kọ mi. Màá là. Màá gbà iyì. N kò ní tẹ. Ifá, sà àmì sí mi.

It is *Ifá* that y’all ought to teach me. I will be prosperous. I will receive respect. I will not fall into disgrace. *Ifá*, put (your) mark on me.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 16:6] By loving-kindness and truthfulness, wrongdoing will be atoned for, and by reverence for *Ha’el* (God), one turns himself aside from what is bad.

A10 Òsá as the right leg

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Òsá Ogbè

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10.01 Òsá (taking timely action) helps Ogbè (a wholesome road).

Èbìtì pa ajá, şùgbón kò rójú jẹ ajá. Èbìtì pa àgbò, şùgbón kò rójú jẹ àgbò. Èbìtì pa òbúko, şùgbón kò rójú jẹ òbúko.

Animal-trap killed a dog, but he did not have the opportunity to eat the dog. Animal-trap killed a ram, but he did not have the opportunity to eat the ram. Animal-trap killed a he-goat, but he did not have the opportunity to eat the he-goat. [Note: The preceding statements involve efforts to no gain].

Èşù l'áà jékí N kó orò délé.

It is Èşù (the òrìşà of opportunity and crossroads tests) who will allow that I bring riches home.

Ètùtù: Dà epo sílẹ̀ nínú ilẹ̀ tàbí n'íta, àbí kí o dà epo sórí Èşù.

An ètùtù: Pour palm oil (which is used to tone down that which is potentially unruly) to the ground inside the home or outdoors, or you ought to pour palm oil onto (the talisman of) Èşù.

Òsá Ìwòrì

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10.03 Òsá (taking timely action) is helped by Ìwòrì (seeing things clearly).

Òsá wò ó. Ìwòrì wò ó. Ohun tí a bá jọ wò, gégé ni ígún.

Òsá looks at it. Ìwòrì looks at it. That which we happen to come together to look at, it is exactly right.

Ìmòràn ní íşẹ̀ ègbón Èdú. Ìmòràn, mo dá ọ̀ tẹ̀lẹ̀ kí N tó dá ikin.

It is Careful-consideration that is the elder sibling of Èdú (Jet-black, a name of Èlà, the òrìşà of knowledge and wisdom). Careful-consideration, I cast you beforehand before I reach the point of casting ikin (sacred palm kernels that are used to perform Ifá divination).

Ifá ní enìkan wà tí kí ó fi làákàyè. Kí olúwarẹ̀ wá rúbọ̀. Kí ó sì wá şẹ̀ ibọ̀ fún Èlà, afi inú şẹ̀ ogbón. Báyìí ni yòò lẹ̀ rò nkan rẹ̀ wò.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to use good sense. The person in question ought to come doing ebo. He ought moreover to come doing ibọ̀ for Èlà, the one who uses (his) insides

to practice wisdom. It is in this manner that he will be able to give his affair careful consideration.

Extra: When dealing with matters, begin by using good sense.

Ọsá Ọdí

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10.04a Ọsá (taking timely action) is hindered by Ọdí (blockage or enemies).

Ọnà Ọsá kò ì là. Ọnà Ọsá mà dí o! Èlà ní: “Èbọ ni kí a ẹ kí ọnà baà lè là fún Ọsá.”

The way of Ọsá is not yet split open. The way of Ọsá is indeed blocked! Èlà (the ọ̀rìṣà of knowledge and wisdom) said: “It is ẹbọ that ought to be done so that the way may be able to split open for Ọsá.”

Èbọ: Fi fitilà, epo, àti egbàárin owó. Tàn fitilà nàà nígbàtí o bá nṣe ẹbọ lówó. Fi àkóse Ifá.

An ẹbọ: Use a candle, palm oil (which is used to tone down that which is potentially unruly), and money worth 8000 cowries. Light the aforementioned candle when you happen to be doing the ẹbọ at hand. Use Ifá medicine.

Àkóse Ifá: Pò ewé ilá pèlú oṣẹ fún wíwẹ.

Ifá medicine: Mix okra leaves (*Abelmoschus esculentus*: used to make someone slippery against the grip of negative energy) together with soap for cleansing yourself.

10.04b Ọsá (taking timely action) is helped by Ọdí (having a sound foundation).

Bí èyàn bá l’óri-ire, bí kò n’iwà-rere, àísí iwà rere ni yòò bà orí òun jẹ.

If a human being happens to have good luck, (but) if he does not have good conduct, then it is the absence of good conduct that will spoil his luck.

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó mú iwà rere hù. Kí olúwarẹ wá rúbọ.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to take good conduct to develop. The person in question ought to come doing ẹbọ.

Ọsá Ịrosùn

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10.05 Ọsá (taking timely action) helps Ịrosùn (patiently persevering through difficulty).

Kékẹ pa rere, Ọsá Ịrosùn. Ayé kẹlẹ n’ìgbín wá, Ọsá Ịrosùn.

Silence fell well (that is, things quieted down completely), Ọsá Ịrosùn. It is a stealthy life that the snail (whose slow movement symbolizes calmness and caution that avert trouble) looks for, Ọsá Ịrosùn.

A dífá fún Aláḡẹmọ. A ní kí ó maa fi ẹ̀sò-ẹ̀sò ẹ ayé. Báyiì ni ayé Aláḡẹmọ ọ̀ò tutù. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Chameleon. It was said that he ought to be using caution-caution to practice life. It was in that manner that the life of Chameleon would be cool. It was said that he ought to come doing ẹbọ. He heard; he did ẹbọ.

Kò pé; kò jinnà. Ayé Aláḡemọ wá tutù jù omi lọ.

It did not take long; it was not far away. The life of Chameleon came being cool more than water.

Extra: Cautious gradual efforts will culminate in success.

Òsá Òwónrín

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10.06 *Òsá* (taking timely action) helps *Òwónrín* (taking measured action; walking honorably).

Iṣẹ n'ṣe itójú. Òwò ṣiṣe n'ibèèrè.

It is (one's) work that is an act of caring. It is doing business (that is, one's dealings) that is a matter of asking questions. [Note: Here are two examples of giving attention to the quality of one's deeds].

A dífá fún Omọ-Èlà nígbàtí yóò fowọbà ire. A ní kí ó dì baba láíláí mú, kí ó dì baba ìgbàaní mú. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ṣe ìbọ fún Èṣù.

Ifá divination was performed for *Omọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) when he would lay hands on good things. It was said that he ought to take hold of ancient ancestors, that he ought to take hold of ancestors of ancient times. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ìbọ* for *Èṣù* (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests).

Tal'ó wá ṣe tí mo lájé? Ọpélope baba láíláí; ọpélope baba ìgbàaní. Tal'ó wá ṣe tí mo l'áya? Ọpélope baba láíláí; ọpélope baba ìgbàaní.

Who comes causing me to have money? I give thanks to ancient ancestors; I give thanks to ancestors of ancient times. Who comes causing me to have spouses? I give thanks to ancient ancestors; I give thanks to ancestors of ancient times.

Tal'ó wá ṣe tí mo bímọ? Ọpélope baba láíláí; ọpélope baba ìgbàaní. Tal'ó wá ṣe tí mo n'ire gbogbo? Ọpélope baba láíláí; ọpélope baba ìgbàaní.

Who comes causing me to beget children? I give thanks to ancient ancestors; I give thanks to ancestors of ancient times. Who comes causing me to have every good thing? I give thanks to ancient ancestors; I give thanks to ancestors of ancient times.

Extra: [an *Akan* saying] *Woforo dua pa a na yepia wo* (It is when you climb a good tree that we push you).

Òsá Òbàrà

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10.07 *Òsá* (running away from a challenge) hinders *Òbàrà* (asserting oneself with dignity).

Ojo ni íbarajé.

It is the coward who gives way to fear.

A dífá fún Akèrègbè, tí ó gbékèlé obìnrin àti omọdé. A ní kí Akèrègbè wá rúbọ kí àwọn tí iṣe ẹlẹgbé lèhìn rẹ, wọn má baà yẹ ẹ sílẹ lójìjì l'ójó tí ó wà nínú ọlá rẹ. Ó kọ; kò rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Calabash, who put trust in women and youngsters. It was said that Calabash ought to come doing *ebọ* so that they who are companions behind him, they may not disappoint him suddenly on the day when he is in his glory. He refused; he did not do *ebọ*.

Extra: **1.** Some whom one has trusted may disappoint him when he most expects their support. **2.** [*Dilogún* 9-6] He who is not well-acquainted with his friend is not well-acquainted with his enemy.

Òsá Òkànràn

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10.08 Òsá (taking timely action) hinders Òkànràn (touching trouble).

Òsá Òkànràn, a difá fún Àgbònrín. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ọ̀ràn iwọ̀sí tó dé, kí ó má baà kú s'ọ̀wọ̀ ọ̀tá, kí ó baà lè gbà ara rẹ̀ sílẹ̀. Ó kọ̀; kò rúbọ̀.

Òsá Òkànràn, *Ifá* divination was performed for Deer. It was said that he ought to come doing *ebọ* before matters of insult reached the point of happening, so that he may not die at the hands of an opponent, so that he may be able to rescue himself. He refused; he did not do *ebọ*.

Àgbònrín ní: “Ìwo mi tó kọ̀ iyà.” A ní: “Láti òkèèrè l'ọ̀tá oò maa fi ọ̀ràn ránṣẹ̀ tí yòò maa kàn ẹ̀ l'ára.” Ó ní: “Ìwo mi tí tó dáàbòbò mi.” Şùgbón iwo rẹ̀ kò tó.

Deer said: “My horns are sufficient to reject distress.” It was said: “It is from distant lands that opponents will be sending trouble that will be affecting you.” He said: “My horns have already been sufficient to protect me from danger.” But his horns were not enough.

Extra: **1.** [The Bible, Proverbs 27:12] A clever one foresees something bad (and) hides himself (that is, keeps himself out of its range); simpletons overstep (and) pay the penalty (that is, suffer the consequences resulting from taking an erroneous course of action). **2.** Do not overrate your ability to handle a challenge.

Òsá Ògúndá

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10.09 Òsá (taking timely action) helps Ògúndá (clearing a way).

Àşùwà dá ọ̀run. Àşùwà dá ayé. Ire gbogbo wá di àşùwà.

Grouping together created heaven. Grouping together created earth. All good things came becoming a grouping together.

Irun pé şùşù; wọn gbà orí. Omi pé şùşù; wọn di òkun. Igi pé şùşù; wọn di igbó. Erúwà pé şùşù; wọn di ọ̀dàn. Iràwọ̀ pé şùşù; wọn gbà ọ̀run. Ità pé şùşù; wọn bò ilẹ̀.

Hairs assembled intensely; they took over the head. Bodies of water assembled intensely; they became an ocean. Trees assembled intensely; they became a forest. Gamba grasses assembled intensely; they became a savannah. Stars assembled intensely; they took over the sky. Yellow ants assembled intensely; they covered the ground.

Ñjẹ̀, bí orí kan bá sunwọ̀n, yòò ràn igba. Orí mi tí ó sunwọ̀n l'ó ràn yín. Orí yín tí ó sunwọ̀n l'ó ràn mi. Bí orí kan bá sunwọ̀n, yòò ràn igba.

Therefore, if one head happens to be good, then it will affect two hundred. It is my head that is good that affects y'all. It is your heads that are good that affects me. If one head happens to be good, then it will affect two hundred.

Extra: There is beneficial strength in united efforts that are properly directed.

Òsá Méjì

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10.10a *Òsá* (taking timely action) is doubled.

Ìgbà ìgbà-òhún, ìgbà iwòyí nísinsinyí, ìgbà ọ̀lẹ́ tí íbọ̀ – kò sí ìgbà tí mo là tí N kò ní ẹ̀ rere l'áyé.

The period of times-gone-by, the period of the present time just now, the period of tomorrow that is coming – there is no period in which I am prosperous that I will not do good things in life.

A dífá fún Ọmọ-iyèrè ìgbà ọ̀jò, tí íbẹ́ láárín ịsẹ́. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọmọ-iyèrè* (Ashanti pepper seed) of the rainy season, who was in the midst of poverty. It was said that she ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. She heard; she did *ẹbọ*.

Ìgbà ọ̀jò ni ipónjù Ọmọ-iyèrè mọ. Bí ó bá di ìgbà ẹ̀rùn tán, yòò di onígba okùn, yòò di onígba idẹ o!

It was the rainy season to which the distress of *Ọmọ-iyèrè* was limited. If it happens to become the dry season completely, then she will become the possessor of 200 *okùn* beads (which are worn by royalty), she will become the possessor of 200 pieces of brass! [Note: Ashanti pepper seeds flourish during the dry season and not during the rainy season].

Extra: [*Qōhelet* (Ecclesiastes) 3:1] (There is) for everyone an allocated time, and (there is) a time for every desired goal under the heavens.

10.10b *Òsá* (taking timely action) is doubled.

Èlẹ́ wẹ̀rẹ́, awo abẹ́ Òwú, l'ó dífá fún Òwú, arò-bùjẹ́ l'ẹ̀nu ọmọ ẹyẹ́, nígbà tí íbẹ́ nínú ịsòro nítorí àwọn ọmọ ẹyẹ́.

It was *Èlẹ́ wẹ̀rẹ́*, the priest of the underside of Cotton-wool, who performed *Ifá* divination for Cotton-wool, the one who was tender to be chewed in the mouth of the birds (a reference to bird-people), when he was in difficulty because of the birds.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ̀ ẹ́ ẹ́ fún Òrìṣànlá, bàntà-banta nínú àlẹ́.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Òrìṣànlá* (the *òrìṣà* of moral sense), the immense one in white clothing (which symbolizes the effort to maintain cleanness).

Ìṣojú gbogbo ẹyẹ́ l'Òwú là.

It was in the presence of all of the birds that Cotton-wool became prosperous.

Ifá ní ẹ̀nikan wà tí íbẹ̀ nínú ìṣòro nítorí àwọn ẹ̀lẹ̀yẹ. Wọn kò jẹ́kí olúwarè rí ojútúú ayé rẹ̀; wọn kò jẹ́kí ó ní láárí. Kí ó wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì wá di Òrìṣànlá mú. Báyii ni yóò ẹ̀gun àwọn ẹ̀lẹ̀yẹ.

Ifá says that there is someone who is in difficulty because of *ẹ̀lẹ̀yẹ* (bird-people, a nickname of psychic agents). They do not allow that the person in question solve the problems of his life; they do not allow that he have importance. He ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ*. He ought moreover to come taking hold of *Òrìṣànlá*. It is in this manner that he will overcome *ẹ̀lẹ̀yẹ*.

Òsá Ìká

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10.11 *Òsá* (taking timely action) hinders *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck).

Gbọ̀ngbọ̀n l'ó dífá fún Òkè nígbà tí íbẹ̀ láàárín ọ̀tá. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

It was Firm-firm who performed *Ifá* divination was performed for Mountain when he was in the midst of opponents. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ*. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ*.

Ñjẹ, ogúnlénirinwó ọ̀kọ̀ ni bọ̀ Òkè jagun. Wọn gbìyànjú, sùgbón wọn run lẹnu. Ọ̀gọ̀talélégbèje àdà ni bọ̀ Òkè jagun. Wọn gbìyànjú, sùgbón wọn run lẹnu. È̀dédégbèje àáké ni bọ̀ Òkè jagun. Wọn gbìyànjú, sùgbón wọn run lẹnu.

Therefore, it was 420 hoes that approached Mountain to fight a war. They made attempts, but they perished at the mouth (that is, their blades broke). It was 1460 machetes that approached Mountain to fight a war. They made attempts, but they perished at the mouth. It was 1300 axes that approached Mountain to fight a war. They made attempts, but they perished at the mouth.

Òkè kò jẹ, Òkè kò mu. Òkè kò rù, Òkè kò fọ̀n. Afẹ̀fẹ̀ kò rú Òkè gbésẹ. Jàmbá kò lè sọ Òkè. Òkè ndúró gbọ̀ngbọ̀n.

Mountain does not eat, Mountain does not drink. Mountain does not lose weight, Mountain does not become thin. The wind does not incite Mountain to make a move. Mishaps are not able to pierce Mountain. Mountain is standing firmly.

Extra: In the face of opposition, morally have the fortitude and stability of a mountain.

Òsá Òtúrúpòn

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10.12 *Òsá* (taking timely action) helps *Òtúrúpòn* (being productive).

O rí ẹ̀ni tí ó wí fún ẹ. Tàbí òkè o kò rí ẹ̀ni tí ó wí fún ẹ? O mà rí ẹ̀ni tí ó wí fún ẹ. Ìwọ l'ó kì ífẹ̀ gbọ.

You saw people who told you (good advice). Or did you not see people who told you? You indeed saw people who told you. It was you who never wanted to listen.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 12:15] The way of a wayward one is satisfactory in his own eyes, but one who listens obediently to sagacious advice is a wise one.

Òsá Òtúrá

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10.13 Òsá (taking timely action) helps Òtúrá (averting a worrisome situation).

Ọfọ: Òtító n'iwà Èlédàá. Òtító l'òrò tí kò lè şubú. Ifá l'òtító. Òtító l'òrò tí kò lè bàjé – agbára nlá, ajùlò, ire àìl'òpin.

Incantation: It is truth that is the character of *Èlédàá* (Creator God). It is truth that is the word that is not able to fall. It is *Ifá* that is truth. It is truth that is the word that is not able to be spoiled – great ability, one that surpasses (all), good things not having an end.

A dífá fún àwọn ọmọ aráyé. A ní kí wọn maa şòtító.

Ifá divination was performed for the people of the world. It was said that they ought to be practicing truth.

Şòtító, şòdodo. Èni tí ó şòtító l'Èlédàá nǵbè.

Practice truth, practice righteousness. It is the person who practices truth whom *Èlédàá* (Creator God; Man's godself) is supporting.

Àkóse Ifá: Pè ọfọ náà s'iyèròşùn tí o ti tẹ lí Òsá Òtúrá. Pò iyèròşùn yìi pèlú ẹkọ fún mímu tàbí epo fún lílá kí o baà lè mọ òtító.

Ifá medicine: Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to *iyèròşùn* that you have imprinted with *Òsá Òtúrá*. Mix this *iyèròşùn* together with maize porridge for drinking or with palm oil (which is used to tone down that which is potentially unruly) for licking so that you may be able to limit yourself to truth.

Extra: Limit yourself to that which conforms to divine standards.

Òsá Ìretè

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10.14 Òsá (taking timely action) is hindered by Ìretè (unwholesome influences).

Bí ẹni kò l'ọlá, kí ẹni má fi ohun ọlá. Bí èyàn kò tó ọlòtò, kí ó má fi ohun ọlòtò. Èni tí kò tó géndé, kí ó má mí bí i.

If one does not have honor, then he ought not to apply himself to affairs of honor. If a person does not attain to being a respectable, well-to-do person, then he ought not to apply himself to affairs of a respectable, well-to-do person. A person who does attain to being a muscular young man, he ought not to breathe like one.

Extra: [*Dilogún* 9-16] However much you disguise yourself as wise, your ignorance always reveals you.

Òsá Ọşé

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10.15 Òsá (taking timely action) helps Ọşé (overcoming through joyful optimism; overcoming trouble).

Mo sá fún ìṣẹ́. Mo yà fún òṣì.

I run away from poverty. I steer clear of deficient circumstances.

A dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlà. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Ọmọ-Èlà (child of Èlà, the òrìṣà of knowledge and wisdom). It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Mo sá fún ìṣẹ́. Mo yà fún òṣì. Njẹ ẹyin kò mò pé ewé ire l'Ọmọ-Èlà nífi í wẹ?

I run away from poverty. I steer clear of deficient circumstances. Do you not know that it is *ire* leaves (*Funtumia elastica*: used to attract blessings) that Ọmọ-Èlà is using to cleanse himself?

Àkóse Ifá: Fi ewé ire fún wíwẹ orí.

Ifá medicine: Use *ire* leaves for cleansing the head.

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, one will attract helpful circumstances.

Ọsá Ọfún

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10.16 Ọsá (taking timely action) is helped by Ọfún (acting with rectitude).

Èlà ní Ọsá Ọfún. Mo ní Ọsá Ọfún.

Èlà (the òrìṣà of knowledge and wisdom) said Ọsá Ọfún. I said Ọsá Ọfún.

A nsá fún ejò kí ó má baà lè bù ẹni jẹ. A nsá fún erin kí ó má baà lè mú ẹni. A nsá fún ẹfọn kí ó má baà lè bá ẹni jà. A nsá fún iná kí ó má baà lè jó ẹni.

We are running away from the snake so that it may not be able to bite us. We are running away from the elephant so that it may not be able to get us. We are running away from the buffalo so that it may not be able to engage us in fighting. We are running away from fire so that it may not be able to burn us.

A nsá fún igbèsè kí ọmọ aráyé má baà lè fi ẹni ẹ ẹlẹyà. A nsá fún ohun olóhun kí a má baà lè di olè. A nsá fún èwò kí ibi rẹ má baà lè mú ẹni. Àwọn kì ísá fún ohunkóhun nínú ayé, adùn kò sí fún wọn, àjẹ-pẹ ayé kò sí.

We are running away from debt so that people of the world may not be able to use us to make ridicule. We are running away from the owner's property so that we may not be able to become thieves. We are running away from the taboo so that its badness may not be able to get us. Those who never run from anything in the world, there is no sweetness for them, there is no enjoying the world for long.

A dífá fún àwọn èyàn. A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ kí wọn baà lè mò ohun tí ẹni ibá sá fún. Apákan wọn l'ó rúbọ. A ní: “Èyin tí ẹ rúbọ oò pẹ nínú ayé. Ayé oò maa dùn fún yín.”

Ifá divination was performed for human beings. It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that they may be able to know that which one ought to run away from. It was one side of them who did *ẹbọ*. It was said: “You who did *ẹbọ* will last long in the world. The world will always be sweet for you.”

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Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 27:12] A clever one foresees something bad (and) hides himself (that is, keeps himself out of its range); simpletons overstep (and) pay the penalty (that is, suffer the consequences resulting from taking an erroneous course of action).

A11 Ìká as the right leg

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11.02 *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck) hinders *Òyèkú* (not missing out on bright possibilities).

Àrísá-iná l'ó dífá fún Aaka nígbàtí àwọn ọmọ aráyé nífi í şe eleyà nítorí iwà ojo. Bí a pè Aaka n'íjà, yóò kákò nítorí pé kí ó má baà tẹ, kí ó má baà farapa, kí ó má baà kú. Nípa iwà yíi, ó di ẹnì yẹpẹpẹ.

It was Fear-of-fire who performed *Ifá* divination for Pangolin (an animal that coils into a ball when threatened) when the people of the world were using him to make ridicule because of cowardly conduct. If Pangolin was called to a fight, then he would coil himself up so that he may not fall into disgrace, so that he may not suffer an injury, so that he may not die. Through this conduct, he became an insignificant person.

A ní kí Aaka wá rúbọ kí ó baà lè n'íyì nínú ayé.

It was said that Pangolin ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may be able to have honor within the world.

Extra: [a saying from Anaïs Nin] Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage.

Ìká Ìwòrì

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11.03 *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck) hinders *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen).

Şe ara rẹ, şe ara rẹ. Ẹni tí ó dà eérú l'eérú ntọ. Şe ara rẹ, şe ara rẹ. Şikàşikà fi idájì şe ara rẹ.

He damages himself, he works against himself. It is the person who pours ashes whom the ashes follow. He damages himself, he works against himself. An evildoer uses half to damage himself.

A dífá fún 'Inú kò gún', tí ígbèrò ibi. A ní kí ohun búburú tí ó maa şe yíi, yóò dẹyìn bọwá bà á jẹ. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ó baà kọ iwà ikà sílẹ.

Ifá divination was performed for 'Insides are not right', who was intending something bad. It was said that this bad thing that he was intending to do, it would turn back to come ruining him. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may abandon unrighteous conduct.

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó wá rúbọ kí ó baà kò àṣìṣe rẹ̀ sílẹ̀ tí yóò dẹ̀yìn bọ̀wá bà á jẹ́.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may abandon mistakes (that is, wrong actions, beliefs, or judgments) that would turn back to come ruining him.

Ìká Ìrosùn

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11.05 *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck) hinders *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty).

Ìgbà tí Ìká kò l'òsùn, kín'ímú ṣawo?

The time when *Ìká* does not have an *Ifá* staff (an emblem of priestly office), what is it that he is taking to do (his) spiritual practice?

A dífá fún Ifátólá, tí íṣe ọmọ Èlà, tí ilọ gbé àkún Òrìṣànlá bọ ọrùn.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ifátólá* (a personal name meaning ‘*Ifá* touches honor’), who was a child of *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), (but) who went carrying the beads of *Òrìṣànlá* (the *òrìṣà* of moral sense) to wear on (her) neck. [Note: Here is someone who is not attentive to the demands of her situation].

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì wá ṣe ìbọ fún Èlà, afi inú ṣe ọgbón.

It was said that she ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. She ought moreover to come doing *ìbọ* for *Èlà*, the one who uses (his) insides to practice wisdom.

Èrò Ìpo, èrò Òfà, nǹjẹ̀ èyin kò wá wò ọmọ aráyé bí wón tí ígbé ọmọ Ọbà fún Ọṣun?

Travelers to *Ìpo* town, travelers to *Òfà* town, do you not come looking at people of the world like those who are handing a child of *Ọbà* over to *Ọṣun*? [Note: According to legend, *Ọbà* and *Ọṣun* were rival wives of *Ṣàngó*, the deified *Ọyó* king].

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 19:2] Moreover, with no insightful knowledge, enthusiasm is not good, and one who makes haste with (his) two feet is one who goes astray.

Ìká Ọwónrín

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11.06 *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck) is hindered by *Ọwónrín* (walking honorably).

Ìkà-èyàn kì iwón ohun tirẹ̀ kí ó tó ṣe é.

An evil person never weighs a thing of his before he reaches the point of doing it.

A dífá fún Alábámọ. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ó baà lè maa ṣe ohun rere. Ó kọ; kò rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘Possessor of regret’. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may be able to be doing good things. He refused; he did not do *ẹbọ*.

Ìká Ọbàrà

[\[Back to Ìká\]](#)

11.07 *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck) hinders *Ọbàrà* (asserting oneself with dignity).

Ìká ba, Òbàrà ba. Òbàrà ni kò bá kùnmò.

Ìká hides himself, *Òbàrà* hides himself. It was *Òbàrà* who refuses to get hit with a club.

A dífá fún ‘Èni tí a gbà á n’imòràn, ùgbòkò gbò’, èyítí yòò maa dún lábẹ̀ aṣọ egúngún.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘Person whom we advised, but he did not listen’, the one who would be uttering sounds (as a spiritual entity) beneath the costume of a ceremonial ancestor masquerader. [Note: Here *Ifá* is euphemistically saying that being too headstrong leads to bodily death].

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì wá ṣe ìbọ fún egúngún. Lẹ̀yìn nàà, kí ó fi ojúbọ egúngún balẹ̀.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He ought moreover to come doing *ìbọ* for *egúngún* (honorable ancestors). After this, he ought to set up an *egúngún* shrine.

Èrò Ìpo, èrò Òfà, nǹjẹ̀ èyin rí Ifá nṣe l’órò gangan?

Travelers to *Ìpo* town, travelers to *Òfà* town, do you not see *Ifá* taking action in the matter firmly?

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 29:1] A person of (numerous) admonishments, one who is stiff-necked, will suddenly be rendered ineffective with no remedy.

Ìká Ògúndá

[\[Back to Ìká\]](#)

11.09 *Ìká* (reaping a reward) is helped by *Ògúndá* (having the courage to take right action).

Ògún, dá mi láre. Ògún, jòwọ̀ gbè mi. Kò sí ẹ̀ni tí ó l’ẹ̀jọ̀ tàbí ijà, tí kì íwí pé kí Ògún jòwọ̀ gbè òun. Ẹ̀ni tí iṣe rere, yòò rí ire. Dandan ẹ̀ni rere l’Ògún óò gbè.

Ògún (the *òrìṣà* of iron and war), judge me innocent. *Ògún*, please support me. There is no one who has an issue or a fight, who never asks *Ògún* to please support him. A person who is practicing that which is good, he will see good things. Surely it is a good person whom *Ògún* will support.

A dífá fún Adé-tutù, ọmọ ojo tí kò fi ọkàn bà lé ẹ̀mí, akú-dé-idáji kí ijà tó dé. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó kọ̀; kò rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘One who arrived cold’, child of the coward who did not put heart into his breath (that is, who did not breathe confidently), the one who was half-dead before the fight reached the point of arriving. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He refused; he did not do *ẹbọ*.

Extra: [The Bible, Psalm 26:1] Judge me innocent, *Haʹel* (God), because in my moral wholesomeness, I have walked, (and in) *Haʹel* (God) have I put trust to not fail; I do not waver.

Ìká Òsá

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11.10 *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck) helps *Òsá* (running away from a challenge).

Ìwà búburú nímú ẹ̀ni ṣe ojo.

Bad conduct causes a person to be a coward.

A dífá fún Olè. A ní Olè kò maa láyà bí olóhun. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ó baà lè gbà ọ̀nà òtítọ́-ínú ní ohun. Ó kọ̀; kò rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Thief. It was said that Thief was not being courageous like the owner (from whom he stole). It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may be able to accept a way of truthfulness with regard to (acquiring) things. He refused; he did not do *ẹbọ*.

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó gbà ọ̀nà ẹ̀sọ n'íwà rẹ̀. Kí olúwarẹ̀ wá rúbọ kí ó baà lè kọ̀ àṣìṣe rẹ̀ sílẹ̀.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to accept a way of careful attention regarding his conduct. The person in question ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may be able to abandon his mistakes (that is, wrong actions, beliefs, or judgments).

Àkóse Ifá: Lò ewé ẹ̀sọ àti ewé wọ̀rọ̀ láti sè jẹ̀ gégẹ̀bí ọ̀bẹ̀ pẹ̀lú ìgbín méré̀n.

Ifá medicine: Use *ẹ̀sọ* leaves (*Elytraria marginata*: used to further careful attention) and *wọ̀rọ̀* leaves (which are used to establish a cool peace that keeps harmful influences away) to cook and eat according to a soup together with 4 snails (whose slow movement symbolizes calmness and caution that avert trouble).

Extra: Have the courage to abandon improper behavior.

Ìká Méjì

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11.11 *Ìká* (reaping a reward) is doubled.

Ìbà-réré, awo Iná, l'ó dífá fún Iná.

It was 'Paying respect from afar', the priest of Fire, who performed *Ifá* divination for Fire. [Note: The way in which one rubs his hands to warm them before a fire is similar to the way in which one moves his hands to pay respect before a ruler].

A ní ibikíbi tí Iná bá fí orí lé, ni yóò jẹ̀ ọ̀nà fún un. Orí rẹ̀ ọ̀ò là ọ̀nà fún un. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ̀ ẹ̀bọ fún Orí Ẹ̀lédàá.

It was said that wherever Fire happened to put his head on, it was there that he would eat a road for himself. His head would open a way for him. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Orí Ẹ̀lédàá* (Man's godself).

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí ifẹ̀ ẹ̀ ohun kan. Kí olúwarẹ̀ wá rúbọ kí Orí rẹ̀ baà lè là ọ̀nà fún un.

Ifá says that there is someone who is wanting to do a thing. The person in question ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that his *Orí* may be able to open a way for him.

Extra: The power of God is within you, and so you can transcend any circumstance, habit, or personality trait. Attune yourself to *Orí Ẹ̀lédàá* (Man's godself) so that you may open a suitable road to achievement.

Ìká Ọ̀túrúpọ̀n

[\[Back to Ìká\]](#)

11.12 *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck) is hindered by *Ọ̀túrúpọ̀n* (being productive).

Bàájé-bàájé dé. Ó bá ẹnì lódò Túnniṣe-túnniṣe.

‘That which spoils him’ arrived. He found us in the presence of ‘That which improves us’.

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó wá rúbọ kí Bàájé-bàájé má baà lè bà iwà rẹ jé. Kí olúwarẹ sì wá ẹ ibọ fún Orí Èlédàá.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that ‘That which spoils him’ may not be able to spoil his character. The person in question ought moreover to come doing *ibọ* for *Orí Èlédàá* (Man’s godself).

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 16:17] The high way of upright ones is to turn themselves aside from what is bad; one who watches over his spirit is one who safeguards his conduct.

Ìká Òtúrá

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11.13 *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck) is hindered by *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation).

Ìká tì mi; mi ò ṣubú. Ìká nírán ibi s’ilé mi; ilé mi kò tú. Gbogbo ire nkójo.

Ìká pushed me; I did not fall. *Ìká* was sending bad things to my house; my house did not fall apart. All good things were gathering together.

A dífá fún Omọ-Èlà. A ní ojú òò tì gbogbo àwọn tí íbá Omọ-Èlà ẹ ọtá. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for *Omọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom). It was said that shame would come over all those who were meeting *Omọ-Èlà* as an opponent. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Àkóse Ifá: Jó ewé itọ, ewé kuti, àti ataare pọ fún pípò àjẹkù pẹlú oṣẹ. Bù oṣẹ yìi fún wíwẹ.

Ifá medicine: Burn *itọ* leaves, *kuti* leaves, and melegueta peppers to be together for mixing the remains together with soap. Portion out this soap for cleansing yourself.

A12 Òtúrúpòn as the right leg

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<i>Òtúrúpòn Ogbè</i>	<i>Òtúrúpòn Ìrosùn</i>	<i>Òtúrúpòn Ògúndá</i>	<i>Òtúrúpòn Òtúrá</i>
<i>Òtúrúpòn Òyèkú</i>	<i>Òtúrúpòn Òwónrín</i>	<i>Òtúrúpòn Òsá</i>	<i>Òtúrúpòn Ìrètè</i>
<i>Òtúrúpòn Ìwòrì</i>	<i>Òtúrúpòn Òbàrà</i>	<i>Òtúrúpòn Ìká</i>	<i>Òtúrúpòn Òṣé</i>
<i>Òtúrúpòn Òdí</i>	<i>Òtúrúpòn Òkànrà̀n</i>	<i>Òtúrúpòn Méjì</i>	<i>Òtúrúpòn Òfún</i>

Òtúrúpòn Òbàrà

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12.07 Òtúrúpòn (being productive) is helped by Òbàrà (asserting oneself with dignity).

Òtúrúpòn Òbàrà, a dífá fún Àdà, èyítí íṣiṣé, ṣùgbón kò rí èrè jẹ. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Òtúrúpòn Òbàrà, Ifá divination for Machete, the one who was doing work, but he did not see gains to enjoy (because it is the person using the machete who gets credit for its work). It was said that he ought to come doing ebo. He heard; he did ebo.

Kò pé; kò jìnnà. E wá bá ẹni ní jẹbútú ire.

It will not take long; it is not far away. Come join us in plenty of good things.

Àkóse Ifá: Lọ ewé ṣẹfunṣẹfun. Pò ètù yì pẹlú oṣẹ. Pa ẹyélé àti tẹ orí rẹ mọ oṣẹ náà. Bù iyèròsùn kí o tẹ ẹ lí Òtúrúpòn Òbàrà. Kó oṣẹ náà sínú igbá pẹlú iyèròsùn náà. Wíwẹ ni.

Ifá medicine: Grind ṣẹfunṣẹfun leaves (Aerva lanata: used to attract prosperity and to ward off negative energy). Mix this powder together with soap. Kill a pigeon (which is used to help someone to fly majestically above dangers) and press its head onto the aforementioned soap. Portion out some iyèròsùn and imprint it with Òtúrúpòn Òbàrà. Take the aforementioned soap into a calabash together with the aforementioned iyèròsùn. A cleansing it is to be.

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, one will have something good to show for their efforts.

Òtúrúpòn Òsá

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12.10 Òtúrúpòn (being productive) is helped by Òsá (taking timely action).

A kì iyè pópó kí ó má kàn ilé. A kì iyè ọ̀nà tààrà kí ó má kàn ọ̀jà. A kì igbé àwòrán gégégégé kí a má fi ọ̀wọ̀ tì í sí ibi kan.

We never clear a wide street so that it does not come into contact with the house. We never clear a straight road so that it does not come into contact with the market place. We never carry a portrait with precision so that we do not use (our) hands to set it to somewhere. [Note: Each preceding statement involves an undertaking that reaches an expected outcome].

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, one's undertaking will reach a proper conclusion.

Òtúrúpòn Ìká

[\[Back to Òtúrúpòn\]](#)

12.11 *Òtúrúpòn* (being productive) is hindered by *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck).

Òpè sègesègè l'ó baalè aṣòótó. Kò gbòdò puró. Ọrò tí ó bá sọ kì íyín. Ó ṣòótó. Ọpè l'ó bí ikin tí gbogbo ayé nífi.

It was dignified Palm-tree who was the chief of truth-doers. She must not tell lies. The words that she happened to say never fell short. She practiced truth. It was Palm-tree who gave birth to the *ikin* that the whole world is using (as the prime talisman of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom).

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó má fi òótó silẹ. Kí olúwarè wá rúbọ.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought not to leave truth alone. The person in question ought to come doing *ẹbọ*.

Ṣòtító, ṣòdodo. Ẹni tí ó ṣòtító l'Èlédàà nǵbè.

Practice truth, practice righteousness. It is the person who practices truth whom *Èlédàà* (Creator God; Man's godself) is supporting.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 3:3-4] Loving-kindness and truthfulness ought not to forsake you – tie them onto your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. And may you attain to favor and good sense in the eyes of [?]*Elōhīm* (Creator God and his ministerial agents) and humankind.

Òtúrúpòn Méjì

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12.12a *Òtúrúpòn* (being productive) is doubled.

Òtúrúpòn l'ó dífá fún Ìgbín, tí ịṣawo rè Ìwà-dèrò. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

It was *Òtúrúpòn* who performed *Ifá* divination for Snail (whose slow movement symbolizes calmness and caution that avert trouble), who was going on a spiritual mission to Cool-and-easy-life. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Ìgbà Ìgbín dé. Ó wá pè ẹrò sí mi n'ílẹ. Ó wá pè ẹrò sí mi l'ónà. Ó wá pè ẹrò sí mi ní gbogbo ara.

The time of Snail is arriving. It comes summoning cool ease to me at home. It comes summoning cool ease to me on (my) path. It comes summoning cool ease to me in every form.

12.12b *Òtúrúpòn* (being productive) is doubled.

Ọpèbẹ, awo Ẹsẹ, l'ó dífá fún Ẹsẹ nígbà tí gbogbo àwọn orí pè ara wọn ọ, ṣùgbọn wọn kò pè Ẹsẹ sí i. A ní kí Ẹsẹ wá rúbọ. Ẹsẹ gbọ; Ẹsẹ rúbọ.

It was *Ọpèbẹ*, the priest of Legs, who performed *Ifá* divination for Legs when all of the heads called one another to an assembly, but they did not invite Legs to it. It was said that Legs ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. Legs heard; Legs did *ẹbọ*.

Èṣù ní: “Ẹ kò pè Ẹsẹ sí i. Ìjà l'ẹ fi tóká nǵbẹ.” Àwọn orí tó ránṣẹ pè Ẹsẹ. N'ìgbà yìi n'ìmòràn tí wọn nǵbà tó gún.

Èṣù (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests) said: “Y’all (heads) did not invite Legs to it. It is a quarrel that y’all are causing to be spread there.” The heads reached the point of sending for Legs. It was at this time that the deliberations to which they were agreeing reached the point of being in good order.

Òpèbè mà dé o, awo Èṣè! Ènikan kì ígbìmòràn kí ó fò t’Èṣè dá.

Òpèbè has indeed arrived, the priest of Legs! A person never plans and then skips over the matter of Legs.

Extra: [a saying from Cornelius Fichtner] Planning without action is futile; action without planning is fatal.

Òtúrúpòn Òfún

[\[Back to Òtúrúpòn\]](#)

12.16 *Òtúrúpòn* (being productive) is helped by *Òfún* (acting with rectitude).

Òtúrú l’ó gbòn òwú lèbèlèbè, l’ó mú u rè ran.

It is *Òtúrú* who cards cotton (that is, who takes coarse cotton, aligns its constituent fibers, and rids it of impurities), who takes it (carded cotton) to spin into yarn. [Note: Here is someone who refines cotton].

A dífá fún Ọmọ-Òrìṣànlá, tí irè ayé àpésìn. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ ibọ fún Ọrìṣànlá, bàntà-banta nínú àlà. Báyii ní yóò mú iwà rere hù.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọmọ-Òrìṣànlá* (child of *Òrìṣànlá*, the *òrìṣà* of moral sense), who was going to the world of leaders. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Òrìṣànlá*, the immense one in white clothing (which symbolizes the effort to maintain cleanness). It was in this manner that he would take good character to develop.

Kò pé; kò jìnnà. Ẹ wá bá ẹnì ní jẹbútú ire.

It will not take long; it is not far away. Come join us in plenty of good things.

Extra: By rising above coarse and unsavory things, you will inspire others to follow your example of refinement.

A13 Òtúrá as the right leg

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13.01 *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) is helped by *Ogbè* (a wholesome road).

Kòkò, mo kò ibi lónìí o! Ikú, àrùn, ẹjò, òfò, ajogun gbogbo, mo kò ó. Kòkò, mo mà kò ibi o!

Frog, I rejected bad things today! Death, illness, litigation, loss, every *ajogun* (agent of distress), I rejected it. Frog, I indeed rejected bad things!

Ògèdè-àgbágbà, mo gbà ire lónìí o! Ajé, aya, ọmọ, ire gbogbo, mo gbà á. Ògèdè-àgbágbà, mo mà gbà ire o!

Plantain, I accepted good things today! Money, spouses, children, every good thing, I accepted it. Plantain, I indeed accepted good things!

Èní tí ó bá maa wá ire ní íṣẹbọ. Ọmọ èyànràn kò lè gbà àìṣẹbọ kí ara rọ ó.

It is the person who happens to be looking for good things, who is doing *ẹbọ*. A person is not able to accept not-doing-*ẹbọ* and then his body put him at ease.

Òtúrá Ìwòrì

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13.03 *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) is helped by *Ìwòrì* (seeing things clearly).

Kí a má fi ipónjù iyàn lá ọbẹ gbígbóná. Bí a bá fi ipónjù iyàn lá ọbẹ gbígbóná, dájúdájú àá maa jó ẹni l'ẹnu.

We ought not to use the distress of food shortage (as a reason) to lick hot soup. If we happen to use the distress of food shortage (as a reason) to lick hot soup, then surely we will be burning ourselves in the mouth.

A dífá fún Akínṣuyì. A ní kí ó má ṣe láìronú. Kí ó sì wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for *Akínṣuyì* (a personal name meaning 'bravery produces honor'). It was said that he ought not to act thoughtlessly. He ought moreover to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Extra: Do not act in ill-considered haste.

Òtúrá Ìrosùn

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13.05a Òtúrá (averting a worrisome situation) helps Ìrosùn (patiently persevering through difficulty).

Wúyẹwúyẹ l'ó dífá fún wọn ní tibọ. A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ kí ohun gbogbo tí wọn maa ẹ, kí ó má baà ẹ tibọ. Wọn kò rúbọ.

It was Subtly who performed *Ifá* divination for those at an impasse. It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that everything that they were going to do, it may not make an impasse. They did not do *ẹbọ*.

Báyìí ni wọn ẹ ọ̀ràn owó, ó di tibọ. Wọn sì ẹ ọ̀ràn aya, ó di tibọ pẹ̀lú. Ohun gbogbo tí wọn n̄se, ó m̀bò sí tibọ.

It was in this manner that they dealt with a matter of money, and it became an impasse. They moreover dealt with a matter of spouses, and it became an impasse also. Everything that they were dealing with, it was arriving at an impasse.

Ifá ní ẹ̀nikan wà tí kí ó wá rúbọ kí ó má baà maa rí ọ̀ràn tibọ, kí ohun tí ó mú u, kí ó má bó lówọ̀ rẹ̀ àti kò sì lè tẹ̀ ohunkóhun.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may not get seeing a matter of impasse, so that a thing that he takes hold of, it may not get free from his hands and he not moreover be able to hold on to anything.

Extra: [an *Ifá* saying] *Rírú ẹbọ ni igbè ẹni; àìrú kì igbè èniyàn* (It is doing *ẹbọ* that benefits a person; not doing it never benefits a person).

13.05b Òtúrá (averting a worrisome situation) is helped by Ìrosùn (patiently persevering through difficulty).

Òtúrá pọ̀n rọ̀ro. Ìrosùn pọ̀n rọ̀ro.

Òtúrá glows very red. *Ìrosùn* glows very red.

A dífá fún Àlà, tí irè ayé aláìnùtẹ. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for White-cloth (which symbolizes the effort to maintain cleanness), who was headed for a life of not having disgrace. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Aláşọ àlà kì ilọ̀ jókòó sí isò elépo.

The wearer of white cloth never goes sitting down in the market stall of the palm-oil seller.

Extra: [The Bible, Psalm 37:23-24] Because of *Ha'el* (God), the steps of a heroic person are made firm, and in his (the person's) path does he (*Ha'el*) take pleasure. Although he (the person) may stumble, he will not be thrown down, because *Ha'el* is one who props up his hand.

Òtúrá Ọ̀wónrín

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13.06 Òtúrá (averting a worrisome situation) is helped by Ọ̀wónrín (walking honorably).

Èyítí iwù wa nínú ayé kò wù Èlédàá. Ọmọ aráyé maa jókòó s'áyé kí wọn maa ẹ ibi. Èlédàá kò fẹ ẹ; Èlédàá kò gbà á. Ọmọ kò lè gbà àimọ bàbá kí ayé gún.

That which is pleasing to us in the world is not pleasing to *Èlédàá* (Creator God). The people of the world keep sitting on earth so that they keep doing bad things. *Èlédàá* does not like it; *Èlédàá* does not accept it. A child is not able to accept not knowing his father and then his life be in good order.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 3:5-6] Put trust in *Ha'el* (God) with all your heart, and upon your personal outlook, you ought not to lean for support. In all your ways, be acquainted with him, and he will make satisfactory your paths.

Òtúrá Ọbàrà

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13.07 *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) is helped by *Ọbàrà* (asserting oneself with dignity).

Odó tí mo fi gún iyán, N kò ní fi gún èlú. Àtẹ mi tí mo fi pàtẹ ilẹkẹ, N kò ní fi pàtẹ ọrúnlá.

The mortar that I use to pound yams, I will not use it to pound indigo. My tray that I use to exhibit beads, I will not use it to exhibit dried okra. [Note: Here are two examples of single-mindedness].

A dífá fún Òtúrá. A bù fún Ọbàrà. A dífá fún Kérénsèlé, tí یشه ẹni ikẹta wọn. A ní kí àwọn mètẹtẹta ẹe bí t'Ifá.

Ifá divination was performed for *Òtúrá*. It (this divination) was shared with *Ọbàrà*. *Ifá* divination was performed for *Kérénsèlé*, who was their third person. It was said that the three of them ought to act according to the way of *Ifá*.

Òtúrá nşe bí t'Ifá; Òtúrá là. Ọbàrà nşe bí t'Ifá; Ọbàrà là. Şùgbọn Kérénsèlé wá nkábàámò nítórí tí ó wá nşiyéméjì.

Òtúrá was acting according to the way of *Ifá*; *Òtúrá* became prosperous. *Ọbàrà* was acting according to the way of *Ifá*; *Ọbàrà* became prosperous. But *Kérénsèlé* came regretting because he came being double-minded (that is, irresolute).

Awo l'Òtúrá o! Awo l'Ọbàrà o! Kérénsèlé nikan ni isiyéméjì o!

It is a priest that *Òtúrá* is! It is a priest that *Ọbàrà* is! It is *Kérénsèlé* alone who is double-minded!

Extra: If you keep comfortable company with ignoble influences, then you cannot win the company of noble influences.

Òtúrá Ọkànràn

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13.08 *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) hinders *Ọkànràn* (touching trouble).

Message: Distance yourself from a situation in which nasty influences are strongly entrenched.

Òtúrá Ògúndá

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13.09a *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) is helped by *Ògúndá* (clearing a way; having the courage to take right action).

Wọn ɛ èmi, ɕùgbón èmi kò bàjẹ. Apá wọn kò ká tẹmi. Wọn ñgégun. Wọn ñsépè. Wọn ñfẹ ibi sí mi.

They (others) worked against me, but I am not ruined. Their arms did not dominate mine. They were invoking inheritable curses. They were invoking non-inheritable curses. They were wishing bad things to me.

Ọfọ: Òtúrá Ògúndá ní kí èmi má bèrù, kí èmi má ɛ ojo. Ó wí pé òun òò bá mi tún tẹmi ɛ, pé ayé tẹmi òò dára. Òtúrá Ògúndá l'ó wẹ orí tẹmi fún mi, kí ègún má baà lè mú mi, kí èpè má baà lè mú mi, kí èdì má baà lè mú mi, kí èfún má baà lè mú mi.

Incantation: *Òtúrá Ògúndá* said that I ought not to be afraid, that I ought not to be a coward. He said that he would help me to repair my affairs, that my life would be good. It is *Òtúrá Ògúndá* who cleanses my head for me, so that inheritable curses may not be able to get me, so that non-inheritable curses may not be able to get me, so that enchantment may not be able to get me, so that magical spells may not be able to get me.

Àkóse Ifá: Jó ewé ẹsò, ewé ifẹn, àti ọpọlọpọ ewé ojúsàájú pọ. Pò àjẹkù pẹlú ọṣẹ. Kó ọṣẹ náà sínú igbá. Bù iyèròsùn lé e lórí kí o tẹ ẹ lí Òtúrá Ògúndá. Pè ọfọ náà sí i. Bù ọṣẹ náà fí wẹ.

Ifá medicine: Burn ẹsò leaves (*Elytraria marginata*: used to further careful attention), ifẹn leaves, and plenty of *ojúsàájú* leaves (*Petiveria alliacea*: used to help someone to think favorably of another) to be together. Mix the remains together with soap. Take the aforementioned soap into a calabash. Portion out some *iyèròsùn* to be on it on top and imprint it with *Òtúrá Ògúndá*. Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to it. Portion out the aforementioned soap to use to cleanse yourself.

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, one will dispel the negative energy sent their way.

13.09b *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) is helped by *Ògúndá* (having the courage to take right action).

Èké kò kún ẹni. Ìkà kò kún ọmọ èyàn. Bí èké bá ñyọ ilẹ dà, ohùn wẹrẹ abẹnu òò maa yọ ọ ní ɕíṣe. Òtítọ inú yó ẹni l'ájẹkù; ọ jù irọ lọ.

Deception does not fully supply a person. Evil does not fully supply a human being. If a deceiver happens to be bringing himself to accept an oath to betray, then a small voice having a mouth will keep annoying him in the process (that is, his conscience will keep bothering him). Truthfulness satisfies a person beyond capacity; it surpasses falsehood.

Extra: One ought to be able to face oneself and others with a clear conscience.

Òtúrá Ọsá

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13.10 *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) is helped by *Ọsá* (taking timely action).

Ayé sí; ayé ñrè ire. Èyin ajogun ọrun, ẹ pèyìndà.

Life moved along (that is, underwent a change); life was headed for good things. You *ajogun* (agents of distress) of the spirit world, make a u-turn.

A dífá bọ̀rọ̀kìnní ayé. A bù fún bọ̀rọ̀kìnní ọrun. A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ́ kí bọ̀rọ̀kìnní ayé má baà tẹ́ lówọ́ ajogun. Wọn gbọ́; wọn rúbọ́. Wọn sì ẹ̀ ibọ́ fún Egbé.

Ifá divination was performed for respectable persons of earth. It (this divination) was shared with respectable persons of heaven. It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that respectable persons of earth may not fall into disgrace at the hands of *ajogun*. They heard; they did *ẹbọ*. They moreover did *ibọ* for *egbé* (comrades of heaven).

Egbé, ẹ gbà mi o! Bọ̀rọ̀kìnní ọrun óò gbèjà bọ̀rọ̀kìnní ayé. Bọ̀rọ̀kìnní ọrun kò ní jẹ́kí bọ̀rọ̀kìnní ayé óò tẹ́.

Egbé, rescue me! Respectable persons of heaven will fight on behalf of respectable persons of earth. Respectable persons of heaven will not allow that respectable persons of earth would fall into disgrace.

Extra: [an *Akan* saying] *Woforo dua pa a na yepia wo* (It is when you climb a good tree that we push you).

Òtúrá Ìká

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13.11 *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) hinders *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck).

‘Asaré geregere’ l’á ipè ikú. ‘Abìrìn gbèrẹ́’ l’á ipè àrùn. Bí erin bá já ọ̀pọ̀pọ́, yòò maa túraká. Bí ẹ̀fọ̀n bá já àbàtá, yòò maa túraká.

It is ‘One who runs away briskly’ that we call death. It is ‘Possessor of walking away suddenly’ that we call illness. [Note: The preceding statements are affirmations that death and illness will quickly go away]. If an elephant happens to get to the street, then it will be getting free and easy. If a buffalo happens to get to the swamp, then it will be getting free and easy.

Ọ̀fọ̀: Òtúrá Ìká túraká. Kí o bá mi tú oşó ká. Kí o bá mi tú àjẹ́ ká. Kí o bá mi tú ọ̀tá ká. Kí o bá mi tú ọ̀dídí ká. Kí o bá mi túraká.

Incantation: *Òtúrá Ìká* gets free and easy. You ought to help me to dispel male psychic attackers. You ought to help me to dispel female psychic attackers. You ought to help me to dispel opponents. You ought to help me to dispel blockages. You ought to help me to get free and easy.

Àkóse Ifá: Lọ́ ewé ẹ̀là àti iyèré. Fá ẹ̀tù yíi sínú abọ́ amọ́ láti sè gégébí ọ̀bẹ́ pẹ̀lú ẹ̀ja àrọ́. Kí ọ̀bẹ́ náà tutù. Pè ọ̀fọ́ náà s’iyèròsùn tí o ti tẹ́ lí Òtúrá Ìká. Pò iyèròsùn yíi pẹ̀lú ọ̀bẹ́ náà. Dà epo sílẹ́ yí abọ́ amọ́ náà ká kí o tó jẹ́ ọ̀bẹ́ náà.

Ifá medicine: Grind *ẹ̀là* leaves and Ashanti peppers into a powder. Scrape this powder into a clay receptacle to cook according to a soup together with a mudfish (which is used to bring about tranquility). Let the aforementioned soup become cool. Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to *iyèròsùn* that you have imprinted with *Òtúrá Ìká*. Mix this *iyèròsùn* together with the aforementioned soup. Pour palm oil (which is used to tone down that which is potentially unruly) to the ground to surround the aforementioned clay receptacle before you reach the point of eating the aforementioned soup.

Extra: Move quickly in order to return to soundness.

Òtúrá Òtúrúpòn

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13.12 *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) helps *Òtúrúpòn* (being productive).

Òtúrá Bàlélé, a dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlà nígbàtí ísawo rẹ òde Àìmọ-ìwà-hù.

Òtúrá Bàlélé (same as *Òtúrá Òtúrúpòn*), *Ifá* divination was performed for *Ọmọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) when he was going on a spiritual mission to the town of ‘Not knowing how to behave’.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ṣe ìbọ fún Èṣù àti Èlà.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ìbọ* for *Èṣù* (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests) and *Èlà*.

Wọn ibá ti lájé, ibá ti pé o! Èṣù, àìmọ-ìwà-hù wọn ni o! Wọn ibá ti l’áya, ibá ti pé o! Èṣù, àìmọ-ìwà-hù wọn ni o!

If they had had money, then it would have lasted a long time! *Èṣù*, their not-knowing-how-to-behave it was! If they had had spouses, then it would have lasted a long time! *Èṣù*, their not-knowing-how-to-behave it was!

Wọn ibá ti bímọ, ibá ti pé o! Èṣù, àìmọ-ìwà-hù wọn ni o! Wọn ibá ti n’ire gbogbo, ibá ti pé o! Èṣù, àìmọ-ìwà-hù wọn ni o!

If they had begotten children, then it would have lasted a long time! *Èṣù*, their not-knowing-how-to-behave it was! If they had had every good thing, then it would have lasted a long time! *Èṣù*, their not-knowing-how-to-behave it was!

Extra: 1. One is somehow bound to those who exhibit bad behavior. 2. One’s bad behavior will rob one of potential blessings.

Òtúrá Méjì

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13.13 *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) is doubled.

Ìtì ọ̀gèdè bọ̀ lówó gbénàgbénà. Gúnnugún bọ̀ lówó ajẹran. Irun òbò bọ̀ lówó onídírí.

The log of the banana tree is free from the hands of the carpenter. The vulture is free from the hands of the meat-eater. The hair of the vagina is free from the hands of the hairdresser.

A dífá fún Ọro-tẹ̀rẹ̀rẹ̀ ẹ̀lùjù, tí ọ̀mọ aráyé ọ̀ò pa ibà lé e. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ó baà lè pamọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Slender-*oro*-tree (whose edible pulpy fruit is well-liked by *Yorùbá* people) of the deep forest, on whom people of the world would heap respect. It was said that she ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that she may be able to get kept safe. She heard; she did *ẹbọ*.

Mo bọ̀ lówó wọn nígbàyíí. Mo ṣe bọ̀rọ̀bọ̀rọ̀ bí ewé ẹ̀kukù. Mo bọ̀ lówó wọn nígbàyíí.

I am free from their hands at this time. I am slippery like the *ẹ̀kukù* leaf. I am free from their hands at this time.

Òtúrá Ìrètè

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13.14 *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) is hindered by *Ìrètè* (unwholesome influences).

Òtúrá Ìrètè, ẹni tí mò iwọn kì ítẹ. Mo ní: “Tani mò iwọn?” Èlà ní: “Ẹni tí íṣiṣẹ.” Mo ní: “Tani mò iwọn?” Èlà ní: “Ẹni tí kì iná owó rẹ tán.” Mo ní: “Tani mò iwọn?” Èlà ní: “Ẹni tí kì íjalẹ.” Mo ní: “Tani mò iwọn?” Èlà ní: “Ẹni tí kì íjẹgbèsè.” Mo ní: “Tani mò iwọn?” Èlà ní: “Ẹni tí kì idalẹ ọrẹ.”

Òtúrá Ìrètè, a person who knows moderation never falls into disgrace. I said: “Who knows moderation?” *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) said: “A person who is working.” I said: “Who knows moderation?” *Èlà* said: “A person who never spends his money completely.” I said: “Who knows moderation?” *Èlà* said: “A person who never steals.” I said: “Who knows moderation?” *Èlà* said: “A person who is never in debt.” I said: “Who knows moderation?” *Èlà* said: “A person who never betrays an oath of a friend.”

Ọfọ: Òtúrá Ìrètè, ẹni tí mò iwọn kì ítẹ. Amú-iwọn l’ó jí ní kùtùkùtù bá inú ara rẹ ńrò nítorí یشه رة. Amú-iwọn l’amò-ẹsò.

Incantation: *Òtúrá Ìrètè*, a person who knows moderation never falls into disgrace. It is one who takes moderation who wakes up in the early morning and engages his mind in calculating because of his actions. It is one who takes moderation who is familiar with careful attention (to his conduct).

Àkóse Ifá: Gún ewé ẹsò, ewé jókòjẹ, ewé jowóro, àti oṣẹ pọ. Fi ẹsán owó tẹ mó oṣẹ náà àti yí í ká. Kó oṣẹ yìí sínú igbá àdému. Bù iyèròsùn lé oṣẹ náà lóri kí o tẹ ẹ lí Òtúrá Ìrètè. Pè ọfọ náà s’iyèròsùn yí. Bù oṣẹ náà fún wíwẹ.

Ifá medicine: Pound *ẹsò* leaves (*Elytraria marginata*: used to further careful attention), *jókòjẹ* leaves (*Cissampelos owariensis*: used to help someone to ‘sit quietly’), *jowóro* leaves, and soap to be together. Use nine cowries to press onto the aforementioned soap and to go around it. Take this soap into a calabash with a cover. Portion out some *iyèròsùn* to be on the aforementioned soap on top and imprint it with *Òtúrá Ìrètè*. Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to this *iyèròsùn*. Portion out the aforementioned soap for cleansing yourself.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 13:6] Righteousness safeguards one who is morally wholesome in conduct, but unrighteousness undermines a sinful one.

Òtúrá Ọṣẹ

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13.15 *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) is helped by *Ọṣẹ* (overcoming trouble).

Ìṣẹ mà tán. Ọlà l’ó kù.

Deficient circumstances indeed came to an end. It is ample circumstances that remain.

A dífá fún Òtúrá, tí yóò dà یشه nù sínú igbó. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for *Òtúrá*, who would discard deficient circumstances into the woods. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Lèhìn tí ó rúbọ tán, nkan rẹ bẹ̀rẹ̀sí gún. Ó là. Ọkàn rẹ balẹ. Ó n'ísimi.

After he had done *ẹbọ* completely, his affair began to be in good order. He became prosperous. His heart felt secure. He was in relaxation.

Òtúrá Òfún

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13.16 *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation) is helped by *Òfún* (acting with rectitude).

Funfun n'iyi eyin. Àrí-ogun-má-sá n'iyi ọkùnrin.

It is white glossy enamel that is the honor of teeth. It is seeing-war-but-not-running-away that is the honor of a man.

A dífá fún Ọláṣeéni, èyítí ará-ayé ñbù ú kù, èyítí ará-ọ̀run ñbùkún. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ̀ ipèsè.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọláṣeéni* (a personal name meaning 'honor causes him to have'), the one whom inhabitants of earth were belittling, the one whom inhabitants of heaven were blessing. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ipèsè*.

Şòtító, şòdodo. Ẹni tí ó şòtító ni imọlẹ̀ ńgbè.

Practice truth, practice righteousness. It is the person who practices truth whom *irúnmọlẹ̀* (divine ministerial agents) are supporting.

Ìpèsè: Fi epo pèsè fún ẹ̀lẹ̀yẹ.

An *ipèsè*: Use palm oil (which is used to tone down that which is potentially unruly) to provide for *ẹ̀lẹ̀yẹ* (bird-people, a nickname of psychic agents).

Extra: Whether or not people appreciate one's good works, one's advancement will come from the heavenly realm.

A14 Ìrètẹ̀ as the right leg

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[Ìrètẹ̀ Ogbẹ̀](#)

[Ìrètẹ̀ Ìrosùn](#)

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Ìrètẹ̀ Ogbẹ̀

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14.01a *Ìrètẹ̀* (making one's mark) is helped by *Ogbẹ̀* (a wholesome road).

Àtẹ̀gbẹ̀, awo Olókun, dífá fún Olókun nígbàtí omi inú rẹ̀ kò tó bù bọ́jú, nígbàtí omi inú rẹ̀ kò tó bù sìn ẹ̀şẹ̀. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ́ kí ó baà̀ lè nípọ̀n kárí ayé. Ó gbọ́; ó rúbọ́.

'Making one's mark to give benefit', the priest of *Olókun* (the *òrìşà* of the ocean), performed *Ifá* divination for *Olókun* when the waters of her belly were not sufficient to portion out to wash (one's) face, when the waters of her belly were not sufficient to portion out to rinse (one's) feet. It was said that she ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ* so that she may be able to be thick all around the world. She heard; she did *ẹ̀bọ*.

Kò pé; kò jinnà. Olókun tóbi. Ó di ibú nlá.

It did not take long; it was not far away. *Olókun* became big. She became great deep waters.

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, one will become positioned to put their abilities to good use.

14.01b *Ìrètẹ̀* (unwholesome influences) hinders *Ogbẹ̀* (a wholesome road).

Message: [*Dilogún* 16-8] Capability and intelligence get diminished because of emotions.

Ìrètẹ̀ Òyèkú

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14.02 *Ìrètẹ̀* (unwholesome influences) hinders *Òyèkú* (averting ruin; not missing out on bright possibilities).

Ibi tí o tẹ̀ ni kò sunwọ̀n. Ìtẹ̀ tí a tẹ̀ eérú, eérú a kò şe é mọ́ ilé. Ìtẹ̀ tí a tẹ̀ yanrìn, yanrìn a kò şe é gbé ró.

It is the place that you stepped on that is not good. The way that we step on ashes, ashes are not used to build a house. The way that we step on sea sand, sea sand is not used to erect (buildings).

Extra: Do not rely on someone or something that cannot give you proper support.

Ìrètè Ìwòrì

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14.03 *Ìrètè* (practicing *Ifá*) helps *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen).

Berú-berú l'awo ilú Berú. 'So ọ̀dùn kọ; so ọ̀dùn gbà' l'awo Ìlúkà. 'Afi omidan wéwé-wéwé ẹ̀ ilé' l'awo Alákòlé-Mẹ̀sín.

It was *Berú-berú* who was the priest of *Berú* town. It was 'He ties the bamboo cloth to hang (on his body); he ties the bamboo cloth to receive (his body)' who was the priest of *Ìlúkà*. It was 'One who uses young-young ladies to handle (his) home' who was the priest of *Alákòlé-Mẹ̀sín*.

A dífá fún Ọ̀mọ-Èlà, tí ịsawo rẹ̀ Ilé-Ifẹ̀, aje àtẹ̀. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀. Ó sì ẹ̀ ibọ̀ fún Èlà, alátúnṣe ayé, asọ-ọ̀rọ̀-di-ayọ̀.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọ̀mọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), who was going on a spiritual mission to *Ilé-Ifẹ̀*, the (town) that eats (food) without flavor. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ̀*. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ̀*. He moreover did *ibọ̀* for *Èlà*, the master of improving one's life in the world, the one who converts trouble into joy.

Ọ̀fọ̀: Ifá ni yóò bù iyọ̀ sí i. Ọ̀pẹ̀ ni yóò bù iyọ̀ sí i. Gbogbo ọ̀rọ̀ tí kò l'ádùn, Ifá ni yóò bù iyọ̀ sí i.

Incantation: It is *Ifá* that will portion out some salt to it. It is *Ọ̀pẹ̀* (Palm-tree, a name of *Ifá*) that will portion out some salt to it. Every matter that does not have flavor, it is *Ifá* that will portion out some salt to it.

Àkóse Ifá: Pẹ̀ ọ̀fọ̀ náà s'iyèròsùn tí o tí tẹ̀ lí Ìrètè Ìwòrì. Pò iyèròsùn yíi pẹ̀lú iyọ̀. Fí iyọ̀ yíi sà fún onjẹ̀ tí o bá sè é.

Ifá medicine: Pronounce the aforementioned incantation to *iyèròsùn* that you have imprinted with *Ìrètè Ìwòrì*. Mix this *iyèròsùn* together with salt. Use this salt to apply to food that you happen to cook.

Extra: *Ifá* will add a needed enhancement to the quality of your life.

Ìrètè Ọ̀dí

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14.04 *Ìrètè* (making one's mark) is helped by *Ọ̀sá* (taking timely action).

Ajókòó-àgbà bí ẹ̀ni 'Má dide mó'.

An elder one sitting down is like a person of 'Do not stand up anymore'.

A dífá fún Ọ̀lọ̀. A ní ibi tí Ọ̀lọ̀ jókòó sí, kò ní wù ú mó. A ní kí ó dide.

Ifá divination was performed for Grindstone. It was said that the place where Grindstone sat, it would not be pleasing to her anymore. It was said that she ought to get up.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀. A ní Ọ̀lọ̀ ọ̀ò maa rí ẹ̀ni tí yóò gbé ọ̀un. A ní Ọ̀lọ̀ ọ̀ò maa rí ẹ̀ni tí yóò gbé ọ̀un.

It was said that she ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ̀*. She heard; she did *ẹ̀bọ̀*. It was said that Grindstone would be seeing people who would carry her.

Extra: It is time to leave something behind in order to move on to something that is sound and suitable.

Ìrètè Ìrosùn

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14.05 *Ìrètè* (practicing *Ifá*) helps *Ìrosùn* (patiently persevering through difficulty).

‘Atẹ̀ sùn lélé’ l’ó dífá fún Ìrètè nígbàtí orí rẹ̀ nsùn lọ. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ̀ ibọ́ fún Èlà.

It was ‘One who sets foot and sleeps on the ground’ who performed *Ifá* divination for *Ìrètè* when his personal destiny was falling asleep. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ*. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom).

Èlà, Ifá, iwọ́ l’o jí ọmọ́ l’óorun. Ifá, iwọ́ l’o sọ́ ikú alá ẹ̀nà di ààyè. Ewé òjìjì wá dé o; ó mó òpèré mi!

Èlà, Ifá, it is you who wakes a child from sleep. *Ifá*, it is you who transforms yesternight’s death into life. Here comes the *òjìjì* leaf (*Dalbergia lactea*: used to wake things up); it clings to my slumbering spirit!

Àkóse Ifá: Gún ẹ̀ja òjìjì, ewé òjìjì, àti ọṣẹ̀ pọ́ fún wíwẹ̀ orí.

Ifá medicine: Pound an electric mudfish, *òjìjì* leaves, and soap to be together for cleansing the head.

Extra: *Ifá* will awaken you to the possibilities of your life potential.

Ìrètè Ọ̀bàrà

[\[Back to Ìrètè\]](#)

14.07 *Ìrètè* (practicing *Ifá*) helps *Ọ̀bàrà* (asserting oneself with dignity).

Kò sí ẹ̀ni tí apá ọ̀ba kò ká. Kò sí ẹ̀ni tí tètẹ̀ kò lè tẹ̀.

There is no person whom the arm of the king cannot dominate. There is no person on whom the treader is not able to tread.

A dífá fún Ọ̀mọ-Èlà, ọ̀mọ́ aláde, nígbàtí ibẹ̀ láàárín ọ̀tá. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ́ kí ó bá ẹ̀gun wọ̀n. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ́.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọ̀mọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), child of the king, when he was in the midst of opponents. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ* so that he may happen to overcome them. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ*.

Ìrètè Ọ̀kànràn

[\[Back to Ìrètè\]](#)

14.08a *Ìrètè* (unwholesome influences) helps *Ọ̀kànràn* (touching trouble).

Bí orí ẹ̀ni nṣe é, yóò l’èyàn ni ịse é.

If one’s head is working against him, then he will say that it is (other) human beings who are working against him.

Ifá ní ẹ̀nikan wà tí orí-inú rẹ̀ nṣe é. Kí olúwarẹ̀ wá rúbọ̀. Kí ó sì wá ẹ̀ ibọ̀ fún Orí Ẹ̀lédàà. Báyí ni kò ní ẹ̀ ara rẹ̀.

Ifá says that there is someone whose *orí-inú* (that is, prevailing mental and emotional attitude) is working against him. The person in question ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ̀*. He ought moreover to come doing *ibọ̀* for *Orí Ẹ̀lédàà* (Man's godself). It is in this manner that he will not work against himself.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 3:5-6] Put trust in *Ha'el* (God) with all your heart, and upon your personal outlook, you ought not to lean for support. In all your ways, be acquainted with him, and he will make satisfactory your paths.

14.08b *Ìretẹ̀* (unwholesome influences) helps *Ọ̀kànràn* (touching trouble).

Ìretẹ̀ Ọ̀kànràn, a dífá fún Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là n'íjọ́ tí gbogbo awo péjọ́ s'ílẹ̀ Ọ̀lọ́fin nṣe oró sílẹ̀ dé e. A ní kí Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là gbàwẹ̀ lónií kí ó baà lè yera fún oró létàn fún un lónií.

Ìretẹ̀ Ọ̀kànràn, *Ifá* divination was performed for *Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là* (child of *Ẹ̀là*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) on the day when all of the priests met together at the house of the *Ifẹ̀* king and were making poison in readiness to reach him. It was said that *Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là* ought to fast on that day so that he may be able to avoid the deceitful poison for him on that day.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ̀. Ó gbọ̀; ó rúbọ̀.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ̀*. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ̀*.

Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là rẹ̀ ilé Ọ̀lọ́fin. Wọn gbìyànjú láti fi oró pa á, ẹ̀gbọ̀n oró mú wọn nígbèyìn. Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là sì jáde lọ lání ifarapa.

Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là went to the house of the *Ifẹ̀* king. They made attempts to use poison to kill him, but the poison took them in the end. *Ọ̀mọ-Ẹ̀là* moreover emerged to go away without having injury.

Ẹ̀bọ̀: Fi epo àti ẹ̀gbèrìndínlógún owó.

An *ẹ̀bọ̀*: Use palm oil (which is used to tone down that which is potentially unruly) and money worth 3200 cowries.

Ìretẹ̀ Ọ̀sá

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14.10 *Ìretẹ̀* (making one's mark) is helped by *Ọ̀sá* (taking timely action).

Àbọ̀n ẹ̀ kẹ̀rẹ̀kẹ̀rẹ̀ di ẹ̀yìn. Bí ikú kò bá pa àbọ̀n, bí ikú kò bá pa èkùrọ̀, yóò jẹ́ orúkọ́ tí ẹ̀yìn níjẹ́ lóla o!

An unripe palm fruit acts little by little to become a ripe palm fruit. If death does not happen to kill the unripe palm fruit, if death does not happen to kill (its) palm kernel, then tomorrow it will answer to the name to which the ripe palm fruit is answering!

Ifá ní ẹ̀nikan wà tí kí ó wá rúbọ̀. Kí olúwarẹ̀ sì wá ẹ̀ ibọ̀ fún Ẹ̀là, afi inú ẹ̀ ọ̀gbọ̀n. Báyí l'ohun òní kò ní bà ire ọ̀la jẹ́ fún un.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ̀*. The person in question ought moreover to come doing *ibọ̀* for *Ẹ̀là* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), the one who uses

(his) insides to practice wisdom. It is in this manner that a thing of today will not spoil the good things of tomorrow for him.

Extra: Taking proper action now avoids jeopardizing something good that could be achieved later.

Ìrètè Ìká

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14.11 *Ìrètè* (making one's mark) is hindered by *Ìká* (ill conduct or ill luck).

Àtẹkà, awo ọba, l'ó dífá fún ọba nígbàtí ísòkún pé apá rẹ kò lè ká ọràn. A ní kí ó wá àwọn tí yóò lè ràn òun lówó.

It was Treading-and-dominating, the priest of the king, who performed *Ifá* divination for the king when he was weeping that his arms were not able to handle matters successfully. It was said that he ought to look for those who would be able to render help to him.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ẹ ibọ fún Sàngó. Báyii ni yóò rí olùrànlówó yíyẹ.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Sàngó* (the deified *Ọyọ* king who detests immorality and strikes wrongdoers with lightning). It was in this manner that he would see suitable helpers.

Apá ọba ni yóò ká o! Àyàfi bí ọrùka kò bá ká ìka ọwọ, apá ọba ni yóò ká o!

It is the arms of the king that will handle successfully! Except if a ring does not happen to handle a finger successfully, it is the arms of the king that will handle successfully!

Extra: One needs able assistance in order to successfully handle the matter in question.

Ìrètè Òtúrúpon

[\[Back to Ìrètè\]](#)

14.12 *Ìrètè* (practicing *Ifá*) helps *Òtúrúpon* (being productive).

Ọpẹ mbe l'ẹyin rẹ jù odi lọ.

Ọpẹ (Palm-tree, a name of *Ifá*) is at your back more than a town's walled fortification is.

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó maa wò òkè-ìponrí rẹ n'ídúróşinşin. Kí olúwarẹ wá rúbọ. Báyii n'ire nlá ọò dé sí i.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to be directing his attention to his spiritual altar steadfastly. The person in question ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. It is in this manner that great blessings will reach him.

Ìrètè Òtúrá

[\[Back to Ìrètè\]](#)

14.13a *Ìrètè* (practicing *Ifá*) helps *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation).

Ikú kò mò awo, ọrun kò mò oníşègùn. Afẹfẹ ọwọ ọtún nşe ewé-àgbọn gbọn. Afẹfẹ ọwọ ọsì nşe ewé-àgbọn gbọn.

Death does not know a priest, heaven does not know an herb doctor. The breeze of the right hand is causing the coconut leaf to tremble. The breeze of the left hand is causing the coconut leaf to tremble.

A dífá fún Èlà, tí ó ní òun lọ tẹ Ikú ní Ifá. Ó fi Àgò ẹ ojùgbòná.

Ifá divination was performed for Èlà (the òrìṣà of knowledge and wisdom), who said that he was going away to initiate Death to *Ifá*. He caused ‘Please give way’ to be the *ojùgbòná*.

Ọfọ: Ikú tí ìbá pa awo lónií, àgò, àgò. Awo nílo; àgò, àgò. Àrùn tí ìbá pa awo lónií, àgò, àgò. Awo nílo; àgò, àgò.

Incantation: The death that would have killed the priest today, please give way, please give way. The priest keeps going on; please give way, please give way. The illness that would have killed the priest today, please give way, please give way. The priest keeps going on; please give way, please give way.

Àkóse Ifá: Tẹ lí Ìrẹtẹ Òtúrá n’ìlẹ ibi tí aláìsàn dùbúlẹ. Kó erúpẹ tí a fi tẹ Ifá náà síwájú aláìsàn náà. Pè orúkọ aláìsàn náà. Pè ògèdè náà, ẹ̀gbón pè orúkọ aláìsàn náà dípò ọ̀rọ ‘awo’.

Ifá medicine: Imprint with *Ìrẹtẹ Òtúrá* in the ground of the place where the ill person is lying down. Take the soil that you used to imprint the aforementioned *Ifá* in front of the aforementioned ill person. Pronounce the aforementioned incantation, but call the name of the aforementioned ill person instead of the word ‘priest’.

14.13b *Ìrẹtẹ* (unwholesome influences) hinders *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation).

Ire ni ígbà iwájú ilé. Ayọ ni ígbà ẹ̀yìnkùlẹ.

It is blessings that are occupying the front of the house. It is joy that is occupying the backyard.

A dífá fún Ọlókòṣẹ. A ní kí ó wá rú ẹbọ iwà rere. Ó kọ; kò rúbọ. Njẹ, Ọlókòṣẹ l’ó fi iwà láiyẹ dà ire nù.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘One who refuses to make an effort’. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* for good character. He refused; he did not do *ẹbọ*. Therefore, it was ‘One who refuses to make an effort’ who used unfit character to throw away blessings.

Extra: One who does not work at developing moral wholesomeness is one who throws away blessings.

Ìrẹtẹ Méjì

[\[Back to Ìrẹtẹ\]](#)

14.14 *Ìrẹtẹ* (unwholesome influences; making one’s mark; practicing *Ifá*) is doubled.

Ìwọ l’òtẹ. Èmi l’òtẹ.

It is you who is an imprinter (a reference to an *Ifá* practitioner as one who imprints *Odù Ifá*).
It is I who is an imprinter.

A dífá fún Al’ẹ̀ṣẹ-rere-má-l’órí-rere. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ó baà lè l’órí rere pẹlú ẹ̀ṣẹ rere. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘One who has good feet but does not have a good head’ (that is, one who works hard but is not headed in a suitable direction). It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that he may be able to have a good head together with good feet. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Àkóse Ifá: Gún ewé àpadà àti oṣẹ pò fún wíwẹ.

Ifá medicine: Pound *àpadà* leaves (*Uraria picta*: used to turn things around toward good) and soap to be together for cleansing yourself.

Extra: With suitable spiritual effort, one’s hard work will make a good mark.

Ìrètè Ọṣẹ

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14.15 *Ìrètè* (practicing *Ifá*) helps *Ọṣẹ* (overcoming trouble).

Ikú kì ijẹ ata. Ikúkíkú tí ayé ní pa ẹni, ẹ má jẹkí ó lé ẹ mi láílái. Àrùn kì ijẹ àlùbòsà. Ẹ má jẹkí àrùn lé ẹ mi láílái. Afẹfẹ búburú kì ijẹ iyèré. Ẹ má jẹkí afẹfẹ búburú lé ẹ mi láílái.

Death never consumes pepper. Whichever manner of death that the world uses to kill a person, do not allow that it be able to harm me ever. Illness never consumes onions. Do not allow that illness be able to harm me ever. A bad wind never consumes Ashanti peppers. Do not allow that a bad wind be able to harm me ever.

Ifá, jẹkí ọwọ maa jẹ fún mi l’ọjó gbogbo. Ẹrọ pètẹ ni t’ìgbín. Gbogbo aburú tí ẹdá bá nṣe fún mi, Ifá, jẹkí ó dẹrọ sí mi l’ára nítorí tí tútù-tútù l’a bá nínú otútù Ọpọn Ifá. Ẹtù l’ó ní kí ara tù mi. Gbogbo ibi ayé, Ifá, bá mi sọ ọ di irọrùn l’ára mi.

Ifá, allow that respect be complying with me every day. It is mushy coolness that pertains to the snail. All bad things that beings happen to make for me, *Ifá*, allow that they be less difficult for me because it is cool-cool that we meet within the cold of the *Ifá* tray. It is the guinea fowl that tells (my) body to calm me. All bad things of the world, *Ifá*, help me to transform them into a convenience for me.

Ìrètè tútù l’ó ní kí gbogbo ibi ó tẹbalẹ l’ára mi o!

It is cool *Ìrètè* who tells all bad things to bow down to me!

Extra: [a saying from Max Lucado] In God’s hands, intended evil becomes eventual good.

Ìrètè Ọfún

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14.16 *Ìrètè* (making one’s mark) hinders *Ọfún* (efforts of limited success).

Àwọn irúnmolẹ àti Orí Ẹlédàá nlo s’ode Àpéré. Orí nikan dé ibẹ.

The *irúnmolẹ* (divine ministerial agents) and *Orí Ẹlédàá* (Man’s godself) were going to the town of Life-fulfilment. *Orí* alone arrived there.

Ñjẹ, Orí gbóná jù òrìṣà lọ. Orí nikan l’ó kó wọn l’ápéré. Kò sí òrìṣà tí ó tó ní igbè lẹyin Orí ẹni. Orí mà gbóná jù òrìṣà lọ.

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Therefore, *Ori* is 'hotter' than *òrìṣà* (divine ministerial agents). It is *Ori* alone who takes them (people) to life fulfilment. There is no *òrìṣà* who is sufficient in supporting behind the back of one's *Ori*. *Ori* is indeed 'hotter' than *òrìṣà*.

Extra: The power of God is within you, and so you can transcend any circumstance, habit, or personality trait. Attune yourself to *Ori Èlédàá* (Man's godself) so that you may fully develop your life potential.

A15 Òṣẹ́ as the right leg

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[Òṣẹ́ Ogbè](#)

[Òṣẹ́ Írosùn](#)

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Òṣẹ́ Ogbè

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15.01 Òṣẹ́ (overcoming trouble) is helped by *Ogbè* (a wholesome road).

Òṣẹ́ tú eruku. Ifá ní Èlédàá òò dá ọjà kan fún àgbà kan kí ìpín rẹ má bàjẹ lójú rẹ l'áyé. Sùgbón kí ó wá rúbọ.

Òṣẹ́ loosens the dust. *Ifá* says that *Èlédàá* (Creator God) will create a market (that is, create a demand) for an elder so that his destiny may not be spoiled during his presence on earth. But he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*.

Òṣẹ́ Òdí

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15.04 Òṣẹ́ (overcoming trouble) is hindered by *Òdí* (blockage or enemies).

A kì ímú olè kí a má yan án. Bí a bá sẹgun, kí a mú ọlọtẹ̀ dè. Bí a kò bá mú ọlọtẹ̀ dè, ẹnì tí a sẹ, bí ó bá simi tán, yòò ní òun l'ó sẹ ẹnì.

We never catch a thief and then do not 'roast' him. If we happen to be victorious, then we ought to bind the rebel. If we do not happen to bind the rebel, then he whom we defeated, if he happens to rest completely, he will say that it is he who defeated us.

A dífá fún Sàánú-ọlọtẹ̀. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí àşejù àánú má baà sọ ọ di abòşì.

Ifá divination was performed for 'He pities the rebel'. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that excessiveness of compassion may not transform him into a wretch.

Extra: One ought to overcome their leniency toward someone or something that threatens their well-being.

Òṣẹ́ Ògúndá

[\[Back to Òṣẹ́\]](#)

15.09 Òṣẹ́ (overcoming through joyful optimism) helps *Ògúndá* (having the courage to take right action).

Ìṣẹ̀ kàn ẹ̀ni; kò mò ojú. Ìyàn kàn ẹ̀ni; kò mò àwò. Agada kò mò orí alágbèdẹ̀ tí ó rọ̀ òun.

Deficient circumstances touch someone; it does not know his face. Scarcity touches someone; it does not know his (skin) color. The scimitar does not know the head of the blacksmith who forged it. [Note: The message here is that anyone can fall into adverse circumstances].

A dífá fún ‘Ọmọ ní iyìn rẹ̀’, ọmọ Gbòwújì, nígbàtí ayé kò yẹ́ ẹ́. A ní kí ó maa lò aṣọ funfun. Kí ó sì wá ẹ́ ibọ́ l’ókè-ìpònrí rẹ̀. Ó gbọ́; ó bọ́.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘Child says his praise’, child of *Gbòwújì* (*Òrìṣànlá*, the *òrìṣà* of moral sense), when life was not right for him. It was said that he ought to keep wearing white clothing (which symbolizes the effort to maintain cleanness). He ought moreover to come doing *ibọ́* at his spiritual altar. He heard; he did *ibọ́*.

Lẹ̀hìn tí ó bọ́ tán, nkan rẹ̀ bẹ̀rẹ̀sí gún. Ayé yẹ́ ẹ́.

After he had done *ibọ́* completely, his affair began to be in good order. Life was right for him.

Extra: [a saying from Roy T. Bennett] Nobody is exempt from the trials of life, but everyone can always find something positive in everything even in the worst of times.

Ọ̀ṣẹ́ Ọ̀sá

[\[Back to Ọ̀ṣẹ́\]](#)

15.10 Ọ̀ṣẹ́ (overcoming trouble) is helped by Ọ̀sá (taking timely action).

Bí Ọ̀ṣẹ́ sá, bí Ọ̀ṣẹ́ kò sá, Ọ̀ṣẹ́ òò dé ibi ijà.

Whether Ọ̀ṣẹ́ runs away or whether Ọ̀ṣẹ́ does not run away, Ọ̀ṣẹ́ will arrive at the place of the fight.

A dífá fún Ewúré, Àgùtàn, àti Adiyẹ̀-òkòkó nígbàtí wọn nílọ̀ s’ògun Ilé-èèmọ́. A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ́. Adiyẹ̀-òkòkó nìkan ni ibẹ̀ lẹ̀yìn tí írúbọ́.

Ifá divination was performed for She-goat, Sheep, and Hen when they were going to the war of House-of-burs (which symbolizes trouble that sticks to oneself). It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ́*. It was Hen alone who was behind doing *ẹ̀bọ́*.

Wọn dé ogun Ilé-èèmọ́. Ogun mú Ewúré. Ogun mú Àgùtàn. Ogun kò mú Adiyẹ̀-òkòkó.

They arrived at the war of House-of-burs. The war took She-goat. The war took Sheep. The war did not take Hen.

Extra: Do not involve yourself with anything that would bring you sticky trouble.

Ọ̀ṣẹ́ Ọ̀túrúpòn

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15.12 Ọ̀ṣẹ́ (overcoming through joyful optimism) helps Ọ̀túrúpòn (being productive).

Èni tí kò mò ẹ̀ni l’ẹ̀ni, tí kò mò èyàn l’ènyàn, ni íwí pé t’obìnrin kò sí l’áyé.

It is the one who does not know a person as a person, who does not know a human being as a human being, who says that women do not amount to anything in life.

Èwùjì ní kí wọn má fojúdí í. Ó ní ẹ̀ni tí ó bá foríbalẹ̀, yóò maa lájé, yóò maa l’áya, yóò maa bímọ́, yóò maa l’ógbó.

Èwùjì (*Ọṣun*, the *òrìṣà* of beauty, fertility, childbirth, and child protection) said that they (people) ought not to undervalue her. She said that one who happened to make obeisance, he would be having money, he would be having spouses, he would be begetting children, he would be having longevity.

Kí ẹnìkan má ní: “Ẹni atẹ̀yìntò l’obìnrin o!”

A person ought not to say: “It is a person who urinates from behind that a woman is!” [Note: This statement derogatorily refers to women as being backward people].

Extra: Do not belittle women.

Ọ̀ṣé Ọ̀túrá

[\[Back to Ọ̀ṣé\]](#)

15.13 *Ọ̀ṣé* (overcoming through joyful optimism) helps *Ọ̀túrá* (averting a worrisome situation).

Àkéké ni ìbà igi ọ́. A dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlà, tí ilọ gbà ìbà òun àṣẹ n’ílẹ̀ Èlédàá. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

It is the axe that is landing on the tree to cut it. *Ifá* divination was performed for *Ọmọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), who went getting reverence and spiritual power at the home of *Èlédàá* (Creator God). It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Àkéké ni ìbà igi ọ́. Ẹnu awo n’ìbà òun àṣẹ wà. Nígbà tí awo bá ní àá n’ìre gbogbo, a maa n’ìre gbogbo. Àkéké ni ìbà igi ọ́. Ẹnu awo n’ìbà òun àṣẹ wà.

It is the axe that is landing on the tree to cut it. It is the mouth of the priest where reverence and spiritual power exist. When the priest happens to say that we will have every good thing, we will be having every good thing. It is the axe that is landing on the tree to cut it. It is the mouth of the priest where reverence and spiritual power exist.

Extra: If you are attuned to divine purpose, then whatever you say will come to pass.

Ọ̀ṣé Ìrẹ̀tẹ̀

[\[Back to Ọ̀ṣé\]](#)

15.14a *Ọ̀ṣé* (overcoming trouble) is helped by *Ìrẹ̀tẹ̀* (practicing *Ifá*).

Ìhín ni Ìbá yà sí. Ọ̀hún ni Ìbá yà sí.

It is here where I would have deviated. It is there where I would have deviated. [Note: Here is someone attempting to find out where he went wrong].

A dífá fún Ọmọ-Èlà nígbà tí ọ́se ohun gbogbo tí ọ́kan kò lójú. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì lọ̀ fi t’Èlédàá ọ́ ọ̀nà. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ọ́ ẹ̀bọ̀ fún Èlà, afi inú ọ́ ẹ̀bọ̀n.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọmọ-Èlà* (child of *Èlà*, the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom) when he was doing everything for which (each) one did not make headway. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He ought moreover to go using the way of *Èlédàá* (Creator God; Man’s godself) to make a way. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Èlà*, the one who uses (his) insides to practice wisdom.

Kò pé; kò jinnà. Ire gbogbo wá yá dé tùtúru.

It did not take long; it was not far away. Every good thing came flooding in to arrive plentifully.

Èlédàá mi, gbà mi o! Ìwọ ni mo sádi. Ìwọ ni mo gbiyèlé. Ìwọ ni mo fẹ̀yìnti. Ènikan kì ifẹ̀yìnti Èlédàá kí ó dójúti ẹni. Èlédàá mi, gbà mi o!

My *Èlédàá*, accept me! It is you in whom I take refuge. It is you whom I trust. It is you on whom I lean for support. A person never leans on *Èlédàá* for support and then he puts the person to shame. My *Èlédàá*, accept me!

Extra: [The Bible, Psalm 128:1-2] How blessed is everyone who reveres *Haʹel* (God)! The one who walks in his (*Haʹel*'s) way, (it is) fruit of the labor of your hands that you will feed off. How blessed are you, and something good is headed for you!

15.14b *Òşé* (overcoming trouble) is hindered by *Ìrètẹ̀* (unwholesome influences).

Èrò tí ó jìn sí kòtò l'ó kọ ará iyókù l'ògbón.

It is the passerby who falls into a pit who teaches the remaining ones some wisdom.

Extra: Learn from the bad experiences of others.

Òşé Méjì

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15.15 *Òşé* (overcoming trouble) is doubled.

Şekúbẹ, awo òde Ìbàdàn, l'ó dífá fún wọn l'óde Ìbàdàn. Wọn nífi omi ojú sògbéré ire. A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ. Wọn gbọ; wọn rúbọ.

It was *Şekúbẹ*, the priest of *Ìbàdàn* town (whose establishment is rooted in *Òşé Méjì*), who performed *Ifá* divination for those in *Ìbàdàn* town. They were using teardrops to cry about good things. It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. They heard; they did *ẹbọ*.

Kò pé; kò jinnà. Ire gbogbo wá yá dé tùtúru.

It did not take long; it was not far away. Every good thing came flooding in to arrive plentifully.

Èrò Ìpo, èrò Òfà, nǹjẹ̀ ẹ̀yin kò mò pé bí ẹni kò bá şişẹ̀, ẹni kì ilà?

Travelers to *Ìpo* town, travelers to *Òfà* town, do you not know that if one does not happen to do work, then one never prospers?

Extra: [a saying from Booker Taliaferro Washington Sr.] Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work.

Òşé Òfún

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15.16 *Òşé* (overcoming trouble) is helped by *Òfún* (acting with rectitude).

Bí orí kò sunwòn, oḡbòn inú ni kò itó. Oḡbòn m̀bẹ̀ nínú Èl̀à, amú ayé gún, atún orí tí kò sunwòn ̀̀.

If luck is not good, then it is inner wisdom (that is, the ability to discern what is right or true and to judge soundly) that is not yet enough. Wisdom is in Èl̀à (the òrìṣà of knowledge and wisdom), the one who causes the world to be right, the one who improves luck that is not good.

A dífá fún àwòn ‘Kò mò ̀̀; kò mò wà’, tí ifi ojojúmó kẹ̀gbe orí àsunwòn, pé Èlédàá tí ̀̀ tiwòn n’ibi. A ní kí wòn wá rúbọ̀. Wòn gbọ̀; wòn rúbọ̀.

Ifá divination was performed for those of ‘He does not know what to do; he does not know how to be’, who were using every day to shout out about inauspiciousness and that Èlédàá (Creator God) had done their affairs in with bad things. It was said that they ought to come doing ̀̀. They heard; they did ̀̀.

A ní kí apákan wòn sì lọ tẹ́fá. Bí wòn bá tẹ́fá tán, kí wòn kọ Ifá. A ní: “Èni ‘Kò mò ̀̀; kò mò wà’ tí ó kọ Ifá, orí rẹ̀ òò sunwòn nígbèyìn.”

It was said that one side of them ought moreover to go get initiated to Ifá. If they happen to have gotten initiated to Ifá completely, then they ought to learn Ifá. It was said: “A person of ‘He does not know what to do; he does not know how to be’ who learns Ifá, his luck will be good at last.”

Èbọ̀: Fi aṣọ funfun, oṣẹ̀, àti eḡbẹ̀wá owó. Fi ojó m̀eta fún wíwè. Lẹ̀yìn tí o fi oṣẹ̀ wè, fi aṣọ-ìbora funfun bora.

An ̀̀: Use white clothing (which symbolizes the effort to maintain cleanness), soap, and money worth 2000 cowries. Use 3 days for cleansing yourself. After you use the soap to cleanse yourself, use the white clothing to cover (your) body.

Extra: **1.** [The Bible, Proverbs 19:3] Waywardness of a person undermines his way, but with *Ha²el* (God) is his heart angry. **2.** [The Bible, Proverbs 22:4] As a consequence of humility (and) reverence for *Ha²el* (God) are wealth and honor and life.

A16 Òfún as the right leg

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[Òfún Ogbè](#)

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16.01 *Òfún* (acting with rectitude) helps *Ogbè* (a wholesome road).

Egúngún kan kì íṣe ẹ̀ni. Òrìṣà kan kì író èyàn. Àṣiṣe nìkan l'ó lé ẹ̀ni lórò.

Egúngún (honorable ancestors) never damage a person. *Òrìṣà* (divine ministerial agents) never cause a human being pain. It is mistakes (that is, wrong actions, beliefs, or judgments) alone that compel us to utter a very painful cry.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 22:5] Thorns (and) snares are in the path of a wayward one; one who watches over his spirit will be far from them.

Òfún Òyèkú

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16.02 *Òfún* (acting with rectitude) helps *Òyèkú* (averting ruin; not missing out on bright possibilities).

Amò-ṣẹ́-má-tẹ́, awo Ìsimi-bà-kalẹ́, l'ó dífá fún Ìsimi-bà-kalẹ́, aní-má-ṣawun, afi ojojúmó fún ẹ̀ni ní jíjẹ àti mímu, ọ̀rẹ́ onílẹ́, ọ̀rẹ́ àlejò. Ó ní: “Bí ebi bá ńpa ọ, kí o yá wá jẹun. Bí ọ̀ngbẹ́ bá ńgbẹ́ ọ, kí o yá wá mu.”

‘One who knows hurt but does not fall into disgrace’, the priest of ‘Rest and settle down’, who performed *Ifá* divination for ‘Rest and settle down’, the one who possesses but is not stingy, the one who uses each day to give to us in eating and drinking, a friend of the householder, a friend of the stranger. He said: “If hunger happens to be overwhelming you, then you ought to be quick to come eating. If thirst happens to be dehydrating you, then you ought to be quick to come drinking.”

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ́ kí ó má baà kú, kí ó má baà tẹ́. Kí ó sì ràn ara rẹ́ lówó kí ó tó ràn ẹ̀lòmí lówó. A ní bí ó bá rúbọ́ tán, kí ó maa fi ẹ̀gbà yẹra fún ọ̀mọ aráyé. Kí ó maa fi ẹ̀gbà kan lọ s'òko. Kí ó maa fi ẹ̀gbà mírà̀n ràjò. Kí ó maa ṣoore fún àwọn olùpọ̀njú. Ó gbọ́; ó rúbọ́.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ* so that he may not die, so that he may not fall into disgrace. He ought moreover to render help to himself before he reaches the point of rendering help to someone else. It was said that if he happened to do *ẹ̀bọ* completely, then he ought to be using some time to avoid people of the world. He ought to be using one time to go to the

farm. He ought to be using another time to go on a journey. He ought to keep doing kindly acts for the poor. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Ẹbọ: Fi oyin, aṣọ méréin, àti ọkẹ méréin owó.

An *ẹbọ*: Use honey (which is used to sweeten a situation), 4 pieces of cloth, and money worth 80000 cowries.

Extra: [*Dilogún* 10-2] Take care of yourself before others.

Òfún Ìwòrì

[\[Back to Òfún\]](#)

16.03 *Òfún* (acting with rectitude) helps *Ìwòrì* (good things becoming seen).

Òfún l'awo Ìgándó. Ìwòrì l'awo Ìgándò. Ọrò gándo-gándo kì ítán n'íkùn àgbà bọrọbọrọ.

It was *Òfún* who was the priest of *Ìgándó*. It was *Ìwòrì* who was the priest of *Ìgándò*. A troubling matter does not come to an end in the mind of an elder very easily.

A dífá fún Ẹni-ọwọ, tí íṣe ọmọ Ẹlà. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. Ó sì ṣe ibọ fún Ẹlà àti Ẹsù. Báyii ni yóò ṣẹgun ọtá. Báyii ni yóò rí ẹyìn òdídí.

Ifá divination was performed for 'Person of respect', who was a child of *Ẹlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom). It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ibọ* for *Ẹlà* and *Ẹsù* (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests). It was in this manner that he would overcome opponents. It was in this manner that he would see the back side of blockages.

Ẹ fi ọwọ mi wọ mi. Ọwọ kókó l'a fi í wọ igi. Ọwọ Ọrìṣànlá l'a fi í wọ àfín. Ẹ fi ọwọ mi wọ mi.

Use the respect due to me to put on me. It is respect for knobs that we use to put on a tree. It is respect for *Ọrìṣànlá* (the *òrìṣà* of moral sense) that we use to put on an albino. Give me due respect.

Òfún Ọdí

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16.04 *Òfún* (acting with rectitude) hinders *Ọdí* (blockage or enemies).

Òfún dí ire mọ. Wàrà gbà ṣe wàrà kì Ọfún má baà pa ẹnì.

Òfún blocks good things to be restricted (to himself). Quickly receive and act quickly so that *Òfún* may not finish us off.

A dífá fún Olórí-ògá. A ní ẹnì tí ó dí ire mọ ilé, kì írí t'òde gbà.

Ifá divination was performed for Chief-of-chiefs. It was said that the person who blocks good things to be restricted to home, he never sees anything from outside to receive. [Note: Restricting good things to oneself could mean that one keeps good things to himself or that one falsely believes that he alone has something worthy to offer].

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí ire baà lè ṣàn wá ilé.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that good things may be able to flow and come home.

Extra: Be open to giving help to others and to accepting help from others.

Òfún Ìrosùn

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16.05 Òfún (acting with rectitude) helps Ìrosùn (patiently persevering through difficulty).

Òfún nífún ire ká. Òfún kò pariwo. Èyàn bí irú yìi ẹ ọwọ̀n l'ayé. Ẹni tí yòò maa dáṣà, kí ó wò ịse ọrun. Ọrun ni ilé ọlá.

Òfún is giving out good things to go all around. Òfún does not make a noise (about it). People like this type are scarce in the world. A person who will be daring to do something, he ought to look at the customs of heaven. It is heaven that is the home of honor.

A dífá fún àwọ̀n èyàn. A ní ikú ọ̀ò maa mú wọ̀n lọ wò ịse ọrun.

Ifá divination was performed for human beings. It was said that death would be taking them to go look at the customs of heaven. [Note: The preceding statement tells us that pondering one's eventual bodily death brings one to consider the degree to which one has complied with the dictates of heaven].

A ní kí wọ̀n wá rúbọ́ kí ó má baà sí òkùnkùn àti ibanújẹ́ l'ọ̀nà wọ̀n. Wọ̀n kọ; wọ̀n kò rúbọ́.

It was said that they ought to come doing ẹbọ so that there may not be darkness and disheartening sadness on their road. They refused; they did not do ẹbọ.

Extra: **1.** Act out of genuine concern for others. **2.** [The Bible, Proverbs 16:20] One who gives attention to divine instruction will attain to what is good, and one who puts trust in *Ha²el* (God), how blessed is he!

Òfún Ọwọ̀nrín

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16.06a Òfún (acting with rectitude) helps Ọwọ̀nrín (walking honorably).

Message: [*Dilogún* 10-11] No matter how much the wind may blow, the sun does not stray from its proper course.

16.06b Òfún (acting with rectitude) helps Ọwọ̀nrín (walking honorably).

Òfún fún wọ̀n kẹ. Òfún fún wọ̀n sọ.

Òfún gives to them to pamper (them). Òfún gives to them to watch over (them).

A dífá fún Odùduwà, tí yòò maa ọ̀ore ká rí ayé. Ó ní ịsoore ká rí ayé l'ó dárájù n'íwà.

Ifá divination was performed for *Odùduwà* (a deified *Yorùbá* king), who would be doing kindly acts around the world. He said that it is doing kindly acts around the world that is superior in character.

A ní apákan kò ní dúpẹ́ fún oore l'ọwọ́ rẹ. Àwọ̀n mírán kò tilẹ́ ní mọ́ tiwọ̀n ilò. Sùgbọ̀n ó ní bàbá ọmọ́ kò lẹ́ ẹ́ kí ó má fí ohun rere fún ọmọ́. Àti iyá ọmọ́ kò lẹ́ ẹ́ kí ó má fí ohun rere fún ọmọ́.

It was said that one side would not give thanks for the kindness from his hands. Those of another (side) would not even know their use. But he said that the father of a child is unable to not put good things for the child. And the mother of a child is unable to not put good things for the child.

A ní kí Odùduwà wá rúbọ́ kí ohun rere gbogbo tí ifi fún èyàn, bí wọn bá fi ẹ̀dò l'áyé, kí ó baà lè maa tún padà tọ́ Odùduwà lẹ̀wọ́. Ó gbọ́; ó rúbọ́.

It was said that *Odùduwà* ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ́* so that every good thing that he was putting for human beings, if they happened to waste it in the world, then it may be able to always return to touch *Odùduwà* in his hands. He heard; he did *ẹ̀bọ́*.

Extra: [The Bible, Proverbs 3:27] You ought not to withhold what is good from its owners (that is, those to whom it is due), in that it has come to be in the power of your hand to do (it).

Òfún Òkànràn

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16.08 *Òfún* (efforts of limited success) helps *Òkànràn* (touching trouble).

Òfún rànìnrànìnràn l'ó dífá fún Àkàtànpo nígbà tí irán ẹ̀fón, àwọn omọ rẹ̀, rẹ̀ igbó. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ́. A ní kí ó sì wá ẹ̀ ipèsè. Ó falẹ̀.

It was '*Òfún* persistently' who performed *Ifá* divination for Catapult when he was sending arrows, his children, to go to the forest. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ́*. It was said that he ought moreover to come doing *ipèsè*. He procrastinated.

Olúigbó wá mú omọ Àkàtànpo s'òhún. Njẹ̀, àlọ l'a rí; a kò rí àbọ́ mọ́ o! Gbogbo wọn ti rá o!

Olúigbó (the spirit of the forest) came taking Catapult's children to (his) place. Therefore, it was the departure that we saw; we did not see the return anymore! All of them have disappeared!

Ìpèsè: Fi òkété pèsè fún ẹ̀lẹ̀yẹ.

An *ipèsè*: Use a giant rat to provide for *ẹ̀lẹ̀yẹ* (bird-people, a nickname of psychic agents).

Extra: A great investment of effort does not guarantee sought returns.

Òfún Ògúndá

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16.09 *Òfún* (acting with rectitude) is helped by *Ògúndá* (having the courage to take right action).

Igún kí ẹ̀ se olódi ẹ̀nikan. Kò ẹ̀ bá wọn nájà.

The vulture is never the possessor of ill will (toward) someone. It will not fail to join them (others) in doing market business (that is, it will eat anyone's corpse).

Ifá ní ẹ̀nikan wà tí kí ó má bá ẹ̀ se wọn l'ódi. Kí olúwarẹ̀ wá rúbọ́ kí ó baà lè ẹ̀ ẹ̀tọ́.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought not to treat them (others) with ill will. The person in question ought to come doing *ẹ̀bọ́* so that he may be able to do what is right.

Extra: Do not treat another unjustly, regardless of whether you have been wronged or not.

Òfún Òsá

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16.10 *Òfún* (efforts of limited success) is hindered by *Òsá* (taking timely action).

Òfún sà wò bí yóò jẹ, bí kò ní jẹ.

Òfún applies medicine and looks at whether it will work or whether it will not work.

A dífá fún àrúnlọ́jọ ewé. A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ́ kí ìhalẹ́ má baà tẹ́ wọn. Èyítí ó rúbọ́ l'àwọn ewé tí a fi ẹ̀ oògùn tí ó jẹ.

Ifá divination was performed for 165 leaves. It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that empty boasts may not humiliate them. It is the ones that did *ẹbọ* that are the leaves that we use to make medicine that works.

Ifá ní ẹnìkan wà tí kí ó wá rúbọ́ kí ọ̀rọ́ tí ó dífá sí í, ó baà lè dára jálẹ. Bá'yí ni olúwarẹ̀ oò sà agbára sí ohun tí ó múnádóko. Bá'yí ni ojú kò ní tì í nípa ọ̀rọ́ náà.

Ifá says that there is someone who ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that the matter for which he cast *Ifá*, it may be able to be good throughout. It is in this manner that the person in question will apply (his) energy to a thing that is effective. It is in this manner that shame will not come over him regarding the aforementioned matter.

Extra: By discerning what is genuine from what is not, one will be able to apply an effective remedy to a bad situation.

Òfún Òtúrá

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16.13a *Òfún* (acting with rectitude) helps *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation).

Kí iwọ́ tọ́ ọ̀wọ́ wò. Kí èmi tọ́ ọ̀wọ́ wò.

May you taste honor. May I taste honor.

A dífá fún Ọ̀mọ-Òrìṣànlá, tí irè ayé àpésìn. A ní kí ó wá rúbọ́. Ó gbọ́; ó rúbọ́. Ó sì ẹ̀ ọ̀bọ́ fún Òrìṣànlá, bàntà-banta nínú àlà. Bá'yí ni yóò mú iwà rere hù.

Ifá divination was performed for *Ọ̀mọ-Òrìṣànlá* (child of *Òrìṣànlá*, the *òrìṣà* of moral sense), who was going to the world of leaders. It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. He moreover did *ọ̀bọ́* for *Òrìṣànlá*, the immense one in white clothing (which symbolizes the effort to maintain cleanness). It was in this manner that he would take good character to develop.

Kò pé; kò jìnnà. Ẹ́ wá bá ẹ̀ni ní jẹ̀bútú ire.

It will not take long; it is not far away. Come join us in plenty of good things.

Extra: By being decent and sincere, one will inspire others to follow one's example of honor.

16.13b *Òfún* (acting with rectitude) helps *Òtúrá* (averting a worrisome situation).

Òfún tọ́ epo lá. Òfún fi ọ̀lẹ̀lẹ̀ bọ́ iyọ́. Òfún nńwá ohun tí ó dùn jẹ.

Òfún touched palm oil to lick. *Òfún* caused a red-bean cake to fall (into) salt. *Òfún* was looking for things that are delicious to eat.

A dífá fún Èṣù, tí fìlọ gbé Epo n'iyàwó. A ní kí wọn wá rúbọ kí wọn má yà ara wọn láílái. Wọn gbọ; wọn rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for Èṣù (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests), who went taking Palm-oil as a wife. It was said that they ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that they might not ever separate from each other. They heard; they did *ẹbọ*.

Extra: Described here is a bond between two persons or things that is as strong as marriage.

Òfún Ìrètẹ̀

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16.14a Òfún (acting with rectitude) helps Ìrètẹ̀ (making one's mark). Òfún (acting with rectitude) is helped by Ìrètẹ̀ (practicing *Ifá*).

Wọn tẹ mi. Mo tún ara mi tẹ.

They (others) initiated me. I initiated myself again. [Note: Here is someone who sees his spiritual initiation as a commitment to God].

A dífá fún Olú-ṣe-ẹsọ. A ní: “Èyítí ó sunwọn fún ayé ni yóò maa wù Olú-ṣe-ẹsọ láti ṣe.” A ní kí ó wá rúbọ kí àwọn ọmọ aráyé baà maa bù iyí fún un. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘Chief exercises gentleness’. It was said: “It is that which is good for the world that will keep pleasing ‘Chief exercises gentleness’ to do.” It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ* so that people of the world may be portioning out respect to him. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*.

Àkóse Ifá: Gbo ewé àgbáyun àti ewé ayìnrẹ sínú omi. Fi omi yìi fún wíwẹ orí rẹ.

Ifá medicine: Juice *àgbáyun* leaves (*Synsepalum dulcificum*: used to make sour things sweet) and *ayìnrẹ* leaves (*Albizia adianthifolia*: used to dispel negative energy) into water. Use this water for cleansing your head.

Extra: One's well-intended efforts may not get the reception that they deserve.

16.14b Òfún (acting with rectitude) hinders Ìrètẹ̀ (unwholesome influences).

Nkan tí ó ṣe ẹni l'ẹ̀kẹkan, kò gbọdọ̀ tún ṣe ẹni l'ẹ̀kẹkẹjì.

A thing that damages us one time, it must not again damage us a second time.

Extra: Do not allow something bad to affect you repeatedly.

Òfún Ọ̀ṣẹ̀

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16.15a Òfún (efforts of limited success) is hindered by Ọ̀ṣẹ̀ (overcoming through joyful optimism).

Àbùkù odò l'ó di àbàtà.

It is the disgrace of a river that it becomes a swamp.

A dífá fún Àbọ̀n-nù nígbàtí ọmọ aráyé ñrò ó pin. Ó ti di arúgbó àti tálákà. Wọn nsọ pé kò ní láárí. Wọn níí í ṣe ẹlẹyà.

Ifá divination was performed for ‘Unripe palm fruit is lost’ when people of the world were writing him off. He had become an old person and a poor person. They (others) were saying that he did not have importance. They were using him to make ridicule.

A ní kí ó wá ʃe ìbọ́ fún Èlà, alátúnʃe ayé, asọ-òrò-di-ayọ. Báyiù ni yóò lè gbilẹ. Báyiù ni wọn òò wá bù ọlá fún un. Ó gbọ; ó ʃe ìbọ.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ìbọ* for *Èlà* (the *òrìṣà* of knowledge and wisdom), the master of improving one’s life in the world, the one who converts trouble into joy. It was in this manner that he would be able to flourish. It was in this manner that they (others) would come portioning out honor to him. He heard; he did *ìbọ*.

Extra: *Ifá* will help you to develop your life potential.

16.15b *Òfún* (acting with rectitude) helps *Òṣẹ* (overcoming trouble).

Òfún kò ʃẹ. Òfún kò rò. Wọn ndúnrunmọ Òfún.

Òfún did not sin. *Òfún* did not scheme. They (others) were falsely accusing *Òfún*.

A dífá fún Òfún, èyítí ó ʃe rere tán, ʃùgbọ́n wọn dì ẹrù ibi lé e.

Ifá divination was performed for *Òfún*, the one who did good things completely, but they (others) tied the load of bad things on him.

A ní kí ó wá rúbọ. Ó gbọ; ó rúbọ. A ʃe àkóse Ifá fún un. Ó ní í rọ orí sùn.

It was said that he ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He heard; he did *ẹbọ*. *Ifá* medicine was made for him. He was using it to pillow (his) head to sleep.

Oore ni mo ʃe. Kí ó má di ọràn s’ọrùn fún mi.

It is an act of goodness that I do. May it not become a ‘pain in the neck’ for me.

Extra: Righteously persevere regardless of how others may respond to your good deeds.

Òfún Méjì

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16.16 *Òfún* (efforts of limited success) is doubled.

Àṣoore àiṣetán ni íjẹ mèlòóríyìn.

It is doing acts of goodness incompletely that is enjoying not many compliments.

Ifá ní ẹnikan wà tí íṣoore. ʃùgbọ́n kí ó ʃe tán kí ó má ʃe ọràn tí yóò ʃe àbàwọn s’órúkọ rẹ. Kí ó wá rúbọ. Kí ó sì wá ʃe ìbọ́ fún Èṣù.

Ifá says that there is someone who is doing acts of goodness. But he ought to do things to completion so that he does not make matters that would make a stain blemish on his name. He ought to come doing *ẹbọ*. He ought moreover to come doing *ìbọ* for *Èṣù* (the *òrìṣà* of opportunity and crossroads tests).

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