



Glossary Terms of the IFA Tradition

Aché: Represents grace, blessing, virtue, and the essence or soul of something.

Addimú: A simple offering of food to the Orisha, ranging from prepared dishes favored by them to individual items like sweets, popcorn, fruits, and rice.

Aleyo: A believer not yet initiated, often attending ceremonies for consultations or to receive the 'mano de Orula' without full belief.

Babalocha (Afro Lucumi)/Babalarisha (Isese): A spiritual father who initiates, guides, supports, and advises another in both their religious and everyday lives.

Iyalocha (Afro Lucumi)/Iyalorisha (Isese): A spiritual mother with similar roles to a Babalocha/Babalarisha, providing initiation, guidance, and support.

Babalawo: A priest of Ifá, responsible for divination and guiding godchildren within the religion.

Camino: Refers to the path or aspect an Oricha might take, indicating their various forms and representations.

Ebbó: A ceremonial act in Santería or Ifá, ranging from offerings and sacrifices to purification rituals aimed at appeasing or invigorating the Orishas.

Derecho: The payment or gift given to an Olorisha or Babalawo for services rendered, including annual tributes to one's godparent.

Oyugbona: The second godparent in an initiation, tasked with most of the care for the initiate during their week-long ceremony.

Regla de Ifá: A sect of male priests devoted to Orula, paralleling the practices of Regla de Ocha but with distinct rituals and beliefs.

Regla de Ocha: Also known as Santería or the Lucumi religion, this term outlines the rules or practices within the faith, encompassing a wide array of deities and priests.

Santo Lavado: A ceremony where an Orisha is prepared and consecrated for an individual's personal use, not involving full priestly initiation.

Sopera: A vessel, typically a soup tureen, used to house the sacred stones representing the Orichás on an altar.

Warriors/Guerreros: Collective term for deities such as Eleguá, Ogun, Ochosi, and sometimes Osun, often received before full initiation into Santería.

Elekes/Collares: Beaded necklaces representing and dedicated to the Orishas.

Ewe: Sacred herbs used in rituals, baths, and cleansings within Ocha and Ifá practices.

Fundamento: The receptacle or container holding an Orisha's secrets, housed within a tureen, basin, or jar.

Ilé: Denotes a house, dwelling, or land.

Iworo: A priest within either Ocha or Ifá traditions.

Kariocha: The ceremony of crowning an individual's guardian Orisha over a seven-day ritual.

Obbá: A Yoruba term for "king," with specific roles defined within Ocha and Ifá for those mastering ceremonial aspects.

Obí: Coconut, used in divination and offerings.



Omó: Refers to a "child" of a specific Orisha, denoting spiritual lineage.

Oñí: Honey, utilized in offerings and rituals.

Oriaté: A knowledgeable and respected master of ceremonies in the rule of Ocha.

Osogbo: Signifies bad luck or setbacks.

Otá or Otan: The sacred stones serving as receptacles for the Orishas' presence.

Owó: Money, wealth, or business.

Padrino/Madrina: Spiritual guides or leaders, often referred to as godfather/godmother.

Patakí: Legends and myths recounting the adventures and teachings of the Orishas.

Epo: Palm oil, commonly used in rituals.

Oti/Aguardiente: A form of liquor or white rum, used in offerings.

Aburé: Friend.

AGÓ: A request for permission.

Itanna/Vela: Candle.

Iyawo: A newly initiated person, traditionally wearing white for a year.

Baba: Father.

Iyá: Mother.

Egun: The ancestral dead.

Estera: A mat, often used in ceremonies.



Funfun/Dundun: White/Black, symbolic colors used in various contexts.

Eni: Egg.

Gbogbo: All.

Igba/Jicara: Containers used in rituals.

Foribale: A salute involving prostration.

Maferéfún: A phrase offering praise or thanks.

Mojuba: A salutation expressing respect.

Omi: Water.

Ori: The seat of consciousness and destiny within an individual.

Leri: Head.

Cascarilla: A powder made from ground eggshells, used in rituals.

Aboricha: A devotee of Orisha, partially initiated through certain ceremonies.

Adimú Orisha: An Orisha given during a ceremony for the recipient to offer ebo, not involving full initiation.

Afoche/Ogu: Terms related to witchcraft.

Ikofafun/Ikofa and Awofakun/Awofaka:** Initiation rites for women and men, respectively, in the mano de Orula.



Greetings

Mofiribale: A gesture of respect, touching the floor with the forehead in honor of Orishas or a consecrated priest, symbolizing devotion.

Maferefun: Expressing praise, thanks, or sharing profits, used in various contexts to show respect and gratitude.

Aleyo Greeting Priest:

Santero/Santera (Crowned Priest): "Bendiciones" (Blessings)

Babalawo (Ifa Priest): "Iboru Iboya Ibosheshe," signifying the acceptance and effectiveness of sacrifices.

