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African Divination Systems Reviewing Reality Afa African Cowrie Shells Divination Ifa Divination African Cowrie Shells Divination African Religions The Book of African Divination Deck Book Set Ifá Divination, Knowledge, Power, and Performance Art and Oracle Sixteen Cowries Pebbles and Deities Afa Generative Rites Divination and Healing Twins in African and Diaspora Cultures Introduction to Ancient Yoruba Divination Systems Religious Encounter and the Making of the Yoruba Mojo Workin' African Oracles in 10 Mi The Book of African Divination The Migrations of Meaning African Spirituality, Politics, and Knowledge Systems Ancient Divination and Experience Witchcraft, Magic and Divination Grasping the Root of Divine Power Africa's Ogun Mambila Divination Divining the Self Art and Oracle Black Magic Divination with Diloggún Knowledge, Belief & Witchcraft African Magic Ifá Religious Beliefs and Knowledge Systems in Africa African Indigenous Knowledge and the Sciences Divining Slavery and Freedom Encyclopedia of African Religion The Sacred Ifa Oracle

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"This volume of finely crafted case studies is also the vehicle for an important general theory of divination.... this is a book overflowing with ideas that will powerfully stimulate further research." -- Journal of Ritual Studies "The essays in this collection provide a very useful overview of both the diversity of African divination systems and of recent approaches to their study." -- Choice This unique collection of essays by an exceptional international group of Africanists demonstrates the central role that divination continues to play throughout Africa in maintaining cultural systems and in guiding human action. African Divination Systems offers insights for current discussions in comparative epistemology, cross-cultural psychology, cognition studies, semiotics, ethnoscience, religious studies, and anthropology. This landmark volume compiled by Jacob K. Olupona and Rowland O. Abiodun brings readers into the diverse world of Ifá—its discourse, ways of thinking, and artistic expression as manifested throughout the Afro-Atlantic. Firmly rooting Ifá within African religious traditions, the essays consider Ifá and Ifá divination from the perspectives of philosophy, performance studies, and cultural studies. They also examine the sacred context, verbal art, and the interpretation of Ifá texts and philosophy. With essays from the most respected scholars in the field, the book makes a substantial contribution toward understanding Ifá and its role in contemporary Yoruba and diaspora cultures. Divining the Self weaves elements of personal narrative, myth, history, and interpretive analysis into a vibrant tapestry that reflects the textured, embodied, and performative nature of scripture and scripturalizing practices. Velma Love examines the Odu—the Yoruba sacred scriptures—along with the accompanying mythology, philosophy, and ritual technologies engaged by African Americans. Drawing from the personal narratives of African American Ifa practitioners along with additional ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Oyotunji African Village, South Carolina, and New York City, Love's work explores the ways in which an ancient worldview survives in modern times. Divining the Self also takes up the challenge of determining what it means for the scholar of religion to study scripture as both text and performance. This work provides an excellent case study of the sociocultural phenomenon of scripturalizing practices. Introduction : beginning to rethink twins / Philip M. Peek -- Twins and double beings among the Bamana and Maninka of Mali / Pascal James Imperato and Gavin H. Imperato -- Twins and intertwinement : reflections on ambiguity and ambivalence in northwestern Namibia / Steven Van Wolputte -- Sustaining the oneness in their twoness : poetics of twin figures (ère ibejì) among the Yoruba / Babatunde Lawal -- "Son dos los jimagüas" ("the twins are two") : worship of the sacred twins in Lucumí religious culture / Ysamur Flores-Pena -- Twins, couples, and doubles and the negotiation of spirit-human identities among the Win / Susan Cooksey -- Double portraits : images of twinning in West African studio photography / C. Angelo Micheli -- Forever liminal : twins among the Kapsiki/Higi of north Cameroon and northeastern Nigeria / Walter E.A. Van Beek -- Snake, bush, and metaphor : twinship among Ubangians / Jan-Lodewijk Grootaers -- Fiction and forbidden sexual fantasy in the culture of Temne twins / Frederick John Lamp -- Embodied dilemma : Tabwa twinship in thought and performance / Allen F. Roberts -- Children of the moon : twins in Luba art and ontology / Mary Nooter Roberts -- Two equals three : twins and the trickster in Haitian vodou / Marilyn Houlberg -- Divine children : the ibejis and the erès in Brazilian candomblé / Stefania Capone -- The ambiguous ordinariness of Yoruba twins / Elisha P. Renne -- Twins, albinos, and vanishing prisoners : a Mozambican theory of political power / Paulo Granjo. Twenty-eight African cultures are represented here by artifacts created to communicate with ancestors, spirits, and gods, about such issues as

health, conception, and determination of guilt or innocence. Issued in conjunction with an April-July 2000 exhibit at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, this catalog contains extensive ethnographic, descriptive, and interpretive text in connection with each of 50 pictured pieces, as well as a 13-page essay about divination in Sub-Saharan Africa (by John Pemberton III) and an introductory essay by LaGamma. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR For more than 1000 years, the Yoruba of Nigeria have planned their lives, found true love, and learned their destiny through a vibrant and poetic fortune-telling system. African Oracles in 10 Minutes puts the power of these ancient methods in your hands. Sensing the strong link between sexual and spiritual energy, the Yoruba have traditionally explored both male and female paths to wisdom. You can choose to follow either the "White Cotton Road," which women have relied on for centuries, or the "Melon Seed Road," favored by men. Each path offers more than 250 readings that are both relevant to modern life and faithful to the spirit of the original systems. All you need are 16 objects -- coins, shells, beads or dried beans -- to get instant answers to yes or no questions as well as in-depth readings on more profound considerations. African Oracles in 10 Minutes provides both a fascinating glimpse of Yoruban spiritualism and a time-honored method for unlocking the secrets of the past and revealing the destiny that awaits you. Delve into the Yoruba people's Ifá religion and build a strong understanding of their 8,000-year-old divination system. Have you ever wondered where the Yoruba people came from and where they are now? Are you interested in exploring their historical and cultural heritage? Have you ever heard of the Ifá religion before and found yourself intrigued? The Yoruba people's history is somewhat mysterious, but they will happily tell you that they are from the Nile Valley. That is partially true, and you will find out why as we explore the origins of the Yoruba and how they eventually settled in what is today called Yorubaland in Africa. In this book, you will: Find out who the Yoruba are Understand how Ifá is the touchstone of the Yoruba Read up on the Sixteen Commandments of Ifá Understand the role of divination in the Ifá religion Learn more about the role of wisdom and intellect in the practice of Ifá Expose yourself to the Ifá Creation narrative Learn about the origin of divination Understand why Olodumare (the Creator God) is distant from Creation Find out more about the goal of Ifá; the continual restoration of relationships and the realization of Olodumare's original vision for the Creation Learn who the Orisha are Learn who the Ajogun are Understand the meaning of the Seven African Powers Learn more about different tools of Ifá divination Understand how divination casting works and what it's intended to accomplish Find out what Ori is Find out what Ashé is You'll be taken through the first four sections of the Odù Ifá and provided with the energetic profiles and roles of the four Odus in each one. Ifá divination is a complex and layered subject. That is no surprise, considering how the faith has been around for 8,000 years. In this book, you'll find a detailed overview of historical realities and the philosophical and ethical framework of Ifá, with divination and its meaning to followers as the centerpiece. So, click the "add to cart" button and discover the sophisticated divination system at the center of one of the world's oldest religions and how it guides and transforms the followers of Ifá. Divination is an important feature of cultures all over the world. While some may still question the efficacy of divination systems, they continue to serve their communities by diagnosing ailments, prescribing healing treatments, and solving problems. Yet despite their universality, there are relatively few comprehensive studies of divination systems. This volume seeks to fill this gap regarding the use of divination in healing. Here some of the world's leading authorities draw on their own fieldwork and participation in ritual to present detailed case studies, demonstrating that divination rituals can have therapeutic effects. As the contributors examine the systems of knowledge that divination articulates and survey the varieties of divinatory experience, they seek to analyze divination as an epistemological system, as a social process, and as a therapeutic endeavor. While some of their findings reinforce traditional assumptions about the importance of social control, spirit relations, and community support in the divination process, the authors place these considerations within new epistemological frameworks that emphasize the use of alternative modes of knowing. In this wide-ranging volume, readers will find coverage of classic Ifa systems; Buddhist-influenced shamanic practices in the former Soviet Union; the reconciliation of Muslim beliefs and divinatory practices in Thailand; Native American divination used in diagnosis; Maya calendrical divination in Guatemala; mediumistic and chicken oracle divination among the Sukuma of Tanzania; Ndembu divination, focusing on the process of collective healing; and divination among the Samburu (Maasai) of Kenya, featuring dialogues from actual healing sessions. Together, these contributions argue for new perspectives on the study of divination that emphasize not only the epistemological roots of these systems but also their multifaceted therapeutic functions. Divination and Healing is a rich source of both data and insight for scholars of ritual, religion, medical anthropology, and the psychology of altered states of consciousness. This landmark work of ethnography explores the enduring, global worship of the African god of war—with five new essays in this new, expanded edition. Ogun—the ancient African god of iron, war, and hunting—is worshiped by more than forty million adherents in Western Africa, the Caribbean, and the Americas. This rich, interdisciplinary collection draws on field research from several continents to reveal Ogun's dramatic power and enduring appeal. Contributors examine the history and spread of Ogun throughout old and new worlds; the meaning of Ogun ritual, myth, and art; and the transformations of Ogun through the deity's various manifestations. This edition includes five new essays focusing mainly on Ogun worship in the new world. "[A]n ethnographically rich contribution to the historical understanding of West African culture, as well as an exploration of the continued vitality of that culture in the changing environments of the Americas." —African Studies Review Explores the essence of life by means of the ancient African divination tool, which is also the spiritual foundation of Candomblé, Santería, and Vodun "Understanding contemporary African Indigenous people necessitates an approach that incorporates ways of knowing congruent with Indigenous relationships to knowledge production. Balancing between two worlds of knowledge of production, this study provides an emic autoethnography of shamanic experiential learning with the context of an Indigenous research paradigm. The relationships between African Divination Systems, shamanic learning, emergent Indigenous methods, collective healing and multiple ways of seeing are described. Decolonizing the researcher becomes a holistic direct action as therapeutic adventure storytelling is interwoven with dreamtime and cultural performativity to generate avenues for divination in methods and experiential programming."--leaf ii. Discover the Cowrie Shells and Learn How to Read the Messages of Ifá and the Higher Spiritual Planes Divination with cowrie shells is one of the oldest known spiritual practices in the world. Originated by the Yoruba people of West Africa, cowrie shell divination is a powerful technique for connecting to the wisdom of ancestors, spirits, and deities. This book shares the history of cowrie shell divination and shows you how to open the portals of spiritual communication with the shells and related divination systems, such as cola nuts and coconuts. Written by a long-time practitioner, African Cowrie Shells Divination provides the meaning of the sixteen shell combinations as well as tips and variations for readings based on the specific question being asked. Discover the powerful messages of the Orishas and the mystical divination techniques of Candomblé, Santería, and other traditions of the African diaspora. Explore the instructive stories known as patakís and apply their guidance to your life. The cowrie shells are sacred magical tools. With the history, theories, and hands-on instructions in this guide, you will learn how the shells can be used to answer your most important questions and achieve your true destiny. In this book, Katrina Hazzard-Donald explores African Americans' experience and practice of the herbal, healing folk belief tradition known as Hoodoo. Working against conventional scholarship, Hazzard-Donald argues that Hoodoo emerged first in three distinct regions she calls "regional Hoodoo clusters" and that after the turn of the nineteenth century, Hoodoo took on a national rather than regional profile. The first interdisciplinary examination to incorporate a full glossary of Hoodoo culture, Mojo Workin': The Old African American Hoodoo System lays out the movement of Hoodoo against a series of watershed changes in the American cultural landscape. Throughout, Hazzard-Donald distinguishes between "Old tradition Black Belt Hoodoo" and commercially marketed forms that have been controlled, modified, and often fabricated by outsiders; this study focuses on the hidden system operating almost exclusively among African Americans in the Black spiritual underground. A Metropolitan Museum of Art Publication In many of sub-Saharan Africa's culturally diverse societies, divination rituals—and the creative forms of expression designed to advance these quests—continue to profoundly influence decisions that affect the future. The catalogue for an exhibition organized by the Rietberg Museum in Zurich and The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, this publication marks the first time many of the classic icons of African art history have been considered as the products of a common source of inspiration, enabling the reader to appreciate the complex relationship between artistic imagination and ritual power. Exploring such divinatory systems as those of the Azande, Luba, Yaka, Yoruba, and Malagasy, Art and Oracle takes a cross-cultural look at 200 works, 50 pictured in full color, from the world's premier collections of African art, considering them both for their artistry and as mediums through which divine insights may be revealed. This book connects traditional religions to the thriving religious activity in Africa today. The book connects the logic and histories of religion, ideology and indigenous beliefs to



but also exacerbate, anxiety in practitioners and consultants. Africa's traditional beliefs - including ancestor worship, divination and witchcraft - continue to dominate its spiritual influences. Readers in search of a better understanding of the continent will be enriched by this book's timely exploration of sub-Saharan Africa's natural philosophy. The author's meticulous research reveals that, whereas technology-driven Western societies prefer to rely largely on logical explanations, many Africans continue to obey their intuition - trusting in images, dreams and divination to rationalise misfortune and illness. African Magic explains why so many Africans understand the relationship between people and unfortunate events not through the Western concept of chance in the case of accidents, or germ theory in the case of illness, but through belief in witchcraft. The book records a collection of true stories which illustrate this traditional belief system. Included are the famous Malawian diviner whose prophecies were considered so accurate that people flocked from neighbouring countries to consult him; a group of Western-trained Mozambican psychologists who successfully refined cross-cultural therapy by working with traditional healers to combat post-traumatic stress syndrome among child soldiers; Ghanaian and Zimbabwean 'witches' living in a nightmare world where popular belief becomes their reality; and a Zambian archbishop whose attempt to embrace traditional African beliefs provoked serious conflict within his Christian church. "Grasping the Root of Divine Power" clarifies the fundamental concepts used in any occult system. The work pulls mainly from West African tradition but, is brought up to date using modern examples and guides for immediate application. The rarely taught nine position OBI divination system is shared and author HRU Assaan-ANU provides an approach of implementing this ancient oracle that will intrigue the novice and advanced student of divination. "Grasping the Root of Divine Power" covers the major Orisha in the West African tradition but, also shows their modern day and cross-geographical/cultural counterparts. After reading this work you'll be able to look at avant-garde figures of notoriety, as well, as your intimate ones and immediately decipher what Orisha or cosmic archetype they spawn from. This only scratches the surface of what is imparted in this potent work. From crab divination in the Cameroon to friction oracles in the Congo Basin, from reading cast objects in Mozambique to spirit possession in Cote d'Ivoire, from Sudanese ebony diviners to South African Xhosa healers, divination systems throughout Africa serve their communities by answering questions and resolving problems. Divination helps people chart a course in their lives through a deeper understanding of past and present. This important book reveals the extraordinary diversity and complexity of African divination systems, focusing on self-knowledge, social reality, and intercultural and historical relations. (Series: African Studies / Afrikanische Studien - Vol. 50) Discover Divination with Diloggún, one of the oldest known spiritual practice in the world. This book details the rich history of coconut and cowrie shell divination and introduces readers to its powerful technique that allows them to connect to the wisdom of ancestors, spirits, and deities. It invites readers to follow its origins with the West African Yoruba people to lands as far away as Brazil, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. Learn about the divination systems, the meaning behind the sixteen cowrie shell combinations, the powerful messages of the Orishas and the great mystical divination techniques of these sacred magical tools. Inside you'll find: Where West African cowrie-shell divinations are found What Diloggun divination is The Obi divination And more! The history, hands-on instructions, and theories outlined in this book will teach you how to use the shells to answer your questions and ultimately achieve your true destiny if you so desire. Focusing on the three leading religious traditions in Africa (African Traditional Religion, Islam, and Christianity), this book shows how belief in the supremacy of sacred words compels actions and influences practices in contemporary Africa. "Sacred words" are taken to mean holy texts as in divination, the Quran and the Bible. Toyin Falola evaluates how religious leaders engage with sacred words, both orals and texts, engendering practices that reveal the expression of religious beliefs, the impact of those beliefs, and the knowledge contained in them. Attention is given to the key ideas in the words chosen by religious leaders, and how they form a continuous knowledge system, impacting the politics of managing society and people. This is the only analysis of indigenous discourse about an African belief system undertaken within the framework of Anglo-American analytical philosophy. Among the Ngas, Mupun and Mwaghavul, divination is an important agent of mediation between the spirit and human realms. This study examines Pa divination among these three little-known Chadic-speaking ethnic groups on the Jos Plateau in central Nigeria. It is a phenomenological and anthropological work which focuses on the role of pebbles and deities as main symbols. In addition, it provides an analysis of general classifications of divination, with special emphasis on divination with sixteen basic figures to which Pa belongs. In a comparative study of Pa patterns, the author discusses the mythology, taxonomy, theology and ritual framework of this system. He develops a phenomenology of Pa and places it within the wider perspective of African divination systems. Among other things, the study provides insights into the role of binary opposition modes, oracular speech, gender relations, colour symbolism, animal imageries and hermeneutics in divination. This book offers a major contribution to the study and analysis of divination, based on continuing fieldwork with the Mambila in Cameroon. It seeks to return attention to the details of divinatory practice, using the questions asked and life histories to help understand the perspective of the clients rather than that of the diviners. Drawing on a corpus of more than 600 cases, David Zeitlyn reconsiders theories of divination and compares Mambila spider divination with similar systems in the area. A detailed case study is examined and analysed using conversational analytic principles. The regional comparison considers different kinds of explanation for different features of social organization, leading to a discussion of the continuing utility of moderated functionalism. The book will be of interest to area specialists and scholars concerned with religion, rationality, and decision-making from disciplines including anthropology, African studies, and philosophy. ". . . a landmark in research of African oral traditions." —African Arts ". . . a significant contribution to the understanding of Yoruba religious belief, magic, and art." —Journal of Religion in Africa Yoruba texts and English translations of a divination system that originated in Nigeria and is widely practiced today by male and female diviners in the diaspora. A landmark edition. "The sacred texts of Ifa, repository of the accumulated wisdom of countless generations of Yoruba people, are an invaluable source not only for all students of African oral literature and Yoruba civilization, but also for future generations interested in the continuing vitality of Ifa divination and a Yoruba way of life and thought." —Henry Drewal This landmark study of Ifa, the most important and elaborate system of divination of the Yoruba people of Nigeria, remains a monumental contribution to scholarship in anthropology, folklore, religion, philosophy, linguistics, and African and African-American studies.

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