



ILE ISE EJIIOGBE IFA TEMPLE

NEWSLETTER

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Bringing the Wisdom of IFA to Improve Our Daily Lives

Osun Brings Healing to African Women



Osun, the Mother of Abundance, blesses all who came before her with her powerful healing waters

The Spirit of Osun

“Sa woro Yeye Osun, Eki Yeye o. Sa woro Yeye Osun Eba mi ki Yeye”, the crowd chanted, louder and louder – “Please help me to greet Osun well, the Benevolent Mother”. As the crowds chanting reached a crescendo, the spirit of Osun descended upon those gathered at the Gallery of Events in Baltimore, Md. on Sunday June 3, 2001. Throughout the ceremony, Osun distributed gifts of healing, spiritual abundance, physical abundance, and goodwill. Touching all of those in attendance, the spirit of Osun implored her devotees to remain “pure in heart”. Those in attendance could not deny the power of her timeless message. The Benevolent Mother came to heal and uplift the spirits of African women.

From start to finish, the mood of Osun’s festival was celebratory. Osun’s shrine was adorned with white, gold, yellow, and an abundance of fruit, honey, and traditional items associated with Osun. Osun’s healing waters were prominently displayed and used to heal and comfort both men and women. Osun did not discriminate in distributing her Blessings. Men, women, and children lined up to be touched by her graceful and healing hands.

Alade Osinnido Akinyele, Chief Priest of Ile Ise Ejiogbe Ifa Temple, relayed the message of the festival, which highlighted the importance of giving of oneself. This message of giving was echoed by Nana Ama Operabeah, Chief Priestess of the Circle of Light, a notable Akan priestess. Nana Ama’s presence was significant because it highlighted the commonality that links traditional faiths. In addition to Nana Ama’s



African women dancing and celebrating the blessings of Osun

presence, the attendants were graced with the spiritual drumming of Olufunmilayo, Akan priestess and master drummer. As well as the drumming of Olufunmilayo, there was the Ifa Temple's own Ogunbayo Aloyinlapa, master bata drummer who worked the crowd into a frenzied and joyful mood as they celebrated the gifts of Osun.

Singing and dancing marked the festival and many people reported sharing a feeling of joy. The evening culminated in good food, including traditional Egusi stew, iyan (pounded yam), fried plantain, and traditional Liberian spinach prepared by the tasty hand of Mama Tunde Akinyele, Chief Priestess of Ile Ise Ejiogbe Ifa Temple. Lively conversations abounded as the celebrants basked in the glow of Osun's radiance. Osun's festival ended with a closing prayer and well wishes for all. Ase! Ase! Ase!

The Story of Osun

Mother of Abundance, Healer of African Women

In the beginning, before the lands – when the world was a mass of water and sea, Olodumare, the Great Creator, who sits up high in heaven and the sky, sent his children, the Irunmole to create the earth. He sent Ogun. He sent Obatala. He sent all of his children – and last but hardly least, He sent Osun. They were all prepared to do their work. Osun asked, "What do you want me to do?" They laughed. Now everyone was wondering, "What is Osun doing here? This is men's work. See how small and young she is. Certainly, she cannot help us. What is she doing here?" Osun waited.

So, the Orisa all proceeded to do their work. They commenced lifting, building, hemming, hawing, huffing and puffing. They worked long into the night and patted themselves on the back for their hard work. However, unbeknownst to the other Irunmole, Osun, the wise mother that she is, proceeded to take her matter directly to Olodumare.

"*Ki ni mo se?*" She implored to Olodumare. "What have I

done? I went to earth only to help and they cast me aside. *E jowo*. Please help me?" Olodumare replied. "Ha! Do not worry. You are a mother, the original mother. They can do nothing without you. Does your womb not produce life?" "*Beni*" Osun responded. "Well, then just wait. They will be begging for your help". With that Osun strapped her child to her back and was on her way.

The next morning Osun and the 400 Irunmole arrived for another day of work. Again, Osun asked to help. Again, the other Irunmole laughed. However, their laughs of humor quickly turned to yells of incredulity. "YEEEEEEEEEEEE!" They cried. Everything was spoiled. The tools – broken, their work – dashed. Everything was turned upside down. The mountains they had worked so long and hard to make were now mud. The grass was so much fodder.

"Come," one said. "Let us go. This is just a one-day thing. Let us begin anew. We are Irunmole. We are strong. Nothing can stop us." Again Osun asked to be included. Again, she was refused. This scenario went on for several days. Each day became more flabbergasting than the first. Finally, the Irunmole had had it. Enough was enough. They appealed to the Owner of the Sky. "We plant the crops, the crops fail, the mountains turn to mud, and oh the bickering." Olorun was thoughtful. He said, "Did you ask Osun?" Osun? Who was Osun? They had to pause for a minute. Finally, it dawned on them who Olorun was referring to. "Her!" They exclaimed. How could *she* help *them*? They were strong. They were powerful. She was a woman. Olodumare simply replied, "She is your mother." The Irunmole were humbled. With grace and charm, Osun, appeared, tied her baby to her back and led the way back to Earth with the powerful Irunmole in tow. Henceforth, whenever there was work to be done the Irunmole always made sure to propitiate their mother – and all was right with the world. The moral of the story is: ***Man can do nothing without Woman!***

Osun is an Aje, a powerful mother. She makes life worth living. She is one of the original 401 Irunmole who came from heaven to earth. She is also the only female Irunmole. As, such she holds tremendous power. She has her own Ase that comes directly from Olodumare. She turns losses into gains. She overcomes negativity with beauty. Osun is hard working. Among her titles are *Osun Alade Okin* (*She who wears the fanciful crown of peacock feathers*) and *Osun Seegesi* (*Osun the owner of the beaded comb*). Osun makes life worth living.

Sango De Oko Oyao Agbena Genge Sango De O

Uplifting Sango to overcome challenges



Sango! Alaafin of Oyo

Ile Ise Ejiogbe Ifa Temple began its week long festivities to uplift the name of Sango with a prayer session on July 14, 2001. Ifa Temple members and community members alike attended the prayer session to celebrate the name of Sango and to enhance their ability to overcome challenges. The powerful spirit of Sango was present and he blessed adults and children with a touch of his machete.

Sango's machete has the power to heal or to instill fear. However, traditionally Sango wields a double-sided axe in which one side represents truth and the other side represents justice. Sango is the deity of thunder and lightning. He is the father of Ibeji (twins), the owner of the bata drum and the king of the dance. Sango is the husband of Oya and it is said that Sango cannot accomplish anything without the support of his wife Oya. Sango is the mighty Alaafin of Oyo.



The shrine of Sango



Sango comes and gives blessings with the touch of his machete.

On Saturday July 21, 2001 our sister temple Ile Egoke of Wilmington, Delaware sponsored a festival to Sango. The festival began with a tribute to the Ancestors. The Egungun Masquerade attracted many onlookers and many in the surrounding areas came out and joined the tribute to the Egungun. As the festival continued the power of the drummers led by Mustapha Ogunbayo Aloyinlapa drove everyone to join a dance to Sango. The esteemed elder Twins Seven Seven led the group in



Master Drummer Mustapha Ogunbayo Aloyinlapa

songs to Sango and also provided translations for the traditional songs. Ile Egoke under the leadership of Olorisha Olakunle was a gracious host in uplifting the name of Sango.

Sango De Oko Oyao
Agbena Genge Sango De O

Sango comes, husband of Oya
Person who carries fire playfully
Sango.

**Ile Ise Ejiogbe Ifa Temple
Associate Membership Drive**

The mission of the Ifa Temple is to establish, build, cultivate, and develop an Ifa community of people with good character and integrity

***We invite you to
be a part of our mission***

Come and learn about the spiritual, cultural and social aspects of practicing African-Centeredness within contemporary society

Associate Membership benefits:

- Ile Ise Ejiogbe Ifa Temple Bi-monthly Newsletter
- Announcements on Upcoming Cultural Events – Festivals to Orisa, Seminars & Conferences
- Discounts on Spiritual Products
- Ongoing opportunities to learn about traditional Ifa / Orisa faith and worship and African culture

***Ile Ise Ejiogbe Ifa Temple
Upcoming Events***

Ifa Festival Uplifting Ifa, Orisa and the Ancestors	September, 2001* Baltimore, MD
Olokun Festival	October, 2001* Baltimore, MD
Egungun Festival	November, 2001* Baltimore, MD
Esu Festival	December, 2001* Philadelphia, PA

Dates, times and specific locations to be announced.

Osun Healing Water

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Ile Ise Ejiogbe ifa Temple in Washington, DC and
Wisdom Book Shop in Baltimore, MD*

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Your continued contributions towards the mission of the Ile Ise Ejiogbe Ifa Temple in helping us build our spiritual and cultural community are greatly appreciated.

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	\$100 _____
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All donations will go to our building fund and to sponsoring our festivals and community events.

Please make checks payable to: Ile Ise Ejiogbe Ifa Temple