

# **Sacred Words and Rites of Òrìṣàfẹ́**

A Guide to the Prayers and Rituals of the Divine Feminine

First Edition, 2024

This holy text serves as a guide to followers of Òrìṣàfẹ́, the belief in the Divine Feminine. A core tenet of Òrìṣàfẹ́ is the honoring of Olorun as the universal Mother, through the divine feminine aspects of the Orishas: Oshun, Yemaya, Oya, Oba, and Yewa. Through its teachings, devotees can find purpose, comfort, and a sense of connectedness to all of creation. It honors the divine feminine and instills a deep respect for the interconnectedness of all things, teaching love, harmony, and balance as the path to spiritual growth and understanding.

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## Hail Olorun The Mother Divine

O Thou, the womb of the cosmos, from which all life springs,  
In the heavens, in the earth, and in the unseen depths, Thy name is  
hallowed.

Thy kingdom of love and light is among us.

Thy will, the nurturing pulse of life, unfolds in all dimensions, visible and  
invisible.

As above, so below.

Provide us with our sustenance for today,

Nourish our bodies, our souls, and all of creation with Thy abundance.

Forgive our transgressions, as a mother forgives her children,

As we learn to forgive those who have transgressed against us.

Lead us into the path of wisdom and light, away from ignorance,

Shield us from negativity, the inner and outer forces that distract us from Thy  
divine presence.

For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

From the primordial past, through the present, and into the eternal future.

We are born from Thee, live in Thee, and unto Thee we shall return,  
As all in the Universe is united in the circle of life

### Invocation of the Orishas

In the boundless tapestry of space and time,  
We call upon Thee, O Orishas,  
Orishas of the shimmering cosmos, root of all existence,  
You who have been known by a thousand names across a thousand cultures.

Yemaya, life-bringer, nurturing us from the fertile earth,  
Oya, the transformative force, gracing us with the wisdom of change,  
Oshun, of love and beauty, teaching us the poetry of the heart.  
Oba, of comfort and wealth, teaching us to be generous to others.  
Yewa, of death and purity, teaching us to the cycle of life is never-ending.

Great Orishas, we behold Your grandeur in the rustle of the leaves,  
In the hush of the moonlit night, in the whisper of the flowing rivers,  
Your voices echoes in the majesty of the mountains,  
Your spirits flickers in the dance of the northern lights.

In Your boundless love, we find our strength,

In Your infinite wisdom, we find our purpose,  
In Your eternal peace, we find our solace.

O Mighty Orishas, in every breath, we honor You,  
In every act of kindness, we serve You,  
In every pursuit of truth, we seek You.

You are the Divine Feminine, the Orishas of every aspect of creation,  
From whom Olorun, Mother of the Universe, all life springs,  
Across eons, cultures, and galaxies, You remain ever-present, ever-nurturing.

In the name of Orishas,  
We invoke Thee,  
Guide us, nurture us, unite us under Your divine love,  
For in the grandeur of the cosmos, we are but Your humble children.

So it is, and so shall it be. In Your many names, we pray.

### Sign of the Divine Maternity

In the Òrìṣàfé tradition, the sign of the faith, often referred to as the "Sign of the Divine Maternity," can be performed as follows:

*Foot of the Divine:* Start by gently placing your hand upon the foot of the statue or picture of the Orisha or Orishas. This gesture signifies grounding

and connection with the earthly realm, recognizing the power of the Orisha as the foundation of all life.

*Lips:* After touching the foot, raise your hand to your lips, lightly brushing them. This action is meant to symbolize the Orisha's wisdom, grace, and divine speech; we show our intention to speak truthfully, compassionately, and purposefully.

*Forehead:* Next, guide your hand from your lips to your forehead, gently touching the center. This action signifies enlightenment and the Orisha's wisdom permeating your thoughts. It represents our desire for spiritual growth, insight, and divine guidance.

*Heart:* Finally, lower your hand slowly to your heart or the middle of your chest, where you lay it flat over your heart area. This movement stands for love, compassion, and the divine love the Orisha has for all beings. It's also an acknowledgment of the Orisha's presence within our hearts.

While performing these actions, gently bow or curtsy before the altar, a humble and reverent acknowledgement of the Orisha's presence. Close your eyes and visualize the Orisha and Olorun as the life-giving essence pervading the Universe, extending her blessings to you and all beings.

After concluding the Sign of the Divine Maternity, stay in the bowed or curtsied position for a moment, keeping your hand over your heart, as you silently meditate on the Orisha's love and grace. This practice is meant to enhance your connection with the Orisha and embody her qualities in your everyday life. Remember, this sign is not merely a sequence of movements but a profound spiritual practice meant to foster a deeper connection with the Orishas, the nurturing force of the Universe.

## Reflections on Òrìṣàfé



## Reflections on The Divine Feminine as the Universal Mother

Òrìṣàfẹ́ signifies a spiritual belief system recognizing the Divine Feminine as the Ultimate Source - Olorun as the Mother of the Universe. This system posits that the ultimate cosmic force, through the five orishas Yemaya, Oya, Oshun, Obba, and Yewa, are the embodiments of maternal divinity.

Òrìṣàfẹ́ is not a new concept. From the dawn of human spiritual and religious experience, we find numerous Goddess figures symbolizing life, fertility, wisdom, and nature. This belief in a divine, universal mother, as we will see, pervades cultures and epochs, highlighting the universal appeal and intrinsic human tendency to perceive and acknowledge the nurturing aspect of the divine.

From ancient civilizations to the present day, the maternal aspect of the divine has been depicted and revered in a myriad of forms.

In the oldest known human cultures, Goddesses representing fertility and maternity were common, symbolizing life's birth and sustenance. Ancient cultures like the Sumerians worshipped Goddesses like Inanna, the Goddess of love, beauty, sex, war, justice, and political power. In Egypt, Isis was revered as the ideal mother and wife and as the patroness of nature and magic.

In the Greek pantheon, Gaia was the personification of the Earth and the ancestral mother of all life. Hindus revere a multitude of goddesses, such as Durga, Kali, and Lakshmi, each symbolizing different aspects of life and the universe. Even within monotheistic religions, the divine feminine is present: in Christianity, the veneration of Mary as the Mother of God carries echoes of this belief.

The fundamental doctrine of Òrìṣàfẹ́ views the divine feminine as the creative force that brings life into being. Just as a biological mother gives birth, nourishes, and cares for her children, so too the Universal Mother is seen to create, maintain, and transform the universe.

This belief system seeks to balance the historically dominant masculine representations of God. In Òrìṣàfẹ́, divinity is not confined to gender, but encompasses all aspects of existence, reflecting the unity and wholeness of life.

The practices in Òrìṣàfẹ́ vary across cultures and individual interpretations. Still, the common thread is the reverence of the divine feminine through rituals, prayers, art, dance, and music. These practices may involve invoking the blessings of the Orishas, offering gratitude, seeking guidance, and celebrating the divine feminine's numerous aspects.

Òrìṣàfẹ́ is not prescriptive, but it is deeply personal and transformative. It encourages a personal relationship with the divine feminine, nurtured through meditation, prayer, and introspection.

By recognizing the nurturing, compassionate, and loving aspects of divinity, Òrìṣàfẹ́ can have profound ethical and social implications. It promotes values such as compassion, empathy, care for the natural world, and the importance of community and mutual support. It challenges patriarchal structures, seeking a more balanced representation of the divine and, by extension, more balanced societal structures.

Òrìṣàfẹ́ is a profound spiritual paradigm that recognizes the divine feminine's fundamental role in the creation and sustenance of the universe. By recognizing the Orishas in all their forms, it fosters a sense of interconnectedness, nurtures compassion and empathy, and inspires a reverence for life in all its forms. As we move into the future, the teachings of Òrìṣàfẹ́ can guide us towards a more balanced, compassionate, and sustainable world.

#### [Reflections on Offerings to the Orishas](#)

Òrìṣàfẹ́ recognizes the divine essence of femininity as a fundamental aspect of the divine. It embraces the feminine attributes of creativity, nurturing, compassion, and transformative power.

Offerings serve as tangible expressions of gratitude, devotion, and surrender to the Orishas. They acknowledge the divine presence and our connection to the cosmic motherhood.

Offerings establish a reciprocal relationship between the worshipper and the Orishas. They symbolize a mutual exchange of love and care, deepening the spiritual bond between the devotee and the divine.

Flowers are often regarded as sacred symbols of beauty, purity, and transience. Presenting fresh flowers to the Orishas signifies our admiration and acknowledgment of her divine grace.

Burning incense or offering fragrant substances symbolizes the diffusion of positive energy and divine presence. The sweet-smelling fragrance represents our desire to purify and uplift our surroundings in the presence of the Orishas.

Preparing and offering food to the Orishas is a way to provide nourishment and sustenance. These offerings symbolize the act of sharing and the belief that the divine consumes the essence of our offerings.

Offerings can also include ritual objects like sacred jewelry, symbols, or artworks. These objects hold symbolic significance and can be offered to the Orishas as expressions of devotion and creativity.

### *Rituals and Practices:*

**Purity and Cleansing:** Before making offerings, it is essential to cleanse oneself physically and mentally. This can be done through rituals like bathing, meditation, or chanting mantras to purify the mind and invoke positive intentions.

**Setting Sacred Space:** Create a dedicated sacred space for offerings, such as an altar or a shrine. Decorate it with flowers, candles, and images of the Orishas to establish a serene and spiritually charged environment.

**Mantras and Chants:** Chanting sacred mantras and hymns dedicated to the Orishas can enhance the vibrational energy during offerings. These mantras invoke divine blessings and create a deeper connection with cosmic motherhood.

**Meditation and Prayer:** Engage in meditation and prayer before and after offering rituals. It allows for a direct communion with the Orishas, fostering a profound spiritual experience and strengthening the bond of love and devotion.

Offerings in Òrìṣàfẹ play a significant role in expressing gratitude, devotion, and establishing a profound connection with the Orishas. Through the act of offering, we honor the divine feminine energy and recognize its influence in our lives. By understanding the significance of offerings and following appropriate rituals, we can deepen our spiritual journey and experience the transformative power of the Orishas's love and compassion.

### **Prayer to Give an Offering to the Holy Mother**

Orishas, Source of All,

To You, I humbly bow and call.

In the sacred name of Orishas,

I offer my love and seek your wisdom and valor .

[Reflections on The Significance and Power of Icons in Òrìṣàfẹ: A Tribute to the Divine Feminine](#)

Icons in Òrìṣàfẹ serve as powerful symbols that embody the divine qualities of the feminine principle. They are visual representations that allow worshippers to connect with and experience the divine presence of the Orishas. Through their forms, icons evoke a sense of awe, reverence, and

recognition of the sacredness inherent in the feminine aspects of the cosmos.

Icons act as conduits for spiritual connection and contemplation. They invite individuals to go beyond the physical realm and delve into the depths of the divine. When gazing upon an icon, practitioners of Òrìṣàfé engage in meditative practices, prayer, or silent reflection. Icons provide a focal point for concentration, enabling individuals to deepen their understanding, experience inner peace, and establish a direct communion with the divine feminine. They are seen as windows to the transcendental reality and catalysts for spiritual transformation.

Icons play an essential role in creating sacred spaces within Òrìṣàfé. Temples, shrines, or altars are adorned with icons, becoming sanctuaries dedicated to the divine feminine. These spaces serve as gathering points for communal worship, ceremonies, and rituals. Icons act as a visual reminder of the divine presence, inspiring reverence, devotion, and collective spiritual experiences. Through rituals such as offerings, incantations, and prayers, worshippers express their gratitude, seek guidance, and establish a deep connection with the Mother of the Universe.

Icons within Òrìṣàfé communicate through a symbolic language, encapsulating profound spiritual concepts, myths, and archetypes. Each icon carries layers of meaning and cultural significance. Symbols such as lotus flowers, serpents, celestial bodies, or maternal figures embody specific qualities, energies, or aspects of the divine feminine. Icons serve as a visual vocabulary, transmitting ancient wisdom, guiding personal transformation, and fostering a deeper understanding of the universe's interconnectedness.

Icons within Òrìṣàfé hold transformative potential, offering empowerment and healing to individuals. Worshippers often turn to icons in times of need, seeking solace, guidance, and spiritual nourishment. Icons of Orishas associated with compassion, protection, or wisdom provide a source of strength, inspiration, and comfort. Through devotion and sincere connection with these icons, individuals can experience personal growth, emotional

healing, and a sense of empowerment, embracing their own innate divine qualities.

Within the spiritual practice of Òrìṣàfé, icons serve as sacred gateways, connecting individuals with the divine feminine and offering a path to transcendence. They symbolize the inherent power and wisdom of the Mother of the Universe and act as tangible reminders of the sacredness within all creation. Through icons, practitioners of Òrìṣàfé cultivate a deep and meaningful relationship with the divine, invoking transformative experiences, nurturing spirituality, and embracing the eternal bond between the human and the divine.

*Prayer to Bless an Icon*

Orishas of the Universe,

In reverence and love, we gather before your sacred icon,

A symbol of your eternal presence and boundless grace.

As Òrìṣàfés, we recognize your divine essence,

The nurturing force that encompasses all creation.

We beseech you, Divine Orishas, to bless this sacred icon,

Infusing it with your divine energy and blessings profound.

May its presence radiate your divine light and wisdom,

Touching the hearts of all who gaze upon it with devotion.

## Reflections on The Duality of Good and Evil within Òrìṣàfẹ́: Exploring the Worship of the Orishas

Central to Òrìṣàfẹ́ is the belief that Olorun is the primordial source of creation, the ultimate progenitor of all life and existence. As the nurturing and life-giving force, she represents the pinnacle of goodness and benevolence. In this aspect, the Orishas are associated with virtues such as compassion, love, fertility, and protection. The worship of the Orishas offers devotees solace, guidance, and a sense of security, fostering a profound connection with the divine feminine.

In Òrìṣàfẹ́, the Orishas are not limited to their nurturing aspects but also encompasses the paradoxical force of destruction. This destructive facet is not inherently evil but rather serves as a necessary part of the cosmic cycle. Destruction and creation are intertwined, forming a continuous cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. The destructive aspect of the Orishas symbolizes the necessary dissolution of old forms to make way for new possibilities and growth. Through destruction, she brings forth transformation and renewal, paving the way for progress and evolution.

Within the worship of the Orishas, there is a recognition of the darker aspects of existence. The Shadow, or the darker side of human nature, finds its place within Òrìṣàfẹ́. The Orishas also embody their shadowy aspects, representing primordial chaos, raw emotions, and the uncharted depths of the psyche. They are associated with darker emotions like rage, jealousy, and vengeance. By acknowledging and embracing the shadow, Òrìṣàfẹ́ encourages individuals to integrate these aspects into their lives, fostering personal growth and self-awareness.

The conventional notions of good and evil as absolute opposites are transcended. The dualistic understanding of morality is seen as a human construct limited by our perception. Instead, the belief system acknowledges the inherent unity and interconnectedness of all things. Good and evil are perceived as two sides of the same coin, existing in a delicate balance. This

perspective invites individuals to cultivate empathy, understanding, and acceptance, recognizing the divine in all beings.

Òrìṣàfẹ́ emphasizes the pursuit of harmony and balance, both within oneself and in relation to the external world. By recognizing and honoring the duality of existence, followers strive to find equilibrium between the opposing forces. This involves aligning personal actions with the principles of compassion, love, and respect for all living beings. The path of harmony is a constant process of self-reflection, growth, and integration, as one seeks to embody the qualities of the Orishas in daily life.

### [Reflections on The Divine Manifestation of Love: Exploring Òrìṣàfẹ́ and the Worship of the Mother of the Universe](#)

Love is perceived as the fundamental force that binds the cosmos together. Just as a mother's love sustains and nurtures her children, the Orishas' love permeates all creation, fostering unity and interconnectedness. This perspective emphasizes the interconnectedness of all beings, highlighting the inherent worth and dignity of every individual. Love becomes a transformative and unifying power, capable of transcending divisions and nurturing harmonious relationships among all living beings.

Compassion, an essential aspect of love, plays a pivotal role in Òrìṣàfẹ́. The Orishas embodies unconditional love and compassion, extending her benevolence to all of creation. Òrìṣàfẹ́ recognizes that true love involves empathizing with the suffering of others and taking action to alleviate it. Through acts of compassion, individuals are encouraged to cultivate a sense of interconnectedness and promote harmony in the world.

Romantic love, with its intensity and passionate expression, also finds its place within Òrìṣàfẹ́. The devotion shared between two individuals – regardless of sexual or gender identities – is viewed as a microcosm of the divine love that permeates the universe. Romantic love is seen as an opportunity for growth and self-discovery, where individuals learn to



transcend their egos and embrace the deeper aspects of their souls. It is through this journey of love that individuals come closer to understanding and experiencing the divine love of the Orishas.

Òrìṣàfẹ́ emphasizes that love must be translated into action for it to have a transformative impact on individuals and society. Inspired by the divine love of the Orishas, followers are encouraged to embody love through acts of kindness, empathy, and service. By engaging in selfless acts of love, individuals contribute to the well-being of others and cultivate a more harmonious and compassionate world.

### [Reflections on Fasting as a Spiritual Practice within Òrìṣàfẹ́: Embracing the Orishas's Essence](#)

Fasting has been practiced across different cultures and religions as a means of purification and self-discipline. In Òrìṣàfẹ́, fasting is viewed as a way to purify the body, mind, and spirit, enabling individuals to align themselves with the divine energy of the Orishas. By abstaining from physical nourishment, practitioners engage in a symbolic act of surrender, demonstrating their dedication and devotion to the Orishas. This act of purification allows for the removal of impurities, both physical and spiritual, clearing the path for a deeper connection with the divine.

In Òrìṣàfẹ́, the Orishas are seen as sources of sustenance and nourishment. Fasting, therefore, represents a conscious act of surrendering one's reliance on material needs and placing trust in the Orishas' abundance and guidance. By willingly abstaining from food and other physical desires, practitioners embrace a state of humility and detachment, acknowledging their dependence on the Orishas' grace for sustenance. Through this surrender, fasting becomes an act of devotion and a reminder of the Orishas' ever-present love and care.

The practice of fasting within Òrìṣàfẹ́ holds the potential for profound spiritual transformation. By temporarily detaching oneself from the

demands of the physical world, individuals can redirect their focus inward, exploring the depths of their consciousness and connecting with the divine essence within. Fasting, when accompanied by prayer, meditation, and reflection, can facilitate heightened spiritual awareness, enabling individuals to experience moments of revelation, clarity, and enlightenment. This transformative journey encourages personal growth, emotional healing, and an expanded understanding of the interconnectedness of all beings.

Òrìṣàfẹ̀ recognizes the nurturing and compassionate qualities embodied by the Orishas. Fasting, when undertaken consciously and with an intention to deepen one's connection with the divine, cultivates empathy and compassion for all living beings. By experiencing hunger and physical limitations, practitioners gain a deeper appreciation for the struggles faced by those who lack access to basic necessities. This heightened awareness fosters a sense of interconnectedness and a commitment to social justice, encouraging practitioners to actively contribute to the welfare and well-being of others.

In Òrìṣàfẹ̀, fasting is not solely restricted to specific days or seasons. Instead, it is embraced as an ongoing practice that can be tailored to individual capacities and needs. While some may undertake periodic fasting on specific holy days, others may choose intermittent fasting or establish regular patterns that suit their lifestyle. The flexibility of fasting within Òrìṣàfẹ̀ allows individuals to create a rhythm that aligns with their spiritual aspirations and personal circumstances, ensuring that the practice remains sustainable and meaningful.

Fasting, within the framework of Òrìṣàfẹ̀, serves as a powerful spiritual practice that deepens the connection between practitioners and the divine essence of the Mother. Through purification, surrender, and spiritual transformation, fasting offers a pathway to embrace the nurturing and compassionate qualities embodied by the Orishas. As practitioners engage in this sacred act, they embark on a journey of self-discovery, empathy, and personal growth, fostering a profound sense of interconnectedness with all

beings. By incorporating fasting into their spiritual lives, adherents of Òrìṣàfé can experience the transformative power of the Orishas and find solace and guidance in their boundless love.

### *Prayer for Fasting*

Orishas of the Universe,

In this sacred act of fasting, I come before you,

With reverence and devotion, seeking your grace.

You who embody the vastness and nurturing essence,

I offer my prayers to you, O Divine Orishas.

Oshun, as I abstain from earthly desires, teach me detachment,

Help me release attachments that hinder my growth.

Guide me to let go of negativity, ego, and selfishness,

That I may embrace love, empathy, and selflessness instead.

Oya, you who hold the power of transformation,

Bless me with your healing energy and divine protection.

Grant me the courage to face my weaknesses and shadows,

And emerge stronger, purified, and filled with divine light.

Yemaya, in this fast, I seek your guidance and wisdom,

To understand the interconnectedness of all beings.

May I cultivate reverence for the Earth and its creatures,

And contribute to the well-being of all living things.

Oba, provider of bounties, I seek your assistance,  
To understand comfort does not make one lesser or greater.  
May I cultivate understanding to those who are less fortunate,  
And use my wealth, however big or small, to help others.

Yewa, curatrix of the lands of life and death, please give my thanks,  
To those who have come before me, my forebears from time immemorial.  
May I continue to be thankful for those who have paved my way,  
And continue to carve a path for those who will come after.

As I partake in this sacred act of fasting,  
May it be an offering of devotion and surrender.  
Guide me to align my actions with your divine will,  
And may my journey of fasting bring me closer to your eternal love.

Orishas, I offer this prayer to you,  
With gratitude, reverence, and utmost devotion.  
Bless me, protect me, and guide me always,  
As I walk this path of fasting and spiritual transformation.

May your divine presence be felt within and around me.

With love and surrender, I embark on this fast,  
In the name of the Holy Mother, I pray.

## Rites of Òrìṣàfé

### Full Moon Rite: Orishas' Lunar Blessings

#### *Materials Needed:*

A representation of the Orishas. This could be an idol, picture, or symbol associated with any Orisha (or all) that speaks to you.

A white or silver candle to symbolize the full moon.

A gift to the Orisha (food, fruit, drink etc.)

A bowl of water, symbolic of the Divine Feminine.

Incense or sage for purification.

Pen or paper.

#### *Preparation:*

Cleanse your ritual area using the incense or sage to ward off negative energy, chanting "let positive energy stay within this space, and let all negative energy stay out."

#### *Ritual Steps:*

Casting the Sacred Space: Stand before your altar or in your sacred space. Hold your hands out in the form of a cup, symbolizing the Divine Feminine. Speak: "I stand in the loving embrace of the Orisha, enveloped by her nurturing spirit, and protected under the radiant glow of the Full Moon."

Invocation of the Orishas: Light the candle and incense while saying the "Invocation of the Orishas."

Hold the offering high, reflecting the candle's flame – a symbol of the full moon – in the water. Say the Speak: "Just as the Moon reflects the light of the Sun, let my life reflect the divine love of the Orishas. May the illumination of this full moon shine a light on my path, showing the way forward."

Personal Prayer: Write your intentions, prayers, or requests on the paper. This could be things you want to manifest or let go of in the coming lunar cycle. Speak them aloud to the Orishas, then burn the paper in the flame of the candle, sending your prayers to her.

Receiving the Blessing: Place your hands over the bowl of water and say: "Blessed Orishas, please infuse this water with your divine love and wisdom. May it cleanse and empower me as I walk my path." Gently sprinkle or dab the water on your forehead and heart.

Closing: Express your gratitude to the Orishas for her love and guidance. Say: "Thank you, Orishas, for your unconditional love and wisdom. As I walk my path, may I embody your nurturing spirit and radiant love. In Your revered Name I Pray."

Closing the Sacred Space: Extinguish the candle and say: "As I close this rite, the light of the Orishas remains within me. May her love guide me until the moon is full again. In your Divine Essence I pray."

Remember to dispose of the ritual remnants responsibly, respecting the Earth as another embodiment of the Orishas.

This rite should be adapted to fit your personal beliefs, needs, and preferred Orisha to pray to. It serves as a bridge connecting your inner spiritual world with the external reality, reflecting the cycles of nature and the divine essence of the Orishas of the Universe.

#### Blessings Rite: Welcoming the Child into the Orishas' Embrace

##### *Preparation*

A table is set up with symbols of the divine: a figure or picture representing an Orisha (or all), a cup of water symbolizing the source of life, a candle representing the divine light, and a handful of soil symbolizing the Mother Earth.

##### *Opening Invocation*

Celebrant: We gather here today under the open sky, in the embrace of the Orishas, to welcome this child into our community and into the larger universe. Let us take a moment to feel the life-force around us, to listen to the whispering trees, and to feel the heartbeat of Mother Earth beneath our feet.

Invocation of the Orishas: Light the candle while saying the "Invocation of the Orishas."

### *Recognition*

Celebrant: (Parents' names), do you promise to guide and nurture (child's name), respecting their individuality, encouraging their growth, and teaching them about the love of the Orishas?

Parents: We do.

### *Symbolic Actions*

The celebrant dips a finger in the cup of water and touches on the child's forehead and heart saying: "With this water, symbol of life, we connect you to the endless flow of life within and around us. You are a child of the Orishas, a unique and precious manifestation of the Universe."

The celebrant holds up a handful of soil and says: "With this soil, we connect you to the Orishas. May you always be grounded in their love and may you grow to respect and care for the world that sustains us all."

### *Blessing*

The celebrant extends their hands over the child and says: "May the Orishas bless you with a life full of love, wisdom, and joy. May you always feel her presence within and around you. May you walk a path of peace, understanding, and compassion. We welcome you, (child's name), into our community, into this vast universe, into the love of the Orishas."

### *Closing*

Celebrant: We have gathered in joy and love, and now we disperse, taking with us the blessings of the Orishas. Let us remember the divine in every



breath we take, in every face we see, in every stone and tree, in every joy and challenge. We go in peace, holding the memory of this day in our hearts.

The parents, child, and celebrant extinguish the candle together, symbolizing the shared responsibility of keeping the divine light alive in their hearts and actions.

These rites may be adapted as needed to reflect the personal beliefs and cultural traditions of the family and community.

Rites of Initiation: [Welcoming the Congregate in the Essence of the Orishas](#)

### *The Rite of Cosmic Birth*

Preparation: The initiate fasts for a day and meditates, focusing their thoughts on the Orishas. This is meant to purify the individual, creating an empty vessel ready to receive the divine.

Invocation: The rite begins with an invocation to the Orishas, acknowledging Her in her many forms throughout history. The initiate is encouraged to recite "Invocation of the Orishas."

The Cosmic Birth: A symbolic representation of the universe is unveiled. This could be a mural, a sculpture, or even a high-tech display, depending on the resources and preferences of the congregation. The initiate is invited to 'step into' the universe, symbolically entering the body of the Orishas.

Blessing of the Initiate: The guide or leader of the rite invokes the Orishas' blessings on the initiate, who is anointed with water from a sacred source, symbolizing the nurturing waters of the womb. The leader affirms the initiate's place in the cosmos and their sacred connection to the Orishas.

### *The Rite of Spiritual Sustenance*

Preparation: The initiate spends a day in service to others, as an expression of the nurturing care that the Orishas offers to all their children. This also prepares the individual to understand the selfless love that characterizes the Orishas.

Invocation: At the end of the day, the initiate lights a candle, symbolizing the Orishas' light illuminating the darkness. They then offer a prayer of gratitude to the Orishas for their provision and care.

The Feast of the Universe: A meal is shared, with each dish representing different elements of the universe. For example, a hearty bread might represent the earth, a spicy dish the sun, a liquid dish the oceans, and so forth. The initiate is invited to partake of each, symbolizing the Orishas' nurturing and sustenance.

Affirmation of Service: After the feast, the initiate commits to a life of service and love in the name of the Orishas, symbolizing the reciprocity of care and the interconnectedness of all life within the universe.

### *The Rite of Divine Connection*

Preparation: The initiate spends a day in silence, contemplating the divine presence in every aspect of their life. This preparation encourages a deeper connection with the Orishas and allows the individual to internalize Her universal presence.

Invocation: The initiate begins by offering a prayer to the Orishas, expressing their desire for a deeper connection, and affirming their commitment to their values.

Ritual of Connection: The initiate is given a cord, representing the umbilical cord that connects mother and child. They tie one end to a symbol of the Orishas, such as a statue or image, and hold the other end. In doing so, they symbolize their direct connection to the Orishas.

Affirmation of Unity: Finally, the initiate is asked to commit to a life in harmony with the cosmos, living in a way that acknowledges their divine connection and respects the interconnectedness of all things.

These initiation rites are designed to be inclusive and adaptable, with the overarching focus being on respect, love, and connectedness in honor of the Orishas.

[Welcoming Divine Love: Wedding Rites of Òrìṣàfẹ́](#)

*Introduction*

Invocation of the Oshun: Light the candle while saying the “Invocation of the Orishas.”

### *Opening Invocation*

Officiant: We gather here today to celebrate the sacred union of [Partner A] and [Partner B]. In the presence of the Orishas, we honor the cosmic energy that connects us all. Let us invoke the spirit of the Orishas and ask for blessings upon this sacred union.

[Optional: The officiant may invite participants to join in a brief meditation or moment of silence to connect with the divine feminine energy.]

### *Reading*

Reader: "In the beginning, there was Olorun, the creatrix of life, from whose loving womb the universe was born. Throughout history, she has been revered in various forms of Orishas, embodying love, wisdom, and fertility. Today, we honor her presence and invite her blessings upon this union."

### *Acknowledgment of Divine Feminine*

Officiant: We acknowledge the divine feminine within us and the world around us. In the spirit of the Orishas, we celebrate the embodiment of love, compassion, and strength that resides within every being. Let us honor this divine presence as we embark on this sacred journey of marriage.

### *Exchange of Vows*

[Partner A] and [Partner B] face each other, holding hands.

Officiant: [Partner A], do you take [Partner B] as your partner in life and love? Do you promise to honor and cherish them, supporting their growth and nurturing their spirit as the Orishas would?

[Partner A]: I do.

Officiant: [Partner B], do you take [Partner A] as your partner in life and love? Do you promise to honor and cherish them, supporting their growth and nurturing their spirit as the Orishas would?

[Partner B]: I do.

### *Exchange of Rings*

Officiant: As a symbol of your love and commitment, you may now exchange rings.

[Partner A] and [Partner B] exchange rings and speak the following words simultaneously or take turns:

"[Partner's Name], I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and devotion. Like the eternal circle of the Orishas, it represents the unending bond we share."

### *Blessing and Unity Ritual*

Officiant: Let us now invoke the blessings of the divine feminine upon this union. [Optional: The officiant may sprinkle rose petals, perform a water blessing, or any other ritual symbolizing purification and blessings.]

Officiant: As the Orishas unites the heavens and the earth, so shall the union of [Partner A] and [Partner B] be a harmonious merging of their souls. May their love flourish and grow, radiating joy and compassion to all they encounter.

### *Pronouncement of Marriage*

Officiant: By the power vested in me and the energy of the Orishas, I now pronounce you [spouses/partners] for life. May your journey together be blessed with love, understanding, and the nurturing spirit of Olorun and the Orishas.

### *Closing Blessing*

Officiant: As we conclude this sacred ceremony, may the divine feminine guide and protect you, [Partner A] and [Partner B], in your life together. May you find strength in her love and draw inspiration from the Orishas. Go forth and live your lives with reverence for them.

### *Closing Words*

Officiant: With gratitude and love, we celebrate this union. May the divine feminine be with you always. May your love shine as a testament to the power of the Orishas. This marriage is now sealed in the spirit of the Orishas.

This rite can be adapted based on preferement.

## Funerary Rites: The Final Embrace of the Orishas

### *Preparation of the Body*

Upon death, the body is lovingly cleansed by family members or by designated individuals within the community. This purification process involves anointing the forehead, breast, and hands with water, symbolizing the cleansing of the physical vessel and preparing the soul for its journey.

### *The Vigil*

Once the body is prepared, it is dressed in a white or light-colored robe, symbolizing purity, and placed in an open casket or on a bier. The community holds a vigil, filled with music, prayer, and shared stories of the deceased. This vigil often lasts through the night, symbolizing the Orishas' eternal watchfulness.

### *Communion of Memories*

During the funeral service, community members are invited to share their memories of the deceased, in a ceremony called the "Communion of Memories." It's a moment to recognize the impact that the deceased had on the lives of others, and to honor their contributions to the community.

### *Return to the Orishas*

The body is then returned to the earth, often through burial, although cremation could also be used depending on the person's or family's preference. This process symbolizes the belief in the life-death-rebirth cycle, as the body returns to the Orishas. The grave or urn is typically marked with

symbols of the Orishas, such as a spiral (symbolizing the life cycle) or an image of an Orisha figure that the deceased particularly resonated with.

### *The Feast of Life*

After the burial or the ashes' dispersion, the community gathers for the Feast of Life, a communal meal that celebrates the life of the deceased and the interconnectedness of all lives. It is a time of shared comfort and mutual support, emphasizing the belief in the Orishas' nurturing love.

### *The Cycle of Remembrance*

On the anniversary of the person's death, a small ceremony, the Cycle of Remembrance, is held. The community comes together to remember the deceased, celebrate their life, and honor their memory. The community might plant a tree or dedicate a new work of art, ensuring that the individual's memory continues to enrich the community.

These funerary rites emphasize the Orishas' enduring love, the celebration of the individual's life, and the belief in the natural cycle of life, death, and rebirth. The community's role in these rites showcases the interconnectedness of all lives under the care of the Mother of the Universe.

## Twelve Sacred Poems to the Orishas

### 1. Birth of the Cosmos

Olorun, from the star-sown womb of silence,  
Cradled galaxies with a lullaby of light,



Giving form to cosmos, life's first alliance,  
Infinite as love, as profound as night.

## 2. The Cradle of Life

From dust and light, You sculpted the primal clay,  
Shaping life's vessel, from the atom's core,  
In Your grand design, life finds its way,  
Olorun, who we profoundly adore.

## 3. Dance of the Elements

Fire, Water, Earth and Air, in Your dance they twine,  
Life's elements, Your hands deftly weave,  
As above, so below, in this cosmic design,  
In the Orishas, we believe.

## 4. Orisha of Seasons

Spring's first bloom, Summer's radiant light,  
Autumn's golden hue, Winter's tranquil night,  
All seasons flow from Your benevolent sight,  
Orishas, in You, all find respite.

## 5. Orisha of Mysteries

Into the labyrinth of the soul, we delve,  
Seeking Your truth, our ignorance to dissolve,  
In the heart's silence, Your presence does evolve,  
A hushed whisper of love, our fears resolve.

## 6. Guardian of Dreams

In the tapestry of dreams, Your wisdom unfolds,  
In every heart-beat, Your love is told,  
Your grace shelters us, making us bold,  
Orishas, in You, our hopes we hold.

## 7. Weaver of Destinies

The threads of fate in Your hands entwine,  
In Your loom of time, destinies align,  
Orishas of Eternity, beacon divine,  
Guide us on our journey, let Your light shine.

## 8. The Healing Touch

Orishas of mercy, balm to all pain,  
Your touch, a refuge, our strength to regain,

In the midst of chaos, You are our sane,  
Your love, the healing rain.

#### 9. Song of the Sacred

Every star's twinkle, every planet's sway,  
Echoes Your song in the cosmic ballet,  
To the Divine Orishas, our hearts convey,  
Love's eternal sonnet, in gratitude we say.

#### 10. Ocean of Compassion

In Your vast ocean, waves of compassion roll,  
To the shore of every longing soul,  
Your love washes over us, making us whole,  
Orishas, in You, we reach our goal.

#### 11. Eternal Embrace

In Your embrace, we find our peace,  
From worldly illusions, we find release,  
In the heart of the Divine, all struggles cease,  
Orishas, in Your love, we find our lease.

## 12. The Final Homecoming

To the bosom of the Orishas, all paths lead,  
From Your love, the universe was conceived,  
In the silence of the heart, Your voice we heed,  
Orishas, in Your grace, we believe

### Prayers to the Orishas

#### Prayer to the Dawning Day

Yemaya of the Cosmos bright,  
I greet you with love and endless light.  
In this morning's embrace, I find my way,  
Guide my steps, as I begin this day.

#### Prayer to the Twilight Night

As I lay down to rest, under the night's gentle sway,  
I surrender to your embrace, trusting in your loving way.  
Thank you, Yemaya, for your eternal care,  
As I sleep, enveloped in your love, I know you're always there.

#### Prayer for Abundance

O Oba, source of all that's blessed,  
Grant us abundance, beyond what's guessed.  
Fill our lives with joy and prosperity,

Nurture our souls with divine generosity.

#### Prayer for Healing

Gentle Yemaya, with love so pure,  
Heal our wounds, of that we're sure.  
Restore our bodies, minds, and souls,  
With your nurturing touch, make us whole.

#### Prayer for Guidance

Oba, in your boundless light,  
Lead us through darkness, with strength and might.  
Illuminate our paths, in every endeavor,  
With your wisdom and grace, we shall never sever.

#### Prayer for Love

Oshun, Orisha of Love, your embrace so wide,  
Fill our hearts with love, like a gentle tide.  
Let us see the divine in every soul,  
Unite us as one, in your eternal role.

#### Prayer for Forgiveness

Yemaya, Orisha of Mercy, with compassion deep,  
Help us forgive, the grudges we keep.  
Release our hearts from anger and pain,  
Let forgiveness be the healer, our souls regain.

#### Prayer for Strength

Mighty Oya, with courage and power,  
Grant us strength in every trial and hour.  
When life overwhelms, and we feel weak,  
Infuse us with resilience, so strong we shall speak.

#### Prayer for Peace

Oh, Oba of Peace, in your tranquil grace,  
Guide us to a world where conflicts erase.  
Unite all nations, in a harmonious song,  
May your love prevail, and right every wrong.

#### Prayer for Gratitude

Oba, for blessings we receive,  
With heartfelt gratitude, we humbly believe.  
For every breath, for each day's grace,  
We thank you, Yewa, for this sacred space.

#### Prayer for Compassion

Yemaya of Mercy, with a heart so kind,  
Teach us compassion, to all humankind.  
May we see the pain, the struggles they bear,  
And offer our love, with empathy and care.

#### Prayer for Strength in Adversity

Oya, Orisha Divine, in times of strife,

Grant us resilience to navigate life.

When challenges arise, and troubles surround,

Fortify our spirits, let your strength be found.

#### Prayer for Inner Harmony

Yewa, within our souls reside,

Bring harmony, where chaos may hide.

Align our thoughts, with peace and tranquility,

Let your presence guide us to serenity.

#### Prayer for Courage

Oya, Mighty Orisha, when fear takes its toll,

Ignite our courage, deep within our soul.

Give us the strength to face every fear,

With unwavering bravery, let us persevere.

#### Prayer for Unity

Oba, Mother of Oneness, in your embrace,

May all divisions and boundaries erase.

Unify our hearts, in love and respect,

With compassion as our guide, let unity reflect.

#### Prayer for Divine Protection

Orishas, with your shield so strong,  
Protect us from harm, when things go wrong.  
Surround us with your love and light,  
Guard us in darkness, throughout the night.

#### Prayer for Enlightenment

Oh, Divine Orishas, with wisdom untold,  
Illuminate our minds, as truth unfolds.  
Guide us on the path of divine insight,  
So we may awaken, in your sacred light.

#### Prayer for Renewal

Divine Yewa, in cycles divine,  
Cleanse our spirits, like a sacred shrine.  
Let go of the old, make space for the new,  
With your nurturing touch, our souls renew.

#### Prayer for Joy

Oh, Divine Oshun, with laughter and glee,  
Fill our hearts with joy, pure and free.  
Let happiness blossom in every single day,  
In your divine presence, we shall forever stay.



#### Prayer for Serenity

Orishas, with your calming grace,  
Grant us serenity in life's hectic pace.  
Amidst chaos and noise, help us find peace,  
In your eternal love, all worries cease.

#### Prayer for Wisdom

Divine Orishas, with knowledge profound,  
Guide our minds, let true wisdom be found.  
Grant us clarity, discernment, and insight,  
Illuminate our paths, with your divine light.

#### Prayer for Transformation

O Divine Oya, with transformative might,  
Guide us through darkness, into radiant light.  
With your nurturing touch, let us evolve,  
Embrace our potential, as problems dissolve.

#### Prayer for Patience

O Divine Oba, with your patient hand,  
Teach us patience, as life's trials expand.  
Help us endure, with calm and grace,  
In your loving presence, time will embrace.

#### Prayer for Liberation

Oh, Oba Divine, with freedom so pure,  
Release our souls, let liberation endure.  
Break the chains that bind, our spirits set free,  
In your boundless love, we find eternity.

#### Prayer for Inner Peace

Orishas, within our souls reside,  
Wrap us in peace, like a gentle tide.  
Silence the chaos, calm the storm,  
With your loving presence, inner peace is born.

#### Prayer for Gratitude for Nature

Divine Orishas, with landscapes so grand,  
We thank you for nature, a masterpiece unplanned.  
For mountains and rivers, oceans and trees,  
Your creation fills us with awe and ease.

#### Prayer for Balance

Oh, Orishas Divine, in harmonious sway,  
Teach us the dance of balance each day.  
With yin and yang, and light and dark,  
Guide us on the path, where equilibrium sparks.

#### Prayer for Empowerment

Mighty Oya, with strength untold,  
Empower our spirits, let us be bold.  
Awaken our potential, unleash our might,  
In your loving embrace, we shine so bright.

#### Prayer for Letting Go

Yemaya, with gentle embrace,  
Help us release what no longer has space.  
Grant us the courage to let go and surrender,  
In your divine flow, we'll forever remember.

#### Prayer for Gratitude for Community

Oh, Oba of Unity, in bonds so strong,  
We thank you for community, where we belong.  
For family and friends, and connections we share,  
Your love unites us, in a tapestry rare.

#### Prayer for Protection of Loved Ones

Yemaya, with loving care,  
Protect our loved ones, wherever they fare.  
Surround them with your light and grace,  
Keep them safe, in every time and place.

#### Prayer for Inner Strength

Oh, Oya Divine, within us reside,  
Unleash our inner strength, never to hide.  
In times of challenge, help us rise above,  
With your empowering love, we conquer and love.

#### Prayer for Peace of Mind

Mother Orishas, in your serene embrace,  
Grant us peace of mind, in every space.  
Calm our restless thoughts, let worries unwind,  
In your tranquil presence, serenity we find.

#### Prayer for Self-Love

Oshun of Love, with unconditional affection,  
Teach us self-love, a divine connection.  
In your loving gaze, we find worth and grace,  
Embracing our essence, in your loving embrace.

#### Prayer for Compassionate Action

Oh, Oshun of Compassion, so gentle and true,  
Inspire us to act, with love in all we do.  
May our words and deeds, spread kindness and care,  
In your compassionate light, we find purpose to share.

#### Prayer for Inner Harmony

Orishas, within our souls reside,  
Bring harmony, where chaos may hide.  
Align our thoughts, with peace and tranquility,  
Let your presence guide us to serenity.

#### Prayer for Protection in Travel

Oh, Orishas Divine, with wings unfurled,  
Protect us in our travels, across the world.  
Guide us on our journeys, wherever we roam,  
In your loving embrace we're forever home.

#### Prayer for Divine Grace

Orishas Divine, with love so pure,  
Shower us with blessings, forever endure.  
In your divine presence, we find solace,  
With your eternal grace, our spirits embrace.

#### Prayer for Emotional Healing

Oshun of Affection, with compassion profound,  
Heal our hearts, where pain is found.  
Gently mend the wounds, that linger within,  
In your loving embrace, emotional healing begins.

#### Prayer for Spiritual Awakening

Oh, Orishas Divine, in sacred embrace,  
Awaken our spirits, expand our soul's space.  
Guide us to truth, in your boundless light,  
In spiritual awakening, our souls take flight.

#### Prayer for Enlightenment

Divine Orishas, with wisdom untold,  
Illuminate our minds, as truth unfolds.  
Guide us on the path of divine insight,  
So we may awaken, in your sacred light.

#### Prayer for New Beginnings

Intercessors of Creation, in every dawn,  
Bless us with new beginnings, each morn.  
Like the rising sun, with hope in the sky,  
In your loving presence, let new dreams fly.

#### Prayer for Inner Clarity

Holy Orishas, with clarity so bright,  
Clear our minds, like stars in the night.  
Dissipate confusion, let truth shine through,  
In your guiding light, our clarity renew.

#### Prayer for Unconditional Love

Sacred Oshun, with a heart so wide,  
Teach us unconditional love, deep inside.  
Help us embrace, both near and far,  
With your divine love, we'll forever spar.

#### Prayer for Divine Connection

Oh, Orishas Divine, in sacred bond,  
Connect us to your love, so profound.  
In stillness and silence, let us feel,  
Your divine presence, so tender and real.

#### Prayer for Peaceful Sleep

Mother Yemaya, with peaceful embrace,  
Guide us to slumber, in tranquil grace.  
Wrap us in serenity, as we rest each night,  
With your loving touch, nightmares take flight.

#### Prayer for Forgiveness

Yemaya, with compassion deep,  
Help us forgive, the grudges we keep.  
Release our hearts from anger and pain,  
Let forgiveness be the healer, our souls regain.

#### Prayer for Divine Harmony

Divine Orishas, with love so vast,  
Infuse our world with harmony to last.  
Bring nations together, in peaceful accord,  
With your divine presence, let harmony be restored.

#### Prayer for Trust in Divine Timing

Oh, Divine Orishas, with infinite flow,  
Teach us to trust in the timing we sow.  
Grant us patience, in life's grand design,  
In your loving embrace, divine timing align.

#### Prayer for Inner Light

Divine Orishas, with radiant glow,  
Ignite our inner light, let it brightly show.  
Illuminate our paths, with your guiding flame,  
In your loving presence, we'll never be the same.

#### Prayer for Gratitude for Lessons

Yemaya of Wisdom, with lessons profound,  
We thank you for teachings, that make us astound.  
In each experience, in every trial we face,  
Your guidance transforms us, with your loving embrace.



#### Prayer for Peace in the World

Oh, Yemaya of Harmony, in unity we plea,  
Bring peace to the world, let conflicts cease to be.  
Heal the wounds of nations, with love and compassion,  
In your divine presence, let peace become a fashion.

#### Prayer for Inner Transformation

Divine Oya, with love so vast,  
Transform our souls, let the old be surpassed.  
Guide us on the journey, of inner evolution,  
In your divine embrace, we find divine resolution.

#### Prayer for Inner Stillness

Orishas Divine, with serene embrace,  
Help us find stillness, in this hectic space.  
In the silence within, let peace unfold,  
With your loving presence, inner stillness we hold.

#### Prayer for Strength in Adversity

Oya, Mother Divine, in times of strife,  
Grant us resilience to navigate life.  
When challenges arise, and troubles surround,  
Fortify our spirits, let your strength be found.

#### Prayer for Love and Acceptance

Oshun, with love so wide,

Teach us to accept, and let judgments subside.

Embrace diversity, with open hearts and minds,

In your loving presence, acceptance forever binds.

#### Prayer for Divine Guidance

Orishas Divine, with your light so bright,

Guide us on our journey, both day and night.

Illuminate our paths, with wisdom and grace,

In your loving embrace, we find our rightful place.

#### Prayer for Healing Energy

Divine Orishas, with healing touch,

Infuse us with energy, we need so much.

Restore our bodies, minds, and souls,

With your loving presence, healing energy unfolds.

#### Prayer for Peaceful Relationships

O Oshun Divine, with love so pure,

Bless our relationships, let conflicts find cure.

Fill our interactions, with kindness and peace,

In your loving embrace, all discord will cease.

#### Prayer for Compassionate Service

Yemaya of Compassion, with hearts so bright,  
Inspire us to serve, with love as our light.  
May our actions uplift, and bring solace to all,  
In your compassionate presence, we heed your call.

#### Prayer for Inner Peace

Divine Orishas, within our souls reside,  
Wrap us in peace, like a gentle tide.  
Silence the chaos, calm the storm,  
With your loving presence, inner peace is born.

#### Prayer for Gratitude for Nature

Mother Yewa, with landscapes so grand,  
We thank you for nature, a masterpiece unplanned.  
For mountains and rivers, oceans and trees,  
Your creation fills us with awe and ease.