

Awo Training - Part 5

After the *Odu* are memorized in order of seniority, some attention needs to be given to the conventions of Yoruba language for proper pronunciation of each verse. When a Yoruba word ends in a vowel and the next word begins with a vowel one of the vowels is dropped. There is no hard and fast rule to determine which vowel is dropped, but the general principle is the flow of words. For example *Ogbe Iwori* is usually pronounced *Ogbe'wori* and *Ogb'iwori* is less smooth.

In some dialects the *Meji Odu* are described as *Eji* meaning the first, so *Oyeku Meji* becomes *Ejiyeku*, *Iwori Meji* becomes *Eji'wori* and so on through *Ofun*. It is also common to find *Odi Meji* pronounced *Idi Meji*, and *Owonrin Meji* pronounced *Ohenren Meji*.

Many *Odu* are commonly referred to by their praise name and the praise name is frequently the name of prominent diviners in one of the verses of the *Odu*. This functions as a triggering device for remembering the specific content of the verse.

Some *Odu* are considered hot, meaning they are not routinely invoked using the fundamental descriptions of each leg. In these instances the individual legs are referred to by a code name. Common examples include:

1. *Ogbe*

2. Oyeku alamulu
3. Iwori wehin
4. Odi idin Obodi
5. Irosun wosu aisun
6. Owonrin wunle owari
7. O'Bara gbarada ega
8. Okanran ransode
9. Ogunda dunga awede Eguntan
10. Osa gasa
11. Ika beka ayoka
12. Oturupon tomopon baturupon etutu
13. Otura Alara wotu
14. Irete ate atepa ntete
15. Ose Segun wowo
16. Ofun fohun wofu elefun