

Awo Training Part IX

As an addition to the section of Awo Training on *Osanyin* I want to recommend Indian Herbalogy of North Amercia Alma R. Hutchens, Shambala Boston & London 1991. In addition I want to recommend a wonderful video on *Osanyin* in Cuba by Awo Luis Frausto titled *Osain* of the Magical Herbs of Santeria Volume 1. You can order the tape by calling Botonica Yoruba and Wiccan supplies ph 909 - 352 0921.

In the last lesson there was an introduction of the idea that *Ifa* ritual involves washing, anointing, invoking, feeding and reading a sacred object or a person going through a process of elevation. *Osanyin* involves the *Ifa* sacred technology of washing. Anointing involves the *Ifa* sacred technology of placing ase on a sacred object that will attract the attention of a particular *Oriṣa* or force in nature. The fundamental ase used in *Ifa* is as follows:

<i>Esu</i>	Palm oil, honey
<u><i>Osoosi</i></u>	Palm oil, charcoal
<i>Ogun</i>	Palm oil, cam wood
<i>Obatala</i>	<i>Efun</i> (natural chalk)
<i>Olokun</i>	<i>Efun</i> (natural chalk)
<i>Yemoja</i>	<i>Efun</i> (natural chalk) & molasses
<i>Sango</i>	Palm oil

Oya

Palm oil

Osun

Honey

In addition to anointing a sacred object, *Ifa* teaches a process of anointing the tongue prior to saying *oriki* (invocations). There is no absolute rule on this only tendencies and general patterns based partly on the preferences of individual *awo*. Drinking palm oil can be used to invoke *Esu*, *Osoosi*, *Ogun*, *Oya* and *Sango*. Mixing water and *efun* can be used for *Obatala*, *Olokun* and *Yemoja*. Honey can be used *Osun*. When reciting *Odu* is traditional to feed the tongue *atare* (guinea pepper).

Anointing can be supported through the use of *Odu*. Mark the *Odu* that gives birth to a particular *Orisa* on the *Ifa* recite the *oriki* for the *Orisa*, push the *iyerosun* towards the center of the tray being careful not to use the first finger on each hand. Transfer the *iyerosun* from the tray to the item being anointed.