

## CONTENTS

Preface	ix
---------	----

### PART ONE: IFA DIVINATION

Chapter I. Introduction	3
Chapter II. Previous Studies	13
Chapter III. The Apparatus of Ifa Divination and the Preliminary Invocations	26
Chapter IV. The Figures of Ifa	40
Chapter V. Specific Alternatives: Ibo and Adimu	51
Chapter VI. The Sacrifices and Medicines	60
Chapter VII. The Predictions	68
Chapter VIII. Professional Ethics	76
Chapter IX. The Diviners	81
Chapter X. The King's Diviners	91
Chapter XI. The System of Belief	103
Chapter XII. The Divination Verses	120

### PART TWO: THE VERSES OF IFA

Ogbe Meji (1-12), 140-162	Qyęku - (Q)wọnrin (1), 266-268
Ogbe - (Q)yęku (1-3), 164-170	Iwori Ogbe (1-6), 268-284
Ogbe - (I)wori (1-4), 170-180	Iwori - (Q)yęku (1-2), 284-286
Ogbe - (E)di (1-4), 180-184	Iwori Meji (1-7), 288-308
Ogbe - (Q)bara (1-4), 184-190	Iwori Ofun (1), 310
Ogbe - (Q)kanran (1-6), 190-202	Edi Meji (1-5), 310-318
Ogbe - (I)rosun (1-5), 202-212	Edi - (Q)kanran (1-8), 318-336
Ogbe - (O)gunda (1-3), 214-220	Edi - (I)rosun (1-2), 338-340
Ogbe - (I)ka (1-3), 220-228	Qkanran Meji (1-3), 340-344
Qyęku Ogbe (1-4), 230-232	Irosun Qbara (1), 346-350
Qyęku Meji (1-12), 232-258	Irosun Meji (1-2), 350-354
Qyęku - (I)wori (1-3), 258-262	Irosun Qşę (1-2), 354-358
Qyęku - (E)di (1-3), 262-264	Qwọnrin Meji (1-2), 360-362

Qwọnrin - (I)rête (1), 362-368	Qşę - (O)tura (1), 466
Ogunda - (I)wori (1), 368-370	Qşę Meji (1-2), 468-470
Ogunda Meji (1-2), 372-374	Ofun Ogbe (1-4), 470-476
Qsa - (O)gunda (1), 374-384	Ofun (I)wori (1-4), 476-482
Qsa Meji (1), 384-386	Ofun - (E)di (1-2), 482-486
Irête Qkanran (1), 386-392	Ofun - (Q)bara (1-4), 488-494
Irête - (I)rosun (1), 392-398	Ofun - (Q)kanran (1-4), 496-502
Irête - (Q)wònrin (1), 398-404	Ofun - (I)rosun (1-5), 502-514
Irete - Qsa (1-3), 404-416	Ofun - (Q)wònrin (1-4), 516-522
Irête - (Q)şę (1-2), 416-428	Ofun - (O)gunda (1-6), 522-534
Otura - (Q)bara (1-4), 428-440	Ofun - (Q)sa (1-3), 534-540
Otura Irosun (1-4), 440-446	Ofun - (Q)şę (1-4), 540-548
Oturupon - (O)tura (1), 446-450	Ofun Meji (1-6), 548-558
Ika Meji (1-3), 450-454	Parodies (1-4), 560-562
Qşę Ogbe (1-4), 456-466	
References Cited	565

## LIST OF FIGURES

1. Opele, Noko, Agbigba, and Eba	9
2. Marking the Ifa Figure	41
3. Piece of Calabash Shell Marked with Qkanran Ofun	116

## LIST OF TABLES

1. The Sixteen Basic Figures of Ifa	4
2. The Ifa Figures and the Deities	44
3. The Order of the Basic Ifa Figures	48
4. The Rank Order of the First Sixty-One Figures	50
5. The Choice Between Two Specific Alternatives	52
6. The Choice Between Five Specific Alternatives	53
7. The Five Kinds of Good and Bad Fortune	57
8. Probabilities for Two Alternatives Presented in Sequence	58
9. The Choice of Adimu	58

## LIST OF PLATES

(See section following page xii)

- 1A. Two carved heads (Ela or irin) of ivory and elephant bone.
- 1B. Two ọpẹlẹ pods.
- 2A. A divining chain (ọpẹlẹ) from Qyọ.
- 2B. A divining chain from Ilara.
3. A divining bag (apo Ifa).
- 4A-B. Two beaded divining bags from Igana and Qyọ.
5. A divining cup (agere Ifa, ajele Ifa) from Deyin.
6. A lidless divining cup.
7. A brass divining cup.
8. A divining cup from Efọn Alaye.
9. A wooden divining bowl (Ọpọn igedé) from Ife.
10. A divining bowl at Igana.
11. A circular divining tray (Ọpọn Ifa) from Igana.
12. A rectangular divining tray from Mekọ.
- 13A-B. Three divining bells (irọ Ifa) from Mekọ and Ife.
14. Beating the set of sixteen palm nuts between the hands.
15. Marking a figure (odu) in wood dust (iyerosun).
16. The divining chain (ọpẹlẹ) dangled over a penny.
17. Choosing between specific alternatives.
18. The divining chain cast on the divining bag.
19. Samuel Elufiṣoye, divining for his two "wives of Ifa."
- 20A-B. Conclusion of the divination.
- 21A. Two odu containers carried in the street.
- 21B. An origi in front of an Ife compound.