

Greetings: *Oriire fun owo!* (Good Tidings to you!)

I pray that you are feeling awake, aware, and elevated in mind, body, and spirit, wherever you are, and whatever may be happening around you!

*Àṣẹ! Àṣẹ! Àṣẹ o!*

I'm Baba Umar, Oluranse Emese, (Voice of the Emese), Member of the Isoro Traditional Council of Chiefs in Ile-Ife, Nigeria, Olúwo of the House of Umar, and Babaláwo of Ile Awo Òrìṣà (the House of the Mysteries of the Òrìṣàs).

*Opo Ire* (abundant blessings) to our *Egbé*, our online community of Subscribers that continues to grow thanks to you. Thank you for joining us for another lesson. Remember, as a member of our YouTube *Egbé* you can support each other's spiritual journey by posting your questions and uplifting comments in the Comment section below. You can also email me using the link in the Description section below if you need to connect with me on a more personal matter. Also check the Community section of this Channel for periodic messages and additional *Ifá* lessons.

If you are new to these video lessons, we invite you to go ahead and Click the Subscribe and Notification buttons, and share this resource with your family, friends, and associates. You never know whose life you may change by that simple act of sharing.

Homage to The One Who Sends, and to those who are sent!  
Homage to Òrìṣà and Egun!

Our topic in this video is: The Sixteen Truths of Ifá: Truth (3) There is No Predestination!

There is probably no analogy that can do justice in describing the essence, mind, and intention of the *Àṣẹ*, the Sentient Energetic Entity, or Source that we call *Olódumarè*. But let's play with a couple of examples.

(1) Suppose you decide to drive from New York to California. Your pre-determined destination is California. California is your predestination. However, there are a host of decisions that you will make during your 2,866-mile journey. These choices are not necessarily pre-determined. So, there is predestination governing part of your journey, and part of your journey is based on your free-will, your choices. Likewise, part of your journey in the *L'oja* is governed by pre-destination (your prenatal choices), and part is open-ended, based on your choices, your unique experiences, and your unique process of expansion and transformation.

(2) Imagine you are given several spools of thread to be used in weaving a quilt.

- The overriding law (rule) is that all the threads must be used. (Law of Usefulness)
- The threads are of various colors, lengths, and textures.
- Some of the threads are strong and durable, while some are weak and fragile.

- Some the threads are very flexible and resilient, and others tend to be stiff and brittle.
- There is no designated pattern or blueprint for the quilt.

In addition to the **Law of Usefulness**

- (Every thread must be used),

there is also the **Law of Functionality**

- (The quality of being suited to serve a purpose; the purpose that something is designed or expected to fulfill. Every thread has a purpose, a function.)

Under these conditions (laws) we can say that the threads have '**predestination**'.

- They are collectively predestined to become a quilt! That's the end game.

But that is as far as 'predestination' goes.

- The fact that we are even here to contemplate and discuss these ideas and questions is the same as the fact that the threads exist and have the purpose of becoming a quilt. Neither situation is self-determined.

**Predestination** in theology (and primarily in the so-called monotheistic religions) is the doctrine that:

- All events have been predetermined and set/fixed by God, usually with reference to the eventual fate of the individual soul.
- Explanations of predestination often seek to address the "paradox of free will", whereby God's omniscience seems incompatible with or contrary to the notion of human free will.
- In this usage, predestination can be regarded as a form of religious determinism, or pre-determinism.

Rather than participating in an argument about the obvious, the *Ifá* Tradition of *Òrìṣà* and Ancestor Worship states that,

- Of course, the fact that the *L'oja* exists in our consciousness and that we exist within the *L'oja* must be 'determined' by something (the *Àṣẹ*, the SEE, the Source) and that something must have a 'destination' (Purpose) in mind.

Let's return to our imaginary quilt for a minute.

Remember,

- All threads must be used regardless of their qualities,
- Each thread must have Functionality, it must serve a purpose.

Now let's include the **weaver** in our analogy.

- Since there is no blueprint or predetermined pattern for the quilt, the weaver is free to exercise his or her own will in the process of weaving the quilt,
  - hence, infinite possibilities.

Now, let's take this one step further since imagination has infinite capacity.

Let's imagine that instead of a single external weaver, each thread is given or develops the sentience/consciousness to decide for itself exactly how, when, and where it will enter a relationship with any of the other threads.

Now the possibilities and dynamics of the weaving process go far beyond any concept of Predestination.

- The analogy given here is a metaphor depicting just a part of the Spiritual Mathematics of the *L'oja*.

Let me request your patience as we review some of the points I presented in my review of my November 2018 Post.

- The *Àṣẹ* (the energetic essence of the darkness from which all things come) becomes self-aware, a SEE (Sentient Energetic Entity) and Infinite Consciousness is manifested (Omniscience, *Olódùmarè*).
- From *Olódùmarè's* determination to experience the fullness the Realm of Infinite Possibility (the *Àṣẹ*), Infinite Creative Potential (Omnipotence, *Olófi-dùmarè*) comes forth from the Womb (the *Àṣẹ*).

In establishing the laws to manage this Infinite Creative Potential *Olódùmarè*, (*Olu- Orí*, the Owner of *Orí* and Lord of Consciousness) mandates *Itẹlọ, Na Wa* (dynamic expansion) as one of the fundamental laws.

- The **Law of Dynamic Expansion** is designed to regulate the existence of everything, including consciousness. Consciousness must expand into the fullness of the Realm of Infinite Possibility.

Infinite Consciousness is therefore expressed through a multiplicity of forms and a Divine Share of Infinite Consciousness (*Kadara*) is apportioned to every created thing, animate and inanimate, visible, and invisible, some receiving more, some less, but all receiving a portion of the Divine Consciousness (Omnipresence).

Some people might call the *Kadara*, the Divine Share of Infinite Consciousness allotted to each human being, the soul. This **soul** is also a Sentient Energetic Entity, just like its Source because it is an extension, an expression of its Source. Therefore, in *Ifá* we would refer to this 'soul' as *Orí*, the Spiritual *Orí* (The Awareness), or *Èlédá* (the part of our divine consciousness that remains with *Olódùmarè* on the non-physical, spiritual plane of existence.)

- Your *Èlédá* does not come into the world, the *L'oja*.
- It is an eternal divine essence.
- Instead, Spiritual *Orí* chooses an avatar to experience the material world.
  - (An avatar is a manifestation of a deity or released soul in bodily form on earth, an incarnate divine teacher, an incarnation, embodiment, or manifestation of a person or idea.)
- The *Orí* that is chosen in the Land of *Ajala* is the physical *Orí* or Avatar of the Spiritual *Orí*.

The physical *Orí* begins the process of maturation in accordance with the Law of Dynamic Expansion the moment it attaches to the physical body, even in the womb.

Inspiration, insight, guidance, wisdom, and *Àṣẹ* (Spiritual Power) flow from the Infinite Consciousness of Source, to your *Èlédá*, to your Spiritual *Orí*, to your physical *Orí*.

The energetic vibrations of your experiences in the *L'oja*, your intentions, your hopes and desires, your declarations, and your prayers all travel (or vibrate) from your physical *Orí*, to your Spiritual *Orí*, to your *Èlédá*, to Infinite Consciousness fueling the process of Dynamic Expansion.

- There is no predestination.
- Your 'fate' is the consequences of our choices.

Ìwòrì Ọ̀ṣẹ́ / Iwori-Ọ̀ṣẹ́ (97)

This Odù says: (speaking of the good and the bad coming together.)

*Àbọ́rú Àbọ́yè!*

*“Ìṣẹ́ kiide / kiomamu ire / rẹ bọ’ni  
Tibitire-Ejiwapọ /  
A dífá f’Owókosi-ènìyàn-kosunwọ̀n /  
Wọ̀n ni: / Ojú tiori iṣẹ́ / kioma barajẹ. / Kiotoju orukọ rere. / Adùn niigbẹ̀bin ewuro. /  
Wọ̀n niki ó wa rúbọ / ki Ìṣẹ́ / le di Ọ̀rọ̀ fún un. /  
Èbọ: / Eyelé, / egbèrìndílógún owó / ati ewé Ifá. /  
(Gun ewé ewuro / ati Oluṣesaju pọmọ / oṣẹ tabi kiogbo àwọ̀n  
ewé / naa sinu omi / fún fifiwe pẹlu oṣẹ).”*

“Tribulation does not come without its good aspects.

The good and the bad are always together.

*Ifá* divination was performed for *Owókosi-ènìyàn-kosunwọ̀n*.

He was advised not to become dejected because he was poverty-stricken.

He should keep his good name. Sweetness usually ends the taste of a bitter leaf.

He was asked to offer sacrifice so that his adversity might turn to prosperity:

pigeons, thirty-two hundred cowries, and *Ifá* medicine

(Pound the bitter leaves and *oluṣesaju* leaves together; mix with soap.”

Ìwòrì Ọ̀ṣẹ́ / Iwori-Ọ̀ṣẹ́ (97)

In the Spiritual Mathematics of the *L'oja*, *Ifá* says, we live the consequences of our choices. Throughout the Sacred Oracles of *Ifá*, the ‘*Ese Ifá*’ (sacred verses and stories) it is stated again and again that it is everyone’s birthright to choose to go this way or that way, to do this or that, to follow the guidance of the *Babaláwo* and perform the ‘*ebo*’ (sacrifice) or to not follow.

The Spiritual Mathematics put in place to govern the possibilities of the *L'oja* stem from the fundamental purpose of the *L'oja*. That is, so that *Olódùmarè* can experience the Realm of Infinite Possibility (The *Àṣẹ*) through the manifestations of the *L'oja*.

- If human choices were restricted by 'predestination' there is no way that the fundamental purpose of creation could be achieved.

The Quilt/Matrix of Creation will be woven, and at each stage of its manifestation you and I are making the choices that locate each thread in the space-time continuum in relation to any and every other thread.

These threads are not just other human beings but include Mother Earth herself, all her forces and elements, all her children in all the kingdoms (mineral, micro, vegetal, animal, human, and onward into the multiverse of creation).

This is an expression of the Supreme Law of *Isopo*, Connectivity!

- Everything is connected to everything else.
- As above, so below! As within, so without!

Through our experiences, we, the threads of this imaginary quilt will eventually choose to come together into something magnificent and wonderful for *Olódùmarè* to experience. The beauty of that process is that each of us gets to choose the contribution we will make, the bridge, link, and knot that will be your individual legacy, the manifestation of your Free-Will, and the alignment between your physical *Orí* and your Spiritual *Orí*. This is your *Ogun Ibi*, **Birthright** (Truth #4).

*Ki Olódùmarè, Òrìṣà, ati Egun fifun e ni  
Itona, Imoye, ati Opo Ire!*

May *Olódùmarè*, *Òrìṣà*, and *Egun* bestow on you,  
Guidance, Wisdom, and Abundant Blessings!

*Ifokanbale!* Peace of Mind from *Olódùmarè*!

*Mo gbagbo ninu ti o!* I believe in you!

*Ọkàn mi idojuti o ti Ifẹ!* My heart embraces you with love!

*Ajolo Ajobo!* We go out together; We return together!

*Àṣẹ! Àṣẹ! Àṣẹ o!*