



Babalawo, Santeria's High Priests: Fathers of the Secrets in Afro-Cuban Ifa

Frank Baba Eyiogbe

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Cuban Ifá From An Insider

Hidden within the mysterious Afro-Cuban religion of Santería, also known as Lucumí, there is a deep body of secrets and rituals called Ifá, divination practiced by priests whose title, babalawo, means “Father of the Secrets.” This book pulls away the veil of secrecy to reveal exactly what Ifá is and how it works, exploring its history, cosmology, Orichas, initiations, mythology, offerings, and sacrifices. Join Frank Baba Eyiogbe in this fascinating introduction that discusses the functions of the babalawo, the role of women, the future of Ifá, and much more.

“A wonderful and much needed addition to the literature on Afro-Cuban religion. Engagingly written, scholarly while remaining accessible . . . it presents an up-to-date exposition of both the history and contemporary philosophy of one of the world’s most complex systems of divination.”—Stephan Palmié, Chair of the Department of Anthropology and Social Sciences at the University of Chicago and author of *The Cooking of History: How Not to Study Afro-Cuban Religion*

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