



Powers of the Orishas: Santeria & the Worship of Saints

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During the slave trade, the Yoruba of southwestern Nigeria who were brought to Cuba were forbidden the practice of their religion by their Spanish masters. In order to continue their magical and religious observances safely the slaves opted for the identification and disguise of the Orishas with some of the Catholic Saints worshipped by the Spaniards. In this manner they were able to worship their deities under the very noses of the Spaniards without danger of punishment.

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Victoria says

The way Migene paints the myths of the orishas is great. I appreciated the Orishas a little more after reading this book.

dianne says

This is really a reference book that carefully goes through each of the major Orishas, their legends, their days, numbers, likes, etc. It is a very helpful book for learning about Santeria, especially if you know a bit of the basics but would like more specific information about an Orisha. I enjoyed the legends. The syncretic saints - which vary from country to country were covered, but not completely; frankly that is less important to me. I found myself reading certain chapters (those relevant to me) many times, and scanning others - as one does with reference books.

Adebayo says

It broke down what colors, Numbers and other attributes were to each Orisha.

Shannon says

Realistically, this book is more like 3.5...It was pretty dry, but good information; that's what this book is though it's information and correspondences. The Paktis (sp? I don't have the book in front of me at this time) of each Orisha was interesting.

I couldn't help but think that information was purposefully omitted; and not in that the author didn't have enough the space, but they gave a bit of the info, but "refused" to go in depth about it, which made me kind of think "why bother putting it there or hinting at it in the first place?". But I guess Santeria is a very secretive religion, and this is the first book on Santeria that I've read from Gonzalez-Wippler, I'll have to see what her other books are about too.

Good information, but really just a taste of what Santeria is and by no means a guide book.

Chase Suno says

i want to read

Kevin says

Migene Gonzalez-Wippler book I own. I mainly got it as somewhat of a 'cheat sheet', for remembering the typical attributes of the various orisha.

The Good: It's a very short book, so it works pretty well as a simple reference book. The list of attributes can be somewhat helpful when first starting out. It covers colors, days, numbers, items, etc. There are also discussions of some of the various paths of the orisha as well as common ebbos.

The Bad: The paths are interesting, but I doubt many of them are ones that you can crown or receive. The list of ebbos is pretty silly, in my opinion. That should come out through divination, ita, etc. Unfortunately, I think the lists given will probably be used by people wanting to take matters into their own hands without actually knowing what they are doing.

Overall: It's all about what your expectations are, I suppose. If you're looking for something that focuses solely on the orisha and has a consolidated list of attributes, descriptions, and little pieces of information about each orisha, it's pretty good. I suppose it would also be good for those looking to set up an altar, offering, etc. and want to pay homage but haven't yet received that orisha.

Kathy says

I purchased this as a reference book, it is great for setting up altars to any of the Orishas.
