Santeria

Santeria is an earth religion. That is, it is a magico-religious system that has its roots in nature and natural forces. Each orisha or saint is identified with a force of nature and with a human interest or endeavor. Chango, for instance, is the god of fire, thunder and lightning, but he is, also the symbol of justice and protects his followers against enemies. He also symbolizes passion and virility and is often invoked in works of seduction. Oshun, on the other hand, symbolizes river waters, love and marriage. She is essentially the archetype of joy and pleasure. Yemaya is identified with the seven seas, but is also the symbol of Motherhood and protects women in their endeavors. Eleggua symbolizes the crossroads, and is the orisha of change and destiny, the one who makes things possible or impossible. He symbolizes the balance things. Obatala is the father, the symbol of peace and purity. Oya symbolizes the winds and is the owner of the cemetery, the watcher of the doorway between life and death. She is not death, but the awareness of its existence. Oggun is the patron of all metals, and protects farmers, carpenters, butchers, surgeons, mechanics, and all who work with or near metals. He also rules over accidents, which he often causes.

An engaging guide to the history, beliefs, rituals, and cultures of Santeria, an Afro-Cuban religion that arose out of the cultural clash of Christianity and African Yoruba beliefs that occurred when slaves were brought to the Americas. Original.

Are you familiar with the seven African powers? Do you want to learn the secret of their powers? Do you want to cultivate your own spiritual energy? Are you interested in learning how the ancient Yoruba survived slavery with the help of their ancestral spirits? Hundreds of years ago, the Yoruba people of Nigeria and West Africa were brought to America as slaves. Luckily, they successfully preserved their heritage and ancestral spirits by disguising their deities as Catholic saints. In secret, they worshipped. The result is the new-age religion known as Santería, a blend of Catholicism and African traditional beliefs. Santería offers valuable and insightful information into the origins, beliefs, and practices of the syncretic Lucumí religion. This book will teach you the remarkable secrets of the Yoruba people. In this book, you will: Discover how to invoke the orishas and the seven African Powers. Master the art of divination to foretell your future. Never worry about negative and evil forces again. See practical examples of how to use divine power to achieve your goals. Learn the powerful spells and rituals the Yoruba use to channel their gods. Master the use of ashé and iwa pele. Become a powerful child of the gods. And so much more! With this book as your guide, you now have a starting point to the life you desire. Santería will set you on the path to uncovering your roots and help you to establish a spiritual bond with the spirits of your ancestors. So, what are you waiting for? Click on the "Add to Cart" button to get your copy of this book today!

In 1992 Smithsonian anthropologist Michael Atwood Mason traveled to Cuba for initiation as a priest into the Santería religion. Since then he has created an active oricha “house" and has initiated five others as priests. He is a rare combination: a scholar-practitioner who is equally fluent in his profession and his religion. Interweaving his roles as researcher and priest, Mason explores Santería as a contemporary phenomenon and offers an understanding of its complexity through his own experiences and those of its many practitioners. Balancing deftly between a devotee's account of participation and an anthropologist's theoretical analysis, Living Santería offers an original and insightful understanding of this growing religious tradition.

For his new book, a clear and authoritative study of Santeria mythology, Luis Manuel Nunez, the author of Santeria: a practical guide to Afro-Caribbean magic, collected the ancient stories told in Santeria, a widely practiced religion resulting from the syncretism of Western African
Yoruba religion and Catholicism. These stories tell of the Orishas, the ancestral deities of the Yoruba. Versions of these stories have been retold for centuries by native-born Africans and by the descendents of the slaves imported throughout the Spanish and Portuguese colonies in the New World. They are still told today during the sacred and secular dances, rituals, and festivals practiced by the millions who still honor the Orishas. Yoruba religion was, and is, intimately tied to a concept of family, those living and the dead. The ancestors have control over the forces of nature and over everyday life. Historically, the most powerful ancestors were deified as Orishas. The Orishas can feel love and hate, be greedy or generous, and share in the everyday joys and sorrows of those who live on this earth, as these stories clearly demonstrate.

The Osha examines a religion (not a cult) practiced by hundreds of thousands of people in different countries. The Osha provides the stories, history, types and manner of divination, the procedures of vestment, names of the deities and everything which is part of the Yoruba/Santeria religion.

A quirky collection of short sci-fi stories for fans of Kij Johnson and Kelly Link Assimilation is founded on surrender and being broken; this collection of short stories features people who have assimilated, but are actively trying to reclaim their lives. There is a concert pianist who defies death by uploading his soul into his piano. There is the person who draws his mother's ghost out of the bullet hole in the wall near where she was executed. Another character has a horn growing out of the center of his forehead—punishment for an affair. But he is too weak to end it, too much in love to be moral. Another story recounts a panda breeder looking for tips. And then there's a border patrol agent trying to figure out how to process undocumented visitors from another galaxy. Poignant by way of funny, and philosophical by way of grotesque, Hernandez's stories are prayers for self-sovereignty.

Long cloaked in protective secrecy, demonized by Western society, and distorted by Hollywood, Santería is at last emerging from the shadows with an estimated 75 million orisha followers worldwide. In The Altar of My Soul, Marta Moreno Vega recounts the compelling true story of her journey from ignorance and skepticism to initiation as a Yoruba priestess in the Santería religion. This unforgettable spiritual memoir reveals the long-hidden roots and traditions of a centuries-old faith that originated on the shores of West Africa. As an Afro-Puerto Rican child in the New York barrio, Marta paid little heed to the storefront botanicas full of spiritual paraphernalia or to the Catholic saints with foreign names: Yemayá, Ellegua, Shangó. As an adult, in search of a religion that would reflect her racial and cultural heritage, Marta was led to the Way of the Saints. She came to know Santería intimately through its prayers and rituals, drumming and dancing, trances and divination that spark sacred healing energy for family, spiritual growth, and service to others. Written by one who is a professor and a santera priestess, The Altar of My Soul lays before us an electrifying and inspiring faith—one passed down from generation to generation that vitalizes the sacred energy necessary to build a family, a community, and a strong, loving society.

Providing new insight into debates over race and representation in the media, this ethnographic study explores the ways in which African Americans are depicted in television situation comedies and the meanings that African American audiences assign to such representations. The author ponders the reasons why blacks are relegated to comedy, and explores audiences' perspectives on a variety of issues, including how blackness is defined through television, the impact of stereotyping on societal perceptions, and the positive side of comedies.

When the Yorubas of West Africa were brought to Cuba as slaves, they preserved their heritage by worshiping secretly.
The resulting religion, Santeria, is controversial for its ceremonies including animal sacrifice. This book clears many misunderstandings held by those outside the Santeria community. 75 photos.

Santería is an African-inspired, Cuban diaspora religion long stigmatized as witchcraft and often dismissed as superstition, yet its spirit- and possession-based practices are rapidly winning adherents across the world. Aisha M. Beliso-De Jesús introduces the term "copresence" to capture the current transnational experience of Santería, in which racialized and gendered spirits, deities, priests, and religious travelers remake local, national, and political boundaries and reconfigure notions of technology and transnationalism. Drawing on eight years of ethnographic research in Havana and Matanzas, Cuba, and in New York City, Miami, Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Bay area, Beliso-De Jesús traces the phenomenon of copresence in the lives of Santería practitioners, mapping its emergence in transnational places and historical moments and its ritual negotiation of race, imperialism, gender, sexuality, and religious travel. Santería's spirits, deities, and practitioners allow digital technologies to be used in new ways, inciting unique encounters through video and other media. Doing away with traditional perceptions of Santería as a static, localized practice or as part of a mythologized "past," this book emphasizes the religion's dynamic circulations and calls for nontranscendental understandings of religious transnationalisms.

In 1973, the first hardcover edition of Santeria: African Magic in Latin America by cultural anthropologist Migene Gonzalez-Wippler was first published by Julian Press. It became an immediate best seller and is still considered by many experts one of the most popular books on Santeria, having gone through four editions and several translations. Now this beloved classic, written by one of the foremost scholars on the Afro-Cuban religion, has returned in a fifth edition. This time the text has been carefully edited and corrected to incorporate vital new material. The beliefs, the practices, the legends of Santeria are brilliantly brought to life in this exciting and critically acclaimed best seller. If you have ever wondered what Santeria is, if you are curious about the rituals and practices of this mysterious religion, and want to delve in its deepest secrets, read Santeria: African Magic in Latin America. It will answer all the questions and much more.

This book Pataki of Orisa and other Essay's for Lucumi Santeria. Contains Pataki of Odu , Essays on Orisha written by Ota Omi. OTA OMI /(woofy), has been a diligent writer of Pataki on the internet for years and Highly respected in the Santeria Community. This is his first book published here on Lulu, and he promises to continue writing more volumes and other works. A must have for your santeria Libraryataki of Orisa and other Essay's for Lucumi Santeria. Contains Pataki of Odu , Essays on Orisha written by Ota Omi. OTA OMI /(woofy), has been a diligent writer of Pataki on the internet for years and Highly respected in the Santeria Community. This is his first book published here on Lulu, and he promises to continue writing more volumes and other works. A must have for your santeria LibraryISBN 978-0-557-08376-3
Ever since its emergence in colonial-era Cuba, Afro-Cuban Santería (or Lucumí) has displayed a complex dynamic of continuity and change in its institutions, rituals, and iconography. Originally published in 2003 Santería Enthroned combines art, history, cultural anthropology, and ethnohistory to show how Africans and their descendants have developed novel forms of religious practice in the face of relentless oppression. Focusing on the royal throne as a potent metaphor in Santería belief and practice it shows how negotiations among ideologically competing interests have shaped the religion’s symbols, rituals, and institutions from the nineteenth century to the present. Rich case studies of change in Cuba and the United States, including a New Jersey temple and South Carolina’s Oyotunji Village, reveal patterns of innovation similar to those found among rival Yoruba kingdoms in Nigeria. Throughout, the book argues for a theoretical perspective on culture as a field of potential strategies and "usable pasts" that actors draw upon to craft new forms and identities – a perspective that will be invaluable to all students of the African Diaspora.

First published in 1982, this book received critical acclaim as one woman's autobiographical account of the magico-religious system that remains an enigma to the Christian world. In this raw, emotional story, Migene reports her own extraordinary encounters with the religion as both a researcher and initiate. She also shares actual offerings and rituals that you can do to enlist the aid of the African deities for specific purposes!

In the Afro-Cuban Lukumi religious tradition—more commonly known in the United States as Santería—entrants into the priesthood undergo an extraordinary fifty-three-week initiation period. During this time, these novices—called iyawo—endure a host of prohibitions, including most notably wearing exclusively white clothing. In A Year in White, sociologist C. Lynn Carr, who underwent this initiation herself, opens a window on this remarkable year-long religious transformation. In her intimate investigation of the “year in white,” Carr draws on fifty-two in-depth interviews with other participants, an online survey of nearly two hundred others, and almost a decade of her own ethnographic fieldwork, gathering stories that allow us to see how cultural newcomers and natives thought, felt, and acted with regard to their initiation. She documents how, during the iyawo year, the ritual slowly transforms the initiate’s identity. For the first three months, for instance, the iyawo may not use a mirror, even to shave, and must eat all meals while seated on a mat on the floor using only a spoon and their own set of dishes. During the entire year, the iyawo loses their name and is simply addressed as “iyawo” by family and friends. Carr also shows that this year-long religious ritual—which is carried out even as the iyawo goes about daily life—offers new insight into religion in general, suggesting that the sacred is not separable from the profane and indeed that religion shares an ongoing dynamic relationship with the realities of everyday life. Religious expression happens at home, on the streets, at work and school. Offering insight not only into Santería but also into religion more generally, A Year in White makes an important contribution to our understanding of complex, dynamic
religious landscapes in multicultural, pluralist societies and how they inhabit our daily lives. Ever since its emergence in colonial-era Cuba, Afro-Cuban Santería (or Lucumí) has displayed a complex dynamic of continuity and change in its institutions, rituals, and iconography. In Santería Enthroned, David H. Brown combines art history, cultural anthropology, and ethnohistory to show how Africans and their descendants have developed novel forms of religious practice in the face of relentless oppression. Focusing on the royal throne as a potent metaphor in Santería belief and practice, Brown shows how negotiation among ideologically competing interests have shaped the religion's symbols, rituals, and institutions from the nineteenth century to the present. Rich case studies of change in Cuba and the United States, including a New Jersey temple and South Carolina's Oyotunji Village, reveal patterns of innovation similar to those found among rival Yoruba kingdoms in Nigeria. Throughout, Brown argues for a theoretical perspective on culture as a field of potential strategies and "usable pasts" that actors draw upon to craft new forms and identities—a perspective that will be invaluable to all students of the African Diaspora. American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion (Analytical-Descriptive Category) A revealing window into the secret and seductive world of Santeria. • A Santeria priest discloses information never before revealed to outsiders. • Removes the veil of occultism from Santeria to show it as a highly spiritual, thriving religion. Initiated into the Santería priesthood at the age of seven, Raul Canizares unveils in Cuban Santería the secret and seductive world of this rapidly growing, yet largely misunderstood, Afro-Cuban religion. With the knowledge of an insider and the insight of a scholar, Canizares astutely examines the practice of Santería, revealing many of its hidden dimensions while simultaneously providing a fascinating account of its unique textured mix of African, Cuban, and Catholic traditions. The Cuban-born author describes the practices and rituals of the followers of Santería—from magical herbal prescription and healing to spiritism and animal sacrifice—and explains how for many years the religion has been maintained under the guise of Catholicism to avoid religious persecution. Most initiates are sworn to a code of silence, but Canizares believes that the time has come to move Santería, a religion of beauty and resilience, out of the darkness and into the light so that a more accurate picture of this rich tradition can emerge. Santería represents the first in-depth, scholarly account of a profound way of wisdom that is growing in importance in America today. A professional academic and himself a participant in the Santería community of the Bronx for several years, Joseph Murphy offers a powerful description and insightful analysis of this African/Cuban religion. He traces the survival of an ancient spiritual path from its West African Yoruba origins, through nearly two centuries of slavery in the New World, to its presence in the urban centers of the United States, where it continues to inspire seekers with its compelling vision. Over 100 million people are estimated to be involved in the cult of the orishas, or Santeria. Here are the authentic patakis (legends) about the creation of the world on which the religious structure of Santería is based. These archetypal stories about the interrelationship of Santerian deities play out the universal themes of creation, life, conflict and destruction, demonstrating rich spiritual insights into the human condition. If your knowledge of Santería only goes so far as the reference in the 90s song by Sublime, you have a lot to learn. The word
"Santeria" is translated from the Spanish for "worship of saints," though that translation alone doesn't really paint an accurate picture of what Santeria is all about. Not only does Santeria involve the worship of saints (called Orishas), but it is also a quest for enlightenment and kinship with God. What makes Santeria so unique is the fact that it is a syncretic religion - it combines the beliefs and practices of several religions, primarily the African Yoruba religion with Roman Catholic elements mixed in. Santeria involves a great many rituals and ceremonies, all of which are personalized according to the individual's destiny. If you are curious to learn more about this religion - and if you want to learn the truth behind the myths - this book is the perfect place for you to begin. Here you will find an overview of the Santeria religion and its history as well as information about its beliefs, practices, and rituals. By the time you finish this book you will have a thorough understanding of what Santeria is and how it is practiced. You may even decide to give it a try for yourself! A Brief Beginners Guide to Santeria History, Practices, Deities, Spells and Rituals Santeria, a religion whose origins can be traced back to the Yoruban tribes of West Africa. Brought into the United States and Latin American countries through the slave trade, it is now practiced in Cuba and the Latin American countries and has over 20,000 followers in the United States. Inside this book learn: The Practices of SanteriaThe Orisha of Truth Who Killed His Own MotherThe Reason Oshun Was Shunned After Giving Birth to TwinsThe Punishment Babalu Aye May Deliver Out As well as a few Santeria spells.
The first book to explore the sacred myths of Santería • Includes more than 100 myths, stories, and histories about the odu and the orishas • Reassembles the oral fragments from the African diaspora into coherent stories • Demonstrates that the African peoples, specifically the Yoruba, were deeply spiritual At the core of the diloggún--the sacred divination system of Santería--are the sacred stories known as the patakís, narratives whose themes are as powerful and relevant today as they were in the minds of the ancient Yoruba who safeguarded them. Each patakí is connected to one or more of the 16 odu, the principal creative forces of Santería. Some recount the lives of orishas on earth, others the lives of individuals in heaven, and some tell of the odu themselves, for even they once walked the earth as mortals. The first book to explore these ancient African stories in English, Teachings of the Santería Gods recounts more than 100 of these sacred parables, including many stories reassembled from the oral tradition of the African diaspora. Ranging from creation myths to what happens when a love potion works far too well, these stories share the wisdom and spirituality of the Yoruba people of ancient Africa and form the living, oral bible of one of the world’s fastest-growing faiths.
• The first book to provide complete, specific instructions for casting the obi oracle of the Santería faith. • Uses the shell of a coconut, which embodies the spirit of Obí, as a divination tool. • Includes a detailed “mojuba” or prayer that awakens the orishas and invites them to speak. • Examines in depth the five basic patterns that appear when obí is cast and explains how to interpret the oracle’s answer. • Explores the fifty additional patterns and meanings contributed by ten orishas closely associated with the orisha Obí One of the paths to the spirits within Santeria is through a divination technique known as obi, the coconut oracle, which gives the petitioner access to the orisha of the same name. The orisha Obí began as a mortal human who ascended to become an
orisha as a reward for good deeds done on Earth, then fell from grace because of excessive pride. When he descended back to Earth, his spirit was embodied in the coconut palm. Though he no longer has a tongue, he can answer questions posed to him through the patterns made by four pieces of coconut shell cast as a divination tool. Obí: Oracle of Cuban Santería is the first book to fully explore the sacred body of lore surrounding Obí, as well as his particular rituals and customs, including opening considerations, casting and interpreting the oracle, and employing advanced methods of divination. Also explained are the previously unpublished secrets of closing the oracle properly so that any negative vibrations will be absorbed by the coconuts and permanently removed from the diviner’s home.

Yoruba theology teaches that there are 401 powers of the right ("angels") called orisha whose role is to act as protectors and facilitators of humankind; there are also 201 powers of the left called ajogun ("demons") whose role is to present humans with challenges and obstacles. Eshu’s place is unique because he is both an orisha and the leader of the ajogun! He is both an orisha and the leader of the Ajogun! He is the one in four-hundred-and-one and the one in two-hundred-and-one.

"Will be of interest not only to specialists in Afro-Cuban and African Diaspora religions, but also to medical anthropologists and students of anthropology, psychology, and religious studies. This work provides a particularly revealing entry way into the realities of contemporary Cuba."--George Brandon, Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, City University of New York

Johan Wedel offers a visit inside the world of Santería healing. Drawing upon extensive fieldwork in contemporary Cuba, including interviews with Santería devotees, firsthand observations of divination sessions, and interviews with healed patients supplemented by comments from Santería healers, Wedel demonstrates how Santería healing is carried out and experienced by the participants. Santería--with roots in Africa and the slave trade and rituals including divination, animal sacrifice, and possession trance--would seem an anachronism in the modern world. Still, Wedel argues, it offers treatment and ideas about illness that are flourishing and even spreading in the face of Western medicine. He shows that Santería healing is best understood as a transformation of the self, allowing the patient to experience the world in a new way. He grounds his analysis of Santería in lively and sometimes frightening narratives in which people reveal in their own words the experience of illness, sorcery, and healing. Wedel's account will appeal to scholars and others interested in Santería, Cuba, and religious healing. He shows that Santería is not only a challenge to Western medical theory, but also an important contribution to our understanding of illness, suffering, and well-being. Johan Wedel is instructor in social anthropology at Göteborg University, Sweden.

The first book on Santería's holiest divination system, the Dilogún. Explores the lore surrounding this mysterious oracle, the living Bible of one of the world's fastest growing faiths. Examines each family of odu and how their actions affect the spiritual development of the individual. An indispensable guide to the mysteries of the orishas.

"A comprehensive, almost encyclopedic, introduction to Santería . . . Cros Sandoval's greatest contribution is in tackling the question of why Santería's Yoruba cosmology has proven so durable and compelling over time, even as it has been transplanted across an ocean and brought into contact with very different traditions in very different societies than its place of origin."--Kristina
Wirtz, Western Michigan University "A broad and deep synthesis of scholarship on Santeria . . . fully recognizes the heterogeneous nature of Afro-Cuban religious belief and successfully explores the origins of that heterogeneity."--Theron Corse, Tennessee State University Cros Sandoval's authoritative introduction to the Afro-Cuban religion called Santeria explores how it emerged and developed in Cuba out of transplanted Yoruba beliefs and continues to spread and adjust to changing times and contexts. Systematically exploring every facet of Santeria's worldview, Sandoval examines how practitioners have adapted received beliefs and practices to reconcile them with new environments, from plantation slavery to exile in the United States. Offering a distinctive perspective based on a lifetime of extensive research and firsthand knowledge, Cros Sandoval illuminates Santeria as a theological system and as a vital, continuously evolving community. The adaptation process that gave birth to Santeria was not the singular result of cultural resistance, she argues, but a successful attempt to find meaning linked to alien religious elements in a way that appealed to a diverse following. Beginning with the transatlantic history of how Yoruba traditions came to Cuba and were established and adapted to Cuban society, Sandoval provides a comprehensive comparison of Yoruba and Cuban mythologies, followed by an overview of how Santeria has continued to diffuse and change in response to new contexts and adherents--with an especially illuminating perspective on Santeria among Cubans in Miami. As a reference work and historical treatment of Santeria, Sandoval's work will appeal to both scholars and nonscholars alike, ranging from anthropologists and students of religion and the African Diaspora to psychologists, social workers, and those curious about or inspired by this remarkably durable and adaptable belief system.

This book will take you by the hand, to enter the world of Cuban Santeria, its deities and fetishes, the way of making religion in Cuba, the main elements that must be known, how and why this ancestral Afro-Cuban religion is reached, as well as, a brief explanation of the settlement process to a person. The relationship that exists between Santeria and Spiritism. Communication with the orishas and the dead. How coconuts and snails are thrown, also, some chosen stories about the life and work of these orisha of the Yoruba pantheon, ... etc.

Santeria: The Beliefs and Rituals of a Growing Religion in America, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

Revised edition of the only book to describe in detail the music and cultural context of Santeria bata drumming. During the slave trade, the Yoruba of southwestern Nigeria who were brought to Cuba were forbidden to practice their religion by their Spanish masters. To protect themselves, the slaves opted for the identification and disguise of the Orishas with some of the Catholic Saints worshipped by the Spaniards, allowing them to worship their deities without fear of punishment. This book presents the major Orishas of Santeria in their syncretic identifications with some of the Catholic Saints.

Brought to Cuba as slaves, the Yoruba people of West Africa preserved their religion's heritage by disguising their gods as Catholic saints and worshipping them in secret. The resulting religion is known as Santeria, a blend of primitive magic and Catholicism now practiced by an estimated five million Americans. Santeria: The Religion is an informative and insightful examination of an African religion's survival in the New World. No one could write this book better than Migene
Gonzalez-Wippler. Combining her informed study as an anthropologist and personal experience as a Santerian initiate results in a thrilling book that reveals some of Santeria’s most spellbinding elements: ·The orishas: the deities of Santeria. Who they are. What they represent. How they may be contacted. ·The santeros: the priests of Santeria. What they are like. What they do. Initiations into the priesthood. ·The diloggün: shells used in divination. How they are used. Methods to consult the gods with the shells. ·Ewe: the magic of Santeria. Includes herbal potions prepared as medicinal cures. Santeria: The Religion covers every aspect of this religion, including its rites and ceremonies. Some of these ceremonies may be considered bizarre or controversial—but, if you want to know the truth, get this book. Santeria: The Religion contains over 65 remarkable photographs that will take you right into Santeria traditions. Interviews with practitioners reveal aspects of the religion rarely disclosed to non-believers. The time has come to reveal the growing spiritual practice that continues to gain ground worldwide, and to remove the fear and distrust from people who do not understand. Here is the truth about the religion. Get Santeria: The Religion today.

The first book to explore the history, methods, and thinking behind sacrifice in the growing Santería faith • Explains the animal sacrifice ceremony in step-by-step detail • Shares the ancient African sacred stories that reveal the well-thought-out metaphysics and spirituality behind the practice of animal sacrifice • Chronicles the legal fight all the way to its 1993 U.S. Supreme Court victory to establish legal protection for the Santería faith and its practitioners Tackling the biggest controversy surrounding his faith, Santería priest Ócha’ni Lele explains for the first time in print the practice and importance of animal sacrifice as a religious sacrament. Describing the animal sacrifice ceremony in step-by-step detail, including the songs and chants used, he examines the thinking and metaphysics behind the ritual and reveals the deep connections to the odu of the diloggún—the source of all practices in this Afro-Cuban faith. Tracing the legal battle spearheaded by Oba Ernesto Pichardo, head of the Church of the Lukumi of Babaluaiye, over the right to practice animal sacrifice as a religious sacrament, Lele chronicles the fight all the way to its 1993 U.S. Supreme Court victory, which established legal protection for the Santería faith and its practitioners. Weaving together oral fragments stemming from the ancient Yoruba of West Africa, the author reconstructs their sacred stories, or patakís, that demonstrate the well-thought-out metaphysics and spirituality behind the practice of animal sacrifice in the Yoruba and Santería religion, including explanations about why each animal can be regarded as food for both humans and the orisha as well as how sacrifice is not limited to animals. Shedding light on the extraordinary global growth of this religion over the past 50 years, Lele’s guide to the sacrificial ceremonies of Santería enables initiates to learn proper ceremony protocol as well as gives outsiders a glimpse into this most secretive world of the santeros.

"On his own terms, Brandon more than fulfills his promise to take the reader on the transatlantic journey of the orisha and
to explore the complexities of African memory in the diaspora." —American Historical Review "He adeptly addresses broader issues, such as power relations within Caribbean slavery, multiculturalism, and the forms of religious accommodation to cultural change. In addition, he offers a fresh and cogent assessment of the production and reproduction of African beliefs and practices in new contexts. Brandon’s exemplary archival research is supplemented by skillful participant observation." —Choice The Yoruba religious tradition arose in West Africa, but its influence has spread beyond Africa to millions of adherents in the Americas as well. Santería from Africa to the New World retraces one path taken by this tradition—a path from Africa to Cuba and to New York City. George Brandon examines the religion's transatlantic route through Cuban Santería, Puerto Rican Espiritismo, and Black Nationalism. In following the historical and anthropological evolution of the Yoruba religion, Brandon discusses broader questions of power, multiculturalism, cultural change, and the production and reproduction of African retentions.

For review see: Joseph M. Murphy, in HAHR : The Hispanic American Historical Review, 78, 3 (August 1998); p. 495-496.

Originally published in 2003 Santería Enthroned combines art, history, cultural anthropology, and ethnohistory to show how Africans and their descendants have developed novel forms of religious practice in the face of relentless oppression. Creolization—the coming together of diverse beliefs and practices to form new beliefs and practices—is one of the most significant phenomena in Caribbean religious history. Brought together in the crucible of the sugar plantation, Caribbean peoples drew on the variants of Christianity brought by European colonizers, as well as on African religious and healing traditions and the remnants of Amerindian practices, to fashion new systems of belief. Creole Religions of the Caribbean offers a comprehensive introduction to the syncretic religions that have developed in the region. From Vodou, Santería, Regla de Palo, the Abakui Secret Society, and Obeah to Quimbois and Espiritismo, the volume traces the historical cultural origins of the major Creole religions, as well as the newer traditions such as Pocomania and Rastafarianism. This second edition updates the scholarship on the religions themselves and also expands the regional considerations of the Diaspora to the U. S. Latino community who are influenced by Creole spiritual practices. Fernández Olmos and ParavisiniGebert also take into account the increased significance of material culture and healing practices influenced by Creole religions. In the Religion, Race, and Ethnicity series"

The secrets of Santería, Voodoo and Obeah are among the oldest enigmas in the world. Their roots go back to prehistoric Africa - perhaps even beyond that. From the 16th century onwards, the slave trade brought these ancient mysteries to the West, where they blended strangely with traditional Christianity: the ancient African gods became identified with legendary saints. This integration of the two faiths slowly evolved to form the many varieties of Santería,
Obeah and Voudoun that are widely practiced throughout the world today. Their characteristic dancing and drumming seem able to invoke strange states of mind in which almost anything is possible. Even stories of zombies - the walking dead - still persist. Is there a rational explanation for them? Contemporary Voudoun priests, priestesses, magicians and enchanters use rare herbs and spices as well as charms, dolls and talismans to control the natural world in ways that science cannot always explain. Accounts of their inexplicable successes are examined in depth. Most intriguing of all are the claims that are made for their love philtres and aphrodisiacs. What powers do these old religions still possess?