

Awo in Training Part IV

In the previous lesson I suggested learning the single legs of *Ifa* in order of seniority. Learning that material becomes the foundation for the next step, which is learning the sequence of all 256 *Odu*. This becomes important during divination because seniority is a determining factor in the process of determining orientation. There are a number of methods used in Nigeria to organize *Odu* so there is no correct way to do it; there is only the way of your lineage. I will start by showing the process as it is done in my lineage in Ode Remo, then I will show the process as it is done in Lagos as an alternative method.

The easiest way to understand and learn the sequence is to imagine the entire corpus of *Odu* verses is organized into 16 books. The first book is all the *Odu* called *meji* meaning the right and the left leg are identical. Book one is as follows:

BOOK ONE

Ogbe Meji

Oyeku Meji

Iwori Meji

Odi Meji

Irosun Meji

Owonrin Meji

Obara Meji

Okanran Meji

Ogunda Meji

Osa Meji

Ika Meji

Oturupon Meji

Otura Meji

Irete Meji

Ose Meji

Ofun Meji

Once the *Odu meji* are memorized in sequence the rest of the *Odu* are remembered through the use of a simple formula that does not require the rote memory of the entire remaining 240 *Odu*. The formula is this; the remaining fifteen books of *Odu* go through all the combinations of a particular single leg, minus the verses that are senior.

What does that mean?

The second book of *Odu* includes *Ogbe* combined with the remaining fifteen legs. Combined *Odu* are read from the right to the left. Each book starts with the primary *Odu* of that book on the right, then the *Odu* flips. For example the first chapter of book two is *Ogbe Oyeku*, the second chapter of book two is *Oyeku Ogbe*. Book two then uses this pattern to move through the *Odu* in sequence as follows:

BOOK TWO

Ogbe Oyeku

Oyeku Ogbe

Ogbe Iwori

Iwori Ogbe

Ogbe Odi

Odi Ogbe

Ogbe Irosun

Irosun Ogbe

Ogbe Owonrin

Owonrin Ogbe

Ogbe Obara

Obara Ogbe

Ogbe Okanran

Okanran Ogbe

Ogbe Ogunda

Ogunda Ogbe

Ogbe Osa

Osa Ogbe

Ogbe Ika

Ika Ogbe

Ogbe Oturupon

Oturupon Ogbe

Ogbe Otura

Otura Ogbe

Ogbe Irete

Irete Ogbe

Ogbe Ose

Ose Ogbe

Ogbe Ofun

Ofun Ogbe

From this point book three is all the verses with *Oyeku* minus *Ogbe Oyeku* and *Oyeku Ogbe* because those two chapters appear in book two. If you understand the structure of the system at this point you should be able to recite the order of sequence of the remaining chapters without having to memorize them by route.

BOOK THREE

Oyeku Iwori

Iwori Oyeku

Oyeku Odi

Odi Oyeku

Oyeku Irosun

Irosun Oyeku

Oyeku Owonrin

Owonrin Oyeku

Oyeku Obara

Obara Oyeku

Oyeku Okanran

Okanran Oyeku

Oyeku Ogunda

Ogunda Oyeku

Oyeku Osa

Osa Oyeku

Oyeku Ika

Ika Oyeku

Oyeku Oturupon

Oturupon Oyeku

Oyeku Otura

Otura Oyeku

Oyeku Irete

Irete Oyeku

Oyeku Ose

Ose Oyeku

Oyeku Ofun

Ofun Oyeku

BOOK 4

Iwori Odi

Odi Iwori

Iwori Irosun

Irosun Iwori

Iwori Owonrin

Owonrin Iwori

Iwori Obara

Obara Iwori

Iwori Okanran

Okanran Iwori

Iwori Ogunda

Ogunda Iwori

Iwori Osa

Osa Iwori

Iwori Ika

Ika Iwori

Iwori Oturupon

Oturupon Iwori

Iwori Otura

Otura Iwori

Iwori Irete

Irete Iwori

Iwori Ose

Ose Iwori

Iwori Ofun

Ofun Iwori

BOOK 5

Odi Irosun

Irosun Odi

Odi Owonrin

Owonrin Odi

Odi Obara

Obara Odi

Odi Okanran

Okanran Odi

Odi Ogunda

Ogunda Odi

Odi Osa

Osa Odi

Odi Ika

Ika Odi

Odi Oturupon

Oturupon Odi

Odi Otura

Otura Odi

Odi Irete

Irete Odi

Odi Ose

Ose Odi

Odi Ofun

Ofun Odi

BOOK 6

Irosun Owonrin

Owonrin Irosun

Irosun Obara

Obara Irosun

Irosun Okanran

Okanran Irosun

Irosun Ogunda

Ogunda Irosun

Irosun Osa

Osa Irosun

Irosun Ika

Ika Irosun

Irosun Oturupon

Oturupon Irosun

Irosun Otura

Otura Irosun

Irosun Irete

Irete Irosun

Irosun Ose

Ose Irosun

Irosun Ofun

Ofun Irosun

BOOK 7

Owonrin Obara

Obara Owonrin

Owonrin Okanran

Okanran Owonrin

Owonrin Ogunda

Ogunda Owonrin

Owonrin Osa

Osa Owonrin

Owonrin Ika

Ika Owonrin

Owonrin Oturupon

Oturupon Owonrin

Owonrin Otura

Otura Owonrin

Owonrin Irete

Irete Owonrin

Owonrin Ose

Ose Owonrin

Owonrin Ofun

Ofun Owonrin

BOOK 8

Obara Okanran

Okanran Obara

Obara Ogunda

Ogunda Obara

Obara Osa

Osa Obara

Obara Ika

Ika Obara

Obara Oturupon

Oturupon Obara

Obara Otura

Otura Obara

Obara Irete

Irete Obara

Obara Ose

Ose Obara

Obara Ofun

Ofun Obara

BOOK 9

Okanran Ogunda

Ogunda Okanran

Okanran Osa

Osa Okanran

Okanran Ika

Ika Okanran

Okanran Oturupon

Oturupon Okanran

Okanran Otura

Otura Okanran

Okanran Irete

Irete Okanran

Okanran Ose
Ose Okanran
Okanran Ofun
Ofun Okanran

BOOK 10

Ogunda Osa
Osa Ogunda
Ogunda Ika
Ika Ogunda
Ogunda Oturupon
Oturupon Ogunda
Ogunda Otura
Otura Ogunda
Ogunda Irete
Irete Ogunda
Ogunda Ose
Ose Ogunda
Ogunda Ofun
Ofun Ogunda

BOOK 11

Osa Ika

Ika Osa

Osa Oturupon

Oturupon Osa

Osa Otura

Otura Osa

Osa Irete

Irete Osa

Osa Ose

Ose Osa

Osa Ofun

Ofun Osa

BOOK 12

Ika Oturupon

Oturupon Ika

Ika Otura

Otura Ika

Ika Irete

Irete Ika

Ika Ose

Ose Ika

Ika Ofun

Ofun Ika

BOOK 13

Oturupon Otura

Otura Oturupon

Oturupon Irete

Irete Oturupon

Oturupon Ose

Ose Oturupon

Oturupon Ofun

Ofun Oturupon

BOOK 14

Otura Irete

Irete Otura

Otura Ose

Ose Otura (This is the seventeenth Odu in sequence for reasons that will be explained)

Otura Ofun

Ofun Otura

BOOK 15

Irete Ose

Ose Irete

Irete Ofun

Ofun Irete

BOOK 16

Ose Ofun

Ofun Ose

There are two things to notice about this formula for determining seniority. Each chapter gets smaller and smaller as you move through the sequence and there is no chapter for *Ofun*, because when you get to *Ofun* it has already been included in all the previous chapters. Based on information contained in *Odu* verses when *Ogbe Meji* and *Ofun Meji* appear in sequence during divination *Ofun Meji* is considered senior to *Ogbe Meji*. This is because in *Ifa* cosmology when twins come to earth the youngest goes first and the oldest goes last. When *Odu* came to earth the same thing happened, the

youngest went first and became the oldest, which the oldest came last and became the youngest. *Ofun Meji* is senior to *Ogbe Meji* in deference to their relationship in *Orun*. *Ose Otura* is the seventeenth *Odu* coming right after the *meji* of the first book. The reason for this is because the invocation of *Ose Otura* causes the 16 *meji Odu* to copulate giving birth to the remaining 240 *omo Odu* or the children of *Olodu* the elder parents of the *omo*.

The system used in Lagos is straight forward and involves the use of seventeen books, in which the first book is the *meji* as in the method of organization used in Ode Remo. The remaining books go through the sequence with the *Odu* leg of a particular *Odu* appearing on the right as follows:

BOOK ONE

Ogbe Meji

Oyeku Meji

Iwori Meji

Odi Meji

Irosun Meji

Owonrin Meji

Obara Meji

Okanran Meji

Ogunda Meji

Osa Meji

Ika Meji

Oturupon Meji

Otura Meji

Ose Meji

Ofun Meji

BOOK 2

Ogbe Oyeku

Ogbe Iwori

Ogbe Odi

Ogbe Irosun

Ogbe Owonrin

Ogbe Obara

Ogbe Okanran

Ogbe Ogunda

Ogbe Osa

Ogbe Ika

Ogbe Oturupon

Ogbe Otura

Ogbe Irete

Ogbe Ose

Ogbe Ofun

BOOK 3

Oyeku Ogbe

Oyeku Iwori

Oyeku Odi

Oyeku Irosun

Oyeku Owonrin

Oyeku Obara

Oyeku Okanran

Oyeku Ogunda

Oyeku Osa

Oyeku Ika

Oyeku Oturupon

Oyeku Otura

Oyeku Irete

Oyeku Ose

Oyeku Ofun

BOOK 4

Iwori Ogbe

Iwori Oyeku

Iwori Odi

Iwori Irosun

Iwori Owonrin

Iwori Obara

Iwori Okanran

Iwori Ogunda

Iwori Osa

Iwori Ika

Iwori Oturupon

Iwori Otura

Iwori Irete

Iwori Ose

Iwori Ofun

BOOK 5

Odi Ogbe

Odi Oyeku

Odi Iwori

Odi Irosun

Odi Owonrin

Odi Obara

Odi Okanran

Odi Ogunda

Odi Osa

Odi Ika

Odi Oturupon

Odi Otura

Odi Irete

Odi Ose

Odi Ofun

BOOK 6

Irosun Ogbe

Irosun Oyeku

Irosun Iwori

Irosun Odi

Irosun Owonrin

Irosun Obara

Irosun Okanran

Irosun Ogunda

Irosun Osa

Irosun Ika

Irosun Oturupon

Irosun Otura

Irosun Irete

Irosun Ose

Irosun Ofun

BOOK 7

Owonrin Ogbe

Owonrin Oyeku

Owonrin Iwori

Owonrin Odi

Owonrin Irosun

Owonrin Obara

Owonrin Okanran

Owonrin Ogunda

Owonrin Osa

Owonrin Ika

Owonrin Oturupon

Owonrin Otura

Owonrin Irete

Owonrin Ose

Owonrin Ofun

BOOK 8

Obara Ogbe

Obara Oyeku

Obara Iwori

Obara Odi

Obara Irosun

Obara Owonrin

Obara Okanran

Obara Ogunda

Obara Osa

Obara Ika

Obara Oturupon

Obara Otura

Obara Irete

Obara Ose

Obara Ofun

BOOK 9

Okanran Ogbe

Okanran Oyeku

Okanran Iwori

Okanran Odi

Okanran Irosun

Okanran Owonrin

Okanran Obara

Okanran Ogunda

Okanran Osa

Okanran Ika

Okanran Oturupon

Okanran Otura

Okanran Irete

Okanran Ose

Okanran Ofun

BOOK 10

Ogunda Ogbe

Ogunda Oyeku

Ogunda Iwori

Ogunda Odi

Ogunda Irosun

Ogunda Owonrin

Ogunda Obara

Ogunda Okanran

Ogunda Osa

Ogunda Ika

Ogunda Oturupon

Ogunda Otura

Ogunda Irete

Ogunda Ose

Ogunda Ofun

BOOK 11

Osa Ogbe

Osa Oyeku

Osa Iwori

Osa Odi

Osa Irosun

Osa Owonrin

Osa Obara

Osa Okanran

Osa Ogunda

Osa Ika

Osa Oturupon

Osa Otura

Osa Irete

Osa Ose

Osa Ofun

BOOK 12

Ika Ogbe

Ika Oyeku

Ika Iwori

Ika Odi

Ika Irosun

Ika Owonrin

Ika Obara

Ika Okanran

Ika Ogunda

Ika Osa

Ika Oturupon

Ika Otura

Ika Irete

Ika Ose

Ika Ofun

BOOK 13

Oturupon Ogbe

Oturupon Oyeku

Oturupon Iwori

Oturupon Odi

Oturupon Irosun

Oturupon Owonrin

Oturupon Obara

Oturupon Okanran

Oturupon Ogunda

Oturupon Osa

Oturupon Ika

Oturupon Otura

Oturupon Irete

Oturupon Ose

Oturupon Ofun

BOOK 14

Otura Ogbe

Otura Oyeku

Otura Iwori

Otura Odi

Otura Irosun

Otura Owonrin

Otura Obara

Otura Okanran

Otura Ogunda

Otura Osa

Otura Ika

Otura Oturupon

Otura Irete

Otura Ose

Otura Ofun

BOOK 15

Irete Ogbe

Irete Oyeku

Irete Iwori

Irete Odi

Irete Irosun

Irete Owonrin

Irete Obara

Irete Okanran

Irete Ogunda

Irete Osa

Irete Ika

Irete Oturupon

Irete Otura

Irete Ose

Irete Ofun

BOOK 16

Ose Ogbe

Ose Oyeku

Ose Iwori

Ose Odi

Ose Irosun

Ose Owonrin

Ose Obara

Ose Okanran

Ose Ogunda

Ose Osa

Ose Ika

Ose Oturupon

Ose Otura

Ose Irete

Ose Ofun

BOOK 17

Ofun Ogbe

Ofun Oyeku

Ofun Iwori

Ofun Odi

Ofun Irosun

Ofun Owonrin

Ofun Obara

Ofun Okanran

Ofun Ogunda

Ofun Osa

Ofun Ika

Ofun Oturupon

Ofun Otura

Ofun Irete

Ofun Ose

Notice in this system there are seventeen books and each book has fifteen chapters. The reason for fifteen chapters is because there are no *meji* in all the books from two to seventeen.

The method from Ode Remo is interesting to me because when it is written from right to left using the images of Ode it creates the symbol of the pyramid based on the mathematical angles that create the golden mean which is represented by the *Ifa* symbol of the snail. I cannot believe this is a coincidence and do believe it is part of the mystery of understanding the nature and function of *Odu* a glimpse into hidden *awo* within the system itself.

Ire

Awo Falokun Fatunmbi