





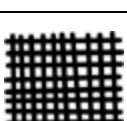














## West African Wisdom: Adinkra Symbols & Meanings

Image	Twɛ Name	Literal Translation	Symbolic Meaning
	<b>ADINKRAHENE</b>	"chief of adinkra symbols"	greatness, charisma, leadership
	<b>AKOBEN</b>	"war horn"	vigilance, wariness
	<b>AKOFENA</b>	"sword of war"	courage, valor
	<b>AKOKONAN</b>	"the leg of a hen"	mercy, nurturing
	<b>AKOMA</b>	"the heart"	patience & tolerance
	<b>AKOMA NTOSO</b>	"linked hearts"	understanding, agreement
	<b>ANANSE NTONTAN</b>	"spider's web"	wisdom, creativity
	<b>ASASE YE DURU</b>	"the Earth has weight"	divinity of Mother Earth
	<b>AYA</b>	"fern"	endurance, resourcefulness

	<b>BESE SAKA</b>	"sack of cola nuts"	affluence, abundance, unity
	<b>BI NKA BI</b>	"no one should bite the other"	peace, harmony
	<b>BOA ME NA ME MMOA WO</b>	"help me and let me help you"	cooperation, interdependence
	<b>DAME-DAME</b>	name of a board game	intelligence, ingenuity
	<b>DENKYEM</b>	"crocodile"	adaptability
	<b>DUAFE</b>	"wooden comb"	beauty, hygiene, feminine qualities
	<b>DWENNIMMEN</b>	"ram's horns"	humility and strength
	<b>EBAN</b>	"fence"	love, safety, security
	<b>EPA</b>	"handcuffs"	law, justice, slavery
	<b>ESE NE TEKREMA</b>	"the teeth and the tongue"	friendship, interdependence
	<b>FAWOHODIE</b>	"independence"	independence, freedom, emancipation

	<b>FIHANKRA</b>	"house/compound"	security, safety
	<b>FOFO</b>	"a yellow-flowered plant"	jealousy, envy
	<b>FUNTUNFUNEFU DENKYEMFUNEFU</b>	"siamese crocodiles"	democracy, unity in diversity
	<b>GYE NYAME</b>	"except for God"	supremacy of God
	<b>HWEMUDUA</b>	"measuring stick"	examination, quality control
	<b>HYE WONHYE</b>	"that which cannot be burnt"	imperishability, endurance
	<b>KETE PA</b>	"good bed"	good marriage
	<b>KINTINKANTAN</b>	"puffed up extravagance"	arrogance, extravagance
	<b>KWATAKYE ATI KO</b>	"hairstyle of Kwatakye, a war hero"	bravery, valor
	<b>MATE MASIE</b>	"hairstyle of Kwatakye, a war hero"	wisdom, knowledge, prudence
	<b>ME WARE WO</b>	"I shall marry you"	commitment, perseverance

	<b>MFRAMADAN</b>	"wind-resistant house"	fortitude, preparedness
	<b>MMERE DANE</b>	"time changes"	change, life's dynamics
	<b>MMUSUYIDEE</b>	"that which removes ill luck"	good fortune, sanctity
	<b>MPATAPO</b>	"knot of reconciliation"	peacemaking, reconciliation
	<b>MPUANNUM</b>	"five tufts" (of hair)	priestly office, loyalty, adroitness
	<b>NEA ONNIM NO SUA A, OHU</b>	"he who does not know can know from learning"	knowledge, life-long education
	<b>NEA OPE SE OBEDI HENE</b>	"he who wants to be king"	service, leadership
	<b>NKONSONKONSON</b>	"chain links"	unity, human relations
	<b>NYAME DUA</b>	"tree of god"	God's protection and presence
	<b>NKYIMU</b>	the crossed divisions made on adinkra cloth before printing	skillfulness, precision
	<b>NKYINKYIM</b>	"twistings"	initiative, dynamism, versatility

	<b>NSAA</b>	type of hand-woven cloth	excellence, genuineness, authenticity
	<b>NSOROMMA</b>	"child of the heavens"	guardianship
	<b>NYAME BIRIBI WO SORO</b>	"God is in the heavens"	hope
	<b>NYAME NNWU NA MAWU</b>	"God never dies, therefore I cannot die"	life after death
	<b>NYAME NTI</b>	"by God's grace"	faith & trust in God
	<b>NYAME YE OHENE</b>	"God is King"	majesty and supremacy of God
	<b>NYANSAPO</b>	"wisdom knot"	wisdom, ingenuity, intelligence and patience
	<b>ODO NNYEW FIE KWAN</b>	"love never loses its way home"	power of love
	<b>OKODEE MMOWERE</b>	"talons of the eagle"	bravery, strength
	<b>ONYANKOPON ADOM NTI BIRIBIARA BEYE YIE</b>	"By God's grace, all will be well"	hope, providence, faith
	<b>OSRAM NE NSOROMMA</b>	"the moon and the star"	love, faithfulness, harmony

	<b>OWO FORO ADOBE</b>	"snake climbing the raffia tree"	steadfastness, prudence, diligence
	<b>OWUO ATWEDEE</b>	"the ladder of death"	mortality
	<b>PEMPAMSIE</b>	"sew in readiness"	readiness, steadfastness
 or 	<b>SANKOFA</b>	"return and get it"	learn from the past
	<b>SESA WO SUBAN</b>	"I change or transform my life"	transformation
	<b>TAMFO BEBRE</b>	"the enemy will stew in his own juice"	jealousy
	<b>WAWA ABA</b>	"seed of the wawa tree"	hardiness, toughness, perseverance
	<b>WOFORO DUA PA A</b>	"when you climb a good tree"	support, cooperation
	<b>WO NSA DA MU A</b>	"if your hands are in the dish"	democracy, pluralism