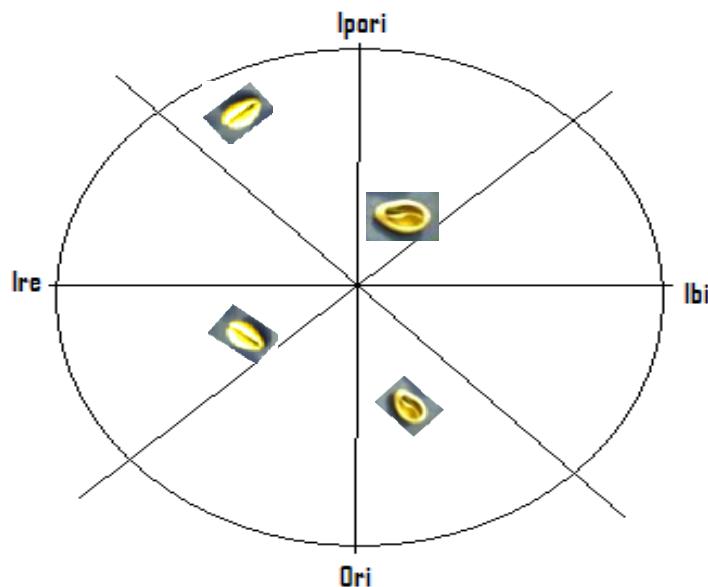


Pre-Lessons

Four Cowrie Shell+

Lesson 3.0



From 4 Cowrie

to

256 ODU

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Motivation

Why this course?

This is an offering for the enlightenment seekers. This is for those seekers who discover that blessings can appear as calamity, disaster, and delay. Having access to the uncompromising can reveal the sacredness of the seeker's relationship to these three distractions. Transforming distraction into blessedness is breast milk for the seeker. Integrating tools, skills, art forms, or behaviors developed during this transformation period nourishes self-realization.

Enlightenment is not what it appears to be and is nevertheless beneficial. Self-realization is only temporal. This course may serve as a tool to pierce the veil of the One Truth. Hence this course is beneficial only to the enlightenment seekers.

This offering promotes conscious triangulation of inner knowing, Spirit, and the 3-D plane. The intersection of these three provide a portal. The other side of this portal MAY lead towards enlightenment. and it may not.

Enlightenment is not a place of promises, guarantees, and simple difficulties. It is a journey, not a destination.

"Yes; Probably yes; Definitely; Probably no; Definitely no", are the five (5) responses of life that are beneficial for transforming apparent difficulties into conscious

intentional behaviors. These pentagonal responses have unique cultural expressions in the Yoruba language and are revealed later in this lesson. This pentagonal relationship is also found in other culturally based oracle systems. Obi Abata, Metu Neter, I Ching, and Pendulum Divination are some examples of such systems. Other oracle systems are discussed in later lessons designed for those bound to the path of enlightenment. Four Cowry Shell systems provide a foundation for the casual and the more-than-curious seeker.



- This course offers supplemental and uncompromising support for the more-than-casual seeker of self-realization.
- This course stimulates deeper insights, broader perspectives with the opportunity to reassemble the fragmented self
- This course compels clarity of purpose and requires recommitment to that which is most important.
- This course provides a baseline for intuitive expression within an ancestral framework
- This course sifts those desiring spiritual adornments from those desiring spiritual alignment.
- This course is an incomplete offering for the authentic enlightenment seeker.
- This course precedes the beginning.

Sample cowrie casting chart

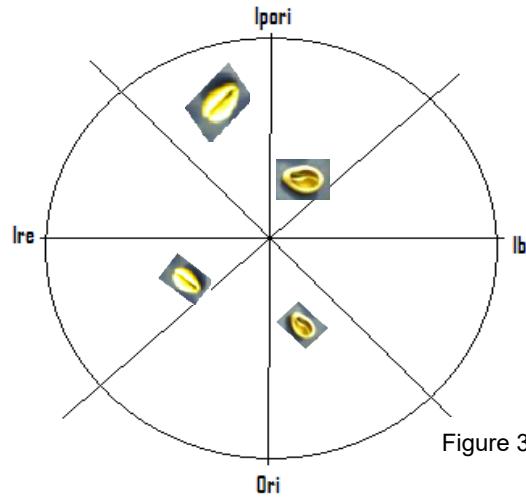


Figure 3.1

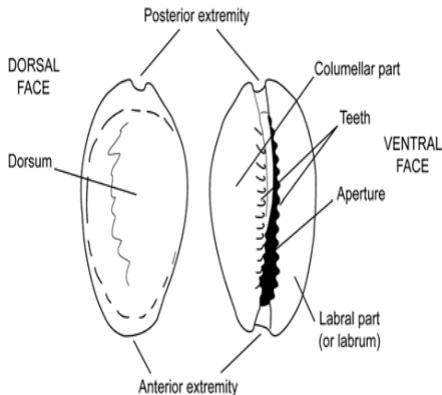
Shell	Ipori ↑	Ipori/Ibi ↗	Ibi →	Ibi/Ori →	Ori ↓	Ori/Ire ↙	Ire ←	Ire/Ipori ↖
Dorsal (Earth)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ventral (Sky)	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

Table 3.1

In figure 3.1 an imaginary casting circle is depicted. For illustration, top, bottom, left and right locations of the casting circle are arbitrarily assigned Ipori, Ori, Ire and Ibi respectively. This introduces the reader to notion that there is a multi-dimensional aspect of casting present in the Four Cowrie System. When casting what appears to be the random falling of shells, the orientation followed by the direction are vital for meaningful interpretation. This interpretation is not of the apparently random falling of shells. It is the interpretation of the subtle energies and forces associated with such random castings.

These energies and forces are captured in part by two aspects associated with each casted cowrie: the orientation and the direction. This orientation aspect is bound to each cowrie shell individually and the directional aspect is bound mathematically to the four-cowrie shell group. The orientation aspect of each cowrie shell was completed in the ocean years ago by the forces of nature which were forged into a living Cowrie Snail. The directional aspect of binding is called 'recursion'. It is the basis of the numbers pi, phi and other geometry, trigonometry, and calculus-based systems. The four cowrie shell system provides a unique life hack for means of travel along the road towards self-realization.

Cowrie orientation



Earthward (mouth closed)

When a cowrie shell lands with its ventral face away from the observer then it is considered 'closed', downward or earthward. See numbers 1-8 in Table 3.1 above.

Skyward(mouth open)

When a cowrie shell lands with its ventral face towards the observer then it is considered 'open', facing up or skyward. This is arbitrarily associated with success. See numbers 9-16 in Table 3.1 above.

When four(4) cowrie shells are cast or splayed onto a divining surface, the shells can then be referred to as 'Obi'. If other objects are used in the place of cowrie shells then one can establish the dorsal and ventral condition and proceeds as outlined above. Casting four(4) coins, pebbles, buttons or other objects while using the system of Four Cowrie Shells happens frequently. In such cases the objects cast can be referred to as 'elements'. If the elements of Four Cowrie Shells are traditionally sacred objects then the elements can be called Obi. If the objects of such castings are non-traditional then referring to them as

Cowrie Direction

a) Earthward Cowrie

Earthward cowries can be considered positive when pointed TOWARD the observer OR toward the LEFT. See numbers 1-8 in the table 3.1 above. Otherwise earthward cowries can arbitrarily be considered negative.

b) Skyward facing Cowrie

Skyward facing cowries can be considered positive when pointed AWAY from the observer OR toward the RIGHT. See numbers 9-16 above. Otherwise skyward facing cowries can arbitrarily be considered negative.

Arbitrary Cowrie and ODU Assignment

First leg of the ODU

Each earthward facing cowrie shell is assigned two side by side parallel lines  . Each skyward facing cowrie is assigned one single vertical line  . These form the first leg of an Odu pattern.



Figure 3.1



Figure 3.2



Figure 3.3



Figure 3.4

So the laying of the cowrie shells can be interpreted to form the first leg of an Odu pattern as shown in the figures above.

Second leg of the ODU

Each earthward facing cowrie shell when directed inward towards the observer or to the left is positive and assigned a single vertical line. If the earthward cowrie is directed outward or facing the right, then a pair of parallel lines are used to represent this direction.

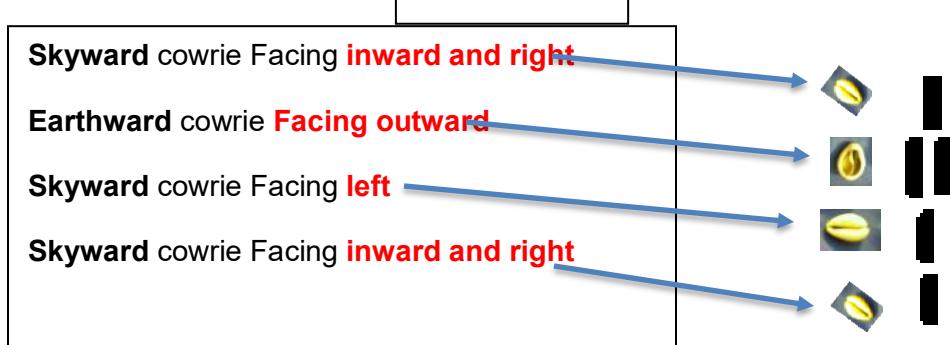
Each skyward facing cowrie shell when directed outward from the observers or to the right is positive and assigned a single vertical line.

We will apply this concept to the first above column of cowrie shells and associated first leg.

Keys: Earthward cowrie are positive when facing left or inward

Skyward cowrie are positive when facing right or outward

Table 3.2



The red arrows in the diagram to the right shows the direction that each cowrie is pointing and the associated Odu markings based on these directions.

Table 3.3

