

Personal Management for Spiritual Progress

Sponsored by: Orisha Lifestyle Academy

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Introduction:

There is no prayer that will make life's obstacles cease to exist. There will always be something great or some challenge to face. The ebbs and flows of improvement and re-calibrating your needs will always exist.

Culturally Universal Problem:

We don't have a deliberate process for growth and explicitly manage success.

"You must learn how to identify real quality and value, and learn how to utilize them effectively"

This was the lesson taught to Oluwo Obafemi and his friend when following trends during their youth.

While others were acquiring easily obtainable jewelry and clothes of little value; The friend's father taught them that real quality is not easy to obtain, and must be treated as such.

Ifa works.

Ifa will bring success, and you must do the work to preserve it.

-When Ifa puts your blessing in your hands, you have to be prepared.

-The best way to predict your future is by preparing.

Questions to consider:

What happens after?

How do we prepare you for the realization of all your dreams?

How do we prepare you for all the abundant blessings you chose in the prenatal state?

Aligning Statements:

Our Duty is to Save the World
We must play an ACTIVE role in saving the world
The wisdom of Ifa is applicable anywhere
Our tradition should empower us
We should have global influence
We should be at the forefront of change and improvement
We must bring about the Good Condition.

Irosun Iwori says
“Those who wish to go, let them go
Those who wish to stay, let them stay
Surely human beings are to bring good to the world.

When the Eniyan came to Orunmila, they stated
We are on our way to the earthly realm, and we don't want to go back
The back and forth makes us tired, we want to stay here in the heavenly realm
with Olodumare
Orunmila said that this is not possible, you have a job
You must go back and forth until you bring about the good condition.

When you can bring Heaven to Earth, you can stay in Heaven.
Eniyan means “the chosen one”, they are the children of Oduduwa
Eniyan also means humans.

Not everyone is destined for priesthood
Every role is important when bringing about the Good Condition

LEADERS
VISIONARIES
MOBILIZERS
ORGANIZERS
DOERS
SUPPORTERS

For example:
Leaders create opportunities for other people to be more engaged. They
provide the environment for people to fulfill their destinies.

Yet, as a leader, you have to be prepared for crisis.

Create a connection with leadership to understand why Orisha Lifestyle is tied to the expansion of the culture and community. We are creating opportunities to showcase what you already do.

Following Your Bliss

Joseph Campbell is known for the phrase "Follow your bliss"

- Pursue the things that give you butterflies
- Seek your Inspiration

Inspiration:

When you are inspired, you will do the worst of it with a smile.

Inspiration makes the hard parts bearable

We don't finish what we start because we get separated from our inspiration

What inspires you?

What makes you feel aflutter with hope and excitement?

What activity makes you feel like anything is possible?

What is the source of your bliss?

Natural talents, gifts, materials, and tools:

Natural gifts and talents also provide a window into your identity

For sustained progress, knowing who you are is required

Definitive Values provide an anchor as you grow, test, and challenge yourself

Your natural gifts and talents are what Ori gifted you within your prenatal state

When The Irunmole were planning to come to this plane

Ifa stated they all needed to make sacrifice

When you wake up at dawn, put your head down and pay homage to Olodumare

all the divinities believed they could do this

*they went home and planned their victory parties
they drank, danced, and ate all night long
the next day, every one of the Orisha overslept except Ori
Ori was the only one to wake up and role back and forth in praise of Ori
all the Orisha reported to Olodumare's palace to find out who would be the leader
they received the kola nut of authority and were tasked to open it
Shango, Ogun, no one could open it so they started to leave
Ori grabbed the kola nut and broke it open
The sound blasted throughout the universe
The Orisha returned at once and celebrated Ori
However, their enthusiasm turned into resentment soon after they began to challenge
ori and challenged them
Ori defeated them.
Ori lo da awo Obatala lo si le Eronje
He defeated Obatala and sent him to Eronje and made him the master of sculpting
He defeated Sango and sent him to Koso and made him the master of bata
He defeated Orunmila and sent him to oke tase and made him the master of Ikin
He defeated Ogun and sent him to Ire and made him the master of Iron
One after one the Orisha challenged Ori and he sent them back to Earth with their own
natural gifts and talents*

We know the Orisha through their natural gifts and talents
Not only do we know them, but we also get to see how they MASTER the art of
performing their respective talents and gifts
We also learn of their troubles as they became masters of their talents.

Just as the Ori defeated the Orisha and gave them their natural gifts and talents,
He did the same for Eniyan

The mysteries of who you are, are embedded in your natural gifts and talents
The mystery of how you really need to show up in the world is embedded in the
materials and equipment that are associated with your natural gifts and talents

Introspective Question:

Do your natural talents all fit within your bliss?

Know Who You Serve

In the process of the Orisha finding their natural gifts and talents, they also found who they were meant to serve.

When Ogun (Lord of Iron and Warfare) went on a killing spree and killed his own people in his kingdom, this is when he realized his mistake.

He did not manage his natural gifts and challenges, and it negatively affected his people. He then became responsible for all of those people.

When Obatala (Master of shaping and sculpting people) drank too much palm wine, he created misshapen people. It was then that he realized the gravity of his talents, took ownership of his mistake, and took responsibility for them.

All Orisha have similar stories.

- You need to know who you serve
- Discover who you serve
- Accept who you are meant to serve

There are people whose lives are directly affected by your refusal to do what you're destined to do, or at the LEVEL you are supposed to perform at.

Sobriety
Precision
Potentiality

When you shirk on your responsibilities, other people's lives are affected.

Discovering your people:

- Who is not progressing because you are not stepping up to greatness?
- Whose wounds are not being healed because you are working in a small capacity?
- Whose problems are being exasperated because you refuse to take your position and lead or support the person leading?
- Who is suffering because you want to be comfortable?

Other people's lives are affected when you refuse to acknowledge your true identity and express it at the highest level.

Know who your people are
Knowing who your people are will inspire you to continue moving forward

Challenging Adversary

- We want to please the wrong people
- We want to please ALL the people

You cannot serve everybody
There are specific people you need to focus on

****Your destiny must be fulfilled regardless of who stands beside you****

The “Theys” Are Not:

- going to embrace you immediately, or ever
- going to accept you
- going to validate you

There will always be someone who does not like you
There will always be those who oppose you
THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE

Be skeptical of those who downplay the work and progress you have put in
Be prepared for ridicule, people wanting to coerce you to not be true to yourself
Wanting approval from the wrong people will make you apprehensive

If you base all of your actions on trying to get your enemies to love you and your adversaries to embrace you, you will never move forward.

Even those who sit beside you can sometimes not want you to change

Reminder:

**THE ORISHA'S ENTHUSIASM TURNED INTO RESENTMENT
SOON AFTER CELEBRATING ORI BEING THE LEADER.**

Final Questions to consider:

What is your bliss?

What are your natural gifts?

Who do you serve?

Think about where you get the best results

What are the things that you do that can see the outcomes that you really want to see?

When do people come to you and give you the praise and validation that make you feel recognized?

What happens when someone sees you and acknowledges you for who you are?

What do you want to be known for when you're not in the room or present?

How do you want people to recognize you?

Remember:

If you are not inspired, you are not going to finish.

What inspires you, you can assess by verification and validation

Ideally, your best work, your natural talents, and your inspiration should match

Journal entries:

Where you seek validation

Where you want to set up your focus

"This is where I seek validation"

"This is what happens when I am validated"

Where do you do your best work?

Your deepest approval tied to your inspiration results true pride and joy.

If they are not connected to your inspiration, find the discrepancy.