



Responsibilities of Ogboni leaders and members

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Below is a clear, structured summary of the Responsibilities of Ogboni Leaders and Members in the traditional Aboriginal Ogboni Society, based on Ìşẹşẹ Yoruba custom, ethics, and governance. This applies especially within the Ilé Ọgbón Ẹdán – House of Sacred Wisdom.

A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OGBONI LEADERS (OLÓYE OGBÓNI / ÒRÌŞÀNLÀ REPRESENTATIVES)

1.

Ọba Àgbà (Supreme Ogboni Head / Royal Patriarch/Matriarch)

- Presides over all Ogboni gatherings and rituals.
- Custodian of the sacred Òrisha Òkè (especially Òrishańlá and Onílẹ).
- Confirms appointments of subordinate chiefs and ensures spiritual alignment.
 - Represents the society publicly and settles serious disputes.
 - Interprets ancient Ogboni laws and taboos.

2.

Olórì Ogboni (Chief Mother / Iyá Àgbà)

- Leads the spiritual and ritual role of Ìyámi Àjé within the lodge.
- Oversees the initiation and moral formation of new female members.
- Serves as a divine emissary of Òrisha Onílẹ, Yèyè Osorun, or Ìyá Nlá.
- Balances masculine authority within the society with sacred feminine wisdom.

3.

Apena (Chief Scribe and Interpreter)

- Records all rituals, proceedings, taboos, and laws.
- Custodian of Ogboni seals, signs, gestures, and codes.
- Acts as the official mouthpiece of Ọba in council settings.
- Manages communication between elders and initiates.

4.

Oluwo (Chief Priest / Ritual Officer)

- Leads libations, blood sacrifices, ancestral reverence, and earth rituals.
- Keeps custody of the Ogboni Àrà, Ọpá Ọrò, and sacred stones of the society.
 - Ensures spiritual protection and cleansing during major ceremonies.
 - Instructs others in proper ritual conduct.

5.

Jagun (War Commander / Disciplinary Officer)

- Enforces discipline within the lodge and community.
- Ensures all members uphold the laws and sacred silence of Ogboni.
 - Protects the secrecy and sanctity of Ogboni shrines.
 - Guards the sacred ground during initiations and burials.

6.

Asiwaju (Senior Strategist / Political Envoy)

- Acts as liaison between Ogboni and public leadership (Oba, Baálẹ̀, or government).
 - Advises on inter-tribal issues, alliances, and community policy.
 - Represents the interest of Ogboni at council meetings and town halls.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OGBÓNI MEMBERS (Ẹ̀YÀ OGBÓNI / OMO ILÈ)

1.

Upholding Ìwà Pẹ̀lẹ̀ (Good Character)

- Every Ogboni member is expected to live by Ìwà, Ọ̀títọ́, Ọgbón (Character, Truth, Wisdom).
 - Avoid deceit, greed, disloyalty, or disrespect to elders or sacred things.

2.

Guarding the Sacred Secrets

- Members must never disclose Ogboni chants, signs, passwords, or inner rituals.
- Breaking the sacred vow brings spiritual punishment and social disgrace.

3.

Participation in Ritual and Community Duty

- Attend meetings (Ìpàdè), initiations, burials, and festivals.
- Contribute financially or physically to sacred constructions (e.g. shrines, tombs).

4.

Protection of the Earth (Ilẹ̀) and Justice

- Ogboni members act as protectors of justice, land boundaries, and ancestral honor.
 - Speak up against corruption, abuse, or misuse of spiritual authority.

5.

Training of New Members

- Elder members mentor and initiate new ones in the customs, handshakes, symbols, and history of Ogboni.
 - Teach the importance of silence, loyalty, and humility.

6.

Respect for Hierarchy

- Members must honor seniority and titles within the lodge.
- Obedience to the directives of the Oba and council is mandatory.

C. KEY ETHICAL GUIDELINES (OGBONI Taboos and Rules)

1. Do not eat or speak while Ogboni rituals are being performed unless authorized.
2. Never raise your voice or argue with an elder in council.
3. Do not engage in public display of Ogboni symbols without proper authorization.

4. Never betray The society's secrets, even under threat or coercion.
5. Do not harm the earth (Ilẹ̀)—no spitting, defecating, or bleeding on sacred land.
6. Avoid sexual misconduct, especially during sacred observances.

Ogbo ato edan odu.

Please note this is not law, Just a point of reference

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