



Ẹ̀WÒ – Taboos of the Ogboni Society

For Ogboni Members only!

This document outlines the sacred taboos (Ẹ̀wò) of the Aboriginal Traditional Ogboni Society under the governance of **HRM Oba Aare Olu Ogboni USA**. These taboos uphold the spiritual laws of Ìwà (Character), Òtítọ́ (Truth), and Ọgbóni (Wisdom), and serve as the pillars of the sacred order.

Taboos 1

****Taboo****: It is forbidden to reveal Ogboni secrets to outsiders (non-initiates).

****Reason****: The sacred knowledge of Ogboni must remain protected to preserve its spiritual power and integrity.

****Punishment****: Ancestral withdrawal, loss of protection, or spiritual retribution.

Taboos 2

****Taboo**:** It is forbidden to desecrate the earth (Ilè), especially by urinating, defecating, or spilling blood on sacred grounds.

****Reason**:** The earth (Ilè) is revered as the Mother and Witness in all Ogboni oaths.

****Punishment**:** Loss of ancestral alignment; blockage of spiritual progression.

Taboos 3

****Taboo**:** It is forbidden to commit perjury or false testimony, especially in the presence of the Ogboni Lodge or under oath.

****Reason**:** Òtító (Truth) is a divine force in Ogboni; lying under oath desecrates its sacred order.

****Punishment**:** Curse of silence, disgrace, and spiritual banishment.

Taboos 4

****Taboo**:** It is forbidden to speak ill of the elders (Olóyè) or to challenge the hierarchy of Ogboni without process.

****Reason**:** Ọgbón (Wisdom) and seniority must be respected for harmony and order.

****Punishment**:** Expulsion, stripping of titles, or ancestral isolation.

Taboos 5

****Taboo**:** It is forbidden to betray fellow members or divulge the identity of active Ogboni.

****Reason**:** Solidarity and discretion are key to the spiritual integrity and safety of the order.

****Punishment**:** Loss of spiritual immunity and communal trust.

Taboos 6

****Taboo**:** It is forbidden to perform ritual acts (e.g., Ọṣẹ, Iwúre) without purification or ritual readiness.

****Reason**:** Ritual unpreparedness invites imbalance or spiritual backlash.

****Punishment**:** Ritual failure or unintended consequences.

Taboos 7

****Taboo**:** It is forbidden to shed blood within the Ogboni Lodge or shrine.

****Reason**:** Ogboni is a society of peace, law, and sacred silence (Aṣò).

****Punishment**:** Defilement of shrine, banishment, or punishment by Ọrìṣà Onílẹ̀.

Taboos 8

****Taboo**:** It is forbidden for women in menstruation to enter sacred inner chambers or participate in secret rites.

****Reason**:** Traditional belief in the volatile spiritual power during that cycle, affecting ritual purity.

****Punishment**:** Ritual contamination and nullification of proceedings.

Taboos 9

****Taboo**:** It is forbidden to consume certain sacred totems or animals (e.g., tortoise, snail) depending on local taboos.

****Reason**:** These are symbols of Ọgbọn (wisdom), secrecy, and spiritual presence.

****Punishment**:** Spiritual confusion, loss of Ogboni intuition or speech clarity.

Taboos 10

****Taboo**:** It is forbidden to show the inner marks or signs of Ogboni to the uninitiated.

****Reason**:** These are spiritual seals and should not be commercialized or exposed.

****Punishment**:** Nullification of protection or ancestral curse.

Matched Èbọ (Ritual Sacrifices) for Taboo Cleansing

Ọbì Abàtà divination – To confirm offense and prescribe cleansing.

- ☐ Ọróró (Palm oil) + Èfún (chalk) – For inner body sanctification.
- ☐ Èwúrẹ (Goat) or Èyẹ Adìẹ (Hen) – For ritual forgiveness in serious taboo breach.
- ☐ Ọgùrò (Ram) – For high-level cleansing of betrayal or earth desecration.
- ☐ • Eérú (ashes) – Mixed with palm wine for oath renewal.

Notes on Enforcement The Iwarefa (Six Elders) serve as both spiritual jury and moral compass.

Ọrìṣà Onílẹ̀, Ìyámi Àjẹ, and Egúngún often act as enforcers of these taboos through metaphysical consequences.

[Responsibility of Ogboni leaders.docx](#) Taboo-breaking must be addressed swiftly with confession, propitiation, and ritual realignment.

Àsẹ̀

Oba Aare Olu Ogboni USA

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

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