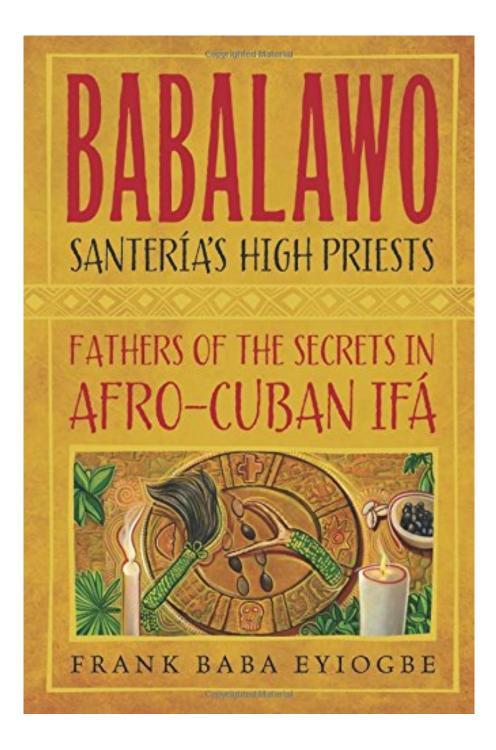


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#### About the Author

Frank Baba Eyiogbe has been practicing Santeria for over twenty-seven years: twenty-three years as a santero (Orisha priest) and eighteen years as a babalawo (initiated in Cuba). Frank has achieved the highest level of babalawo, "Olofista." He created the premier Santeria website www.orishanet.org, and has been a guest on NPR's All Things Considered and The Global Guru and was interviewed for LIFE magazine. He has guest lectured at the University of Washington as well as UC Berkeley.

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By Blue Hat Man

This book is for anyone who has any interest in the Afro-Cuban Lukumi religious tradition -- known to some as Santeria, to others as La Regla de Ocha. If a sits at its heart, If a is the heartbeat. Frank Baba Eyiogbe, a babalawo, a priest of If a, explains how this magnificent religion traveled with the slaves through the Middle Passage from West Africa to Cuba, and became something entirely of its own in the New World. This is a book for all practitioners, be they santeros, santeras, oriates, obas, or babalawos, be they elders or the newly initiated. If you find yourself peeking in from the outside, this book is for you, too.

Babalawo is both masterfully researched and elegantly written. Frank Baba Eyiogbe draws on deep experience, both as a santero and as a babalawo, to explain the intricate inner workings of what remains a cloaked and hidden religious practice. Some secrets are secret, it turns out, for very good reason. Frank Baba Eyiogbe also brings to this story his American perspective, demonstrating by his own example that Ifa embraces anyone, everyone, who approaches with an open heart and an open mind.

In the end, this is a very human book about a very human religion that embraces all life everywhere all the time. This is a book that challenges all of us to seek answers to the questions we have yet to speak out loud. There are answers to those questions. Frank Baba Eyiogbe shows us one place and one way those answers can be found, and lived.

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