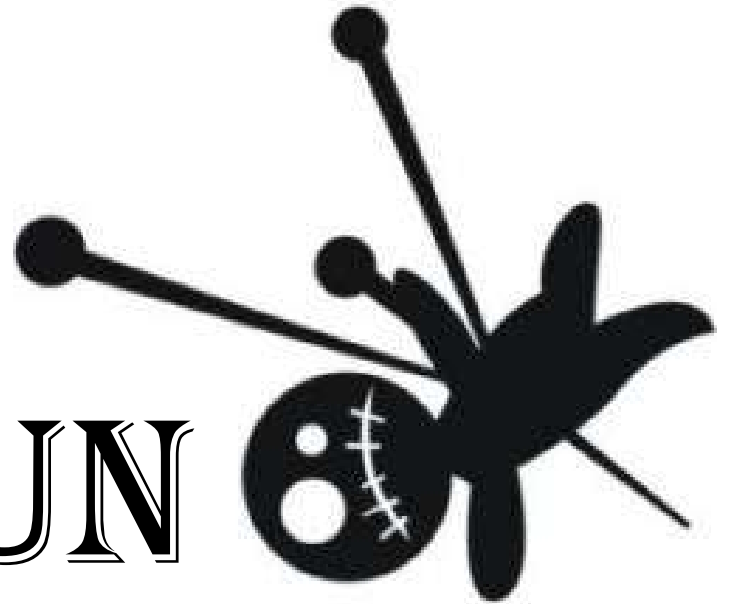


# VOUDUN



*Selina, Ashley, Eileen*



# FOUNDATION



- ❖ *Roots date back 6,000-10,000 years to modern day Togo, Benin, Nigeria.*
- ❖ *About 60 million people practice world-wide*
- ❖ *Practiced by slaves brought to the area of West Indies*
  - ❖ *Often the slaves were baptized into Christianity but continued to practice Vodun in secret*



# TRADITION



- *In the Spanish, French and Portuguese colonies Christianity was often the only Religion.*
- *Voodoo like Christianity has many traditions. It believes in one almighty God. Slaves were baptized into the Roman Catholic church upon their arrival in Haiti, the result was that the slaves largely followed their original native faith, but practiced in secret, even while attending Mass regularly.*



VOODOO HAS  
ROOTS IN BENIN,  
TOGO, AND NIGERIA



# PRACTICES



- ❖ *Voodoo has no sacred texts or scriptures*
- ❖ *Instead of prayers, chants are spoken while performing rituals*



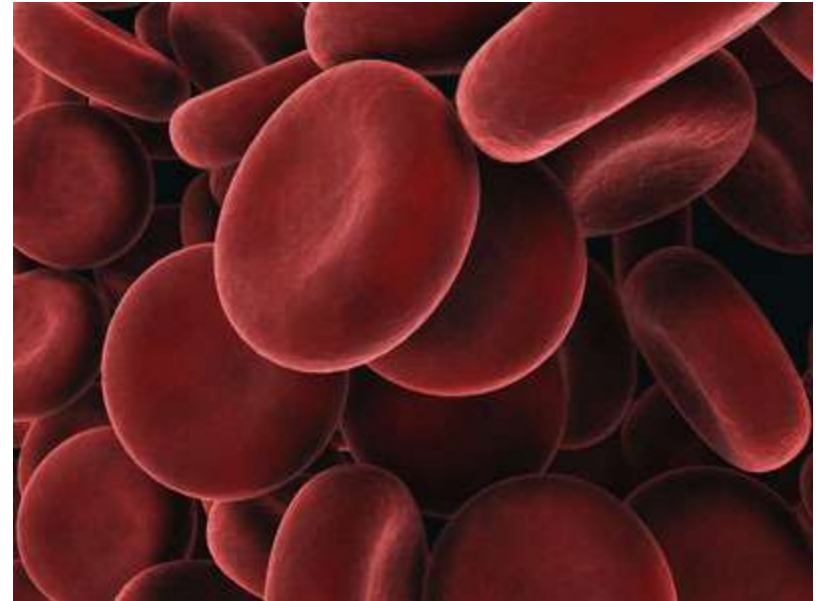


# RITUALS



❖ *The purpose of a ritual is to make contact with a spirit who will aid them in some manner*

❖ *In order to gain favor sacrifices and gifts are offered to the spirits*



SOMETIMES A BLOOD SACRIFICE IS OFFERED, BUT NOT AS OFTEN AS HOLLYWOOD WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE.



# RITUALS



- ❖ *Humans and Loa depend on each other*
  - ❖ *Humans help the Loa by providing food and gifts, Loa give humans protection, health, and good fortune*
- ❖ *Rituals are held to celebrate events, escape from bad luck, for healing, happy marriage, and death.*





# RITUALS



- ❖ *Male priests = Houngan*
- ❖ *Female priests = Mambo*
- ❖ *Temple = Hounfour*
  - ❖ *Inside is a pole called a poteau-mitan, used to communicate with spirits*
  - ❖ *An altar is decorated with candles, pictures, and symbols*





# RITUALS



- ❖ *The average ritual consists of*
  - ❖ *A lavish feast*
  - ❖ *Veve-pattern of flour/cornmeal on the floor*
  - ❖ *Shaking, beating, and rattling of drums*
  - ❖ *Chanting*
  - ❖ *Dancing around priests until someone falls to the ground possessed by a Loa*
  - ❖ *Animal sacrifice of a dog, goat, sheep, or chicken by slitting the throat and collecting the blood*
    - ❖ *The possessed dancer will drink the blood and then the animal will be cooked and eaten.*



# BELIEFS



- ❖ *Many types of Vodun practiced*
- ❖ *However, all worship more or less the same basic pantheon of spirits*
- ❖ *Pantheon of spirits are known as the Loa*



VISUAL APPROXIMATION OF A LOA



# LOA



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

- ❖ *The Loa are the deceased spirits of people who lead “exceptional” lives*
- ❖ *They are dedicated to one special attribute or responsibility*
- ❖ *Are somewhat the equivalent of Christian Saints*



# BELIEFS CONT.



- ❖ *Supreme God is called  
Olorun*
- ❖ *He ordered a lesser god,  
Obatala, to create the world*
- ❖ *A quarrell between them lead to  
Obatala's banishment*



SUPREME GOD OLORUN



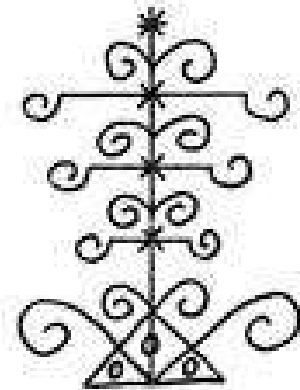
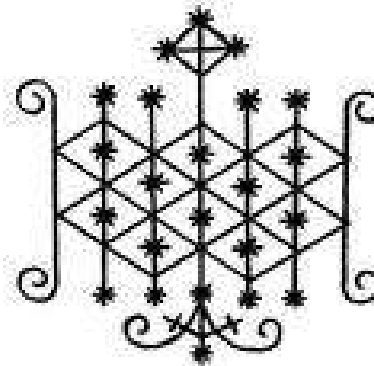
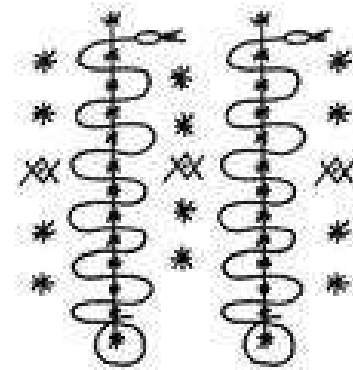
# BELIEFS CONT.



- *They believe in an Afterlife*
- *Ritual sacrifice and consumption of flesh and blood are traditional*
- *Evil spirits and demons exist in the world*
- *Everyone has a “met tet”*
  - *Basically, a patron spirit who is their guiding force in life*

# SYMBOLS

- *The symbols they draw are known as Veve. Just as specific colors, objects, chants and drum beats appeal to specific loa, so to do the veves. The veve used in a ceremony is dependent upon the loa whose presence is desired. Veves are drawn on the ground with cornmeal, sand, or other powdery substances, and they are obliterated during the ritual.*
- *Multiple veves generally have shared elements, however. For example, Damballah-Wedo is a serpent deity, so his veves commonly incorporate two snakes.*





# THE SOUL



- *Everybody has a soul in them*
- *The soul is comprised of two parts*
  - *Gros bon ange (Big guardian angel)*
  - *Ti bon ange (Little guardian angel)*
    - *It is believed that the ti bon ange will leave the body during sleep or while a person is possessed by a Loa during a ritual*
    - *The ti bon ange is in danger of corruption by evil sorcery and demons while it is free during these times*



# DISPELLING THE MYTHS



- *Voodoo is not a Satan-worshipping religion*







# DISPELLING THE MYTHS



- *The only dolls in the Vodun religion are poppets on religious altars to symbolize Loas*





# DISPELLING THE MYTHS



- *Though blood is sometimes offered as a gift to the Loa, child sacrifice is not a practice of the Vodun religion.*



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