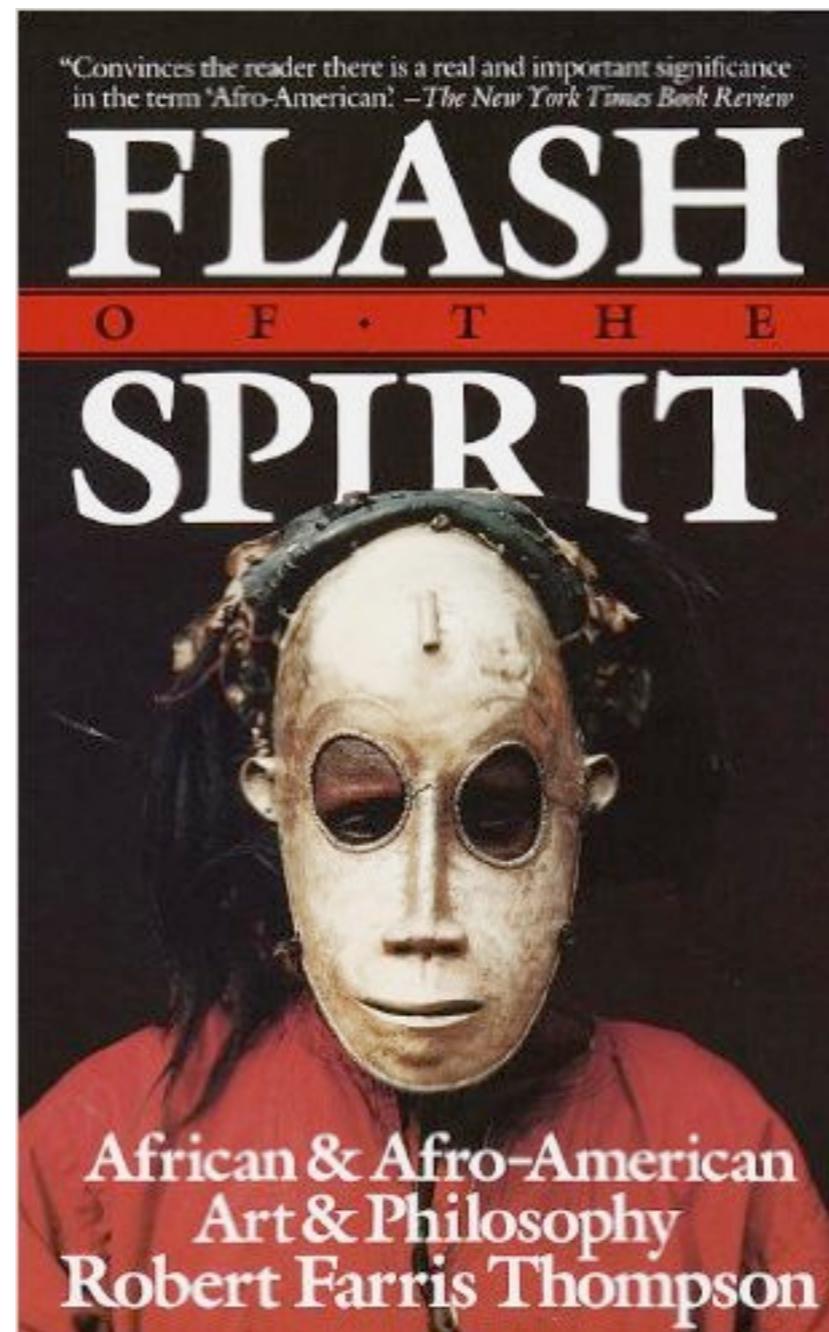


**Vesica Piscis**



“If you know where you are going, and where you are coming from, you can decorate the way to other worlds—the road to the ancestors and to God; and your name will merge forever with their glory”



# VIGILANT THINGS

*On Thieves, Yoruba Anti-Aesthetics, and the  
Strange Fates of Ordinary Objects in Nigeria*

— DAVID T. DORIS —

“Yoruba Aesthetics”

àse - “generative power”

orí - “the head” as the site of  
selfhood

iwà - “character”

Aesthetics as a site of  
transcendence supported by  
metaphysical systems and spiritual  
practices







Osanyin Staff



Yoruba chief beaded headdress

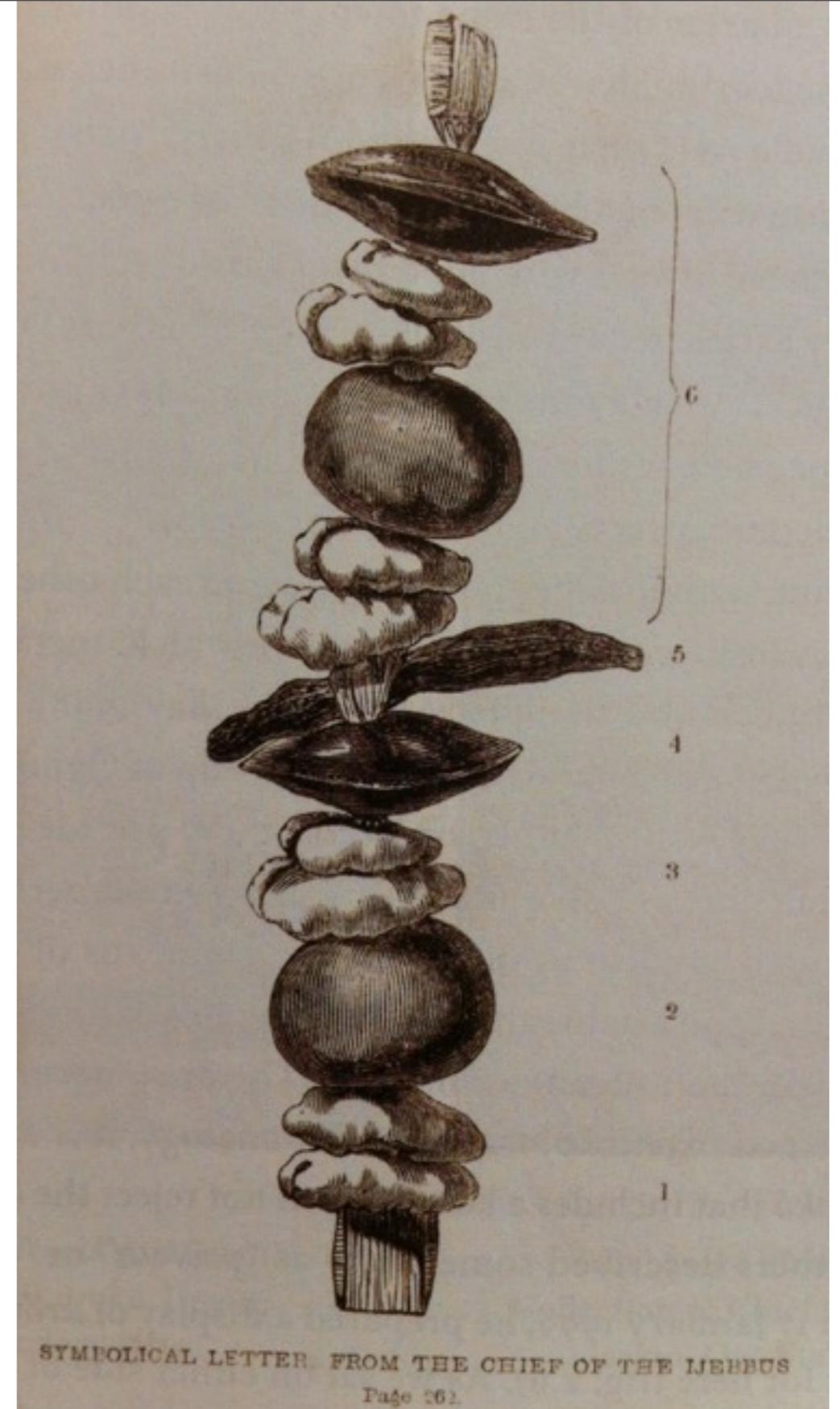


Yoruba house posts, stability and power



Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea,  
National Botanical Garden,

carved totems tell stories of kin groups and creation myths



Private, secret, message of peace,  
understood only by the one for whom it  
is intended, 1851







Western Highlands, Papua New Guinea





## “Yoruba Aesthetics”

A people who “share an occasional **backward glance** toward the **mythic moment** when human **history began**, and toward the **royal lineages** that extended from that moment through time and space. This is a powerful, centralizing moment of identity.”

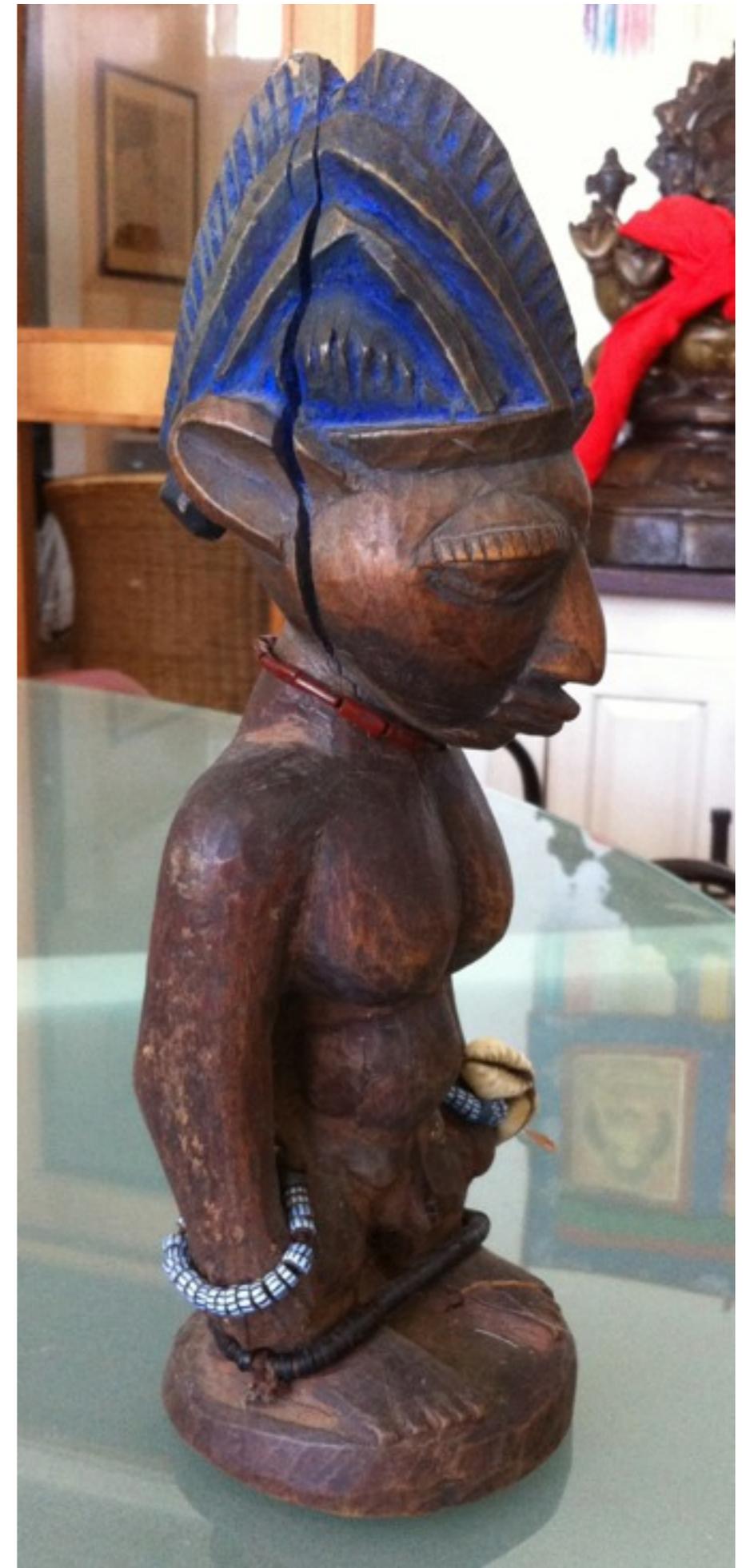




Annual festival affirming Yoruba origins and kingship, peace and reconciliation. White spots on priests symbolize the small pox epidemic suffered by the Obatala people







Egungun, Yoruba masquerade,  
ancestor reverence



Dogon Antelope Mask



Abakuá costume and drums,  
Matanzas, Cuba



Vejigante Loiza



Palo nganga, iron cauldron





Sepic River Papua New Guinea





Papua New Guinea

Tying secrets



Àalè Egàn, knotted palm branch made by Yoruba chief to stop trash from being dumped there, 1998

A sign of the body paralyzed from head to toe, and the five-fingered hand that punishes.

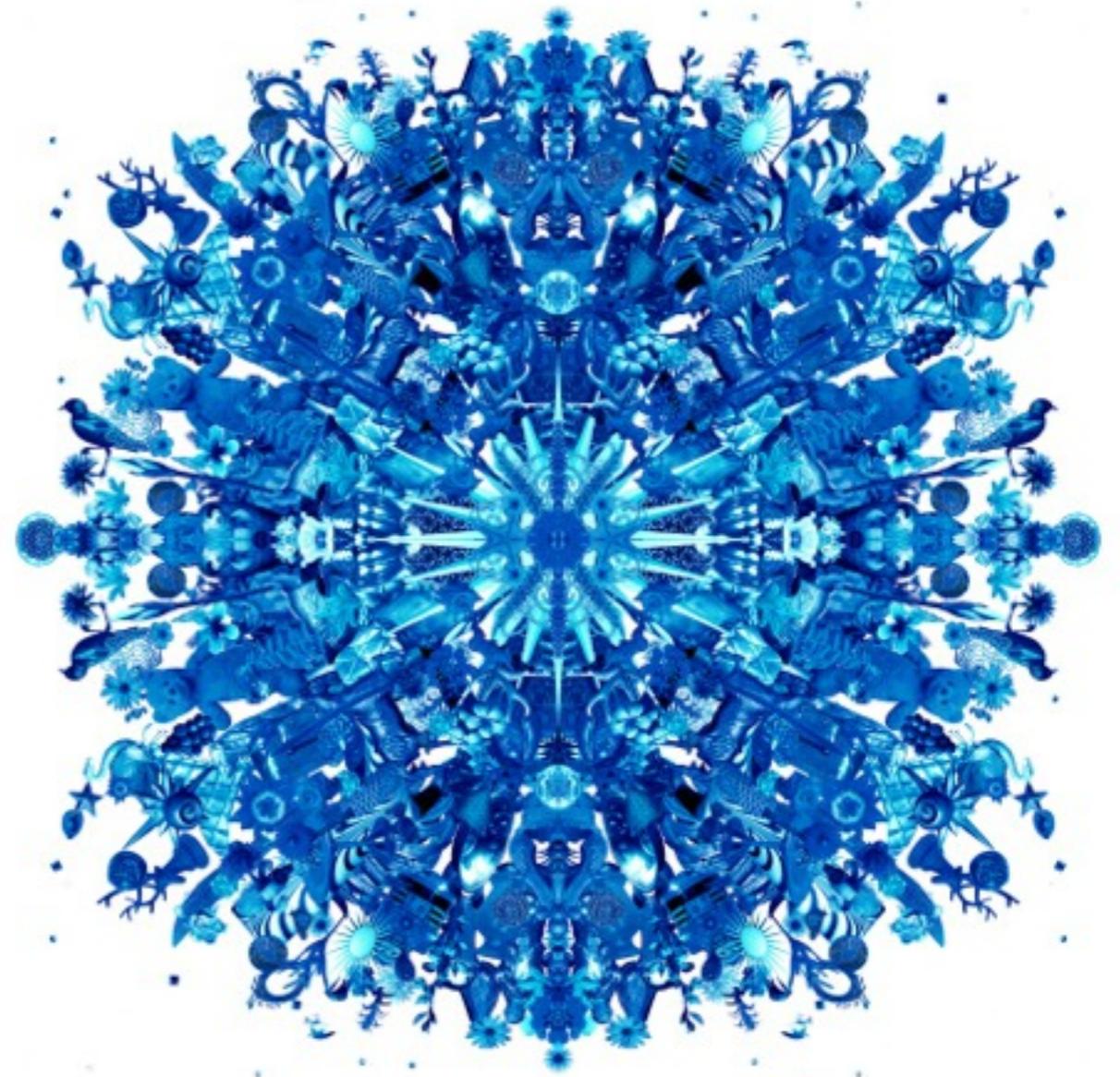


Papua New Guinea

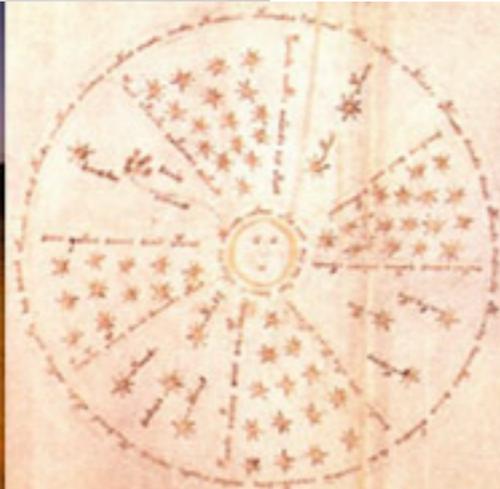
“The spiritual element is made to be seen as an integral constituent of the material, and the material becomes the necessary support for the potencies of spirit”



Yoruba divination



Australian aboriginal cosmos





The intersection of the world of the divine with the world of matter and the beginning of creation.



“The experience of creating art in general can be as simple and as fulfilling as picking up seashells.” — CB

