

Èṣù: Yoruba God, Power, and the Imaginative Frontiers

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This is the most extensive book on Èṣù, also known in different locations as Eleda, Exu, Cxu Eleggua, Cxu Elegbara, Legba, Elegba, Elegbera, or Odara. He is the "divine messenger," central to the understanding of Yoruba religion and worldview, as well as the various manifestations and related orisa traditions in the African diaspora — such as Candomblé, Vodou, and Santeria/Lukumì.

Èṣù and Ifa (divination with all its sacred texts) or Orunmila (the god of divination) rank as the most widespread and the most worshipped of all the deities. Both Èṣù and Ifa/Orunmila hold the Yoruba cosmic system together. Èṣù is now part of what some may label as the Black Atlantic religion; part of the attempt to recover African religions in other lands, as well as part of the use of religion for survival. As the book points out, in Èṣù's ability to migrate to other lands, he becomes part of transatlantic history, and even more so a part of the tension between relocation and history and between the violence that led to the forced migrations of people and the long healing process of reconciliation with living in strange lands that later became new homelands.