AFRICAN VODUN: INFORMATIONAL TIDBITS

1. Our ancestors may appear in our dreams in either animal or human form. For instance, my paternal ancestor, Agassou, may appear, in my dreams, in the form of a spotted panther (leopard) or with the face of one of my deceased loved ones from my father's lineage. Through such presentations one knows to which side of the family this ancestor hails...maternal or paternal. Who these ancestors are and their animal form can be discovered through the African divination process from a reputable diviner.

2. Be careful of mirrors. Mirrors are a portal that spirits can use to cross into the physical realm or peer out into it. Most such mirrors have gone through ceremony in African vodun, however, any mirror could possibly allow this. Remember in the old days when the deceased were brought to the house for family wakes? All mirrors were covered. Why? That the divinities not have to look out upon the face of death...that which is unclean.

3. Be careful of cemeteries. This is a place of death and impurity. One must be purified after visiting a cemetery because of this impurity. Also, those born to the priesthood, but who do not know it yet, could be followed home by a spirit. Spirits know and reach out to those to whom they think can assist them, either through an appropriate contact that they think you possess, or a person to whom they deem to be of the priesthood.

4. Deceased loved ones can linger after death making visits upon family members and being seen by those with spiritual gifts which enable them to see.

5. If you have paid for ceremonies, to be done in Africa or anywhere else outside of your presence, two things should occur. You should have had a visit (in your dreams) from those very spirits that you were doing ceremonies for; and, your life's circumstances should have improved. These occurrences validate that the ceremonies were done correctly and accepted by the spirits that requested the ceremonies. If neither happens or if your life continues to spiral downward this is a serious red flag. It is the same when an intensive divination has been performed...the one's where your ancestors and personal divinities have asked the priest to travel on your behalf. Spirits often visit you for verification. These are especially important if video was not taken to document the event. Therefore, you must vet people carefully before giving them access to your spiritual life. Because if not it could bring about eventual death.

6. African vodun can be costly for the diasporan. Why? Because we have been separated from our African heritage for hundreds of years. These ancestors and personal divinities demand more than chickens or goats. Their real food is a combination of African bulls (the ones with the hump on the back), rams, a multiplicity of animals that we are not familiar with, when giving sacrifice, as well as some that do not even exist in the diaspora along with grand ceremonies composed of much dancing and drumming. These things are costly. But, these are the ways of our ancestors. And, if we seek their bountiful blessings we do not look for them to change to accommodate us...we must change to accommodate them.

7. DNA analysis is ok. I am not agin' it. It's great! However, remember this... those of obvious African descent! As African slaves many of our ancestors were forcibly bred, raped, and families broken up and sold on slave auction blocks forcing many to start anew. Yes, DNA analysis can reveal the many sections of Africa that we hail from. However, more accurately, to me, it verifies this forced breeding, the rapes and the destruction of families amongst African slaves who comprise our most recent African heritage. DNA lists of regions of our ancestry does not come by the same way as those of our European counterparts. For those of mixed heritages, bare in mind that it has only been recent, in our history, that interracial marriage has even been legal. It is only through authentic African divination, therefore, that we can we be led to that first ancestor, his history, his village, his people and thus pull forward including all others until our present times. And, this is not just for those of obvious African descent but for all humankind.