

OKYEAME – UHEMAA

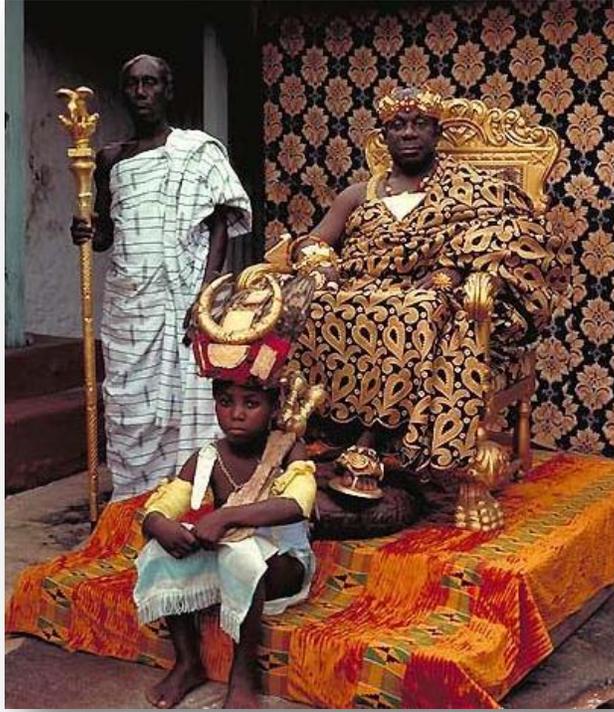
Spokesperson of the Sacred



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The above image is of an Akan **Ohene** (King). Standing next to the Ohene is the **Okyeame**, the Ohene's *spokesperson*, holding an **okyeame poma** (spokesperson's staff). In Akan culture, one typically does not speak directly to the Ohene, for the Ohene is seen as Divine. Those who would like to address the Ohene speak to the okyeame, who in turn relays the message to the Ohene. The Ohene gives his response to the okyeame and then the okyeame relays that response to the individual. The okyeame is the *mouthpiece* and '*linguist*' of the Ohene. From the *Asante-Fante Dictionary* [1881 edition]:

o-kyěámé, pl. a-, speaker, reporter, interpreter; one of the elders of a king or a negro-town or community, called linguist, who in their councils has the office of a speaker being the mouth-piece of, or reporter to, the king or the assembly; - di ky., to be or act as a speaker. Cf. opanyiü.

[aw'-chay-ah'-may or aw-chah'-ee-mee]

The okyeame also *receives and deflects negative spiritual energy* that may be directed to the Ohene by malevolent individuals. The okyeame thus has critical political and spiritual functions. All communication to and from the Ohene go through the okyeame.

The Akan court communicative structure, Ohene and okyeame, replicates the court communicative structure of the spirit realm, **Amen** and **Tehuti**, as well as the spiritual anatomy and physical anatomy of the Afurakani/Afuraitkaitnit (African~Black) body. The **okyeame** is **uhemaa**, *the great recorder, interpreter*. The role of okyeame is also carried out by the spokesperson of an individual who is *possessed* by an **Obosom** (Deity) in the ritual practices of **Akanfo Nanasom - Ancient Authentic Akan Ancestral Religion**. When the spirit of an Obosom possesses or *enters the body* of an **okomfo** or **obosomfo** (priest), an attendant functioning as okyeame, walks with the possessed individual. The Obosom speaks to the okyeame and the okyeame communicates to the community what the Obosom relays.

OKYEAME-UHEMAA The Spokesperson of the Sacred. This is our ancient Akan (**Khanit** – Ancient Nubian) cosmology in action, linguistically, conceptually, culturally and ritually.

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Akan – The People of Khanit (Akanland – Ancient Nubia/Sudan)

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