

SHANGO & THE BOOKS

By

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ORISHA PIKIN

INT. CLASSROOM - ORISHA HIGH SCHOOL - ORUN -DAY

The classroom is full of children gods from different African cultures such as Sekhmet (Egyptian lion-goddess), Oshosi (Yoruba hunting-god), Ekwensu (Igbo deity of war), Eshu, Oshun, Oyà, Ala (igbo goddess of earth).

While PROFESSOR ORUNMILA (Yoruba deity of knowledge) is writing on the board, Eshu and Ekwensu are throwing papers at each other. We can see Obatala seated at the first table of the middle row, while Shango is seated at the last table of the left row.

ORUNMILA
(irritated, yelling while
pointing at the door)
Eshu! Ekwensu! OUT! I wanna see
your parents later in my office.

The two childish gods are seen leaving the room, with annoyed faces.

ESHU
Aye, Baba Orunmila.

EKWENSU
Aye, Baba Orunmila.

ORUNMILA
And for the rest of you, let's do a
Q&A to see if you're ready for
tomorrow's test. First question,
who was the first Ooni of Ile-Ife?

OBATALA
(raising his hand with hand
with confidence)
My elder brother Oduduwa,
first-born of Olodumare, sir.

MONTAGE: Following a series of Q&A, we see Obatala raising his hand multiple times and giving right answers all the way.

ORUNMILA
(delighted)
Well-done, Obatala. Keep it up and
you're probably gonna become the
next Olorun.

Obatala is cheerfully being congratulated by his classmates. However, at the back of the room we can see Shango, irritated by Obatala's smile.

[.../...]

SHANGO

(breaks his pencil, thinking)
Tsf! Show-off. Me too I can become
the next Olorun. In fact, I'll show
them I can do better.

ORUNMILA

Now, who can tell me what planet is
always associated with Venus?

Shango spontaneously BANGS on his table and stand up with a
confident look.

SHANGO

(yelling)
That's easy, Sir. It's SERENA !

The room is silent. Oyà hides her face with shame.

ORUNMILA

(confused)
Serena...?

OSHUN

(turns around, to Shango)
Like in Serena Williams?

SHANGO

(embarrassed)
I guess yes.

ALA

(looks annoyed)
Oya sit down! You just talking
nonsense.

ALA'S SNAKE

What else would you expect from an
Orisha ti ko ni'le, lady Ala?

SHANGO

(yelling furiously at Ala's
snake)
Oya repeat am! Make I toast you for
breakfast!

OBATALA

(with a mocking look)
The right answer is planet Mars,
Shango, as in Bruno Mars. Mumu!

Shango irritated wants to pick a fight with Obatala.
Luckily, Oyà and Oshosi manage to restrain him.

SHANGO
(furious)
Obatala, you wan fight naw!!!? Come
jor!!!

OSHOSI
(catching Shango on his left)
Cool your blood, Shango! No need to
fight.

OYÀ
(catching Shango's right side)
Bros, Oshosi is right, calm down!

CUT TO

INT. TERRA KULTURE LIBRARY (LAGOS) - AYE - NIGHT

The center is closed. However, in the middle of the library we can see Shango, seated on the floor, reading at a large table. In fact, there is a dozen of books around. Shango looks focused.

Suddenly, Oyà comes through the roof like a ghost, and heads to Shango's place with a curious look.

OYÀ
(whispering)
Shango, what are you doing here?

SHANGO
(keeping his eyes on the book)
You no see I dey read?

OYÀ
(surprised)
Aha!? Since when you come read
books?

SHANGO
Oyà, I just realized that plenty
secrets dey for inside books, and
that's why Obatala is so smart. So,
if I wanna become the next Olorun
one day, I need to read as much
books as possible.

OYÀ
(delighted)
Hm! E make sense.

Shango pushes a block of books towards Oyà.

[.../...]

SHANGO

In fact, you too need to start reading books. E be like say you lack knowledge more than me.

OYÀ

(choked, to the camera)

Oh!

CUT TO

INT. CLASSROOM - ORISHA HIGH SCHOOL - ORUN -DAY

The test is happening. Everybody looks focused on their respective paper. Some, who have not studied look stressed.

However, Shango looks really confident as he goes through the questions on his paper.

SHANGO

(thinking, delighted)

That's so easy. Hi! Hi! Hi! I go chop dis exam like garri o.

Shango immediately starts writing fast and furiously as if he was writing names in the Death Note (reference).

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY - LATER

The room is silent. We can even feel the tension as these children are waiting on Orunmila to release the marks.

ORUNMILA

Well, I already have the results of your test. I must admit that some of your really impressed me on this one.

SHANGO

(thinking)

He's talking about me of course.

ORUNMILA

Eshu-Elegba, 66. But I'm pretty sure you cheated though.

ESHU

(annoyed, thinking)

Damn! Dis old man knows everytin.

ORUNMILA

Sekhmet, 72. Please check your handwriting next time, I don't like [...]

[.../...]

ORUNMILA [suite]
reading your hieroglyphs. Oshosi,
50. Obatala, 96. Oshun, 82. Ala,
92. Oyà, 86...

SHANGO
(happy, thinking)
If Oyà scored 86, then I'm probably
around 90...

ORUNMILA
Shango, 0.

SHANGO
(dismayed)
Wetin!!!!????

Shango runs to Orunmila's desk.

SHANGO [suite]
(angry)
This is a vile conspiracy! How can
I get zero with all my hard work!?
I appeal this mark.

ORUNMILA
Shango, don't get me wrong, you did
perfectly well this time. I done
chock sef.

SHANGO
(confused)
I did perfectly well but I got
zero!?
(yelling)
Which kind nonsense be dat!!!!?

ORUNMILA
You actually forgot to write your
name on your page, and that's why I
gave you zero.

SHANGO
(dumbfounded)
I forgot...to...write...my name!?

All of a sudden, Shango's brain BLOWS OFF, and Shango slowly
falls on the floor. As smoke is coming out of Shango's ears,
his classmates stand up with curious and anxious faces.

SHANGO [suite]
(passing out)
I'm done with this life.

6.

FIN