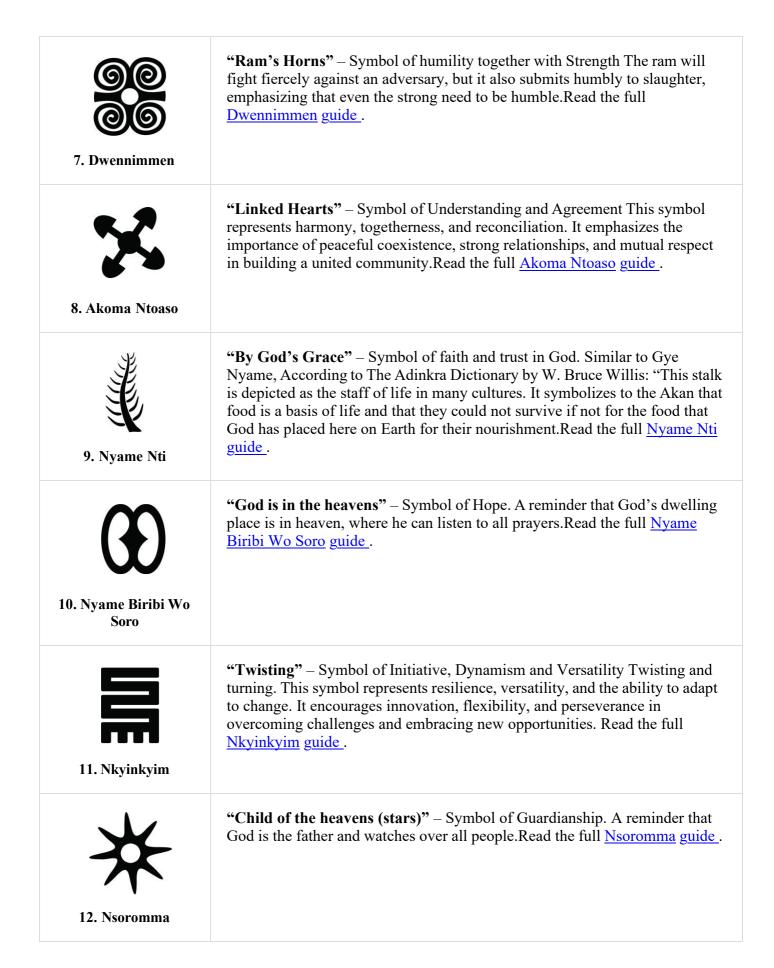
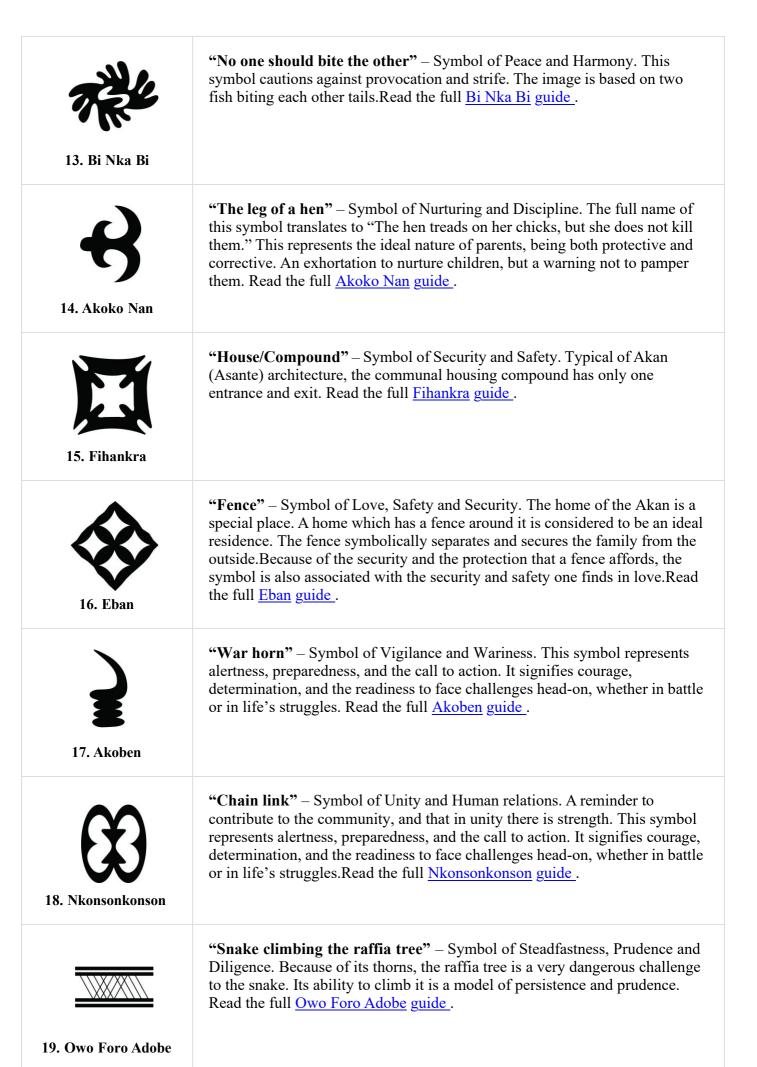
Adinkra Symbol	Meaning
1. Gye Nyame	"Except for God" – Symbol of the Supremacy of God This unique and beautiful symbol is ubiquitous in Ghana. It is by far the most popular for use in decoration, a reflection on the deeply religious character of the Ghanaian people. Read the full Gye Nyame guide .
2. Sankofa (Bird)	"Return and get it" – Symbol of the importance of learning from the past. Sankofa is an African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana. The literal translation of the word and the symbol is "it is not taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind." Essentially every experience in life should leave you wiser than it met you and even if it was a bad experience, you would have learnt not how to go about it. Read the full Sankofa guide .
3. Sankofa (Heart)	Stylized heart version of Sankofa, representing returning to one's roots and drawing lessons from the past for the present and future. Read the full Sankofa guide.
4. Adinkrahene	"Chief of the Adinkra symbols" – Symbol of Greatness, Charisma and Leadership. This symbol is said to have played an inspiring role in the designing of other symbols. It signifies the importance of playing a leadership role in the community. Great leaders are charismatic, and this symbol exemplifies the honourable qualities of a good leader. Read the full Adinkrahene guide.
5. Funtunfunefu-	"Siamese crocodiles" – Symbol of Democracy and Unity The Siamese crocodiles share one stomach, yet they fight over food. This popular symbol is a reminder that infighting and tribalism are harmful to all who engage in it. Read the full Funtunfunefu-Denkyemfunefu guide.
Denkyemfunefu	
	"Crocodile" – Symbol of adaptability. The crocodile lives in water but breathes air, showing the ability to adjust to circumstances.Read the full Denkyem guide .
6. Denkyem	







20. Akoma

"The heart" – Symbol of Patience and Tolerance. According to Agbo, when a person is said to "have a heart in his stomach," that person is very tolerant. Read the full Akoma guide.



21. Hwe Mu Dua

"Measuring stick" – Symbol of Examination and Quality Control. This symbol stresses the need to strive for the best quality, whether in a production of goods or in human endeavors.

Read the full Hwe Mu Dua guide.



22. Hye Won Hye

"That which does not burn" – Symbol of Imperishability and Endurance. This symbol gets its meaning from traditional priests that were able to walk on fire without burning their feet, an inspiration to others to endure and overcome difficulties.

Read the full <u>Hye Won Hye guide</u>.



23. Fawohodie

"Independence" – Symbol of Independence, Freedom, Emancipation. From the expression: Fawodhodie ene obre na enam. Literal translation: "Independence comes with its responsibilities."

Read the full <u>Fawohodie</u> <u>guide</u>.



24. Tamfo Bebre

"The enemy will stew in his own juice" – Symbol of Jealousy and Envy The enemy will grumble. This symbol represents the reality of envy and opposition that comes with success. It serves as a reminder to stay vigilant, remain humble, and not let negativity deter progress.

Read the full Tamfo Bebre guide.



25. Duafe

"Wooden comb" – Symbol of Beauty and Cleanliness; Symbols of desirable feminine qualities. The meaning of this symbol is characterized slightly differently in "The Adinkra Dictionary" and "The Values of Adinkra Symbols"; the former emphasizes more abstract qualities of feminine goodness, love and care, while the latter has a more literal interpretation, looking one's best and good hygiene. In any case, the duafe was a prized possession of the Akan woman, used to comb and plait her hair. Read the full Duafe guide.



"That which removes bad luck" – Symbol of Good Fortune and Sanctity. That which removes evil. This symbol represents purification, spiritual protection, and the warding off of misfortune. It emphasizes the importance of cleansing oneself from negativity and embracing positivity and righteousness.

Read the full Mmusuyidee guide.



27. Osram Ne Nsoromma

"The moon and the star" – Symbol of Love, Faithfulness, Harmony. This symbol reflects the harmony that exists in the bonding between a man and a woman. Proverb: "Kyekye pe aware." (The North Star has a deep love for marriage. She is always in the sky waiting for the return of the moon, her husband).

Read the full Osram Ne Nsoromma guide.



28. Kintinkantan

"Puffed-up extravagance" – Symbol of Arrogance. This symbol warns against pride, arrogance, and self-importance, encouraging humility, modesty, and respect for others as the path to true greatness. Read the full <u>Kintinkantan guide</u>.



29. Bese Saka

"Sack of cola nuts" – Symbol of Affluence, Power, Abundance, Plenty, Togetherness and Unity. The cola nut played an important role in the economic life of Ghana. A widely-used cash crop, it is closely associated with affluence and abundance. This symbol also represents the role of agriculture and trade in bringing peoples together.

Read the full Bese Saka guide.



30. Mpatapo

"Knot of pacification" – Symbol of Reconciliation, Peacemaking and Pacification. Mpatapo represents the bond or knot that binds parties in a dispute to a peaceful, harmonious reconciliation. It is a symbol of peacemaking after strife.

Read the full Mpatapo guide.



31. Nsaa

"A type of hand-woven fabric" – Symbol of Excellence, Genuineness, Authenticity. According to "The Adinkra Dictionary" by W. Bruce Willis, the nsaa symbols reflect a saying: "nea onnim nsaa oto n'ago", which he translates as "He who does not know authentic Nsaa will buy the fakes." The quality of Nsaa has come to represent quality of workmanship in general. Read the full Nsaa guide.



32. Nkyimu

"Crossed divisions on Adinkra cloth" – Symbol of Skillfulness, Precision. Before the Adinkra cloth is stamped with the symbols, the artisan blocks off the cloth with lines in a rectangular grid using a broad-tooth comb. This preparation is symbolic of the exacting technique which results in the highest quality product.

Read the full Nkyimu guide.



33. Sesa Wo Suban

"Change or transform your character" – Symbol of Life Transformation. This symbol combines two separate adinkra symbols: the "Morning Star," representing a new beginning, placed inside a wheel symbolizing rotation or continuous movement.

Read the full Sesa Wo Suban guide.



34. Epa

"Handcuffs" – Symbol of Law and Justice, Slavery and Captivity. Adolph Agbo, in "Values of Adinkra Symbols," notes that handcuffs were introduced in Africa during the slave trade and later became popular among chiefs for restraining offenders. "The symbol reminds offenders of the uncompromising nature of the law. It, however, discourages all forms of slavery." Read the full Epa guide.



35. Dame-Dame

"Board game" – Symbol of Intelligence and Ingenuity. Named after a traditional Ghanaian board game, this symbol represents the importance of strategic thinking, problem-solving, and wisdom in navigating life's challenges. It encourages planning ahead, adaptability, and making smart decisions to achieve success.

Read the full <u>Dame-Dame</u> <u>guide</u>.



36. Ese Ne Tekrema

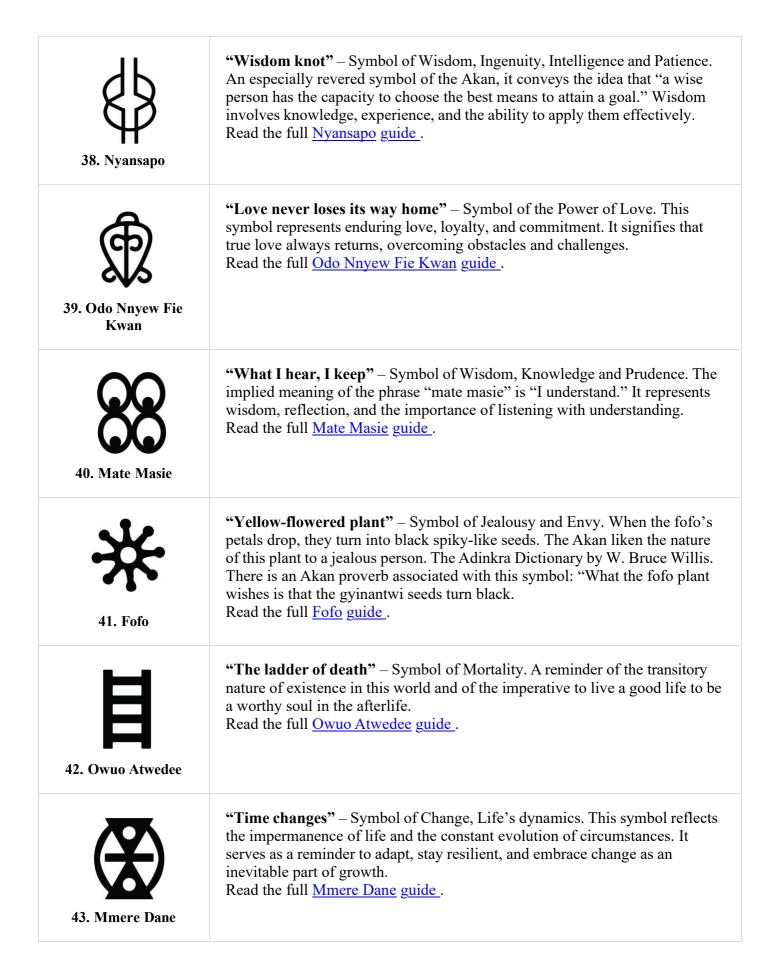
"The teeth and the tongue" – Symbol of Friendship and Interdependence. The teeth and the tongue play interdependent roles in the mouth. They may come into conflict, but they must work together.

Read the full Ese Ne Tekrema guide.



37. Nyame Nnwu Na Mawu "God never dies, therefore I cannot die" – Symbol of God's omnipresence and the perpetual existence of man's spirit. This signifies the immortality of the human soul, believed to be part of God. Because the soul rests with God after death, it cannot die.

Read the full Nyame Nnwu Na Mawu guide.





"Sew in readiness" – Symbol of Readiness, Steadfastness, Hardiness. According to The Adinkra Dictionary, the design of this symbol resembles the links of a chain, and implies strength through unity as well as the importance of being prepared.

Read the full Pempamsie guide.



"Sword of war" – Symbol of Courage, Valor, and Heroism. The crossed swords were a popular motif in the heraldic shields of many former Akan states. In addition to recognizing courage and valor, the swords can represent legitimate state authority.

Read the full Akofena guide.



45. Akofena

"Talons of the eagle" – Symbol of Strength, Bravery, Power. The eagle is the mightiest bird in the sky, and its strength is concentrated in its talons. The Oyoko clan, one of the nine Akan clans, uses this symbol as their clan emblem.

Read the full Okodee Mmowere guide.



Mmowere

"God is King" – Symbol of Majesty and Supremacy of God. This symbol represents divine authority, sovereignty, and ultimate power. It signifies faith in God's guidance, protection, and rule over all things, reinforcing the belief that spiritual strength prevails over worldly challenges.

Read the full Nyame Ye Ohene guide.

47. Nyame Ye Ohene

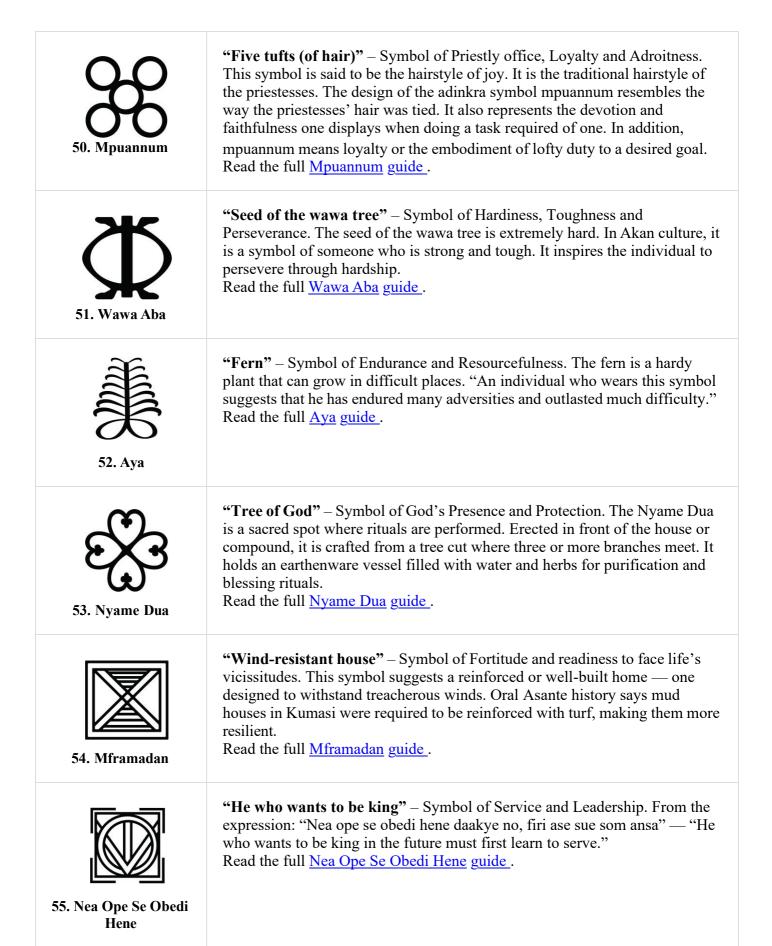


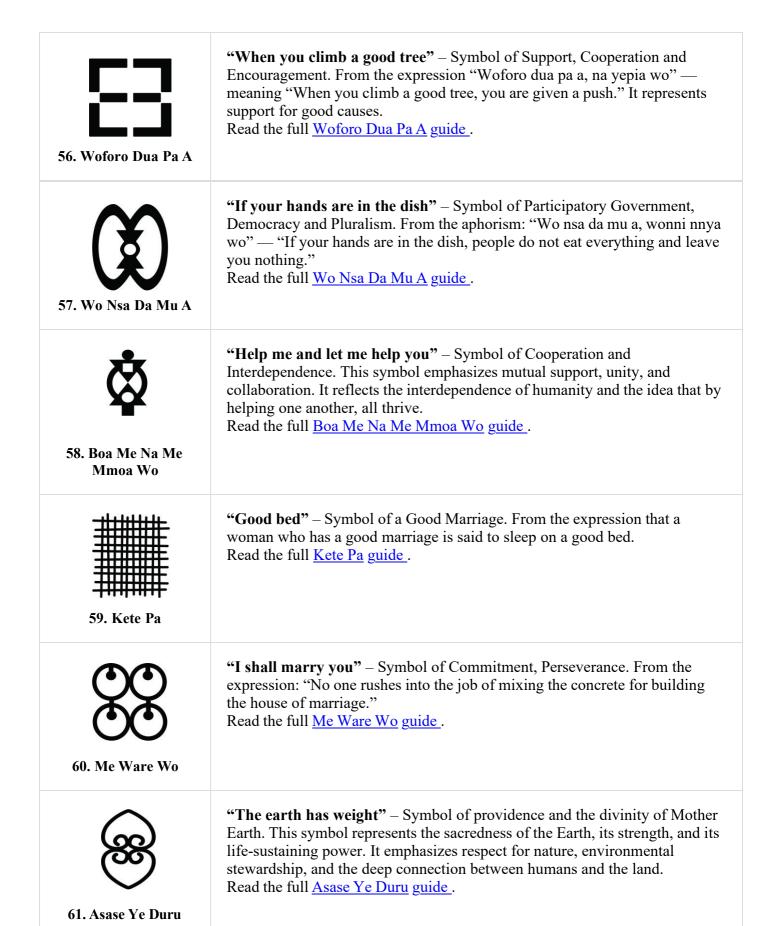
48. Onyankopon Adom Nti Biribiara Beye Yie **"By God's grace, all will be well"** – Symbol of Hope, Providence, Faith. This symbol reflects faith in divine providence and the belief that with God's favor, everything will fall into place. It serves as a reminder to trust in a higher power, remain hopeful, and persevere through life's challenges. Read the full Onyankopon Adom Nti Biribiara Beye Yie guide.



49. Kwatakye Atiko

"Hairstyle of an Asante war captain" – Symbol of Bravery and Valor. "This symbol is said to be a special hair style of Kwatakye, a war captain of old Asante. The symbol has come to represent bravery and fearlessness. It is also given as an earned title to any brave son of an Akan community. Read the full Kwatakye Atiko guide.







"He who does not know can know from learning" – Symbol of knowledge, life-long education and continued quest for knowledge. This symbol highlights the importance of continuous learning, open-mindedness, and personal growth. It encourages humility, reminding us that wisdom comes from seeking knowledge and embracing new experiences. Read the full Nea Onnim No Sua A, Ohu guide.



63. Ananse Ntontan

"Spider's web" – Symbol of Wisdom, Creativity and the complexities of life. This symbol represents intelligence, resourcefulness, and the power of creativity. Inspired by Ananse the Spider, a legendary figure in African folklore, it emphasizes strategic thinking, innovation, and the ability to adapt and overcome challenges.

Read the full Ananse Ntontan guide.



64. Mako

"Pepper" – Symbol of Inequality and Uneven development. Mako is a shortened form of the Akan proverb "Mako nyinaa mpatu mmere," literally "All peppers (presumably on the same tree) do not ripen simultaneously." This proverb admonishes the greater ones to help the less fortunate with the implicit understanding that fortunes could reverse so that they would also need someone's help. As the Akans say, "Mmere dane," literally, "Time changes," so any advantage one may have now may not persist forever. Read the full Mako guide.



65. Abe Dua

"Palm tree" – Symbol of Wealth, Resourcefulness, and Self-sufficiency. This symbol represents endurance, prosperity, and the ability to provide for oneself and others. Just as every part of the palm tree is useful, it teaches resourcefulness, strength, and sustainability in overcoming life's challenges. Read the full <u>Abe Dua guide</u>.



66. Okuafo Pa

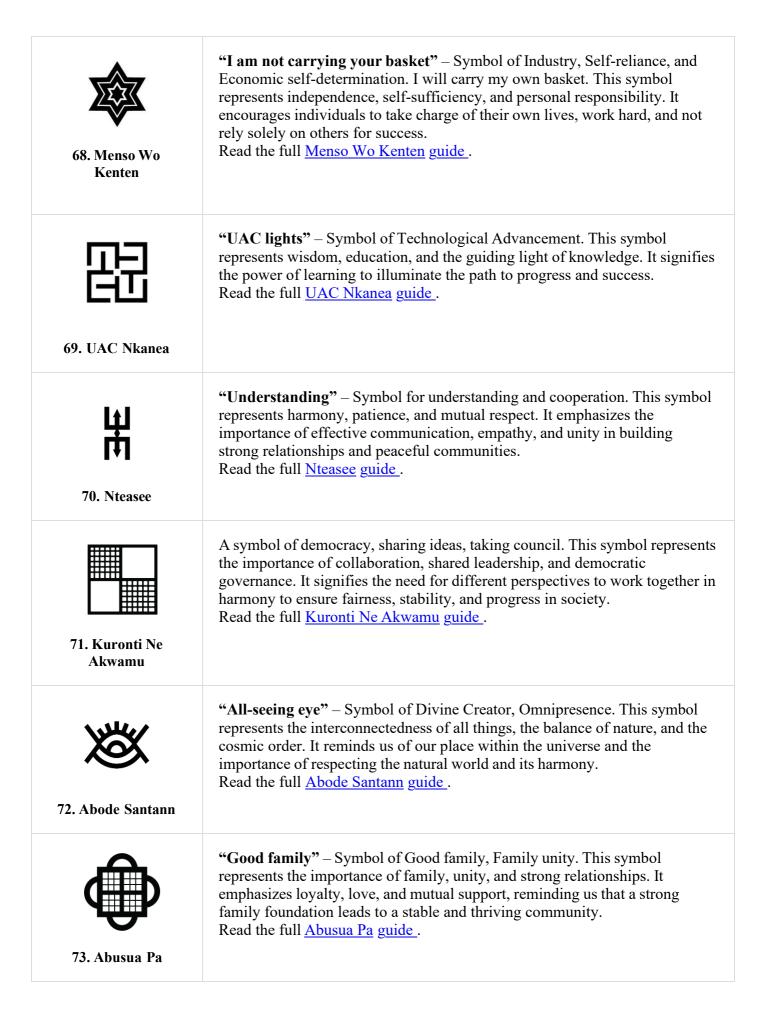
"Good farmer" – A symbol of Diligence, Hard work, Entrepreneurship. This symbol represents the value of hard work, perseverance, and dedication. It signifies that effort and patience lead to success and prosperity, emphasizing the rewards of honest labor and commitment to one's craft. Read the full Okuafo Pa guide.

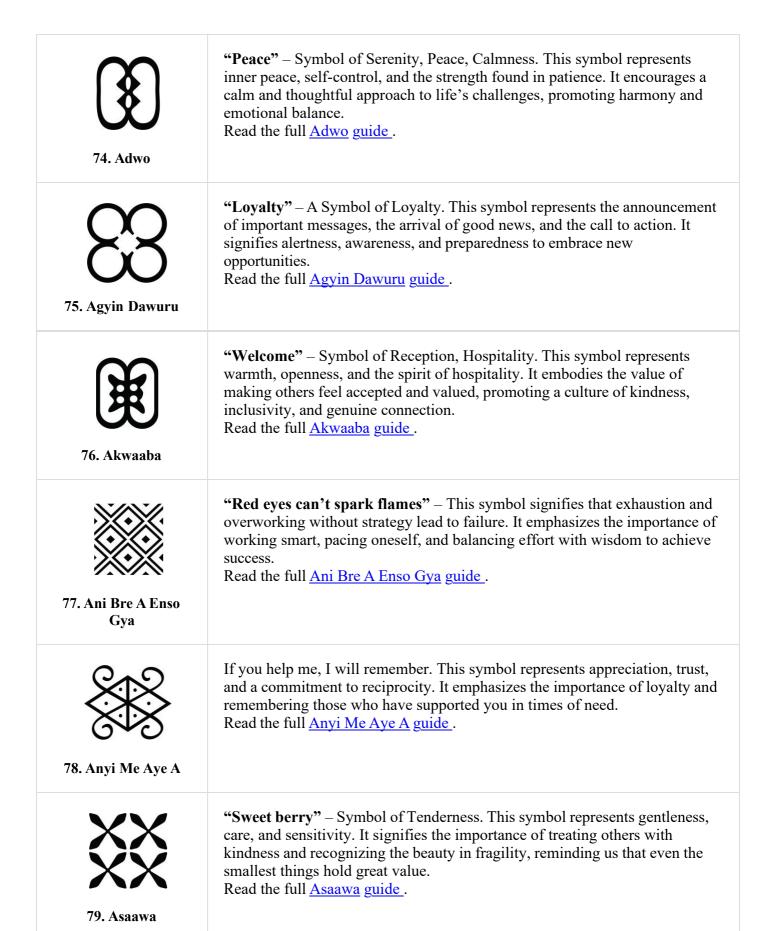


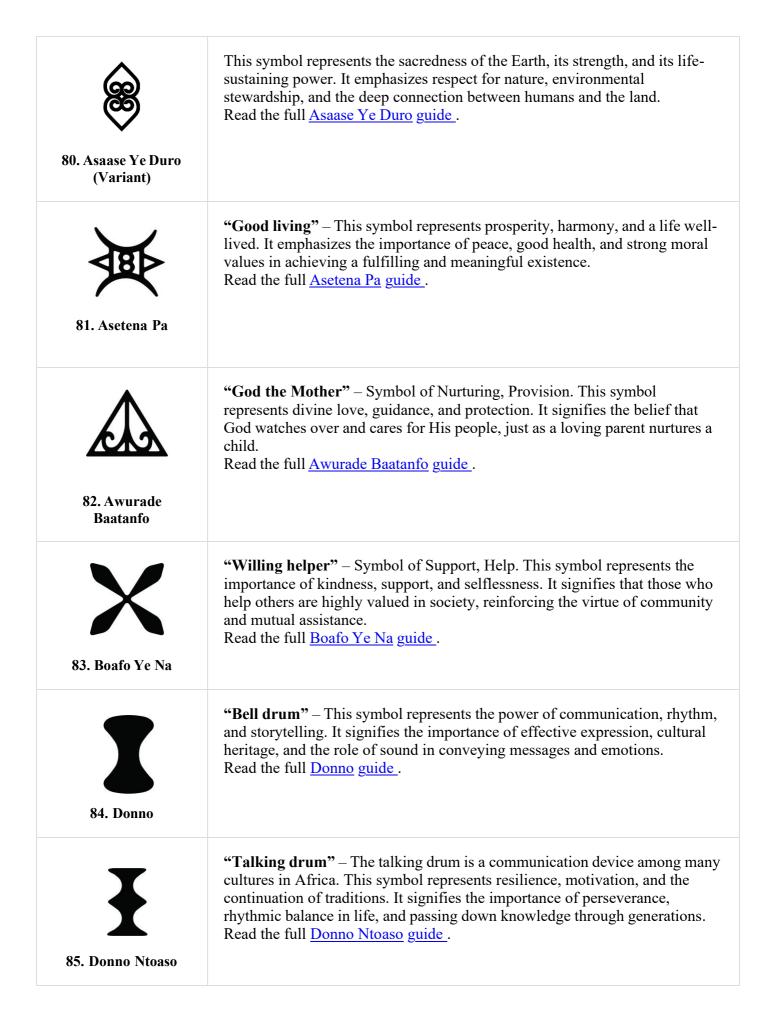
67. Sepow

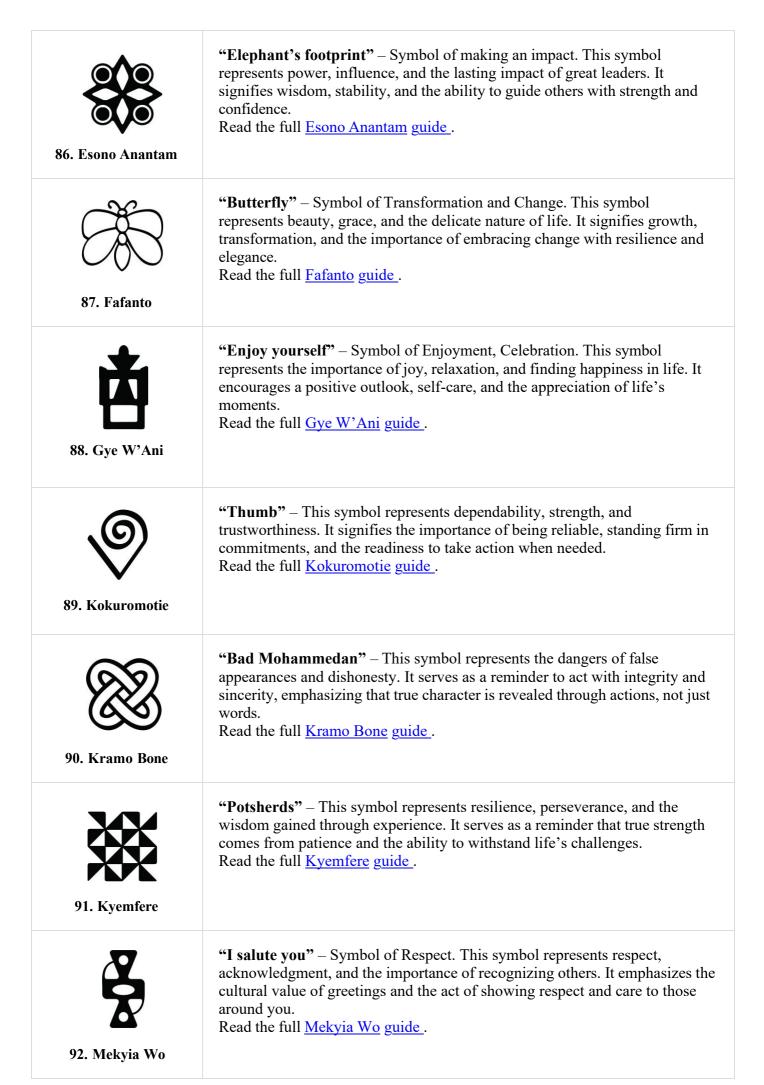
"Executioner's knife" – Symbol of Justice. This symbol represents the enforcement of justice, strength, and discipline. It signifies the power to uphold truth and maintain order, serving as a reminder of the consequences of dishonesty and wrongdoing.

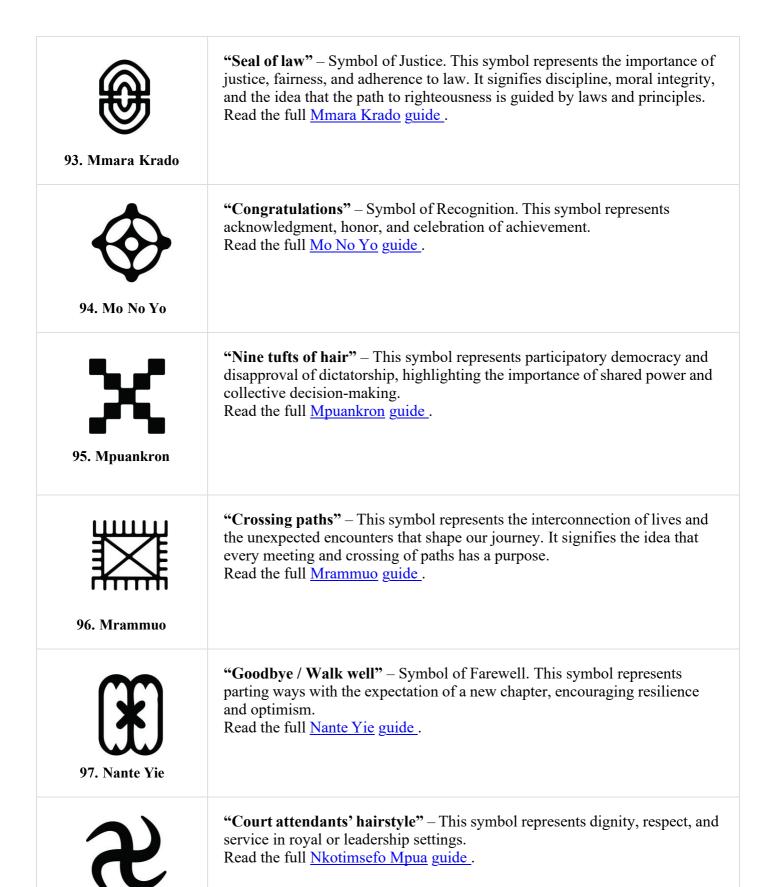
Read the full Sepow guide.





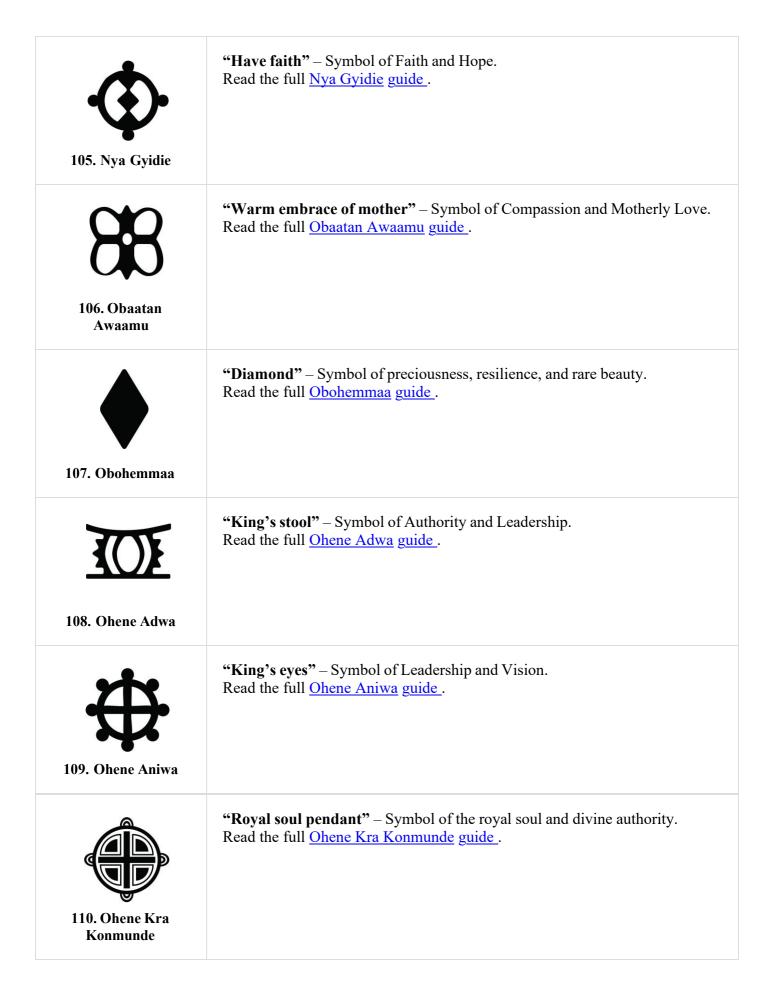




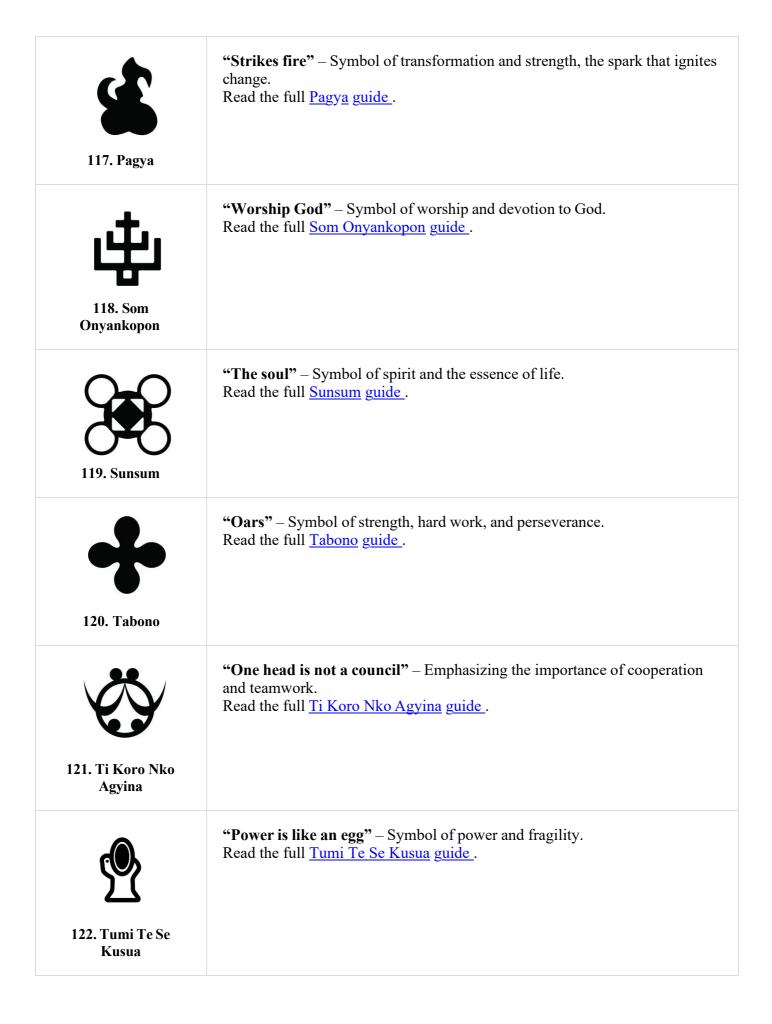


98. Nkotimsefo Mpua

99. Nkrabea	"Destiny" – Symbol of Destiny. This symbol represents life's path, purpose, and the journey ahead. Read the full Nkrabea guide.
100. Nkuruma Kesee	"Big okra" – This symbol represents fertility, sustenance, and the promise of a bountiful harvest. Read the full Nkuruma Kesee guide.
101. Nnampo Pa Baanu	"Two good friends" – A symbol of friendship and interdependence, highlighting unity and mutual reliance. Read the full Nnampo Pa Baanu guide.
8 102. Nokore	"Truth" – Symbol of Truth. This symbol represents integrity, honesty, and authenticity. Read the full Nokore guide.
103. Nsa Ko, Na Nsa Aba	"Hand go, hand come" – Symbol of Help and Support. It emphasizes reciprocity and mutual benefit. Read the full Nsa Ko, Na Nsa Aba guide.
104. Nserewa	"Cowry shells" – Symbol of Abundance and Wealth. Read the full Nserewa guide.



111. Ohene Kye	"King's crown" – Symbol of leadership and responsibility. Read the full Ohene Kye guide.
112. Ohene Kyiniie	"King's umbrella" – Symbol of leadership and protection. Read the full Ohene Kyiniie guide.
113. Ohene Papa	"Good king" – Symbol of good governance, justice, and wise leadership. Read the full Ohene Papa guide.
114. Osiadan Nyame	"God the builder" – Symbol of God as creator and protector. Read the full Osiadan Nyame guide.
115. Otumfuo Wuo Ye Ya	"The king is gone" – Symbol of the pain of a king's death and the weight of his legacy. Read the full Otumfuo Wuo Ye Ya guide.
116. Owia A Repue	"Rising sun" – Symbol of a new dawn and hope. Read the full Owia A Repue guide.



	"Gun and state sword" – Symbol of strength and protection. Read the full Tuo Ne Akofena guide.
123. Tuo Ne Akofena	
124. Yebehyia Bio	"We will meet again" – Symbol of reunion and hope. Read the full Yebehyia Bio guide.
125. Nyansapo (Variant)	Variation of the symbol of wise leadership, ingenuity, intelligence, and patience. Read the full Nyansapo guide.
126. Owia Kokroko	"The great sun" – Symbol of vitality, power, and leadership. Read the full Owia Kokroko guide.
127. Adwera	"Watery shrub" – Symbol of purity, peace, and sanctity. Read the full Adwera guide.
128. Adinkrahene Dua	"Pillar of the Adinkrahene" – Symbol of authority and greatness. Read the full Adinkrahene Dua guide.



129. Ahoden

"Strength, vitality" – Symbol of strength, resilience, and energy. Read the full <u>Ahoden guide</u>.