

The Story of Eweka Role Play Cards



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1

Ogiso Owodo is upset because he has many wives but only one son, Ekaladerhan. He decides to send some of his people to ask the Oracle why he only had one son. The Oracle had great knowledge and could also 'speak to the Gods'. Owodo's oldest wife, Esagho, sneaks on the trip to see the Oracle. The Oracle says that Esagho needs to be killed so that Owodo's other wives can have sons. On the way back, Esagho decides to lie to Owodo and tell him that the Oracle has said that Ekaladerhan must be killed as he has been guilty of terrible crimes.

2

Ogiso Owodo is shocked and weeps at the news, but decides that Ekaladerhan must be killed if that is what the Oracle has said must happen. He sends for the executioner to take Ekaladerhan into the forest and kill him. However, the executioner has known Ekaladerhan since he was a baby and can't bring himself to go through with it. He takes Ekaladerhan to a remote part of the forest and tells him to run away and never come back.

3

Meanwhile, back in Igodomigodo, Owodo has died leaving no male heir. The chief priest goes back to the Oracle who tells him that Prince Ekaladerhan is still alive and that Esagho had told lies about him.

The soldiers of Benin go to find him but Ekaladerhan does not want to go back. He even digs pits to protect himself and many soldiers fall into them.

4

The chiefs of Igodomigodo give up trying to get Ekaladerhan to come back, so they ask Evian, one of the most important men in the kingdom, to rule. However, the people of Benin are not happy when Evian tries to make his son the next ruler. They believe that only an Ogiso can do this. The people of Benin ask the powerful Oba of Ife, Oduduwa, to send one of his sons to be the new ruler.

5

Oduduwa sends his son, Prince Oranmiyan to rule over the people of Benin. Oranmiyan lives in a beautiful palace which is built for him in Benin, and he marries a beautiful Edo lady called Erinwinde. Eventually they have a son called Eweka.

6

After a few years, Oranmiyan decides that he does not like ruling in Igodomigodo as he feels that there were too many arguments to sort out. He says that only someone born in Benin should rule it and leaves his son, Eweka, in charge. Eweka decides that he should be called Oba (believed to be the Yoruba word for king). The people of Benin celebrate the beginning of their new ruler.