



## CALL TO ACTION QUILTING PROJECT

[Welcome](#)

[About EGPAF](#)

[Quilt Information](#)

[African Symbols](#)

[The Meaning of Colors](#)

Call to Action Countries:

- [Angola](#)
- [Cameroon](#)
- [Congo](#)
- [Dominican Republic](#)
- [Georgia](#)
- [Honduras](#)
- [India](#)
- [Kenya](#)
- [Malawi](#)
- [Russia](#)
- [Rwanda](#)
- [South Africa](#)
- [Tanzania](#)
- [Thailand](#)
- [Uganda](#)
- [Zambi](#)
- [Zimbabwe](#)

[Kids Helping Kids](#)

[Donations](#)

[Supporters](#)

[Photogallery](#)

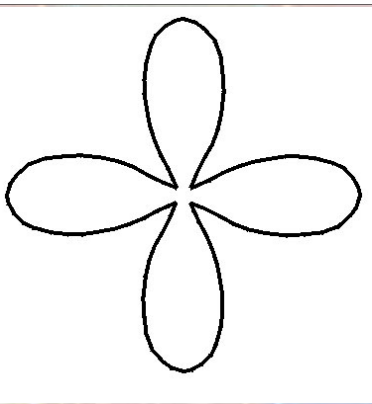
[Links](#)

[Guest Book](#)

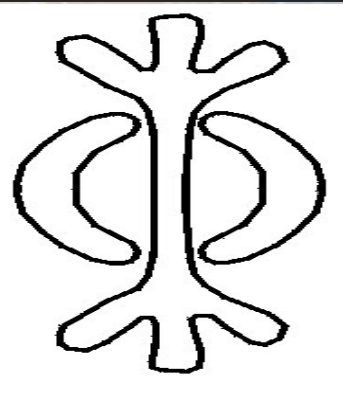
[Contact Us](#)

**Adinkra** symbols were first used as decorative elements in one of the most highly valued, hand-printed and hand-embroidered cloths of West Africa. The fabrics' origin is traced to the Asante of Ghana and the Gyaman of Cote' d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast). However, the production and use of Adinkra cloth has come to be more associated with the Asante than any other ethnic group. Around the 19th Century, the Asante developed their unique art of printing Adinkra cloth. Traditionally, the cloth was used exclusively by royalty and spiritual leaders for very important sacred ceremonies and rituals. The printing process entails stamping one symbol at a time onto large sheets of cotton cloth. The stamps are cut from pieces of calabash and the dye, Adinkera aduru, is prepared by boiling the bark of Badie together with iron slag. Originally the Adinkra cloth was printed on the ground, however today raised platforms with sack coverings act as the printing table. In addition to its traditional sacred usage, today Adinkra cloth is also used to make clothing for such special occasions as festivals, church-going, weddings, naming ceremonies and initiation rites.

	<p><b>ADINKRAHENE</b>                  "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.</p>
	<p>Osram - the 'moon'.                  Symbol represents patience.                  The related proverb is 'it takes the moon quite a while to go round the world' - you need to show patience when awaiting a particular event or outcome..</p>
	<p>Osram Ne Nsoroma - the 'moon and star'.                  Symbol represents love, harmony, faithfulness, and the feminine essence of life.                  The symbol represents the north star (female) awaiting the return of her partner, the moon (male).</p>



Tabono - the 'paddles'.  
Symbol represents strength and perseverance.



Wawa Aba - the 'seed of the wawa tree'.  
Symbol represents strength.  
The wawa tree, a hardwood, is revered for its quality as a medium for carving.



AKOBEN  
"war horn"  
symbol of vigilance and wariness  
Akoben is a horn used to sound a battle cry.

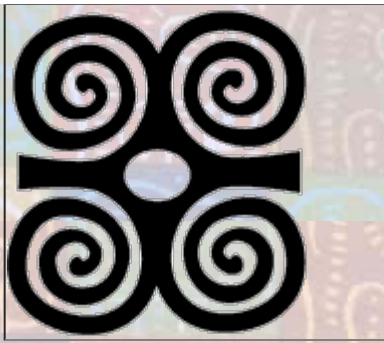


AKOKO NAN  
"the leg of a hen"  
symbol of nurturing and discipline  
The full name of this symbol translates to "The hen treads on her chicks, but she does not kill them." This represents the ideal nature of parents, being both protective and corrective. An exhortation to nurture children, but a warning not to pamper them.



AKOMA  
"the heart"  
symbol of  
patience, goodwill, faithfulness, endurance and tolerance  
According to Agbo, when a person is said to "have a heart in his stomach," that person is very tolerant.  
A saying "Nya Akoma" (Get a heart - be patient).

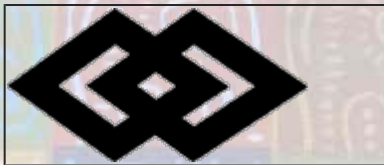
		<p>AKOMA NTOSO "linked hearts" symbol of understanding and agreement</p>
		<p>Ananse Ntontan. Symbol represents creativity and wisdom.</p>
		<p>AYA Fearless fighters wear this fern as a war sign in their caps and speeches.</p>
		<p>BIN NKA BI "No one should bite the other" symbol of peace and harmony This symbol cautions against provocation and strife.</p>
		<p>DAME-DAME name of a board game symbol of intelligence and ingenuity</p>
		<p>DENKYEM "crocodile" symbol of adaptability The crocodile lives in the water, yet breathes the air, demonstrating an ability to adapt to circumstances.</p>
		<p>DWENNIMMEN "ram's horns" symbol of humility together with</p>



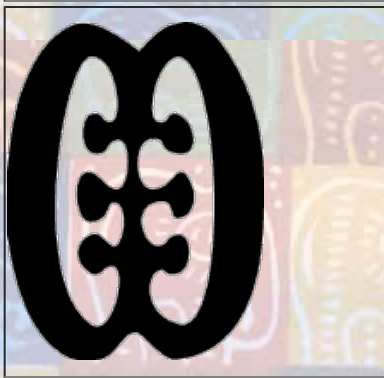
strength  
The ram will fight fiercely against an adversary, but it also submits humbly to slaughter, emphasizing that even the strong need to be humble.



EBAN  
"fence"  
symbol of love, safety and security  
The home to the Akan is a special place. A home which has a fence around it is considered to be an ideal residence.  
  
The fence symbolically separates and secures the family from the outside. Because of the security and the protection that a fence affords, the symbol is also associated with the security and safety one finds in love.



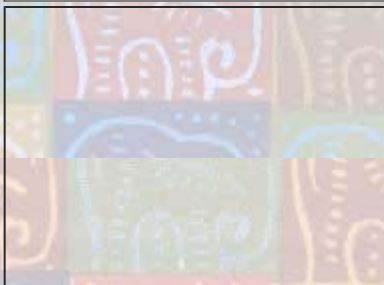
EPA  
"handcuffs"  
symbol of slavery and captivity



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 need to work together.



FIHANKRA  
"house/compound"  
symbol of security and safety  
Typical of Akan (Asante) architecture, the communal housing compound has only one entrance and exit.



FUNTUNFUNEFU-  
DENKYEMFUNEFU  
"Siamese crocodiles"  
symbol of democracy and unity  
The Siamese crocodiles share one stomach, yet they fight over food. This popular symbol is a remind that





infighting and tribalism is harmful to all who engage in it.



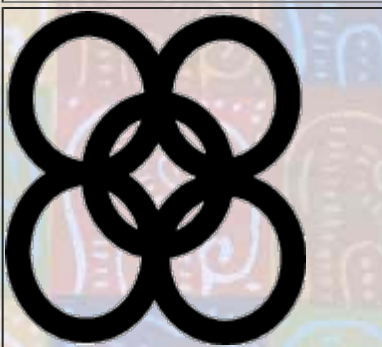
**GYE NYAME**  
"except for God"  
symbol of the supremacy of God  
This unique and beautiful symbol is ubiquitous in Ghana. It is by far the most popular for use in decoration, a reflection on the deeply religious character of the Ghanaian people



**HWE MU DUA**  
"measuring stick"  
symbol of examination and quality control  
This symbol stresses the need to strive for the best quality, whether in production of goods or in human endeavors.



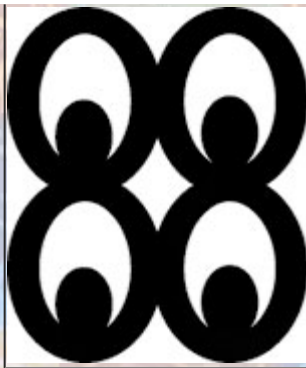
**HYE WON HYE**  
"that which does not burn "  
symbol of imperishability and endurance  
This symbol gets its meaning from traditional priests that were able to walk on fire without burning their feet, an inspiration to others to endure and overcome difficulties.



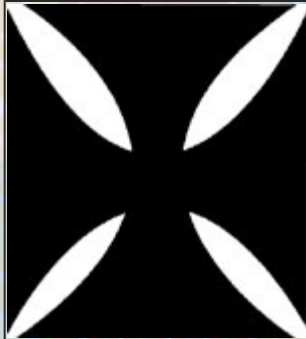
**KINTINKANTAN**  
"puffed up extravagance"  
symbol of arrogance



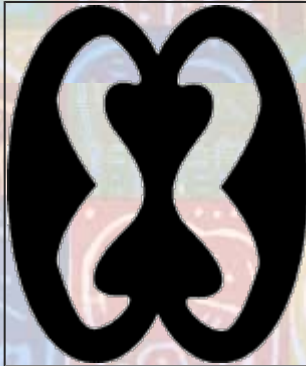
**MATE MASIE**  
"What I hear, I keep"  
symbol of wisdom, knowledge and prudence  
The implied meaning of the phrase



"mate masie" is "I understand".  
Understanding means wisdom and knowledge, but it also represents the prudence of taking into consideration what another person has said.



MMUSUYIDEE  
"that which removes bad luck"  
symbol of good fortune and sanctity



NKONSONKONSON  
"chain link"  
symbol of unity and human relations  
A reminder to contribute to the community, that in unity lies strength



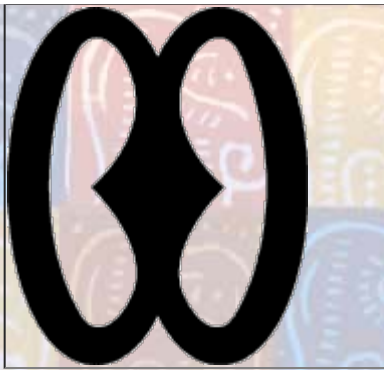
NKYINKYIM  
"twisting"  
symbol of initiative, dynamism and versatility



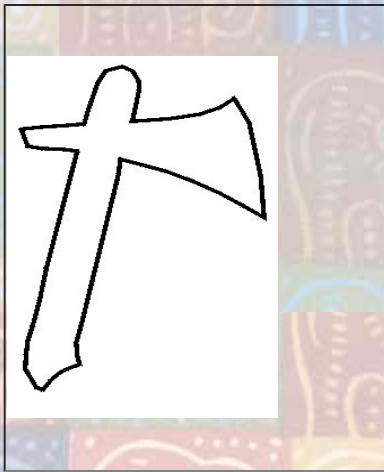
NSOROMMA  
"child of the heavens [stars] "  
symbol of guardianship  
A reminder that God is the father and watches over all people.



NYAME BIRIBI WO SORO  
"God is in the heavens"  
symbol of hope  
A reminder that God's dwelling place is



in the heaven, where he can listen to all prayers.



Nyame Akroma - 'God's Axe'.

Symbol represents stealth and righteous might.

The symbol is based on neolithic axe heads, found in the region, and considered by the Akan to be the physical remains of thunderbolts hurled by angry Gods. The Akan would often wear one or more shells as a talisman against lightning strikes (and later as protection against firearms).

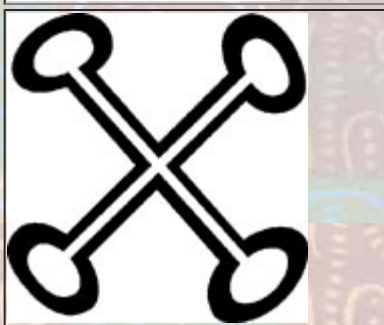


Nyame-Nti - 'faith in God'.

Also known as Adwera - a river plant.

Symbol represents consecration, cleanliness, chastity, purity, and faith in God.

The proverb related to Adwera says that "the water of life sustains through its purity", a recommendation to the life of the virtuous and pious.



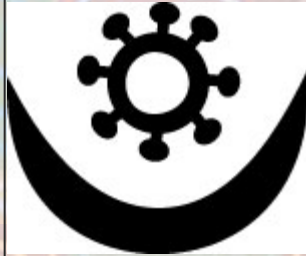
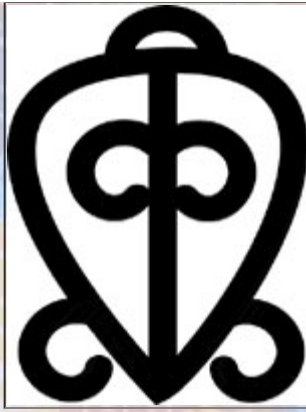
NYAME NNWU NA MAWU

"God never dies, therefore I cannot die"  
symbol of perpetual existence  
This signifies the immortality of man's soul, believed to be a part of God.  
Because the soul rests with God after death, it cannot die.



ODO NNYEW FIE KWAN

"Love never loses its way home"  
symbol of the power of love

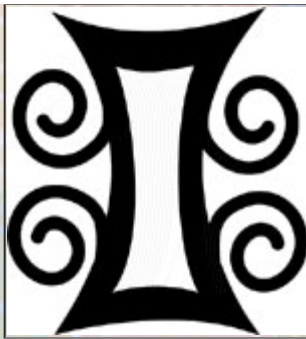


**OSRAM NE NSROMMA** (The moon and the star).  
Symbol of **FAITHFULNESS, LOVE, HARMONY, FONDNESS, LOYALTY, BENEVOLENCE** and **FEMININE ESSENCE OF LIFE**. Prov.: "Kyekye pe aware." (Kyekye - the North Pole Star - has a deep love for marriage. She is always in the Sky waiting for the return of the moon, her husband).

**OWO FORO ADOBE**  
"snake climbing the raffia tree"  
symbol of steadfastness, prudence and diligence  
Because of its thorns, the raffia tree is a very dangerous challenge to the snake. His ability to climb it is a model of persistence and prudence.

**SANKOFA**  
"return and get it"  
symbol of the importance of the wisdom of learning from the past in building for the future.  
Prov. "Se wo were fi na wo sankofa a yenkyi".

**SESA WORUBAN**  
"I change or transform my life"  
symbol of life transformation  
This symbol combines two separate adinkra symbols, the "Morning Star" which can mean a new start to the day, placed inside the wheel, representing rotation or independent movement.



TAMFO BEBRE  
"the enemy will stew in his own juice"  
symbol of importance of learning from  
the past

