

The Original Story of the Ibeji ⚡

Traditionally, the Ibeji are identified as one Orixá - the equivalent of a god in the Candomblé religion. Representing joy, glee, and mischief, they are said to be directly related to the Gemini twins in astrology. In Candomblé, the twins (Taió and Caiandê) are the children of the Orixás Xangô and Oxum.

The story goes that since being gifted them by the Orixá Yemanjá, the twins were never without their small and magical tambourines. It was said that they could play the instruments with the fury of twelve thousand hurricanes. At the same time, Icu (the Orixá of death) began setting traps between different towns and villages for men, women, children and the elderly - sparing none and devouring any that fell for his vicious tricks before their time had come.

His terror quickly spread amongst the humans and they banded together to try and defeat Icu. Try as they might, no-one could manage such a task. It was then that Taió and Caiandê heard of their plight.

Icu had no quarrel with the twins, but they disagreed with his handling of affairs in the human realm. They did not trust his judgment, feeling he had grown greedy and taken too much life prematurely.

So they set about to create a song - the most beautiful rhythm that had ever been heard.

Walking on the trail where the Orixá of death conducted his vile business, one brother began shaking his tambourine, playing a mesmerising beat. There was nothing Icu could do. As soon as he heard the rhythm, he couldn't stop himself from dancing. It was as if his feet had a mind of their own. When one brother grew tired of playing, the other, hidden in brush would simply swap with him when Icu wasn't watching and take over the beat. In this way the music never ended, and neither did the dance. Before Icu knew it, the sun had died and given way to a new dawn once more. For days, Death danced. When he could no longer take their enchanting torment, Icu screamed out to the Ibeji to release him from this terrifying trance. Taió and Caiandê offered him a deal: the music would stop - but he had to promise to remove his traps and stop taking humans before their natural time. With no other choice, Icu agreed. The twins had finally beaten Death back to a balanced state.

The Ibeji are powerful, but more importantly, they love to play. And although one can never truly defeat Death, they were the first to discover you can certainly play with him.

Translated, taken and amalgamated from:

<https://pensandoumbanda.com/ibejis-vencem-a-morte-brincando/>

<https://mojosiedlak.com/the-sacred-twins-ibeji/>

<https://www.audible.co.uk/pd/Abicus-Blues-Audiobook/B09RB6TX5Z>

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