Adinkra Cards and Printing Instructions

1. Print out pages 2 through 13 on card stock paper. 110-pound-weight card-stock or higher is a good weight to use for this purpose. If you go with a lighter-weight paper, say 80-pound or 65-pound, be prepared to either paste them onto a stiffer backing, or laminate them. You don't necessarily *have* to go with white card-stock. The images in this pdf will show up on any color card-stock you choose.
2. Pages 14 and 15 are optional card backs, which you may choose to print on the back of each card sheet. The benefit of a card-back design is that it keeps the identity of the card front a secret, until it is time to turn the card over in the reading. Of course, you may leave the backs of your cards blank, or cover it with your own design, if you wish.
3. Before cutting out the cards, I recommend spraying both sides of each card sheet with several coats of a clear acrylic sealer. This may take a couple of hours, because you'll need to let the coats dry for 15 minutes between each coat. It is worth the effort, though, for it keeps the ink on the cards from smearing, and the cards slide against each other more easily when shuffling. The more coats of sealer, the less smearing of ink, and the easier the shuffling.
4. Cut out the cards and keep them in either a special box, or wrapped up in a square of fabric.

Euphonia Carstairs



Aban

Great Fortress or Two-Story House

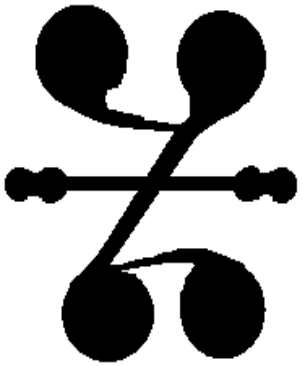
The power, authority, and legitimacy of government and respect for the law.



Adinkrahene

"Chief of the Adinkra symbols"

Greatness, charisma and leadership. Possibly also generativity, as it inspired the creation of the other symbols.



Adu-Wham

Fragrance, Sweet Smell, Aroma

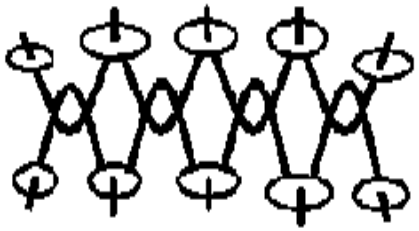
"A little fragrance clings to the hand that gives flowers"-Akan proverb. Generosity benefits the giver as well as the receiver.



Agyindawuru

The Gong of Agyin, the Faithful Servant

Alertness, faithfulness, and dutifulness. Graciousness and courteous.



AHWENE PA NKASA KYERe AWURUWRO-"Inferior Beads Make the Most Sound"

The truly superior let their actions speak for them. The inferior boast to cover their inadequacy.



Akoben

"war horn"

Vigilance and wariness. Sounding the battle cry.



Akofena

"sword of war"

Courage, valor, heroism. Also, Legitimate state authority.



Akoko Nan

"the leg of a hen"

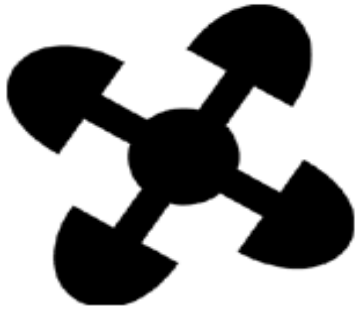
Nurturing and discipline, protective and corrective, nurture, but do not pamper.



Akoma

"the heart"

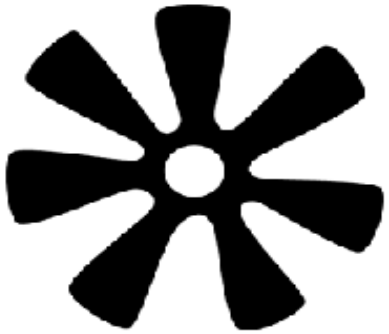
Patience, tolerance, compassion



Akoma Ntoso

"linked hearts"

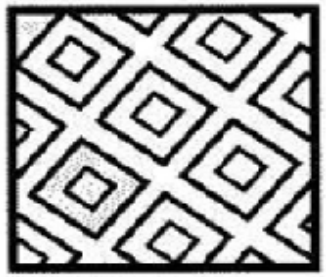
Understanding and agreement



Ananse Ntontan

"spider's web"

Wisdom, creativity, and the complexities of life



Ani Bere A Enso Gya

"No matter how red-eyed one becomes, one's eyes would not spark flames"

Self-containment, self-discipline, self-control, patience, non-demonstrative feeling.



Asase Ye Duru

"the Earth has weight"

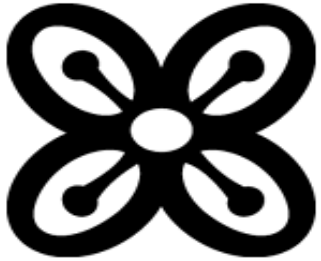
Providence and the divinity of Mother Earth. The importance of Earth in sustaining life.



Aya

"fern"

Endurance and resourcefulness, ability to thrive in a difficult place. One who has endured much adversity and out-lasted much difficulty.



Bese Saka

"a sack of cola nuts"

Affluence, abundance, power and plenty, togetherness and unity.

The role agriculture and trade play in bringing people together.



Bi Nka Bi

"No one should bite the other"

Peace and harmony, a caution against provocation and strife.



Boa Me Na Me Mmoa Wo

"Help me and let me help you."

Cooperation and mutual support



CDC ANINISUO

Lover's Tears

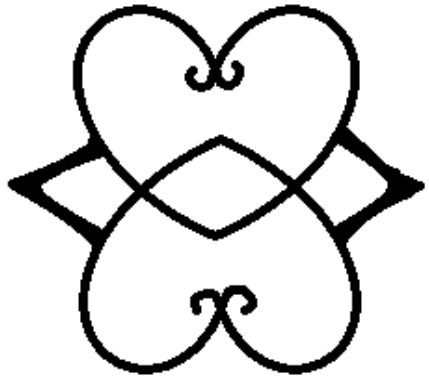
Grief, Sadness, Despondency. There is none who can make us suffer like those we love.



Dame-Dame

board game

Intelligence and ingenuity, the ability to think strategically.



DCME NA ME NDC WO BI

"Love One Another"

Interdependency; give-and-take; 'you scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours.' Fraternity.



Denkyem

"crocodile"

Adaptability, the ability to function effectively in more than one environment.



Dono

The Talking Drum

Praise, appellation, goodwill, and rhythm



Dono Ntoaso

The Double Dono

High praise and approbation, good will, rejoicing, adroitness, alertness, and united action.



Duafe

"wooden comb"

Beauty, cleanliness, hygiene, looking one's best. Other desirable feminine qualities such as goodness, love and care.



Dwennimmen

"ram's horns"

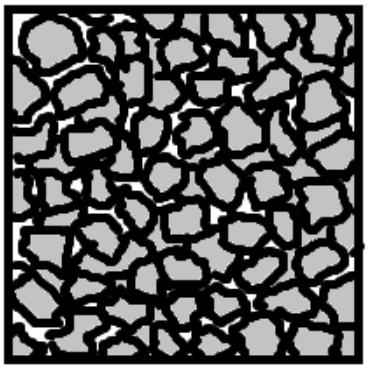
Humility with strength,
even the strong need to be
humble.



Eban

"fence"

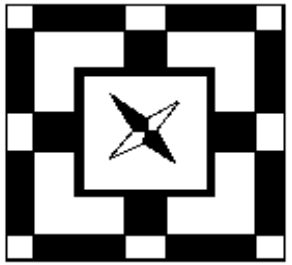
Love, safety, security.
The safety and security one
finds in love.



EFIE MMOSEA

Courtyard Gravel

The enemy within. A signal of intrusions into the courtyard. No one expects danger from the courtyard gravel, but it will cut you if you slip on it



EFIE NE ABC NE ABC
NTEN ADEe A eWCFIE
"Whatever exists outside,
exists also in the house."

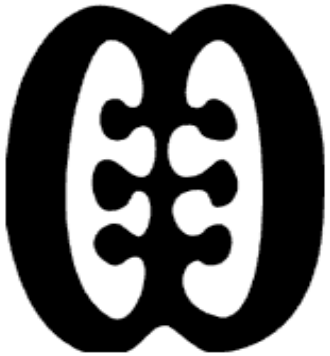
Morality. The standards we apply to the outside world, we should also apply to ourselves and our household. Do not covet others goods, just as you would not want them to covet yours.



Epa

"handcuffs"

Law and justice,
slavery and captivity.



Ese Ne Tekrema

"the teeth and the tongue"

Friendship and
interdependence,
the need to work together.



Fafanto

The Butterfly

Tenderness, gentleness,
honesty, fragility.

Going without, even if
something is plentiful.



Fawohodie

"Independence"

Independence, freedom,
emancipation
and the responsibilities that
implies.



Fihankra

"house/compound"

Security and saftey.

In Akan (Asante) architecture, the communal housing compound has one entrance and exit.



Fofo

"Yellow-flowered plant"

Jealousy and/or envy; it can turn even the greatest beauty, ugly.



Fly WANSENA NNI BI MPO A WCPOSA NE NSeM-"Even if a fly has nothing to offer, it rubs its hands."

Genuine generosity; being willing to share what one has, even if one has very little to share.



Funtunfunefu-Denkyemfunefu

"Siamese crocodiles"

Democracy and unity are needed.
Infighting and tribalism is harmful to all who engage in it.



Gye Nyame

"Except for God"

God is supreme.



Hwe Mu Dua

"Measuring Stick"

Examination, quality control. Strive for the best quality, whether in the production of goods or human endeavors.



Hye Won Hye

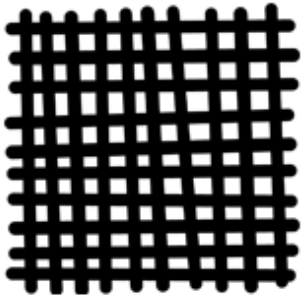
"That which does not burn"

Imperishability, resistance to harm, endurance, the strength to overcome difficulties.



KATA WODEeSO NA BUE ME DEeSO-"Cover your deeds and open mine to ridicule."

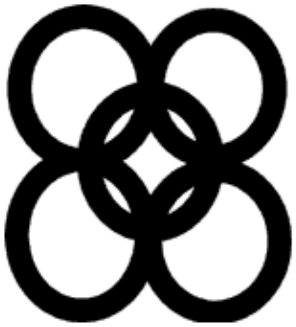
Hypocrisy. Calling attention to the misdeeds of others in order to draw attention away from one's own.



Kete Pa

"A good bed"

A good marriage,
a good relationship,
a good alliance.



Kintinkantan

"Puffed-up extravangance"

Arrogance



Kwatakye Atiko

"Hairstyle of an Asante war captain"

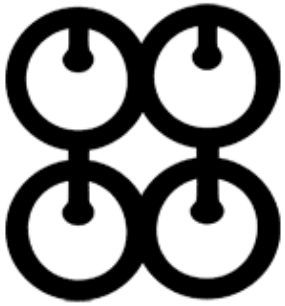
Bravery, valor, fearlessness; an earned honor for bravery.



Mate Masie

"What I hear, I keep"

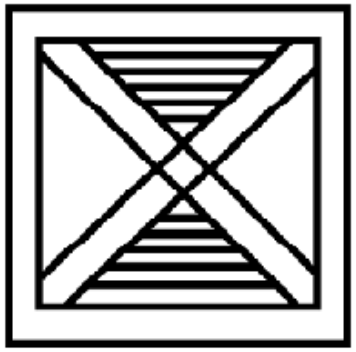
Wisdom, knowledge, and the prudence to consider what has been said.



Me Ware Wo

"I shall marry you"

A serious commitment, and the perseverance and dedication such a commitment demands.



Mframadan

"Wind-resistant house"

Fortitude, the readiness to face life's vicissitudes.



Mmara Krado

The Padlock of the Law

The authority, power, and justice of the court, legality, imprisonment, a caution against lawlessness.



Mmere Dane

"Time changes"

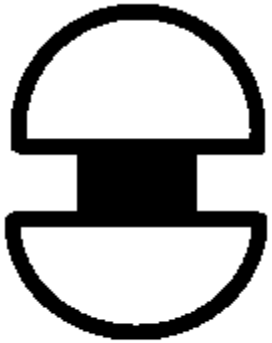
change, life's dynamics,
time changes,
times change



Mmusuyidee

"That which removes bad luck"

Good fortune and sanctity



MPABOA
Sandals

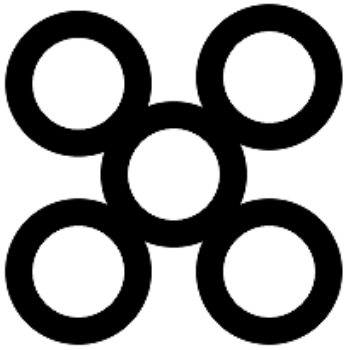
Authority, and the readiness to go anywhere. In Akan culture, a King or Chief is never seen without his sandals. He loses his rank if his bare feet touch the ground.



Mpatapo

"Knot of pacification" or "Knot of reconciliation"

Pacification, reconciliation, peace-making after strife.



Mpuannum

"Five tufts" (of hair)

Priestly office, loyalty, adroitness, joy, the devotion & faithfulness displayed when doing a task which is required of one.



Nea Onnim No Sua A Ohu

"He who does not know can know from learning"

knowledge, life-long learning, the continued quest for knowledge



Nea Ope Se Obedi Hene

"He who wants to be king"

Service and leadership. He who would be king must first learn how to serve



Nkonsonkonson

"Chain link"

Unity and human relations, contribute to the community, in unity lies strength.

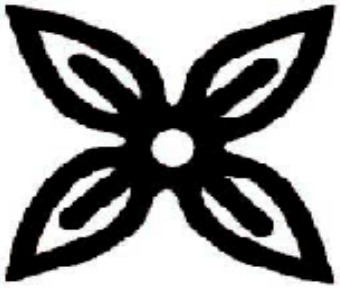


Nkotimsefo Mpua

The Hair Style of the Court Attendants

Loyalty, and a readiness to serve.

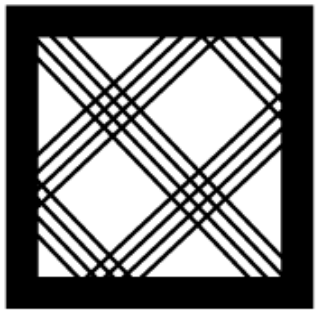
Attendants of the Queen Bee; henchmen.



Nkuruma Kesee

Big Okro(Dried Okra)

Greatness, superiority, supremacy.
A well-mannered person or character.



Nkyimu

The crossed divisions made on adrinka cloth before stamping

Skillfulness, precision, taking the utmost care in laying the groundwork



Nkyinkyim

"Twisting"

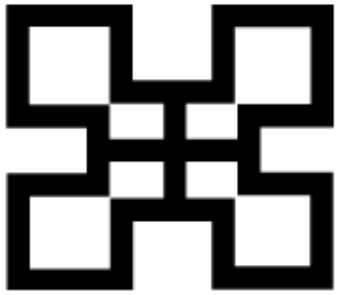
Initiative, dynamism, versatility



NNYEGYEe

Provocation

Someone is trying to provoke you into an unwise reaction or fight. There is an old saying, "if you are taking a bath, and a madman takes your clothes and you chase him, naked, then *you* are the one who looks mad." Someone is trying to manipulate you into looking bad.



Nsaa

A type of hand-woven fabric

Excellence, genuineness, quality workmanship



Nserewa

Cowries

Affluence and wealth.

Sacredness, a sacred divinitory tool of the priests.



Nsoromma

"Child of the Heavens"

A reminder that God watches over all the people, like a parent.



Nyame Biribi Wo Soro

"God is in the heavens"

Remember God is in a place where He hears all prayers.



Nyame Dua

"Tree of God" - an altar

A sacred spot where rituals are held, often a tree stump or where three or more branches meet.



Nyame Nnwu Na Mawu

"God never dies, therefore I cannot die"

God is omnipresent and the human soul exists in perpetuity



Nyame Nti

"By God's Grace"

Faith and trust in God. All that sustains us comes from God.



Nyame Ye Ohene

"God is king"

The majesty and supremacy of God.



Nyansapo

"Wisdom Knot"

Wisdom, ingenuity, intelligence, and patience



Odo Nnyew Fie Kwan

"Love never loses its way home"

The power of love. Its sense of direction is flawless.



Ohene Aniwa

The Eyes of the King

Vigilance, security, surveillance, protection, awareness of one's surroundings.

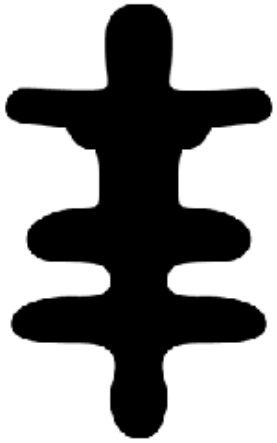


Ohene Tuo

The King's Gun

Defense, power, protection, and greatness.

The start of conflict or another important occasion



Okodee Mmowere

"The Talons of the Eagle"

Strength, Bravery, Power.



Onyankopon Adom Nti Biribiera Beye Yie

"By God's Grace, all will be well"

Hope, Faith, A Trust in Providence



Osram

The Moon

Faith, patience, understanding and determination. The capacity of a leader to improve with time and experience.



Osram Ne Nsorommma

"The Moon and the Star"

The Love, Faithfulness and Harmony which exists in a good marriage.



Owo Foro Adobe

"Snake climbing the Raffia tree"

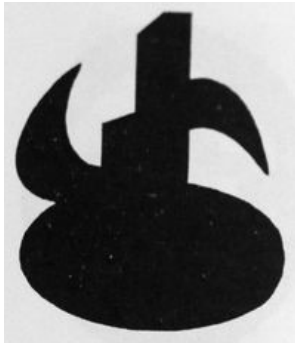
Prudence, diligence and steadfastness. Exercise the utmost care in your actions.



Owuo Atwedee

"The Ladder of Death"

Life is transitory. Live a good life in order to be worthy in the afterlife.



Pagya

A Gun Powder Kirk

Gunners, bravery, defense, power. The ability of the common man to defend himself.



Pempamsie

"Sew In Readiness"

Strength through unity. The importance of being prepared.



Sankofa 1

"Return and get it"

Learn from the past



Sankofa 2

"Return and get it"

Learn from the past



Sepo

Executioner's Knife

Justice, law, and the punishment of wrongdoing



Sesa Wo Suban

"Transform Your Character "

Life Transformation



Sunsum

The 'Soul'

Spirituality, spiritual purity, the cleanliness of the soul.

The ego, the individual's personality, character, mental endowment and the degree of excellence in life one attains.



Tabono

Paddle (Oar)

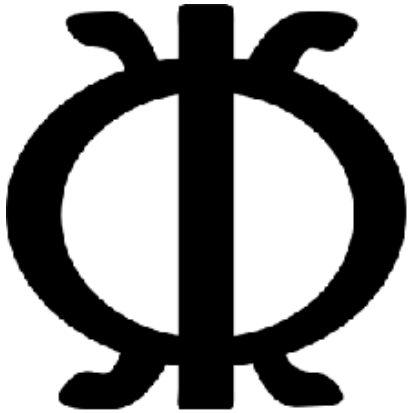
Strength, confidence and persistence.
Power, conviction and endurance.



Tamfo Bebre

"The enemy will stew in his own juice"

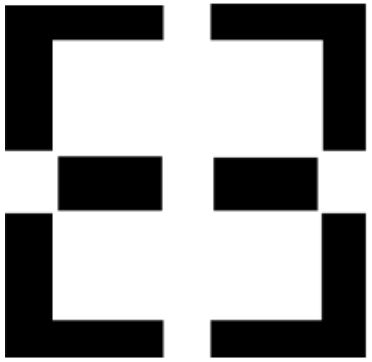
Jealousy, Envy



Wawa Aba

"Seed of the Wawa Tree"

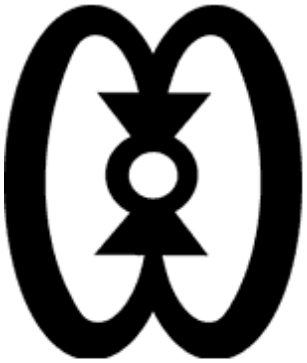
Hardiness, Toughness, Perseverance



Woforo Dua Pa A

"When you climb a good tree"

Support, cooperation, encouragement.
When you work for a good cause, you will get support.



Wo Nsa Da Mu A

"If your hands are in the dish"

Participatory Government



Yentena Nsere

"Let us live in harmony"

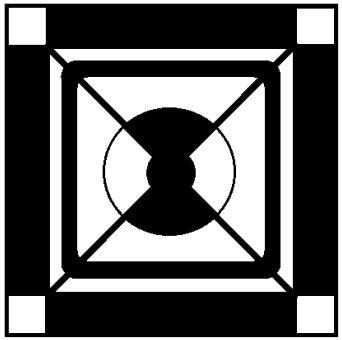
Brotherliness & belonging.



Batkari Amma YeAnhu Krado

"The smock confuses one from identifying a Muslim"

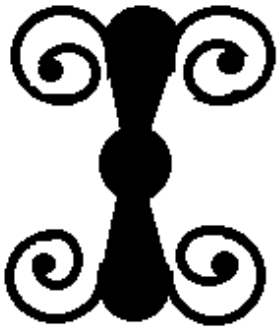
Deception. Disguised adversaries. Mistaking one ethnic/religious group for another. Act with caution.



Asetena Pa Ma Awire Fire

"Cordial relations creates complacency"

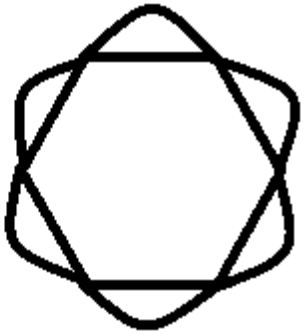
Ungratefulness. Earnest & perseverant in seeking help from those in a position to help, once the favor is granted, it is human nature to forget the one who did the favor.



Obi Ntutu Anomaa Ho Na Wcnfa Nkyere Panin

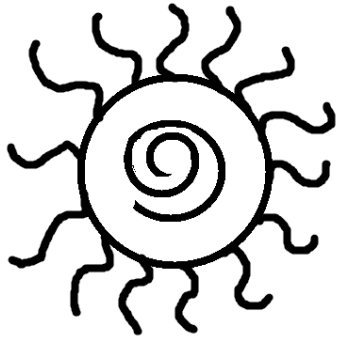
"No one plucks the feathers of a bird, then shows it for identification"

It is wrong to ask someone to identify something after it has been stripped of its identifying marks.



Cyere Pa Cbaa Pa

The perfect woman or the perfect wife. The perfect spouse.



Owia Kokroko

Intense Sun

Vitality, enlightenment, the Sun's light. Day dawns and the sun exposes all that the night has covered in darkness. To be like the sun in our daily lives.

