

EXTRAORDINARY POSSIBILITIES

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2018. One day I woke up hopelessly. I saw a Sword of St. George at the entrance of the building where I live. I saw two, three. Four. 150 meters, one walk around the block, five, six. Guardians of shop entrances, we all know here that they serve to protect.



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[St. George (Greek: Άγιος Γεώργιος; transl .: Άγιος Γεόργιος; in Latin: Georgius) (between 275 and 280 - 23 April 303) was, according to tradition, a Roman soldier in the army of the Emperor Diocletian, revered as Christian martyr. St. George is also venerated in various cults of Afro-Brazilian religions, where he is syncretized in the form of Ogum. However, São Jorge's connection with the moon is purely Brazilian, with a strong influence from African culture, and in no way related to the European saint. In Salvador, Bahia, the saint was syncretized to Oxossi. In the Umbanda religion, the saint is associated with Ogum. Tradition has it that the stains presented by the moon represent the miraculous saint, his horse and his sword ready to defend those who seek their help. - WIKIPEDIA]

The sight of the St. George Sword, steady and steady, made me want to know more. I found that it was brought by the enslaved Africans, along with many plants that are now spontaneously born. They are: rue, basil, okra, aloe, chamomile, boldo, artichoke, ginger, melissa, cannabis sativa, shameless maria, coffee, hibiscus, cup of milk, senna, rosemary, palm oil, watermelon, yam, rice, beans, chilli, cotton, coconut, sesame. Inside, I hear my grandmother saying: only good thing!

[reference: CARNEY, Judith. Sailing against the current: the role of slaves and African flora in the colonial period botany. Africa: Journal of the Center for African Studies. USP, S. Paulo, 22-23: 25-47, 1999/2000/2001]

"You do not honor the pain of the crown of thorns
The holy word is ammunition, not exile.
The nail-pierced flesh in the crucifixion
Deserves more than prayer and knees on the floor
Sword in the dragon

The bible is not a shield, it is a manual for liberation.
Follow the example of saint jorge, sword in the dragon
Don't wait for man's justice she's rotten she's blind
wanted to give a nobel to Bush, who promotes the war

The enemy destroys your cell, your genetic inheritance
Gives the pattern of your wicked assembly line
The weight, the height, the way you reason
Consequence of protein-free diet

Remember school time on the test a zero
You weren't dumb, you lacked breast milk
You almost was in the nearly 9% of malnourished children
Who die before one year of life"

Excerpt from the song Sword in the Dragon
of the rap band Central Faction

HOW TO PREPARE SAINT JORGE SWORD FOR PROTECTION

The ritual should begin on Friday at midnight.

Required Items:

- A well-rooted St. George's sword
- A big vase
- A small quartz crystal
- A stone from a railroad crossroads
- Coins from seven different countries
- 21 peony seeds
- Ogun Tools
- 3 used railroad nails
- Palm oil
- 7 crossroads dust
- Dust of 7 churches
- Dust from a hospital
- Dust of a railroad track
- Dust from a jail cell
- Dust of a court
- Dust of a police station
- Dust from a bank
- A mountain dust
- Broken glass
- Mousetrap
- 21 used coffin nails
- Pemba Powder
- 1 rattlesnake
- Red paint
- Bull's Blood
- Red candles

[adapted from the book BOURBON-GALDIANO MONTENEGRO, Carlos Antônio de. Spiritual Warfare: Quimbanda Spell & rituals to defeat the enemy. California: American Candoble Church, 2011.]



espada-de-iansã / espada-de-santa-bárbara
(*Sansevieria zeylanica* - bicolor, com bordas
amarelas)



espada-de-ogun / espada-de-são-jorge
(*Sansevieria trifasciata* - coloração verdes)



"My turn to state an equation: colonization = thingification. I hear the storm. They talk to me about progress, about achievements, diseases cured, improved standards of living. I am talking about societies drained of their essence, cultures trampled underfoot, institutions undermined, lands confiscated, religions smashed, magnificent artistic creations destroyed, extraordinary possibilities wiped out. They throw facts at my head, statistics, mileage of roads, canals, and railroad tracks. I am talking about thousands of men sacrificed to the Congo Ocean? I am talking about those who, as I write this, are digging the harbor of Abidjan by hand. I am talking about millions of men torn from their gods, their land, their habits, their life-from life, from the dance, from wisdom.."

[CÉSAIRE, Aimé. Discourse on colonialism. Lisbon: Sá da Costa, 1978..]





WITH WHOSE BLOOD WERE MY EYES CRAFTED? Donna Haraway's question resonates in my mind. I remember that for some Amerindian cultures blood is thought. It's the same thing. I think about how I look, and rethink how to see. It urges me to see the vessels of St. George's Swords as a strong counter-colonization. It makes me shudder to see the permanent transformation in the landscape. It is impossible to pull out so many seedlings that they are now stuck to the ground forever. Just know how to see.

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Acknowledgments: Meiko and Érico