

Konesans Soti Anba Dlo - knowledge comes from under the water (s) - an interpretation of Gerard Valcin's painting Le Royaume de la mer.



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Dlo or water plays a pivotal role in Vodou practices, as an element of purification, as key feature of libation and ancestral veneration, to name a few. However, knowledge also comes from the water, as Lwa, Vodou's divinities associated with cosmological knowledge or Konesans are water Lwa, such as Simbi Dlo, Simbi of the water, and Simbi Andezo, Simbi of the two waters. Water is believed to have come into the world from •Danbala• shedding of his snakeskin, bringing material fluidity into the world.

In Vodou traditions, crowns serve as a metaphor for the head. When one has acquired a great deal of knowledge, they are spiritually crowned.

•Danbala• is the first Lwa created by Bondye, Vodou's creator. Danbala is the Lwa of wisdom, and closely associated with water in its various forms, as the creator all water sources, including the oceans and rivers.

Konesans refers to the cosmological knowledge with which Vodou leaders are equipped to look after their Lakou, or spiritual community. This knowledge covers herbal medicine, which forms a key part of Vodou cosmology, as well as other sacred and secret arts.

The bell or Kloch, as it is known is an important feature of Ason.

The Ason is a ceremonial rattle made from gourds, calabashes in particular. The Ason is intricately adorned with beads of different colours, a bell is also attached to the Ason. When shaken, the Ason produces sonics which incorporate the clanging of the bell, and the rattling of the beads, key elements in ritual spaces. Most importantly, the Ason is a representation of Vodou leaders' spiritual power or Konesans, in a way, it operates as a scepter, signaling regnal authority.

Merfolk play a central role in Vodou, as beings of luck and wealth, as is illustrated here through their gold jewelry. Perhaps, the most famous of these merfolk in Vodou is Lasirènn or the mermaid, the Lwa which calls us to better understand ourselves by reflecting, using her mirror as a portal to the unknown and a means of reflecting.

Anba Dlo or under the water (s) refer to the dwelling of the Lwa, the divinities which enshrined the Vodou pantheon. It is believed that Konesans, spiritual knowledge is gained after one is trained Anba Dlo by the Lwa. Anba Dlo is both a physical space, and a metaphorical cosmological space.



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