
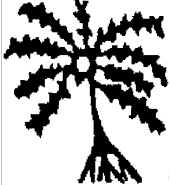










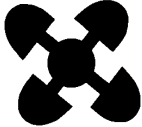
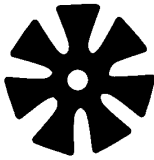
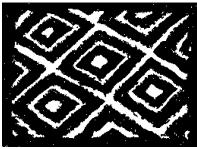

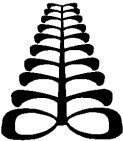
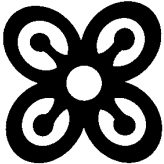





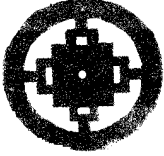



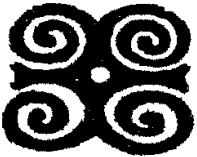
Below is a table displaying in alphabetical order some of the old and new Adinkra and other cultural symbols of the Akan. They have been arranged by names in *Twi*, literal translation in English, significance and proverbial meaning where available.

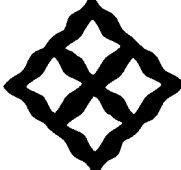

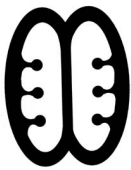



Symbol/name in Akan	Literal meaning	Symbolic meaning (s)	Proverbial expression
 Aban	Fence	Strength and authority.	
 Abe dua	Palm tree	Wealth Self-sufficiency Toughness vitality	<p><i>Nipa nye abe dua na ne ho ahyia ne ho.</i></p> <p>The human being is not like the palm that is self-sufficient.</p> <p><i>Nnua nyinaa bewu agya abe.</i></p> <p>All trees will wither safe the palm tree.</p>
 Adinkrahene	Adinkra King. Chief of all the Adinkra designs; forms the basis of adinkra printing.	Greatness Royalty	

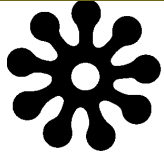





 <p>Adikrahene Dua</p>	<p>Adinkra king stamp.</p> <p>This is used only for printing on the Adinkra cloth.</p>	<p>Greatness</p> <p>Royalty</p>	
 <p>Adwera</p>	<p>Watery shrub</p>	<p>Purity and Sanctity</p> <p>Chastity</p> <p>good fortune</p> <p>Consecration</p> <p>Cleanliness</p>	<p><i>Adwera nsuo, wo ne nkwansuo, nsu korogyenn a wohuru nso wonhye.</i></p> <p>Water of life, you are the pure crystal clean water that boils but, does not burn.</p>
 <p>Adwo</p>	<p>Peace.</p>	<p>Peace/Calmness</p>	<p><i>Ohene nya ahontenafo pa a, ne bere so dwo</i></p> <p>When the king has good counselors, then he will have a peaceful reign.</p>
 <p>Agyinduwura</p>		<p>Faithfulness</p> <p>Alertness</p> <p>Dutifulness</p>	
 <p>Akofena</p>	<p>Royal/ ceremonial sword.</p>	<p>✦ Gallantry</p> <p>✦ Valour</p> <p>✦ Bravery</p>	<p><i>Akofena kunini ko a, wobo a fena kye no safohene</i></p> <p>The great warrior always has a royal sword of rest even when he retires</p>
 <p>Akoben</p>	<p>War Horn</p> <p>The sound of Ako-ben is a battle cry.</p>	<p>Call to arms</p> <p>Readiness and preparedness for action or battle.</p>	



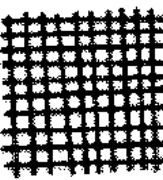

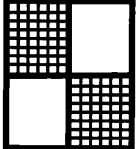

 <p>Ako-ben</p>	<p>War Horn (another version)</p> <p>The sound of Ako-ben is a battle cry.</p>	<p>Call to arms Readiness and preparedness for action or battle.</p> <p>Vigilance</p>	
 <p>Akoko nan</p>	<p>The hen's feet</p>	<p>Parenthood. Care. Tenderness. Protection. Parental admonition is not intended to harm the child. (Parental discipline.)</p>	<p><i>Akoko nan tia ba, na ennkum no.</i></p> <p>The hen treads upon its chicks but it does not intend to kill them.</p>
 <p>Akoma</p>	<p>The heart.</p>	<p>Patience</p> <p>Endurance</p> <p>Love and faithfulness</p>	<p><i>Nya Akoma</i></p> <p>Take heart.</p>
 <p>Akoma ntoaso</p>	<p>Extension of the heart.</p>	<p>Understanding</p> <p>Agreement or charter</p> <p>Unity.</p>	
 <p>Ananse ntontan</p>	<p>Spider web</p>	<p>Wisdom creativity</p>	
 <p>Ani bere</p>	<p>Seriousness</p>	<p>Diligence</p> <p>Perseverance</p>	<p><i>Ani bere a, nso gya, anka mani abere koo.</i></p> <p>Seriousness does not show fiery eyes; else you would see my face all red.</p>



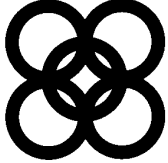


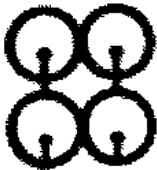
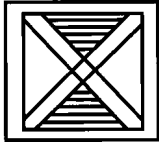
 <p>Asase ye duru</p>	<p>The earth has weight.</p>	<p>Divinity of the earth</p> <p>Providence Power/Authority Wealth Might</p>	<p><i>Tumi nyina ne asase</i></p> <p>All power emanates from the earth</p> <p><i>Asase ye duru sen epo</i></p> <p>The earth is heavier than the sea</p>
 <p>Aya</p>	<p>The fern</p>	<p>Defiance Endurance Resourcefulness</p>	
 <p>Bese saka</p>	<p>Sack of colanuts</p>	<p>Power</p> <p>Abundance affluence</p> <p>Togetherness and unity (agriculture and trade bring people together).</p>	
 <p>Bi-nnka-bi (obi nnka obi)</p>	<p>Bite not one another</p>	<p>Peace</p> <p>Harmony</p> <p>Caution against strife and provocation</p>	
 <p>Biribi wo soro</p>	<p>There is something in the heavens.</p>	<p>Hope.</p> <p>Reliance on God for inspiration.</p>	<p><i>Nyame, biribi wo soro, na ma embeka me nsa.</i></p> <p>God, there is something in heaven, let it get to me.</p>





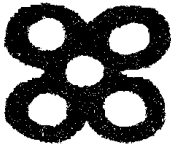

 <p>Boa me na me boa wo</p>	<p>Help me to help you.</p>	<p>Interdependence Cooperation Helping one another</p>	
 <p>Dame-dame</p>	<p>A board game</p>	<p>Intelligence Ingenuity</p>	
 <p>Dono</p>	<p>Drum</p>	<p>Praise</p>	
 <p>Dono ntoaso (Nnonnowa)</p>	<p>Double drum</p>	<p>Unity Concord Strength</p>	
 <p>Duafe</p>	<p>Wooden comb</p>	<p>Feminine virtue. Everlasting love.</p>	
 <p>Dwannimmen</p>	<p>Ram's horn</p>	<p>Concealment Humility & Strength Wisdom & learning</p>	<p><i>Dwannini ye asisie a, ode n'akorana na...</i> It is the hart and not the horns that leads a ram to bully.</p>

 <p>Eban</p>	<p>Fence/fort or castle Representing fenced homes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Protection + security + safety + fortress 	
 <p>Epa</p>	<p>Handcuffs</p>	<p>Slavery</p> <p>Equality</p> <p>Law & Justice</p>	<p><i>Onii a ne pa da wonsa no, na n'akoa ne wo</i></p> <p>You are a slave to the one whose handcuffs you are wearing.</p>
 <p>Ese ne tekrema</p>	<p>The teeth and the tongue.</p>	<p>Friendship interdependence</p> <p>Advancement progress</p> <p>Strength in unity.</p>	
 <p>Fafanto/Esononamtam</p>		<p>Tenderness gentleness</p>	
 <p>Fihankra</p>	<p>House</p>	<p>Safety /security in a home.</p>	
 <p>Fawohudie</p>	<p>Freedom</p>	<p>Freedom Liberty</p>	





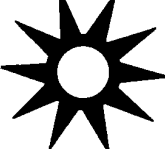
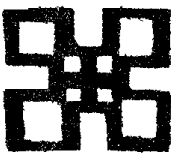

 <p>Fofoo</p>	<p><i>Fofoo</i> plant (a yellow-flowered plant)</p>	<p>Jealousy</p> <p>Envy</p>	<p><i>Se die fofoo pe ne se gyinantwi abo bidie.</i></p> <p>The <i>Fofoo</i> plant's wish is that the <i>gyinantwi</i> seeds should turn black.</p>
 <p>Funtunmfunafu dua</p>	<p>The tree/altar of the funtunfunafu . (version of the Siamese crocodile)</p>	<p>Need for unity when there is the same destiny</p>	
 <p>Funtumfunafu denkyem funafu/ Funntunmireku</p>	<p>Siamese twin crocodiles joined at the stomach.</p>	<p>Democracy and oneness irrespective of cultural differences.</p>	<p><i>Funtumfunafu denkyemfunafu, won afuru bom, nso woredidi a na woreko.</i></p> <p>They share one stomach and yet they fight for getting food.</p>
 <p>Gyawu atiko</p>	<p>Symbol drawn by Gyawu, who was a chief of Bantama</p>	<p>Bravery</p> <p>Valour</p> <p>Fearlessness</p> <p>Leadership</p>	
 <p>Gye Nyame</p>	<p>Except God.</p>	<p>Omnipotence and immortality of God</p>	
 <p>Hye wonnye</p>	<p>That which cannot be burnt</p>	<p>Imperishability</p> <p>Endless</p> <p>Forgiveness</p> <p>Toughness</p>	<p><i>Hye wonnhye</i></p> <p>He who burns be not burned</p>




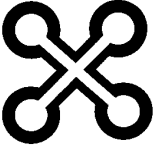


 <p>Hwemudua</p>		<p>Excellence Superior quality</p>	
 <p>Kae me</p>	<p>Remember me.</p>	<p>Loyalty Faithfulness</p>	
 <p>Kete pa</p>	<p>Good bed</p>	<p>Good marriage. Love and faithfulness</p>	
 <p>Kojo baiden</p>	<p>Rays</p>	<p>Cosmos omnipresence</p>	
 <p>Kontire ne Akwamu</p>	<p>State elders</p>	<p>Reliance. Democracy.</p>	<p>One head does not make up council</p>
 <p>Krado – mmra krado</p>	<p>Seal of law and order</p>	<p>Authority of the court. Law and order</p>	

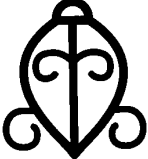


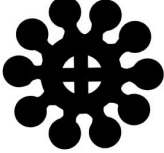


 <p>Krapa (Musuyidie)</p>	<p>Sanctity, Pure in heart.</p>	<p>Sanctity Purity.</p>	<p><i>Krapa te se okra okyiri fi</i></p> <p>Sanctity, like cats, abhors filth.</p>
 <p>Kramo bone</p>	<p>The Bad</p>	<p>Warning against hypocrisy</p>	<p><i>Kramo bone amma yennhu kramo pa</i></p> <p>We cannot tell the good from the bad because of pretence and hypocrisy</p>
 <p>Kuntinkantan</p>	<p>Do not boast. Do not be filled with pride.</p>	<p>Need for humility and service Modesty</p>	
 <p>Kwatakye- atiko</p>	<p>Hair of the hero Kwatakye</p>	<p>Valour Bravery leadership</p>	
 <p>Mako</p>			
 <p>Me ware wo</p>	<p>I shall marry you.</p>	<p>Commitment</p>	
	<p>Wind house. House built to stand windy and treacherous</p>	<p>Fortitude</p>	







Mframadan	conditions.		
 Mmomudwan	Unity	Unity Togetherness	
 Mmra krado	Seal of law and order.	The Court's authority./law and order	
 Mmusuyidee	That which removes ill luck or evil.	Good fortune Sanctity Spiritual strength	
 Mpatapo	Reconciliatio n knot	Reconciliation Peacemaking	
 Mpuannum nkotimsofo puua	Five tufts of hair (a traditional hair style)	Skillfulness Priestly office Loyalty Adroitness	
 Nea onnim no sua a ohu	He who does not know can know from Learning. Knowledge comes by learning.	knowledge	






 <p>Nea ope se nkrofoo ye ma wo no, ye saa ara ma won.</p>	<p>Do to others the things you want them to do to for you.</p>	<p>Justice</p>	<p><i>Nea ope se nkrofoo ye ma wo no, ye saa ara ma won</i></p> <p>Do unto others what you want others to do unto you.</p>
 <p>Nea ope se obedi hene</p>	<p>He who wants to be king.</p>	<p>Leadership</p>	
 <p>Nhwimu /Nkyimu</p>	<p>Crossing. The divisions done onto the plain cloth before the stamping is done.</p>	<p>Skill Precision</p>	
 <p>Nkuma kese</p>	<p>The great okra</p>	<p>Supremacy Superiority</p>	
 <p>Nkyinkyim</p>	<p>Zigzag/ twisting</p>	<p>Playing many roles. (Dynamism)</p> <p>Initiative</p> <p>Toughness</p> <p>Adaptability</p> <p>Resoluteness</p>	<p><i>Obra kwan ye nkyinkyimiie</i></p> <p>Life's path is full of ups and downs; twists and turns.</p>





 Nkonsonkonson	Chain links	Human relations Unity	
 Nkontim	Hair of the Queen's servant	Loyalty Service	
 Nnonnowa (Donno ntoaso)	Double drum	Valour Strength	
 Nserewa		Wealth Abundance Affluence	
 Nsoromma	The Star Child of God/child of the heavens	Reflection of God faith in God Guardianship.	
 Nssa	Type of hand woven-cloth/ Blanket	Excellence Authenticity Genuineness	<i>Nea onim nssa na oto n'ago</i> The one who knows the nssa blanket is willing to buy it even when it is old.
 Ntesie - Mate masie	I have heard and kept it.	Knowledge Wisdom	<i>Nyansa bun mu ne mate masie</i> Deep wisdom comes out of listening and keeping what is heard.

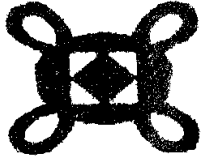




 Nya abotere	Be patient	Patience calmness	
 Nyame dua	Altar of God/tree of God God's altar in the sky; a place of worship.	God's presence/ protection.	
 Nyame nti	Since god exist For God's sake By God's grace	God's grace. Faith in God.	<i>Nyame nti mi nnwe wura</i> By god's grace, I will not eat leaves to survive.
 Nyame nnwu na me wu	God never dies; therefore I shall not die.	Life after death	
 Nyansapo	Wisdom knot	Wisdom Ingenuity Patience	
 Odenkyem.	The crocodile.	Prudence	Odenkyem da nsuo mu, nso onnhome nsuo, ohome mframa The crocodile lives in water but does breathe air and not water.





 <p>Odo nyera fie kwan</p>	<p>Love does not lose its way home.</p> <p>Blessing in loving.</p>	<p>Power of Love</p> <p>Faithfulness</p>	
 <p>Ohene adwa</p>	<p>The king's stool</p>	<p>State Chieftaincy</p>	
 <p>Ohene</p>	<p>King</p>	<p>Wisdom</p>	
 <p>Ohene aniwa</p>	<p>king's eye</p>	<p>Beauty Vigilance</p>	
 <p>Ohene tuo</p>	<p>The king's gun. Defender and protector of the king.</p>	<p>Greatness</p>	
 <p>Okodee mmowere</p>	<p>Eagle's talons. A style of Shavings on the heads of some traditional court attendants.</p>	<p>Strength and unity.</p>	

 <p>Okuafo Pa</p>	Good farmer	Hardwork Entrepreneurship Industry productivity	<p><i>Okuafoo pa ne obi a oye nsiyefoo, ono na ose : w'afuo so a, woye ne nyinaa.</i></p> <p>The good and industrious farmer says: No matter how big your farm is you tend it all.</p>
 <p>Onyakopon aniwa</p>	God's eye	Omnipresence of God	<p><i>Onyakopon aniwa hu asumu asem biara</i></p> <p>God's eye sees all secrets</p>
 <p>Onyakopon ne yen ntena</p>	May God be with us	God's presence and protection	
 <p>Osidan</p>	The builder	Creativity	
 <p>Osram /Osrane</p>	The moon.	Patience and understanding	<p><i>Osram mmfiti preko nntwareman.</i></p> <p>It takes the moon some time to go round the earth.</p>
 <p>Osram ne Nsoroma</p>	The moon and the star.	Love Faithfulness Fondness.	
<p>Owia kokroko</p>	The greatness of the sun.		God has a reason for keeping the sun at a distance.

 <p>Owo foro adobe</p>	<p>Snake climbing the palm tree.</p>	<p>Performing the impossible. Excellence/valor</p>	
 <p>Owuo atwedee</p>	<p>Ladder of death.</p>	<p>Death, the ultimate fate of man. Mortal nature of man. Fate</p>	<p><i>Owu atwedee obaakonforo.</i> All men shall climb the ladder of death</p>
 <p>Pa gya</p>	<p>Striking of fire.</p>	<p>War</p>	
 <p>Pempamsie</p>	<p>Readiness</p>	<p>Readiness/Preparedness Strength and unity.</p>	<p><i>Pempamsie se, bebre ahooden ne koroye.</i> That which will not overcome</p>
 <p>Sankofa</p>	<p>Return and get it. Learning from the past.</p>	<p>You can always correct your mistakes. Wisdom Using past experiences to build the future. Better late than never</p>	<p><i>Se wo were fin a wo sankofa a yennkyi.</i> It is not a taboo to return to fetch something you forgot earlier on.</p>

 <p>Sankofa (alternate version)</p>	<p>Return and get it.</p> <p>Learning from the past.</p>	<p>You can always correct your mistakes.</p> <p>Wisdom</p> <p>Using past experiences to build the future.</p> <p>Better late than never</p>	<p><i>Se wo were fin a wo sankofa a yennkyi.</i></p> <p>It is not a taboo to return to fetch something you forgot earlier on.</p>
 <p>Sankofa dua</p>			
 <p>Sepow</p>	<p>Knife used in executions.</p> <p>This is plunged through the throat of the victim's cheeks to prevent him from invoking a curse on the King.</p>	<p>Justice</p>	
 <p>Sesa woruban</p>	<p>Change your life</p>	<p>Transformation</p> <p>A new beginning</p>	

 <p>Sunsum</p>	<p>The Soul</p> <p>The Akans believe that the soul of the chief reside in a younger courtier</p>	<p>Spirituality</p> <p>Purity</p> <p>Everlasting</p>	
 <p>Tabon</p>	<p>Paddle</p>	<p>Courage</p> <p>hard work</p>	
 <p>Tamfo bebre</p>	<p>The enemy shall suffer.</p>	<p>Jealousy</p>	
 <p>Tumi te se kosua</p>	<p>Power is like an egg</p>	<p>Delicacy of political power,</p> <p>Fragility of democracy,</p> <p>Restraint</p>	<p><i>Tumi te se kosua, woso mu den a, epae; na se woanso mu yie nso a, efiri wo nsa bo famu ma epae</i></p> <p>Power is as fragile as an egg, when held too tightly it might break; if it is held too loosely, it might fall and break.</p>
 <p>Tuo ne Akofena</p>	<p>Gun and State sword</p>	<p>Power Responsibility Authority Legitimacy, National security protection, Military prowess</p>	<p>&</p>

 <p>Wawa aba</p>	<p>Seed of the <i>wawa</i> tree.</p> <p><i>Wawa</i> is a hardwood used in carving.</p>	<p>Skillfulness</p>	
 <p>Wuforo dua pa a</p>	<p>When you climb a good tree.</p>	<p>Support Cooperation Encouragement</p>	<p><i>Wuforo dua pa a na ye pia wo</i></p> <p>He who climbs a good tree is encouraged/supported.</p>
 <p>Wo nsa da mu a</p>	<p>If you have your hands in the dish</p>	<p>Democracy Pluralism</p>	
			

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