

Security Consciousness in Indigenous Nigerian Houses: A Preliminary Survey of Yoruba Ethno-medical Devices

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ABSTRACT This study examines the traditional response of Nigerians, especially residents of the Yoruba ethnic group to incessant attacks on their homesteads by robbers and pilferers. It is a cursory survey of the various ethno-medical devices and fetishes generally prevalent in pre-modern times, but still popular in alternative medical practices against robbery attacks. The devices are grouped according to their forms or presentations and or modes of performance. Sixteen groups of these devices are identified and discussed in relation to their workings or operations, applications, installations and administration. These include Prophecy laden or prophetic words (*Afõse or Mápohuldà*), disarming or de-fetishing devices (*Gbètugbètu*), metal or iron/steel ?dispossession devices (*Agbunrin*), forgetfulness (*Afõral*), procrastinating devices (*Èti*), muscle stiffening devices (*Àgbéró*), disappearing devices (*Afèèrí*), the falling game (*Subúsiré*), debilitating devices (*Àluro or àlùwó*), de-envisioning devices (*Isíjù*), cut resistors (*Òkígbe*), and bullet proof devices (*Ayeta*), etc. a good number of which is often accompanied by incantations (*Ofõ or Ìgèdè*). Recommendations are made towards a successful adoption and use of these devices to thwart burglary attempts on properties and physical assaults on persons and homesteads.