

---

THE QUEST FOR ANTHROPOLOGICAL CRIMINOLOGY AND THE UTILITY OF  
TRADITIONAL CRIMES PREVENTION METHODS: THE CASE OF AELE SYMBOLISM

OKUNOLA, Rashidi Akanji<sup>1</sup> and OJO, Matthias Olufemi Dada<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Sociology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

<sup>2</sup>Department of Sociology, Crawford University of the Apostolic Faith Mission,  
Igbesa, Ogun State, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

Aale is a symbolic way of preventing theft and trespass in the indigenous Yoruba culture in Nigeria. Aale is widely believed to possess energies and the potent 'superstitious' powers to inflict curses and evil repercussions into the lives of 'criminal' or trespasser. This explores the nature, utility and validity of the Aale among the rural dwellers of Ado-Odo/Ota in Ogun State, Nigeria. The study utilized the survey and structured interviews designed to evaluate the perception of the rural natives with regards to Aale; focus group sessions were also organised. The ethno-methodology theories were used as a theoretical framework to support the study. It was discovered that Aale is still effective in protecting property from theft and trespass among these rural dwellers. The study recommends the extension of the uses of Aale into urban areas, the revitalization of Aale, the call for further research on the uses of indigenous methods of protecting and securing property and advocates for a new academic discipline as a sub-field in criminology that should be regarded as anthropological criminology.

Keywords: Aale, Gods, Property, Symbols, Yoruba.