



Adinkra Symbols and Meanings

Image	Twi Name	Literal Translation	Symbolic Meaning
	ADINKRAHENE	"Chief of adinkra symbols"	Greatness, charisma, leadership
9	AKOKO NAN	"The leg of a hen"	Mercy, nurturing
\bigcirc	ΑΚΟΜΑ	"The heart"	Patience & tolerance
	ANANSE NTONTAN	"Spider's web"	Wisdom, creativity

	ASASE YE DURU	"The earth has weight"	Divinity of mother earth
	ΑΥΑ	"fern"	Endurance, resourcefulness
90	DWENNIMMEN	"Ram's horns"	Humility and strength
	EPA	"handcuffs"	Law, justice, slavery
æ	FUNTUNFUNEFU DENKYEMFUNEF U	"Siamese crocodiles"	Democracy, unity in diversity

	GYE NYAME	"Except for God"	Supremacy of God
	MMERE DANE	"Time changes"	Change, life's dynamics
H	ΜΡΑΤΑΡΟ	"Knot of reconciliation"	Peacemaking, reconciliation
36	MPUANNUM	"Five tufts" (of hair)	Priestly office, loyalty, adroitness
	ODO NNYEW FIE KWAN	"Love never loses its way home"	Power of love

	SANKOFA	"Return and get it"	Learn from the past
8	SEPOW	"Executioner's knife"	Justice

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	AKOFENA	"Sword of war"	Courage, valor
	AKOMA NTOSO	"Linked hearts"	Understanding, agreement

88	BESE SAKA	"Sack of cola nuts"	Affluence, abundance, unity
THE A	BI NKA BI	"No one should bite the other"	Peace, harmony
	BOA ME NA ME MMOA WO	"Help me and let me help you"	Cooperation, interdependence
	DAME-DAME	"Name of a board game"	Intelligence, ingenuity

Щ.	DENKYEM	"Crocodile"	Adaptability
	DUAFE	"Wooden comb"	Beauty, hygiene, feminine qualities
	EBAN	"Fence"	Love, safety, security
	ESE NE TEKREMA	"The teeth and the tongue"	Friendship, interdependence
	FAWOHODIE	"Independence"	Independence, freedom, emancipation

Ĩ	FIHANKRA	"House, compound"	Security and safety
*	FOFO	"Yellow Flowered plant"	Jealousy and envy
T	HWE MU DUA	"Measuring stick"	Examination and quality control
	HYE WON HYE	"That which does not burn"	Imperishability and endurance
	KETE PA	"Good bed"	Good marriage

	KINTINKANTAN	"Puffed up extravagance"	Arrogance
96	KWATAKYE ATIKO	"Hair style of an Asante war captain"	Bravery and valor
	MATE MASIE	"What I hear, I keep"	Wisdom, knowledge, and prudence.
	ME WARE WO	"I shall marry you"	Commitment and perseverance
	MFRAMADAN	"Wind-resistant house"	Fortitude and readiness to face life's vicissitudes

	MMUSUYIDEE	"That which removes bad luck"	Good fortune and sanctity.
	NEA ONNIM NO SUA A, OHU	"He who does not know can know from learning"	Knowledge, life-long education, and a continued quest for knowledge.
	NEA OPE SE OBEDI HENE	"He who wants to be king"	Service and leadership
	NKONSONKONS ON	"Chain Link"	Unity and human relations
સ્ટ્રેંડ	NYAME DUA	"Tree of god" (altar)	God's presence and protection

	NKYIMU	"The crossed divisions made on adinkra cloth before stamping"	Skillfulness and precision
	NKYINKYIM	"Twisting"	Initiative, dynamism, and versatility
器	NSAA	"Type of hand-woven fabric"	Excellence, genuineness, and authenticity
¥	NSOROMMA	"Child of the heavens [stars]"	Guardianship
$\left(\begin{array}{c} \\ \end{array} \right)$	NYAME BIRIBI WO SORO	"God is in the heavens"	Норе

	NYAME NNWU NA MAWU	"God never dies, therefore I cannot die"	God's omnipresence and the perpetual existence of man's spirit.
NH NH	NYAME NTI	"By God's grace"	Faith and trust in God
	NYAME YE OHENE	"God is King"	Majesty and supremacy of God
	NYANSAPO	"Wisdom Knot"	Wisdom, ingenuity, intelligence, and patience.

	OKODEE	"The talons of the	Strength, bravery,
	MMOWERE	eagle"	and power.
	ONYANKOPON ADOM NTI BIRIBIARA BEYE YIE	"By God's grace, all will be well"	Hope, providence, and faith.
÷Ö:	OSRAM NE	"The Moon and the	Love, faithfulness,
	NSOROMMA	Star"	and harmony.
	OWO FORO ADOBE	"Snake climbing the raffia tree"	Steadfastness, prudence, and diligence.

	OWUO ATWEDEE	"The ladder of death"	Mortality
83	PEMPAMSIE	"Sew in readiness"	Readiness, steadfastness, and hardiness.
	SESA WO SUBAN	"Change or transform your character"	Life transformation
	TAMFO BEBRE	"The enemy will stew in his own juice"	Jealousy and envy

ф М	WAWA ABA	"Seed of the wawa tree"	Hardiness, toughness, and perseverance.
	WOFORO DUA PA A	"When you climb a good tree"	Support, cooperation, and encouragement.
	WI BSA DA MU A	"If your hands are in the dish"	Participatory government, democracy, and pluralism.