

# **Vodou Songs in Haitian Creole and English**

Benjamin Hebblethwaite, Joanne Bartley



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Vodou songs constitute the living memory of Haitian Vodou communities, and song texts are key elements to understanding Haitian culture. Vodou songs form a profound religious and cultural heritage that traverses the past and refreshes the present. Offering a one-of-a-kind research tool on Vodou and its cultural roots in Haiti and pre-Haitian regions, *Vodou Songs in Haitian Creole and English* provides a substantial selection of hard to find or unpublished sacred Vodou songs in a side-by-side bilingual format.

Esteemed scholar Benjamin Hebblethwaite introduces the language, mythology, philosophy, origins, and culture of Vodou through several chapters of source songs plus separate analytical chapters. He guides readers through songs, chants, poems, magical formulae, invocations, prayers, historical texts and interviews, as well as Haitian Creole grammar and original sacred literature. An in-depth dictionary of key Vodou terms and concepts is also provided.

This corpus of songs and the research about them provide a crucial understanding of the meaning of Vodou religion, language, and culture.

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