

# IROKO

Theatre Company

## IYE AJA (Umbilical Cord) Project



Source: Ugbajo Itsekiri, USA, Inc.



In some African communities, it is common practice to bury the ***Iye Aja (Umbilical Cord)*** – Itsekiri language, Nigeria - after the birth of a child. Usually, the umbilical cord is buried under a tree that bears fruits or nuts e.g. colanut tree, mango, guava, orange trees, etc. The tree is a symbol of growth, strength and a fruitful and successful life. It is generally believed that if the tree is well looked after and bears fruits as expected the child too will have a successful life. If the tree is not flourishing, this could spell doom for the child and parents have been known to consult the diviner who might tell them to offer sacrifices to appease a particular god.

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