

AFRO-BRAZILIAN SAMBA FOLKLORE



Oxossi: How He Became King of the Forest (pronounced Oshosee)

One day a huge bird landed on top of a tall building in the village. The bird would not leave, and it was so big, the bird was blocking out the sun. All the crops began to wither with no sunlight, and the people of the village began to starve.

One by one, each warrior in the village attempted to rid the village of the bird. The warrior Ogum, with his long sword, could not reach the bird. The warrior Oya, with her tempest winds, could not convince the bird to fly away. The village was in peril and the people of the village saw no hope for their life as they once knew it to continue.

After all the brave and strong warriors in the village had made their own attempts to kill or convince the bird to leave, the people of the village went down to the river to contemplate what they might do next. They found a little boy playing there, near the river. They saw that the boy, though young, was strong, and had just one arrow on his back. They ran to the boy and pleaded with him, Oxotocanxoxo, will you please help us get rid of the bird and bring the sun back to our village? Oxotocanxoxo was hesitant. He questioned whether or not he was strong or wise enough to help anyone. Reluctantly, he agreed, and walked back to the village with the people. With bravery in his heart, he drew back his bow and shot his one remaining arrow, striking the heart of the bird, and bringing back the sun to the village.

The people of the village praised his skill and bravery, and from the day forward, referred to him as "Oxossi," king of the forest and owner of the hunt.

Pulled from <https://wiki.acervolima.com/oxossi/>

The name Oxóssi comes from the [Yoruba](#) term Osoosi which is derived from Osowusi, which means "the night guardian is popular", "hunter or popular guardian". After killing the great birds of the witches Eleyés that threatened the people during the feast of the harvest of the yams with only one arrow and having freed the people of [Ketu](#) from the spell, he was nominated as Oxóssi and also won the title of god of the hunt and the responsible for all the knowledge acquired through the art of hunting.