



# Iboga: The Visionary Root of African Shamanism

*Vincent Ravalec, Mallendi, Agnès Paicheler*

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**Iboga: The Visionary Root of African Shamanism** Vincent Ravalec, Mallendi, Agnès Paicheler

Shows how African shamans have used ibogaine for hundreds of years to communicate with ancestral spirits

- Includes an interview with shaman Mallendi, initiation-master of the sacred root
- Shows that the iboga plant, and its derivative ibogaine, is an anti-addictive agent, especially for heroin
- Reveals how ibogaine has been suppressed by the DEA, the FDA, and Christian ministries

Iboga, spiritual ally of African shamans since antiquity, yields ibogaine, a powerful psychotropic substance. It is used mainly in Gabon and Cameroon in a secret, initiatory tradition called *bwiti-nganza*, in which physical and psychological illnesses can be rooted out and cured. Intense psychological conditioning that includes the rites of confession, contacting and honoring one's ancestors, and construction of an in-depth psychological inventory are all part of the initiate's encounter with this sacred root.

Like many visionary and initiatory plants, iboga is a key that gives access to other modes of being and consciousness. Despite its suppression by the FDA since the 1960s, and more recently by the DEA, researchers have shown that ibogaine provides a powerful adjunct to psychology due to its miraculous ability to break addictions--most notably to heroin. To the followers of the Bwiti religion, ibogaine is the indispensable means by which humans can truly communicate with the deepest reaches of their soul and with the spirits of their ancestors. This book details the traditions and techniques of iboga's use by African shamans and the essential role it occupies in that community in order both to preserve this knowledge and to show how ibogaine may have an important role to play in our modern world.

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