## Ise Oluwa

West Africa (Yoruba)



That which the Creator has made can never be destroyed.

The Yoruba culture, people, language, and religion dates back thousands of years. Yoruba culture is renowned for its resplendent artistry, rich oral literature, and deeply embodied spiritual beliefs.

In the 19th century, hundreds of thousands of Yoruba people were captured, shipped across the ocean, and sold as slaves. Through these treacherous times, the ancestral religion remained and was practiced. To this day, many Yoruba deities, or orishas, are honored and celebrated with lavish festivals in Brazil, Cuba, Trinidad, and the United States — countries where Yoruba ancestors were sold into slavery.

Ise Oluwa comes from Nigeria, the West African country that hosts the largest population of today's 25 million Yoruba speakers. In the United States, Ise Oluwa remains a beloved favorite for many African-American congregations.

## Additional harmony lines:

