

My book, not yet negotiated with a printing house, starts with the following preface: (Always remember, I think in Portuguese and the text below is just a version to English for your understanding).

“From the early days of twentieth century until 1935, when he died, lived in Porto Alegre – south of Brazil – an African gentleman who used to call himself The Prince.

Old stories, through verbal communication, or fragmentary news information, says that this Prince was, in fact, the King of Benin, well-known kingdom, as life, as the cradle of metal works of art, and ancient users of lost wax technique for brass works of arts.

The King of Benin, to resist the British domination of his Kingdom was overthrown in 1897.

Stories among some old people in Porto Alegre firmly state that the overthrown Obá comes to settle himself in the century's beginning, in this small, calm and little town, surrounded by a wide river as Olokun River.

Version of the same fact says that the Prince was rich; earned a pension for life, collected in the local branch of a London bank; and that he owned race horses at the local Jockey Club, what is confirmed by contemporary journalist, whose reports can be seen in the local newspapers of then.

On the other hand, stories say that he held political power over the State Governor, a person with debilitated health – so they say, he was very strong behind the scenes on local politics and administration. Others go farther saying that he was a kind of *eminence grise* dealing with the higher politicians on the time.

Was Prince Custódio – as he was called – a herbal medicine specialist? One of his descendants was the owner of a herbal shop in the main local market for years; Was he as well a follower of natural religion, practicing natural medicine and rudimentary psychology?

Would be this man the young Prince named Idugbowa, born in Benin, son of the powerful Adolo, which when became the mighty Obá of Benin, in 1988, has assumed the heraldic name of Ovanramwen?

In Porto Alegre, April 2000”