

# Definitions starting with O

## Obeah

Obeah in the Bahamas is not a religion like voodoo in Haiti, but the two do have elements in common. Both involve a belief in magic that a practitioner can use to help his clients or harm their enemies. In fact, Bahamians sometimes consult [HITIANs](#) known to [WORK WITCH](#). Especially on the more remote islands of the Bahamas, the [BUSH DOCTOR](#) or [GRANNY](#) may practise not only [BUSH MEDICINE](#) but also EYAK or Moro.

Often this is nothing more complicated than [DRESSING](#) a fruit tree Or field to protect the crop from thieves. [STUFFS](#) like [CROSS-ROAD DIRT](#) and [FOOT GRASS](#) are used to protect women when they are [BIG](#) or iii [STRAWBED](#). An [OBEAH MAN](#) can also help in affairs of the heart, concocting [CUCKOO SOUP](#) to snare a sweetheart or [FIX](#) an unfaithful husband. Such a [WITCHMAN](#) can [TAME](#) people with [MACASEE](#) or bring misfortune to them by [BURNING BAD-LAMP](#) or calling the [SPERITS](#) for aid. If a person thinks he is being [CARRIED DOWN](#) or CROSSED by a [DOSE](#), he can go to a [DOCTOR](#) for a [GUARD](#). If it is feared that a [ROOT DOCTOR](#) intends to put a ghost on some-one, it is best to [SPIKE DOWN](#) the coffin of a [DEAD](#) to prevent him from [TRAVELLING](#). If a [SPERIT](#) should [HANT](#) a house, the rooms can be [SMOKE](#) and the doors and windows protected with [BENNY](#). [HAGS](#) wanting to get in to [RIDE](#) sleeping people must count these before entering, but cannot say "ten" (the Roman numeral X having the protective power of the Christian cross) and will have to start counting over again and again; hence the magic protective force of the chant, '[TEN.TEN.THE BIBLE TEN!](#)'

The practice of [OBEAH](#) has always been sup-pressed and was even made illegal at one time, but belief in it persists. With the recent influx of Haitian refugees, its practice may even be growing. See McCartney 1976.

Unique solution ID: #2207

Author: n/a

Last update: 2012-10-21 19:15