

## Curing Our Amnesia

Amnesia is loss of memory. Afrikans all over the world including Afrikans from the United States of America (AUSA) have been miseducated and dis-educated away from our true history over many generations. Actually, after our Ancestors were kidnapped and brought to America in chains, we were not allowed to have any education at all. It was even a crime for us to even learn to read. Because much of our true history has been hidden, ignored, distorted, or claimed by others, it could be said that we AUSA have developed a form of amnesia as a people. How do successfully cure ourselves?

In the past several columns, we have discussed a number of issues. The medium of writing does not usually offer the opportunity for questions from readers as when I give lectures and workshops (although I welcome questions, comments, reactions and even challenges to these columns).

So, for those readers who are interested in learning more about who they truly are (and not what we've been told by representatives of the people who kidnapped, enslaved, colonized and oppressed our Ancestors and us), here are some opinions.

First, there is no short-cut to knowledge. We have to take the time to read and actually study. It helps when we do this as a group. Book clubs have become very common and actually work very well when the participants are disciplined and responsible. This concept is not new. I am a member of an organization called the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (ASCAC), which is an international umbrella organization of study groups (directed book clubs) with chapters all over the continental United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe and Afrika. The unique aspect of ASCAC is that the books that are studied shed light on history and culture of Afrikan people in Afrika and all over the Diaspora, wherever kidnapped Afrikans were taken to enrich the kidnappers. Unfortunately, too many people become what I call "YouTube

Scholars" and don't want to read. Again, there is no short cut to knowledge.

Another consideration is the question of what books to read. There are a great number of books available, written by our scholars. One problem, as I see it, is reading newer books without the foundation of the older books. We must master elementary level before moving to middle and high school and especially college levels. I am often asked what books that I recommend so I have prepared a list that I will share. I have also recently published a book that has a 28-page chapter that lists important scholars and books and will list it later.

This first list is in order of my opinion of what books should be read/studied first. The second list gives several books that may be more complex and build on the information learned in the first list. They are:

### List One

Williams, Chancellor. *The Destruction of Black Civilization: Great Issues of a Race from 4500 BC to 2000 AD*. Chicago: Third world Press, 1974

Woodson, Carter G: *The Miseducation of the Negro*. Washington: Associated Publishers, 1933

Browder, Anthony. *Exploding the Myths, vol 1, Nile valley Contributions to Civilization*, Washington: The Institute of Karmic Guidance. Washington, 1992

Carruthers, Jacob. *Intellectual Warfare*. Third world Press. Chicago. 1999

Benton, Joe, Jackson, Derrick, Burnett Gallman. *Project Sankofa: A Rites of Passage Program*. Columbia: Imhotep-The Drum., 1998

Jackson, John G. *Introduction to African Civilizations*. NY: The Citadel Press 1970

Hilliard, Asa G III. *Sba: The Reawakening of the African Mind*. Gainesville: Makare Publishing Co. 1997

Stuckey, Sterling. *Slave Culture: Nationalist Theory and the Foundations of Black America*. NY: Random House. 1987

Wilson, Amos N. *The Falsification of African Consciousness: Eurocentric History, Psychology, and the Policy of White Supremacy*. NY: African World Infosystems, 1993

Welsing, Frances Cress. *The Isis Papers*. Chicago: Third World Press, 1991

Rogers, Joel A. *Africa's Gift to America*. St. Petersburg: Helge M Rogers, 1961

Ani, Marimba. *Let the Circle be Unbroken: The Implication of African Spirituality in the Diaspora*. Trenton: Red Sea Press, 1994

Nobles Wade W. *African Psychology: Toward Its Reclamation, Reascension and Revitalization*. Oakland: Institute for Advanced Study, 1986

Bennett, Lerone. *Before the Mayflower: The History of Black America*. NY: Penguin Press, 1984

Finch, Charles. *Echoes of the Old Darkland: Themes from the African Eden*. Decatur: Khenti, Inc., 1991

James, George GM. *Stolen Legacy*. San Francisco: Julian Richardson Associates Publishers, 1976

Diop, Cheikh Anta: *The African Origin of Civilization: Myth or Reality*. Westport: Lawrence Hill and Co., 1974

Browder, Anthony T. *From the Browder File: 23 essays on the African American Experience*. Washington: The Institute of Karmic Guidance, 1989

Burrell, Tom: *Brainwashed: Challenging the Myth of Black Inferiority*. NY: Smiley Books, 2010

Gallman, Burnett Kwadwo. *Sankofa University: Studying African-Centered History and Culture*. Columbia: Imhotep-The Drum, 2020

Van Sertima, Ivan (Anything by him)

Wilkerson, Isabel. *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. NY: Random House, 2020

### List Two

Ani, Marimba. *Yurugu: An African-Centered Critique of European Culture and Behavior*. Trenton: Africa World Press, 1994

Armah, Ayi Kwei. *The Way of Companions: Myth, History. Philosophy & Literature: The African Record*. Popenguine, Senegal: Per Ankh: The African Publishing Cooperative, 2018

Boutte, Gloria Swindler. *Educating African American Students: And How Are the Children?* NY: Routledge, 2016

Diop, Cheikh Anta. *Civilization or Barbarism: An Authentic Anthropology*. Brooklyn: Lawrence Hill Books, 1991

Kendi, Ibram X. *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive Idea of racist Ideas in America*. NY: Hachette Book Group, 2016

Nobles, Wade W: *The Island of Meme: Haiti's Unfinished Revolution*. Black Classics Press, 2015

Wilson, Amos N. *Blueprint for Black Power: A Moral, Political and Economic Imperative for the Twenty-first Century*. NY: Afrikan World Infosystems, 1998

If this list can be of help to just one person, it has been worth the effort of putting it together. One last recommendation is that whenever possible, try to buy these books from black owned bookstores or vendors. Enjoy and learn!!

Food for Thought.