

# Yosef A.A. ben-Jochannan: Philosophy and Opinions

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## Introduction

### Indigenous Africans, Hunger for Learning

There is enough written about the indigenous Africans- the so-called “*Negroes*” or “*Africans South of the Sahara*,” and *things African*, to satisfy anyone’s hunger for learning about this topic.

*The Black Man's North and East Africa* by Yosef A.A. ben-Jochannan and George E. Simmonds  
(Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 2005, pp. xiv).

### Learn for Mistakes

We must learn by our own mistakes; and must certainly by the mistakes of others ....

*From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the “Black” Mental Health Crisis in “America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, p. 68).

## **Literate in Ancient Language, Feel the Oneness**

We must become literate in [the] ancient *language* of our forefathers. We must be able to make distinctions between the various types of writings.... But most of all, we must be able to feel the oneness with the *inner-self* of the *Mysteries*....

*They All Look Alike1: All of Them?* (vol. III, IV). New York: Alkebu-lan Books and Educational Materials Associates, 1980, pp.74-75.

## **Researcher and Student**

...it is my fervent hope that *African Studies* be equally taught in the future with emphasis on apprenticeship between *researcher* and *student*, and not solely between *professor* and *student*.

*Understanding the African Philosophical Concept Behind the "Diagram of the Law of Opposites"* by Yosef A.A. ben-Jochannan with Evelyn Walker, Dorothy Lee Cobb and Calvin Birdsong (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 2005, pp. vii; New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates, 1975).

## **Open the Flood-Gate**

I do hope that you, my students, shall open the flood-gate to further information on Ethiopia's history, and let the *waters of knowledge* inundate the closed mind of the uninformed, as the flood-waters from the Ethiopian highlands along the trails of the Blue Nile ....

*Africa: Mother of Western Civilization* (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1988 [originally published in 1971; New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates], p.242.

## **First World Member**

I am not a member of the third world, I am a member of the first world.

Clarke, John Henrik, ed [introduction by John Henrik Clarke]. *New Dimensions in African History: The London Lectures of Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannan and Dr. John Henrik Clarke* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1991, pp.60).

## **Marcus Garvey and George G.M. James**

Few men have influenced my *academic career* as the late Honorable Marcus Moziah Garvey and Professor George G.M. James.

*Black Man of the Nile and His Family*  
(Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1972, 1989, pp. xxxvii).

## **Thirty-Two Books on Africa**

Since 1938 I've published thirty-two books on Africa, and I write them in such a way that even a seventh-grader should be able to read them.

Clarke, John Henrik, ed [introduction by John Henrik Clarke]. *New Dimensions in African History: The London Lectures of Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannan and Dr. John Henrik Clarke* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1991, pp.123).

## **No Apologies to Make**

I have no apologies to make to anyone or institution for any of the citations or indictments and hypothesis in this work; for I have carefully examined each and every one of them before they were finally printed.

*Africa: Mother of Western Civilization* (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1988 [originally published in 1971; New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates], p.xv.

## **Editing Attack**

Because the area of editing is constantly the only weak point in my works the destructive critics find to attack ....

*From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the "Black" Mental Health Crisis in "America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, pp. xx).

## **All Redundancies Are Intentional**

... all redundancies are intentional. Besides being my style, they are included to make you familiar with the proper terms, names, corrections and general semantics distorted by existing European and European-American so-called Africanist [holy white race] scholarship now presented as unbiased and/or objective history, etc.

*From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the "Black" Mental Health Crisis in "America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, pp. xx).

## **Original Government**

All civil compacts today had their original basis of government in Africa ....

*Africa: Mother of Western Civilization* (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1988 [originally published in 1971; New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates], p.67.

## **Simplicity of Language and Style**

The final factor for my personal appeal to you is the simplicity of the language and style I have employed in this and all of my works to date. This too, although having been criticized by many who feel I could be more academic [whatever that means], is purposefully done in order to communicate with the broadest base of African people without any of them having to feel that my book was not written for their level of intelligence.

*From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the “Black” Mental Health Crisis in “America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, pp. xx-xxi).

## **Luxury of Exclusivity**

... the Black academician in any discipline whatsoever cannot in good conscious claim the luxury of exclusivity at the price of cultural and physical genocide ....

[Volume II: Influence of Great Myths on Contemporary Life, or the Need for Black History in Mental Health] in *From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the “Black” Mental Health Crisis in “America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, pp.ix).

## **Defending My Ethnocentricity**

Am so different from other human beings that I will not stand tall in defending my own ethnocentricity while others are counted in terms of their own, at the same time condemning me for mine? No! I am first an African/Black man before I am anyone or anything else.

[Volume II: Influence of Great Myths on Contemporary Life, or the Need for Black History in Mental Health] in *From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the “Black” Mental Health Crisis in “America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, pp.ix).

# History

## Nonsense about “Holocausts”

Nobody bothers me with nonsense about “holocausts,” because let me tell you about my “holocausts.” Let me tell you what Cecil John Rhodes, Dr. Leander Starr Jameson and others did to my people in South Africa (Monomotapa) when they brought in Captain John Lugard, who made Hitler look like a sissy boy.

Clarke, John Henrik, ed [introduction by John Henrik Clarke]. *New Dimensions in African History: The London Lectures of Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannan and Dr. John Henrik Clarke* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1991, pp.21).

## History is Incomplete

... the history of nowhere is complete ...

*Africa: Mother of Western Civilization* (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1988 [originally published in 1971; New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates], p.302.

## Higher Education Origins

... even Europe’s very first higher education system – Universidad de Salamanca [University of Salamanca] – came from Africans who were extending their own higher education system – University of Djene [also known as: Djénné, Jenné and Jenne] – that later became – University of Sankore ....

*“Blacks” and “Jews”: an Old Confrontation* (Histo-Political Series, Volume II 1985)  
New York: Alkebu-lan Books and Education Materials Associates, 1985, pp.vi.

## The ‘Jews’ Owned ‘Slaves’

... why are the ‘children’ of all *races* not told that the ‘Jews’ [Black, White, or whatever else they may have been] also owned ‘*slaves*’ in biblical times, and that they even stopped to purchase their own ‘*slaves*’ while they were in fact fleeing from their fellow Africans to escape their own ‘bondage in Egypt’ ....

*Cultural Genocide in the Black and African Studies Curriculum* (New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates, 1972; Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 2004, pp.6).

## **The Bicentennial Celebration**

How can I, an “African American”, continue teaching about my background in African history and heritage and not write a single sentence, pro or con, with regards to the Bicentennial celebration of [lily white] America’s freedom that supposedly includes Black Americans and others just like me?

*From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the “Black” Mental Health Crisis in “America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, pp.v).

## **No Bicentennial Celebration of Freedom**

There is no bicentennial celebration of freedom by the so-called Black Africans until they are all free of European and European-American domination ....

*From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the “Black” Mental Health Crisis in “America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, p. 90).

## **The Masters Freedom**

... I could find no precedence in ‘*world history*’, even biblically, where any kind of ‘slaves’ voluntarily celebrated their ‘*masters freedom*’!

*From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the “Black” Mental Health Crisis in “America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, pp.vi).

## **Writing, History, Master-Slave Relationship**

The Black man [indigenous African and his decedents] must once more write about himself, his cultures, and his continent Alkebu-lan [Africa, Ethiopia, Libya, etc.]. For no one cares about another’s history to the point where he can feel the emotional values of the inheritors. Moreover, when a man’s history is written by his master’s religion or economic philosophy, such history is always distorted to suit the *master-slave* relationship, which is the only possible result from such an enforced union.

*Black Man of the Nile and His Family*  
(Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1972, 1989, pp. xxxi).

### **High Priests: Far Better Historians**

We know that the Egyptian high priests were far better historians than anyone else of their time. This we know from the many writings that they left us on the walls of their tombs and monuments in Egypt and Nubia; also from the many papyri found and deciphered.

*The Black Man's North and East Africa* by Yosef A.A. ben-Jochannan and George E. Simmonds (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 2005, pp.88).

### **Slave History and Heritage**

A master can never see his slave's history and heritage in the same light as the slave sees his or her master's own; neither will their descendants, be they Black or White.

*Cultural Genocide in the Black and African Studies Curriculum* (New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates, 1972; Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 2004, pp.12).

### **Reading Africa**

The more one reads the earlier works, the more the beauty and glory that was Africa and her sons and daughters unfold in splendor.

*Africa: Mother of Western Civilization* (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1988 [originally published in 1971; New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates], p.192).

### **Truth about the Africans**

The *truth* about the Africans must be brought forward, especially that which presented the greatness of the Africans in their role as economists, sociologist and political scientist ....

*Africa: Mother of Western Civilization* (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1988 [originally published in 1971; New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates], p.190).

### **Decide Our Own Truths**

Hopefully everyone will appreciate that Africans, African-Americans and African-Caribbeans alone must decide our own truths about ourselves ....

*From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the "Black" Mental Health Crisis in "America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, pp. xxii).

## **Freedom and Truth**

... the master and the slave do not have the same concept of freedom/truth.

*From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the “Black” Mental Health Crisis in “America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, pp. 98).

## **Consistent About Freedom**

We must be consistent in everything we do in terms of our commitment to our own freedom.

*From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the “Black” Mental Health Crisis in “America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, p. 71).

## **African-Centric Interpretation**

... the history of the Black Africans whether revisionist or not will never again be written until the so-called Black African ourselves, write it from our own African-Centric interpretation.

*From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the “Black” Mental Health Crisis in “America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, p. 9).

## **Continue the Struggle for Freedom**

I shall continue the struggle for my freedom at my terms and not that of the descendants of the people who enslaved my African ancestors for hundreds of years ....

*From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the “Black” Mental Health Crisis in “America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, p. 79).



# Psychology

## Black Mental Health

... a Black who has adjusted to his condition and/or has accepted the 'value system' of the White oppressor is more in need of the services of the Black [etc.] mental health provider than the traditional 'patient'.

[Volume II: Influence of Great Myths on Contemporary Life, or the Need for Black History in Mental Health] in *From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the "Black" Mental Health Crisis in "America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, pp.1).

## Adversary/Enemy Approval and "Authority"

How can you expect your adversary/enemy to approve you as his/her "authority" in his/her education [*mysterics*] system, religious institution, family structure, and God concept? Does your enemy use you as his/her "authority"?

*Black Man of the Nile and His Family*  
(Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1972, 1989, pp. x1ii).

## White Mis-Educators

... we have been too much accustomed to having *White* mis-educators constantly as the 'authorities' who decide who are our "Black [formerly 'Negro'] heroes" and what should be taught about them ....

*Cultural Genocide in the Black and African Studies Curriculum* (New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates, 1972; Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 2004, pp.9).

## Colonialist and Imperialist Genocide

Strange as it may seem, the racist colonialist and other imperialist who took turns exterminating the Africans by means of genocide also took pride in debasing each other over their stolen lands and captured slaves ....

*Africa: Mother of Western Civilization* (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1988 [originally published in 1971; New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates], p.190.

## **Those Who Shape and Control**

... those who shape our thinking of right and wrong also control the funds that underwrite Black and African Studies curriculum and Departments ....

*Cultural Genocide in the Black and African Studies Curriculum* (New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates, 1972; Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 2004, pp.37).

## **Know Africa**

The Africa that I have spoken of, you need to know, and no one can keep you a slave after you know.

Clarke, John Henrik, ed [introduction by John Henrik Clarke]. *New Dimensions in African History: The London Lectures of Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannan and Dr. John Henrik Clarke* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1991, pp.61).

## **Cultural Genocide**

... the manner in which Black cultural genocide appears is not always noticeable to the average trained or untrained person ...

*Cultural Genocide in the Black and African Studies Curriculum* (New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates, 1972; Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 2004, pp.ix).

## **Misuse of the Word “Race”**

... the common misuse of the word “race” is intentional; purposefully arranged and manipulated by those who are in the position to have others drugged by it.

*Africa: Mother of Western Civilization* (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1988 [originally published in 1971; New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates], p.114.

## **A Free Mind**

The very first step and last step to physical freedom is a free mind.

*From Afrkan Captives to Insane Slaves* (The Need for Afrikan History in Solving the “Black” Mental Health Crisis in “America and the World) [Introduction by Kiarri T-H. Cheatwood (Richmond, VA: Native Sun Publishers, 1992, p. 98).

## **Freedom of our Minds**

When Africans, every one of us, become ready to question the writings of the ancient scribes who wrote, and those of contemporary times who revised the ancient “inspired works of God,” we would have begun the final stage of our own liberation – freedom of our minds.

*“Blacks” and “Jews”:* an Old Confrontation (Histo-Political Series, Volume II 1985)  
New York: Alkebu-lan Books and Education Materials Associates, 1985, pp.23.

# **Religion**

## **Sacred Scriptures, Adaptation from Indigenous Nile Valley Africans**

The co-option of the “sacred scriptures” (writings) by various religious groups was common among the ancients. The practice came down through the adaptation of the basic tenets from the indigenous Nile Valley Africans’ “*mystery system*” into Judaism.

*African Origins of the Major World Religions*  
(London: Karnak House Publishing, 1991, pp.29) edited by Amon Saba Saakana.

## **Looking Outside Africa**

If Judaism is based on an African religion, if Christianity is based on an African religion, and if Islam is based on an African religion, then why is the African looking outside Africa for religion?

Clarke, John Henrik, ed [introduction by John Henrik Clarke]. *New Dimensions in African History: The London Lectures of Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannan and Dr. John Henrik Clarke* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1991, pp.128).

## **The Biblical ‘Moses’**

What was the biblical ‘Moses’ other than an African like the ‘children’ of the Black communities  
....

*Cultural Genocide in the Black and African Studies Curriculum* (New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates, 1972; Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 2004, pp.4).

## **Feeling Afraid to Challenge**

There is no doubt that our confusion as Christians, Jews and Muslims has forced us into feeling afraid to challenge any and all manner things coming forth from the so-called 'Judeo-Christian Caucasian-Semitic' and 'Islamic-Hamite' academic world as the '... inspired word of God ...,' even when such is totally directed towards our own genocide in every aspect imaginable.

*Cultural Genocide in the Black and African Studies Curriculum* (New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates, 1972; Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 2004, pp.9).

## **Judaism and Christianity Origins**

... both Judaism and Christianity had their origin and foundation in the *Book of Coming Forth by Day* [the so-called '*Egyptian Book of the Dead* and *Papyrus of Ani*'] and other works produced by African '*heroes*'....

*Cultural Genocide in the Black and African Studies Curriculum* (New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates, 1972; Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 2004, pp.13).

## **No Lost Book of the Bible**

... not a single *book* of the Bible was '*lost*'. The fact is that they were suppressed by the '*Christian clergy*' and '*theologians*' in order to maintain their dictatorial rule and arbitrary edicts  
....

*Cultural Genocide in the Black and African Studies Curriculum* (New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates, 1972; Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 2004, pp.35).

## **Jesus in Africa**

... I could not find where Jesus entered Europe, nor where he was ever trained by a single European. Instead there is abundant evidence that he entered Alkebu-lan/Africa ...

*Our Black Seminarians and Black Clergy Without A Black Theology: The Tragedy of Black People/Africans in Religion Today* [Introduction by John Henrik Clarke]. New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates, 1978; Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1998, pp. xxvii.

## **Convert the Heathens**

It is certainly unfortunate that so many members of the clergy do not read about the historical origin of their religion before assuming the declared “God’s call to convert the heathens”.

*Africa: Mother of Western Civilization* (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1988 [originally published in 1971; New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates], p.360.

# **Beauty**

## **Black is Beautiful**

“Black is Beautiful” only when one is informed of the historical facts, mythological beliefs, and biblical plagiarism of more ancient teachings which were responsible for the creation of the various so-called “Holy Scriptures”.

*Africa: Mother of Western Civilization* (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1988 [originally published in 1971; New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates], p.568.

## **First Black Person**

“Black” have always been “beautiful” from the day the first Black person was born unto a woman and a man in central Africa or Alkebu-lan.

*Africa: Mother of Western Civilization* (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1988 [originally published in 1971; New York: Alkebu-lan Books Associates], p.567.

## **Your Own Nation, Beauty**

It is only when you have your own nation that you can decide the value and the judgment of beauty.

Clarke, John Henrik, ed [introduction by John Henrik Clarke]. *New Dimensions in African History: The London Lectures of Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannan and Dr. John Henrik Clarke* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1991, pp.95).

## **A Black Woman**

Dipped in chocolate, bronzed in elegance, enameled with grace, toasted with beauty. My lord, she's a Black woman.

# **Relationships**

## **Respect and Love**

I don't care if my woman doesn't love me, as long as she *respects* me. Respect is higher than love.

Clarke, John Henrik, ed [introduction by John Henrik Clarke]. *New Dimensions in African History: The London Lectures of Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannan and Dr. John Henrik Clarke* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1991, pp.48).

## **Praise and Worship Black Women**

I have so much time to praise and worship Black women, to kneel down and thank the heavens they are here!

Clarke, John Henrik, ed [introduction by John Henrik Clarke]. *New Dimensions in African History: The London Lectures of Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannan and Dr. John Henrik Clarke* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1991, pp.48).