

UJAMAA

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a mound of dark, rich soil. A small, dark seedling is visible in the soil. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow, suggesting a natural, outdoor setting. The overall tone is warm and earthy.

rites of passage the ultimate
resource

#NguzoSabaChallenge

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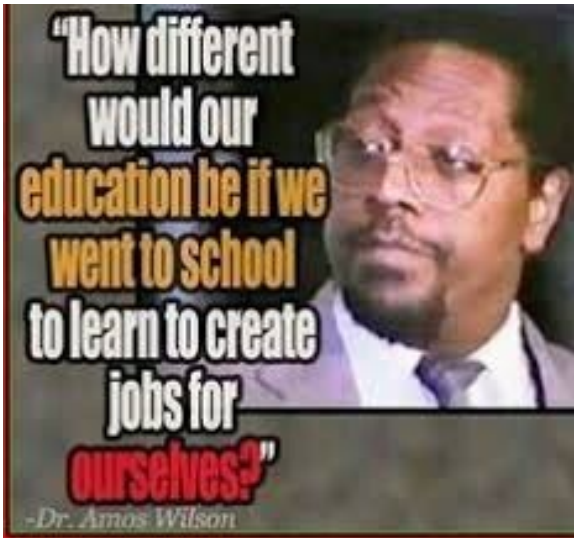
Great week of Nia:

Just for those that are new to the journey, although this magazine is for the week of Ujamaa, by the time you get this eMag it will be well into the week of Nia. Nevertheless we had another great week, although there were a few struggles personally, and at the end of the week sonically. I want to apologize for Imani because it appears that my sound effects were off. So Imani, Umoja, and The Daily Toast podcast are messed up but usable. I spend a lot of time trying to make sure that everything goes right, but \$#!+ happens, and we need to be able to roll with it. This week we spoke about our resources and how we can use our principle system to create a better life using what we have. Like all of the principles, Ujamaa is a very powerful life changer if we work with it, and be honest with ourselves. We have to really take a look at the resources we have outside of the 5 that we talk about. Many people fail because they have not really taken inventory on what assets they have in their life that are available. Many count things that are not within their reach, or control as personal resources that can be used, but if you can't control it you can't count on it. I stress in our system to focus the 5 parts of being first and then work your way out after you have the 5 aligned. We must learn to work with the minimum to get the max effect. It is basically learning to use yourself as leverage to move obstacles out of your way. So read on and I hope that you get something of value. TOO BLACK!!!

Hopefully by now you have realized that the system that we use in GNJ all starts with you aligning your five parts of being first before you are able to have any balanced effect in the world. This is important for you to grasp, because we have to be the catalyst for the change that we want to bring to the world. I can bring change and be out of alignment, but what usually results is that all that is built is done on a faulty foundation, and is doom to collapse in time. So by aligning myself with my personal power, and directing my 5 parts of being (my internal tribe) it makes me better able to control those things, or influence those things around me.

Amos Wilson on the Criminal Behavior of The United States

Here is a link to the video that this writeup came from: [Dr.Amos Wilson](#)



In his presentation on the United States as a criminal nation, Amos Wilson explains his fitting moniker for her and what we Black People here in the United States must do to extract ourselves from under her hegemonic and imperialistic behavior carried out through genocidal policies. My supporting narrative for her moniker is that Western Asiatics came to the Americas seeking escape from overbearing political and religious persecutions; so much so that they had to leave their homelands. Moreover, the criminality of Western Asiatic nations was so offensive and abundant that they forced migration upon their own prisoners and their own undesirables to foreign lands, the Americas among those destinations. Hence, the United States became a penal colony. As such, the record will show that these Western Asiatics, have raped, pillaged and plundered the indigenous inhabitants, as well as new arrivals considered to be “other, than who they, the Western Asiatics, were” of the Americas.

Even before the Western Asiatics arrival to the Americas, from the nations of Portugal, Spain, France, England, Germany, Belgium, an attitude and behavior of rape, pillage and plunder was demonstrated toward our African family. African women and men were stolen and trafficked for cheap labor to build the wealth of Western Asiatic nations.. The African art replete with cultural heritage from various ethnic groups was dishonestly and violently taken. The people, the land and its resources were outright exploited through contractual agreements that were in no way honored. This is only to foreshadow the criminal behavior of the Western Asiatics upon their arrival to the Americas and hence, the United States.

The word of the White man was so untrustworthy, that the native American said they spoke with forked tongue, and as a maxim, it is said there is not a treaty that the White man didn't break. They accepted the assistance of the native in establishing themselves on the land, and then abused the native's trust to exploit them and take that same land. They went on to pollute the land and the native people with diseases, depopulating the natives to the point of a genocidal extinction. It was upon this kind of criminal behavior on which the United States was built.

In order to codify this criminal attitude and behavior into the Western Asiatic people who would later refer to themselves as United States citizens, Amos Wilson tells us that they would project their criminality on those they considered to be "other." Hence, to justify treating the African criminally, he projected his own criminality onto them; to justify treating the African savagely, he projected his own savagery onto them. This new Western Asiatic arrival to the Americas advanced loving themselves without much critical analysis. They created programs, policies and laws that honored their hate and hid their sense of inferiority behind projecting a sense of greatness. Therefore, when we look at ourselves as Africans and we ask ourselves, how did we get here? The simple answer is that these thoughts and beliefs were coded into them and us through osmosis, willing acceptance, or force; having assimilated, and reinforced these ideas through repetition by means of the emotions of fear and love for the White man and his way of life. The result is our schizophrenic and psychopathic behaviors.

Amos Wilson continues by explaining that other ill-Effects on the Black family are found in our extremes of compensating for our low self regard. In loving ourselves, we become narcissistic. In loving each other, we become queens and kings. The narcissistic man must become the head and the woman must become queen. The man is punk'd all day outside of his home, but he gets home and now he is ruler. The woman, as queen, must be treated in a manner worthy as such, but she comes home to a man whose intent is to exercise his right to rule in the home, rather than appeasing the desires of his queen. CONFLICT! The result of such conflicts leads to abusive and exploitative relationships. After all, Maladaptive behaviors come out of acting out of what is not real.

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Amos Wilson offers a prescription that we must transform ourselves in order to transform this American system. Rather than changing the problems we face, we must change America. we must transform Black lives, beginning with the self; the result of which will be the change of America, and hence, the world.

How do we make that change? Albeit there are many ways to begin, we in Gye Nyame ground you in culture that will deprogram you from the thoughts, ideas and practices of the Western Asiatic way of life. We use the methods of 224,, the Nguzo Saba challenge of 7 days, 21 days or even 7 weeks. The 224 method consists of you choosing something, say a skill, in your life that you want to improve. Every 24 hours, you take at least 2 hours per day to work on that skill you want to improve. Even if you begin the 224 method with a 7 day Nguzo Saba challenge to get started. In other words, for 7 days, you will work on your talent for 2 hours a day. Time invested in yourself rewards improvement in your talent and skill. The purpose of these challenges are so that you improve how you do those things that particularize you, to move you from good to better and from better to best; continually building on who you are and how well you do what sets you apart, mastery of your craft. One of our tribal quotes tells us: "The best life is achieved by engagement with systematic processes; the best life is built on systematic use of life-giving principles." So, let the principles of the Nguzo Saba be both the life-giving principles and foundation for the systematic process you choose to elevate you to your best life.

By: Brother Kwame



The 5 Most Powerful Resources You Will Ever Have

Unifying Your Resources

Great week of Ujamaa on this great day of Umoja:

Man I am excited to jump into this week but I have a challenge that I personally have to overcome. For those that know me personally I have been struggling with a tobacco habit for years. Last week I fell off the wagon, and have been puffing like a dragon. Now I will have to reconquer this issue again. I will use the next 7 day cycle to begin the process of eliminating this habit. This is what the #NguzoSabaChallenge is for, it gives us a process that we can continuously work on ourselves and our goals. So I have a challenge in front of me, especially since my 21 day personal #NguzoSabaChallenge fast will begin on May 23, 2021. Now that is enough about me now let's get to today's rant.

Well, we are in the week of Ujamaa, and now is the time where we get to where the rubber hits the road. For those that are not familiar with Gye-Nyame's system we work with the Nguzo Saba to change our lives, from what others designed it to be, to what we want it to be.

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Each of the principles is a step that can be used to build the life that we want, and our tribe needs. This process came into being because of the principle of Ujamaa. Ujamaa lined up in our system in a powerpoint that informed us that we were on the right track.

Today we are tasked with dealing with Umoja through the lense of Ujamaa. Which is not hard, because for us ujamaa is about managing resources, and the most powerful resources for each individual is the resources that we have been sent here with, the five parts of being. These are the most powerful although they are overlooked by nearly everyone.

When we look at Ujamaa (principle of the week) many of us automatically move straight to money. Not realizing that the most powerful resources that we have are the 5 parts of our being which are:

Intuition

Mental

Emotional

Spiritual

Physical



These five resources are very powerful by themselves but when they are combined and unified. They become unstoppable. They open doors that you may have believed were locked to you. I came into the knowledge of this indirectly in my younger days. I was able to do things and change environments and I did not know how, until I was able to step back and look at my life as an observer. I noticed that when my emotions were running things I made no progress, I noticed that when my mind was running things again I made no progress, and I can go through each one of the parts and get the same results. I noticed that when I was able to enter any situation with all parts working together miracles happen.

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What brought this home for me was a recent encounter that I had with a young man at a hotel. I was there doing work for a conference, and the young man came in to greet me. He first asked if I was Brother Ha2tim, and I replied yes. He reached out to hug me and said that he was glad to see me and that I changed his life. Not trying to be rude I asked him his name, and he began to tell the story. It turns out that he was friends with one of my sons, and used to come to the house to eat. Not I need to state at this point and time I was running with a balance between all parts of my being. Because I was doing this I was able to bless everyone that came to my house. I had a saying "Gye-Nyame house feeds the nation" although we weren't feeding the nations we were able to feed our tribe and guest. He came to the house one day and I had a conversation with him, and gave him a book. Now this sounded like a small thing but it made an impact on his life. Now I was not able to give him riches, nor could I offer him a place to stay, but the little resources that I was able to provide made a big difference, and I was able to provide them because I had Unified the most powerful resources at my disposal.

Once you take time to realize the power that you are holding within your body and begin sharing that with the world, you will become a force to reckon with. The Creator has already given you all you need, and if you need anything else you are learning to use the principle of Umoja in your life will bring it to your doorstep.

Izfet, Seth and Apep: What do they mean for us Today?

Apep was the embodiment of the principle of evil or chaos and was usually depicted as a serpent or crocodile. He attempted to prevent Ra's passage through the underworld; hence, an enemy to Ra. The descriptions of Apep's origin story usually shows him being born after Ra; more importantly, from his (Ra's) umbilical cord. Since Apep does not appear among the enneiad (the most ancient 9 forces), we conclude that Apep was not a primordial force in Egyptian cosmology. Thus, Apep, having been born from Ra's umbilical cord, was a consequence of Ra's birth, suggesting that evil is the consequence of an individual's own struggles against opposition that arises from within.

Seth was thought to be the physical and moral representations of Isfet. At times, he demonstrated lying and incorrect, antisocial, unjust behaviors to achieve his will; kicking out the side of Nut to be born or attempting to sodomize his nephew to show Herw's inadequacy to keep the throne of Kemet. However, I must hasten to add he is also the one who takes on the responsibility to do what no one else desires or is able to do, as in the case of facing Apep to ensure Ra's regeneration and rebirth in the Duat (underworld).

The concept of Seth having to face Apep for Ra's safe passage through the Duat is an interesting paradox. First, note that the forms of the snake and crocodiles are forms of both Seth and Apep. We must ask the question what happens when chaos in his nature of Seth opposes chaos in his nature as Apep? We have often heard the saying, "A house divided against itself can not stand." I believe the same idea holds true here; that is when chaos must undo chaos, the resultant consequence from this battle is self destruction, and hence, order. Thus, Seth, who embodies the knowledge and nature, associated with chaos, is the very one who must undo chaos in his form as Apep, thereby contributing to restoring the natural order of the cosmos.

Izfet personified the principles of injustice, evil and chaos. Much like Apep, Izfet was thought to be a consequence of one's errant desire arising from within the will, rather than from a primordial state of chaos. In other words, the principle Izfet came from within the human beings themselves. In a middle kingdom text, in one of his 4 deeds, the, Neb-er-Dger (keeper of the limits) said:

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"I made every man like his fellow man.

i did not command that they do izfet.

It is their minds that destroy what I have said."

The goal of the Ancient Egyptian was a practical application of their accumulated wisdom. This resulted in emphasizing the thoughts and behaviors of wisdom texts that promoted balanced harmonious relationships between people, animals and nature. Maat encapsulated this philosophical thought; Maat was to establish harmonious coexistence of society's different levels. When Izfet, Maat's complement, was "reigning in the counsel hall," these were some of

the descriptions of such times:

"Beggars of the land have become rich men; the owners of things as those who have nothing."

Thus, Izfet had his place, but his nature was such that he was not to reign supreme in the council hall.

The prevailing thought was that the rise of Isfet, would lead to the degeneration of humanity and a return to a primordial state. Degeneration or decay was not accepted as a natural state of evolution for the Ancient Egyptian. The world, however seemingly ambiguous in this respect, compelled the Ancient Egyptian to take actions and make judgements that simplified these principles in order to maintain or restore Maat by discerning the real from the unreal and discerning good from evil.

Isfet and Maat built a complementary and paradoxical dualism; one could not exist without its complement. Maat was not about creating an egalitarian society; Maat demanded an equity that served a harmoniously run community. The Rich were not to exploit the poor, but to help them, as seen in the following text:

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"I have given bread to the hungry and clothing to the naked. I was a husband to the widow and a father to the orphan."

In the middle kingdom text named, The Moaning of the Bedouin, this idea is further demonstrated:

"Those who promote the good will erase the evil. As fullness casts out appetite, as clothes cover the nude and as heaven clears up after a storm."

In conclusion, Apep personifies the internal oppositional struggles that Ra must overcome to assure his continual regeneration and rebirth. Seth personifies the physical and moral manifestations of an internal struggle, between desire and will. Izfet personifies the lost internal struggle to express good will. All of these expressions of evil, chaos, etc. are natures that come from within ourselves. Even as Seth is used to neutralize Apep, Maat to neutralize Izfet, we too must call on all the life giving principles to sustain us. After all, one of our tribal quotes tells us: The best life is built on life sustaining principles. we must overcome what ever opposes us in establishing a harmoniously run collective. We can no longer blame our elders and ancestors for the conditions in which we find ourselves today, especially if we are doing nothing to change our conditions to make them more amenable to a society based in Maat and the Nguzo Saba.

by: Brother Kwame



How To Use Your Kujichagulia (Finding Your Way)

How to use Self Determination

Kujichagulia is my favorite principle, because it exposes us to the power of defining. As you know I am a kuji baby, but even with that, I have to pay homage to the principle of the week (Ujamaa). This is the principle that deals with cooperation and resources, but Kujichagulia helps us identify what our resources are, how they can be used, and how they can and should be protected. Self Determination helps us decide as a group what borders we need to create on the community and tribal level. The same applies to our personal boundaries. These are important because it allows us to form unique identities that allow for separation. This separation allows us to distinguish between things. When we can distinguish we can take ownership. Now, many people are against this idea, but it is essential for us to understand this in the modern world. This is the foundation of Nation building. Once again the source is in Kujichagulia. Once we are able to identify the difference between mine and yours we can now begin deciding what are our resources. A resource is a stock or supply of materials, people, and other assets that can be drawn on by a person or organization in order to function effectively. From our African perspective the first resource would be people and not material (Just felt I needed to stress this).

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From the African perspective wealth is in the people not the material. By returning to this we empower ourselves, but at the same understand the material world and how they operate. In this it is things over people, in our system it is people over things. The major for Gye-nyame Tribe it's participating members who work for the group. Now that we defined what resources are can you identify some resources in your life, in your tribe, and in your community?

"Kujichagulia is my favorite principle, because it exposes us to the power of defining."

After we have identified the resources we now have to decide how we will use the resources to build up our community. How can the resources be used, and by who? Can they openly be sold, and should all funds be moved into a central community account when it comes to the resource? These are real questions that all builders should be thinking about. Now let's take the usual turn that we do in Gye-Nyame. After you have answered some of the questions on the larger level, I dare you to answer them on the micro level, or personal. How can you use your personal resources, can they be sold? If so, are you selling them cheap, or are you getting what they and you are worth. This is a hard one for most people because they are now selling themselves cheap and may be mad about and complain but they have not taken the time to go through the first step let alone the second. When we sell ourselves short, we close our eyes to Kujichagulia. In this process we begin to kill our Self Determination. Because now we have allowed others to determine their value, thereby defining us. Kujichagulia is about snatching our right to define who we are, and what our value is. Self Determination is a major tool when it comes to us helping ourselves, and pulling our resources together. Think about the fact that if you allow yourself and skills to be underrated and looked over, and accept that it begins to beat you down. By the fact that you allow the world to define and put a value on what you have offered. You allow others to encroach upon your territory and begin to widdle it down to nothing and now you are accepting the value that has been assigned. you begin to beg and accept what comes, and this my friend is the conundrum we are in. We have no territory because we have let the world set the price on what you have to offer and because you believe others' word as law you begin to assume a position of servitude, and begin to believe that you deserve it. I am here to tell you that is not the truth. You have begun exercising your Self Determination and protecting your Ujamaa or you will be pushed off the board of life.

"Understand that Kujichagulia can't function if you are selling yourself short as a resource"

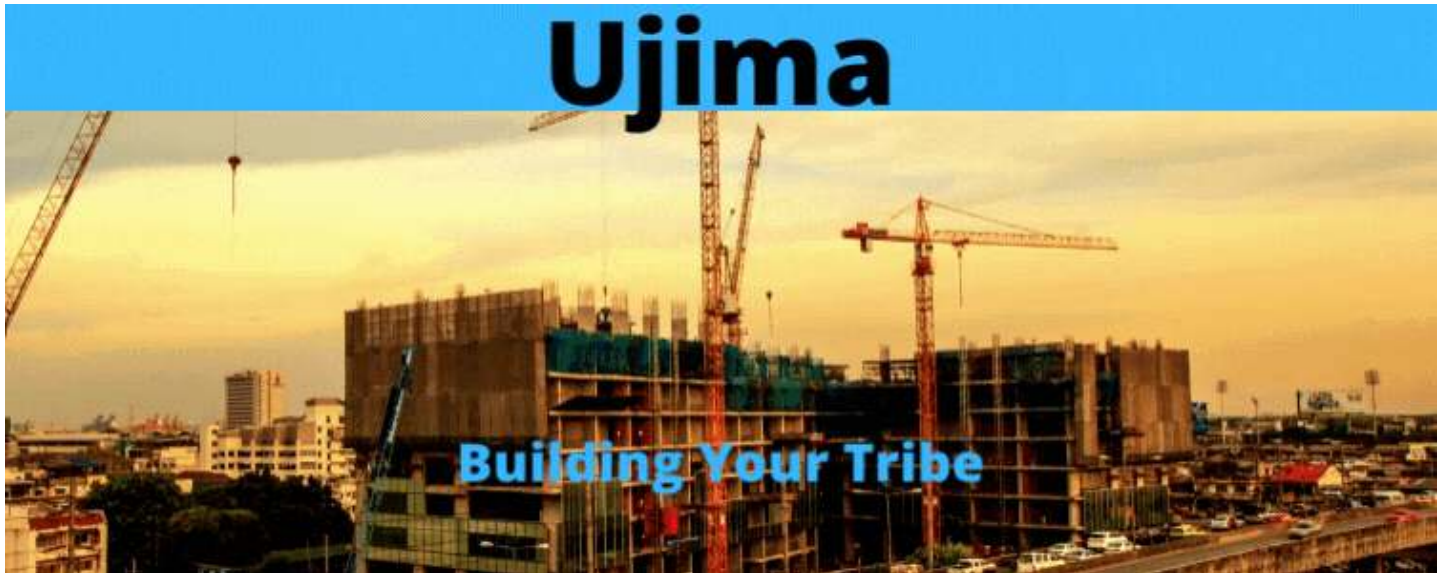
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Kujichagulia, or self-determination, which we and it encourages us to do better. In *The Mis-Education of the Negro*, Carter G. Woodson wrote that "If you can control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions." Cooperative economics requires us to use our Kujichagulia to clearly define what resources we have, how they can be used and how they can be protected.

In The Mis-Education of the Negro, Carter G. Woodson wrote that "If you can control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions."



We cannot depend on others to support our work; we must create this support by building our own institutions and supporting them. This requires us to know ourselves, and build our organizations around who we are and what we need. The best way to do this is through the economic concept Ujamaa guided by our Kujichaulia.



Building Your Tribe

We are on Ujima today which we know to mean collective work and responsibility. Collective is one of the keys to this principle tying the idea of resource; we can say that the collective is the focus for today. Tribe building is a skill in putting people & the resources they bring together. Of course before we get into bringing different people together, we first have to take the inward journey of putting the parts of ourselves together. We have to recognize the resources we put on the table. Let's once again take a look at the 5 parts of ourselves that make up the whole that we are, and be able to maximize their power so that we can pull the best out of our external tribe. Yep, we have an internal tribe that we will have to work with composed of our:

Intuition - This is the ability to understand something immediately, without the need for conscious reasoning. This part of ourselves plugs us into a larger reality, and gives us access to information without having to go through the usual steps of learning. We just seem to know things. We can say this is where we get access to ancestral wisdom. When young people are able to tune into this we call them an "old soul". When we are able to pull this part of our tribe into the fold we have access to information that it would typically take years to acquire. We have access to past knowledge gathered, and future things hidden.

- **Mental (mind) - This is the element of yourself that enables you to be aware (conscious) of the world. This part of your personal tribe is able to gather information from all the other parts of your being, and make decisions based on the information, and in most cases based on past experiences.**
- **Emotional - A natural instinctive state of mind deriving from one's circumstances, mood, or relationships. This part of our personal tribe is about feeling, these feelings can provide energy, or take energy away. Until we become aware of this part of our personal tribe, it can cause large amounts of confusion in our lives. This part of our being is linked to all the other parts and until we get control of it we may be a servant of them.**
- **Spiritual - This is the nonphysical part of our being that links us to the world of the spirit. By learning and using this part of our personal tribe we can not only accomplish many internal personal deeds, we can have an actual physical impact on those around us. I am going to group the imagination in with this part of our being.**
- **Physical - Part of our tribe is how we interact with the world. This is the actual physical connection that we have to effect change in our lives. This part of our personal tribe is directly affected by all other parts and is the first place we can begin to actualize change in ourselves and the world.**

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Now let's move to my external tribe and build something that can stand the test of time, and the continuous movement of life. We have to understand that life is constantly in motion, and the things that we laid down yesterday may need to be firmed up, pulled down and re-erected, or totally destroyed and rebuilt. This requires us to remain in a balanced state. If we become too attached to any part of what we are trying to build it allows for those unbalanced passions to throw us out of internal alignment. To erect my collective or build my tribe I have to help get each individual to seek their personal alignment, and then help them direct their resources (skills, and talents) toward the goal of the tribe. We have to help our members get in touch with who they really are. Remember the lesson from yesterday that as African people we have always realized that true wealth lies in the people. If you are part of a tribe or building a tribe this needs to be your mantra. We need to change our perception of the world from what we have been taught in this system, that has been designed to perpetuate itself to our ancient view. Once we are able to get this as a tribal goal, we can really begin to focus on the resources within the tribe to do serious work, with people at the center.

The steps to building a tribe are the same steps for initiating a person into the tribe. This process is based on what outsiders call a rites of passage (ROP), or what mythologists would call the hero's journey. Here is the process:



Ujamaa Of Rites Of Passage 2

Great Nia

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The Call - There is some type of call that goes out for the member. This can be an actual call from you or a member of the tribe. This can also be some type of metaphysical call that they received and they ended up at the right place at the right time etc.. The bottom line is something has reached out to the person and what they hear and see attracts them to your group (unless they were born into the tribe, which is a whole nother story).

- **Separation - in this phase the tribe needs to separate itself from the world. They need to go somewhere private to bond and really get to know each other, and know the tribe. In this sacred space that is financed by the group so that they can truly be immersed in the space, the tribe needs to take care that all of the needs of the members or prospective members are met. This is not a place for tourists or outsiders. Here the group will engage in their sacred rites, and ceremonies. If your group doesn't have them they need to develop them. In this place individuals dedicate or rededicate themselves to the mission of the tribe, or are prepared for initiation into the tribe.**
- **Initiation - At this point those that are new to the tribe show their dedication through tests, rituals and ceremonies. They learn the lore of the tribe and all pertinent information for the tribe.**

Re-introduction - Here the new initiates are introduced to the tribe and the larger community also here is where members who have been promoted, moved to new positions, and received new assignments are introduced. The tribe also announces any new challenges that they will take up in the next period of time.

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Members show their dedication by guiding the new members through the rituals, as well in the down time discuss the future goals of the tribe. Here bonds are strengthened by the stress and the strain that this time puts on the whole organization. In this space if there are no new initiates to the tribe business is dived into, and new goals are set and some members receive new responsibilities or new tasks to accomplish before the next period.

Now don't be freaked out by the language whether you know it or not many of you have gone through these types of rituals, ceremonies, and this whole process. It just has been called different names. These processes can be found in the larger world, because they help keep organization together and strong. So those of you trying to build your tribe remember the cardinal rule. If your inner tribe is not together no matter what you do your external tribe will fail.



Ujamaa Of Rites Of Passage Resource Part 1

Great Ujamaa:

We have made it to a double principle day. We are on Ujamaa day during the Ujamaa week, so let's dive deep into the idea of cooperative economics. Yesterday we ended our discussion peeking into the collective resource of Rites of Passage (ROP). Believe it or not this is a crucial resource for any Culture, and since we here at GNJ we are trying to plug as many of our folks as possible back into our ancient culture.

"ROP binds warriors together and allows them to grow"

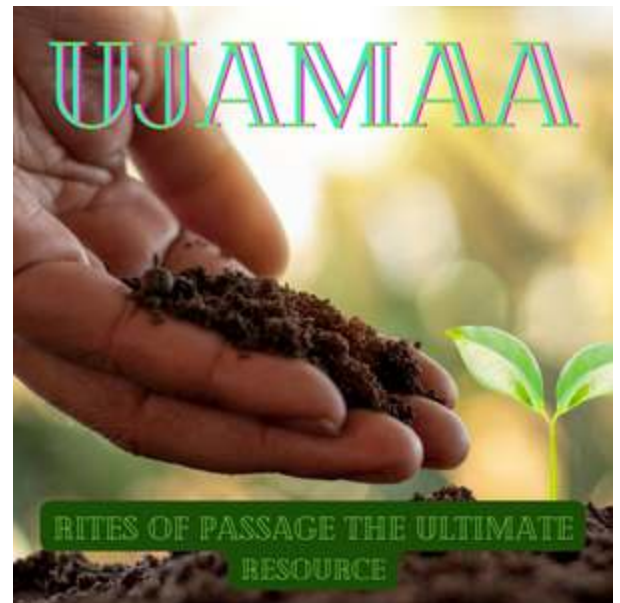
The culture of a people is important, because it plugs the people into their past, solidifies them in the present, and propels them toward their future. Now the culture that spawns from and with a group strives to help its people survive. I need to stress the fact that I believe that a culture is a living entity that develops a symbiotic relationship with its group. The ultimate goal of this relationship is to not just survive but to thrive. Culture is one of the key resources that a people develops, because it is culture that pushes the skill and technique forward in a group that makes it easier for both to survive and eventually thrive. When the people grow, and thrive, so does the culture and vice versa. Now we have to look at the way a culture passes on its genes/memes(for a lack of words to describe) forward to each generation.

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This is where the ROP comes into play. This is the process that one generation passes on all of the pertinent information about the culture, survival, and advancement of the Culture to the following generations. When this process is interrupted a culture begins to degenerate, because the people lack the information to create a successful society. Culture can be interrupted by natural factors such as climate change, extinction of staples, or incursions by other groups. Culture operates much like humans in their interactions with each other, and outsiders.

“The culture of a people is important, because it plugs the people into their past, solidifies them in the present, and propels them toward their future.”

Now in our case African people our cultures were interrupted first by natural collapses, and then incursions from central and west asia causing in some cases a total cultural collapse. Bringing specifically to those cultures that were caught up in the slave trade and ended up in America, our culture and many of the ROP systems were the casualty.



Now another point that I want to hit on before we move fully into discussing the ROP as a resource in connection with Ujamaa. I want to point out that other cultures will move in on a culture and warp it into a subculture that serves it. With this being done, people who have been placed into this subservient status now only know how to serve the dominant Culture. Even if serving the dominant culture means destroying yourself and feeding your children as a sacrifice to the dominant culture. This is what GNJ was formed to talk about and come up with methods to combat this and reawaken our culture to jump start our life giving ROP traditions. The hardest part has been getting people within the subculture here in America to realize that they are working against their long term good, even if they are receiving short term benefits.

“This potential has been interrupted by natural collapses and incursions from central and west asia causing in some cases a complete cultural collapse”

#NguzoSabaChallenge

Economics is about managing resources, and culture is the ultimate resource. The way that culture grows is through passing on the accumulated knowledge to the following generations. Once again the mechanism for passing on culture is the ROP. So for us to really get a hold on our future, we must go to our past and resurrect the ROP process, and if needed update it for the modern world. The issue for our people is again to get them to realize what is going on. Because we have been disconnected so long that we don't recognize that we are being programmed against ourselves. We have fallen into the Universal vision of humanity that has a core that is pure white supremacy. History shows us that the culture of white supremacy does not play well with other cultures in the play pin of humanity. So for us to believe that this common vision that we have been fed is really going to work out for us is going against all the documented history that we have. We must form our identity from our cultural roots, and immerse ourselves in the vast wealth of who we were, deal with who we are , and shape who we will become.

“The way that culture grows is through passing on the accumulated knowledge to the following generations”

We will continue this conversation tomorrow and look a little more into the purpose of ROP, and connect it back to the idea of Ujamaa.

#NguzoSabaChallenge

I am trying to adjust to my new schedule, and on some parts of it I am victorious but on other parts..... My goal was to switch the time of my show, and do it in the evening so that I could have more time in the morning, but now I am tired and dragging throughout the day. I also wanted to spend time doing Folktales & Proverbs on the Wisdom platform, but that is not working. I also am trying to get familiar with some new software that will help with my blog, it works well but I lost a whole article and had to rebuild it. Thank goodness I backup all my stuff on Gdoc. By the way the tobacco beast has taken a bite and is holding on, so that is also complicating the whole thing. So that is enough of my woes, now it is time to take another dive into the culture. I hope that you are getting some value and inspiration from these discussions. Remember we are not just talking about these things to just talk, we are having these discussions to make changes first with ourselves, and then by our practice, transform the world around us. I believe that this is the real alchemy that the ancients spoke of.

"I know that my way of life is a bit different than yours, but if you want to know more then listen and learn."

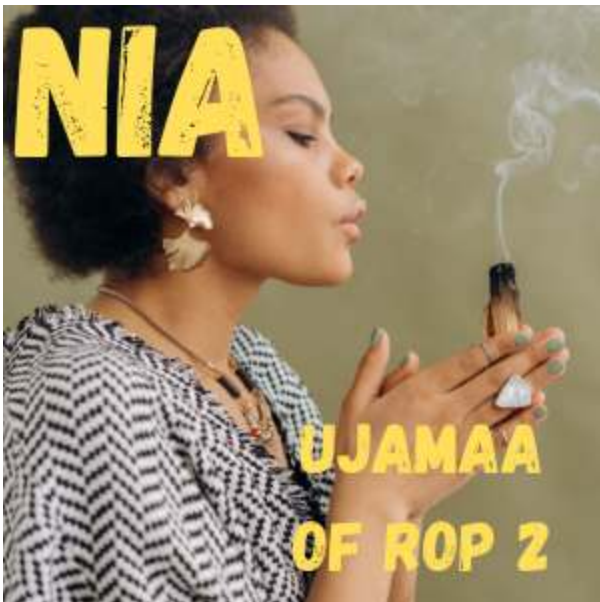
First I need to state that I am not anti religion, but I am skeptical of the way much of it is practiced in our community. Although I have run into many believers who are using their faith for tribe and nation building in a powerful way. The issue that I have is that many traditions are caught in the past, and give their followers no means of dealing with the reality we exist in. All of the tools that they use, build up the faith and the structures of the faith rather than building up the men and women. Any belief system that can ignore and train the people, especially Black folk, to ignore this world and worry about their individual salvation is in my opinion wrong. Black folks need to be guiding their prayers, meditations, and rituals toward the liberation of our people.

"What if you could actually create these rituals and training that taught you how to deal with this world with the tools that have always been in our culture?"

#NguzoSabaChallenge

Yesterday we spoke about ROP as a resource that helped cultures maintain their structure, and help them survive and in some cases even thrive. Now I want to look more at the Nia of the resource of ROP. Just imagine that each generation entering this world had to start over from zero. I mean that in order for you to live you had to learn everything you needed in your lifetime. Life would be very hard. There would be very little progress if any, we could sit right here and create a list of things that we would not have as a civilization. Progress is necessary, but can only be maintained if information is able to be created, stored and passed forward. This is part of the function of the ROP to culture. The ROP also passes the group's way of seeing the world, how the group should be protected and how individuals are supposed to operate within the group. This helps maintain an orderly society where progress is possible.

"The Nia of the ROP is not just some myth, but a real power that can change your life."



The culture learns and passes what it has gathered down to the people, and the people in return grow and develop better methods of protecting and growing the culture. This goes on for generations as long as the environment is hospitable, and the people are not subjected to a larger and more powerful (or violent) group. The Culture through its myths, folktales, proverbs, etc. gives the group meaning and purpose, The ROP gives the training to its group so that they are able get a glimpse of the meaning, and move the group toward fulfilling its and their purpose.

"The culture provides the people with meaning and purpose."

Just like human beings, cultures have purpose, and when that purpose is pursued that group can become powerful. But just like human beings, cultures have to be able to learn, adapt, and overcome issues. This is where the resource of the ROP is supposed to really kick in. ROP is a lifelong process that happens within a people in a visible & invisible fashion.

#NguzoSabaChallenge

The ROP is much bigger than the ceremonies and the rituals that people hear about, or in some cases try to duplicate. The ROP is a lifestyle that is embraced by the group from cradle to grave. Many of the lessons that the people go through happen in daily life, and they receive the lessons vicariously. This is why myths, legends, folktales, proverbs, lore, clothing, music, etc. is important to a culture because through all of these things, lessons are flowing to the people involved with the culture. In fact, to truly conquer a people you either must destroy their culture (which means exterminate all of them), or warp the culture to serve you. But cultures if not totally destroyed can and will rise again. They will hide in the knucks, and crannies of the carrier's mind waiting for an opportunity to affect someone else. Even in servitude cultures are always striving to come back, and in their return bring the golden resource of ROP to begin producing its adherents. We can see this fact with us here in America. Our culture is calling to us, and many of us are rising up and forming tribes to plant the seeds of the culture in the mind of the young.

"You will become more successful if you understand the ROP of your culture and the people."

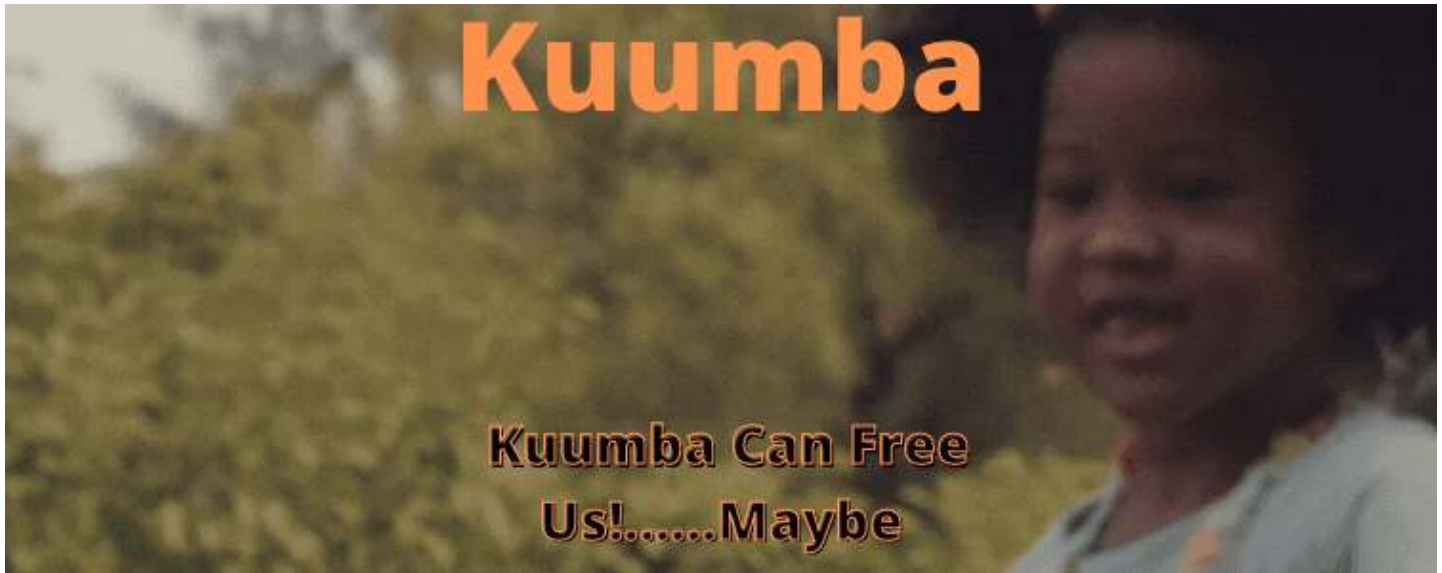
"ROP: embracing culture building as a generational practice."

ROP is for Black folks in America an overlooked treasure. It is a method of spreading our culture back into the hearts and minds of our people. Many folks do not realize all of the ROP like events that we have going on in our lives right now that are "one knowing person" away from being totally taken over by us. ROP can be found in religion, sports, cooking, eating, music, dance, education, social services, and etc. all of these things have to do with shaping culture. The question is for whose culture are we being shaped, and who benefits. If what we are doing does not directly benefit our people in the long run then it is clear that the practice is not for us, but does not mean that it can not be co-opted by us and redirected to the service of our people. By embracing the fact that Culture building is a generational practice we can take some of the pressure off of ourselves.

Yes we can and should see progress in our lifetime but we have to understand that change takes time, and of course go back to the GNJ mantra.... Be the change you want to see. Plug into a tribe that has a serious ROP, not just a show for grants. A group that is taking this resource of ROP and using it to liberate minds, and walk within our principles.

#NguzoSabaChallenge

These groups are forming all over the world, and if there is not one near you, then that simply means part of your Nia now is to become a builder. Don't be afraid GNJMedia is here to help you. We have been putting out content just for you for years. We have over a thousand blogs on our site GyeNyameJourney.com, we have over a thousand podcasts on speaker stations, and we are currently creating content on a daily basis. You can join us on the "Daily Toast" to get your day started, or even better you can get on our Email list.... But the absolute best choice is to become a supporter of ours, and get access to all of our digital content which includes 4 books that are based on Plugging into our Culture & ROP. We at Gye-Nyame Journey aka GNJMedia are not "new to this, we are true to this"!!!!



Kuumba Can Free Us!.....Maybe

Great Kuumba:

It is the start of another day, and I want to greet you and thank you for checking out this blog and hopefully you have joined the email list or maybe even considered becoming a supporter. We have made it to our Kuumba post and eventual show. We are in the week of Ujamaa and it flew through. I can't say it was easy, but it was fast. In changing up my schedule I have thrown myself totally off, right now I am at my adventure, and have on the wrong day shirt. I guess it will take a few more weeks before I am totally in sync with my style. Every day I am trying to create content of value for you to get and use. The most surprising thing for me is that I am not a Kuumba baby, because I spend a lot of time at her altar. Each and every day is a creative event for me so believe me when I say I am no stranger to Ms. Kuumba. Now Let's get to the discussion.

"Ujamaa is about more than just living in a community. It is truly about working together and sharing."

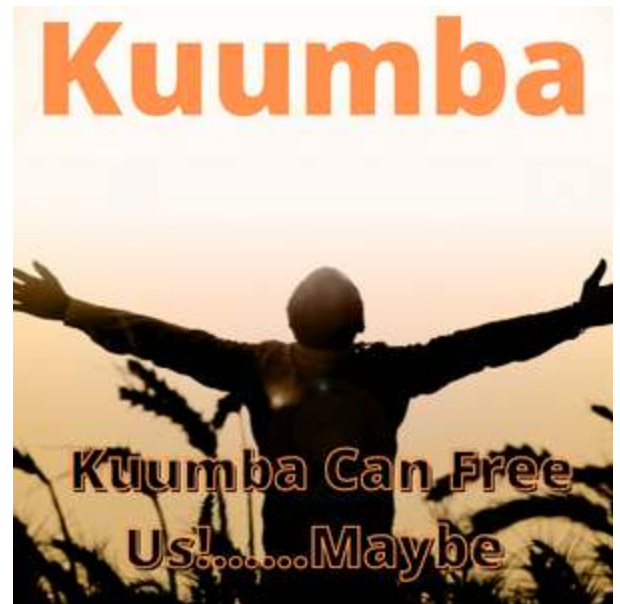
#NguzoSabaChallenge

We are on the principle of kuumba during the week of Ujamaa (We are also in the year of Kuumba), and I don't think that I really have to explain the connection between these two principles. Ujamaa is about Cooperating and resources. Learning how to bring our resources together in the community and build something lasting, but in order to build we need Kuumba. The creative spark that lies within each of us. The mother of our imagination and innovation. How can we seriously consider harnessing our resources without consulting the Mother principle. It is from her womb that the universe sprang. Kuumba is the divine spark that connects us to the creator, which gives us the ability to show and share the divine power of creation.

"We need to bring Kuumba back to bring back Ujamaa."

With Kuumba we are able to take the little we have, and create value that we can exchange with the world. It is the use of Kuumba that will enable us to move our community from the state that it is in, to what we want it to be.

Unfortunately it appears that people are either ashamed to use their Kuumba or it is being sold for pennies to uplift others. When we start pulling our minds together and learning to focus (using our ujamaa) we can do incredible things. We have to first stop being afraid of being initiated by kuumba. Kuumba requires us to get past our fear of failure and embarrassment, if we are not willing to suffer for the power to create we don't get it. If we are ever going to solve the issues around Ujamaa in our community it is going to come from people who have tapped into their creativity.



"With Kuumba we are able to take the little we have, and create value that we can exchange with the world. It is the use of Kuumba that will enable us to move our community from the state that it is in, to the state we want it to be!"

#NguzoSabaChallenge

What is incredible to me is that it appears that our communities are overflowing with the blessing of Kuumba, but we only seem to be able to harness this power for others. This is a throwback to the situation I mentioned in the last two articles. This demonstrates that our culture has been subjected to a stronger or more violent culture. We have been educated to overlook what our Kuumba can do for us and can only manifest it to serve the master culture. For us to break this spell we first must begin to plug in to our true culture and allow the principle to take root within us. We need to be able to give it time and space to come to fruition, but this seems like an impossibility because all of our time is being bought for the service of other causes and cultures, and we don't own our space. Although this is a bad situation it is not unbeatable. This requires us to do something that sounds easy, we must begin to love ourselves. We have to put in the true work of love and not the window dressing that we have become accustomed to. Real love requires being able to forgive ourselves, and our community. It requires empathy for ourselves and our community. It requires us to serve ourselves, and serve our community. Love has been turned into a show that delivers nothing but a show rather than the underlying power that gives us and those around us the courage to plunge ourselves into the fires of the initiation of Kuumba.

"When we love ourselves, our power grows and out of this place we can begin to harness our culture and give it to ourselves so that we may serve the needs of our community instead of everyone else."

In fact the more I step back and look at our peoples situation I am beginning to pick a showy, sitcomish feel. I am noticing more and more people performing roles, rather than being authentic. They are acting as if there is an invisible audience watching, and they will do anything to satisfy this audience. If you don't "stay awake" you will fall straight into the roles. All that has to happen is for someone to come in with their emotional energy and people are falling out of alignment. This is why it is important to pull the 5 parts into alignment and stay focused, because a single part out of balance can pull you into the mad show and before you know it you have wrecked a few relationships, and may have changed the course of someone's life. Know... Think about the fact that all of this is in the realm of Kuumba.

#NguzoSabaChallenge

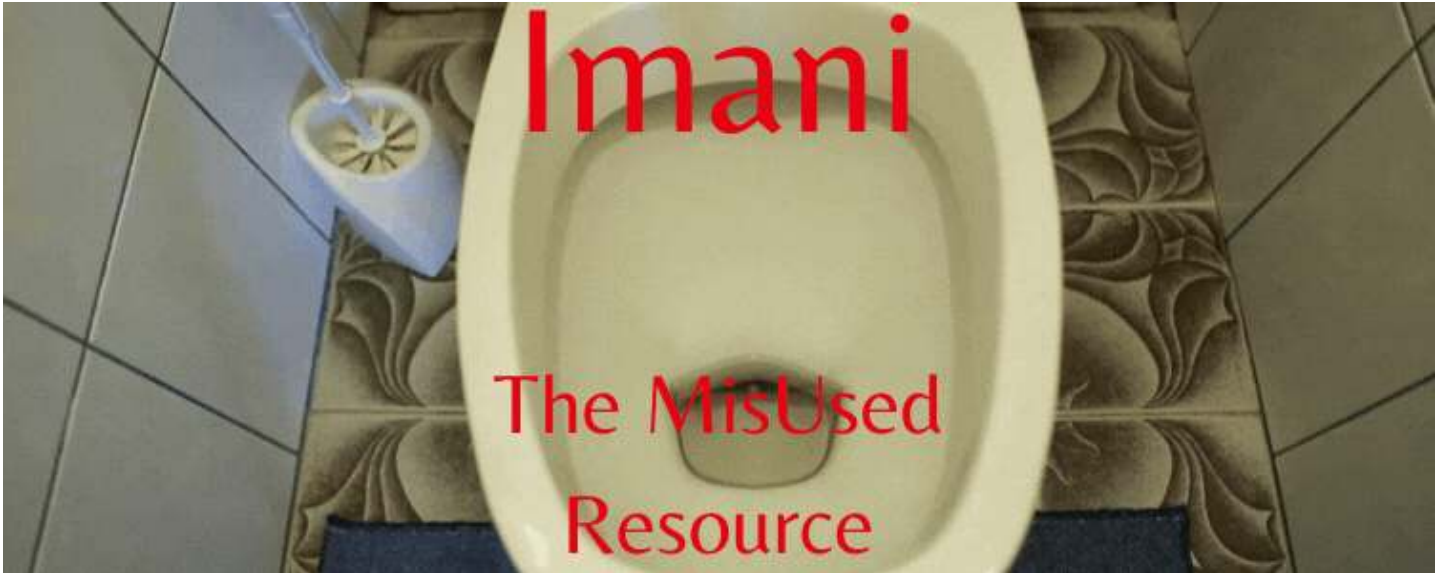
Instead of the energy being guided toward building up what's ours, it is moving toward destruction. In fact we refer to these situations as drama! Drama is defined as a play for theater, radio, or television, first, then it is an exciting, emotional, or unexpected series of events or set of circumstances. We have people's whole life being guided by this out of control creative energy, that is usually caused by the imagination, thoughts, prayers, and action of the person in the middle.

"Being a responsible citizen is an act of rebellion. The more we build up what's ours, the more we are considered socially deviant by the status quo, and the madder they get, because they are losing power."

The major challenge for those on the GNJ Journey, conscious lifestyle, or Kwanzaa lifestyle is simply walking away. The people that are involved in these dramas are skilled actors and will pour it on so that you will believe that you have to get involved. The goal for you is to remember who you are, and pull on your own Kuumba to get out of these situations. Because they have nothing to do with getting you, your tribe, or your community free. Learn to use your Ujamaa to pull on some of the resources that you have in your life to help remove you from groups and help remove people like this from your life.

"You must remove the signs and the people who are distracting and detouring you from your spiritual journey if you want to live a radically better life!"

To close out the basic idea of this post and if you are a supporter podcast is that Kuumba is the Mother principle, and we need to understand that Kuumba is inextricably connected to Ujamaa and without her our potential for success will be greatly diminished.



The MisUsed Resource

Great Imani:

We have hit the final day of Ujamaa and it has been an exciting and trying week, but we have made it and we will continue building in the weeks to come. I once again want to stress my Gratitude (the M-7 principle for the principle of Ujamaa) for those that take the time out of their busy schedule to read these blogs. I know that time is precious so I will continue to bring content that you can use as well as think about. I have to always remember as well as you do, that the goal should be to always bring as much value as possible. Since we are striving to free ourselves first internally then manifest that in the world, I want to look at the misused power of Imani. Imani is the principle that talks about Faith, Belief, and Trust. These are principles that have rode with our people and boosted us up when we needed it. Now is the time for us to talk about this resource and how it is being misused and possibly how we can direct it toward helping us in building a better world.

"Imani is one of the principles that makes up Ujamaa. This principle talks about having Faith, Belief and Trust. However, how many times do we reject that notion and look to things outside of ourselves to believe in?"

#NguzoSabaChallenge

In Gye-Nyame we talk about being a generational people, which forces us to deal with the world differently. As generational folks we have to put our spiritual work into making our lives and those in our tribe lives better. Because for us we are coming back, not only are we coming back, we are coming back in the same bloodline. This simply means that if I leave my family broken, my community in confusion I will suffer with it, because I am coming back to deal with it! So my spirituality has to be modeled on the idea of building something worth coming back too. So if I'm focused on my individual salvation I'm not necessarily concerned with what is going on with my family and tribe.

"In Gye-Nyame we talk about being a generational people, which forces us to deal with the world differently."

Our spirituality has become a perfect seat for the capitalistic predatory system that we live in. It has come down to worrying about a single being, rather than a collective doing better. In fact some people use their faith to separate themselves from their people, choosing to see the Universal truth not realizing that the universal truth has a juicy center full of white supremacy. Us buying into faiths like this does not help us.

"Our spirituality has become a perfect seat for the capitalistic predatory system that we live in. It has come down to worrying about a single being, rather than a collective doing better."



#NguzoSabaChallenge

"I am because we are " is not just a quote to throw out. It is a way of seeing the world and guiding our lives. We have to begin getting back into listening to our Ancestors, and connecting with our people. Now I know this is not easy, and it would just be easier to divest out of the madness and worry about you, but if you have any young people around you that you love and want them to exist in a better world, should you not be working on building that. The best way to do this, I believe, is to live like you have to come back. Then you will be forced to right the wrongs that you have put in motions, even right the generational wrongs that your bloodline may be or have committed. Also this would force your hand to deal with those things that affect the lives of those you cherish, like the education, justice, prison, social etc., that directly affects them. Rather than sitting on the sidelines waiting for paradise. We have to stop and refocus our spiritual energy on building something greater. We can easily see the power of belief, because we exist in several systems that can only run in the way they do because we believe in them. What if we were to decide in our small pockets of people to focus some of our spiritual energy into us rather than into the world. We could overthrow injustice in a matter of days.

"We must return to our Ancestors and live like we are to come back."

This is not as hard as it sounds, our Imani is waiting to be energized for us rather than working against us. Right now because we are surrounded by a system of oppression, and we are bombarded by its reinforcement, we spend our belief, faith, and trust on things that cost us our lives, and happiness.

We have spiritually powerful people in our communities using their spiritual Knowledge and faith breaking down our community, and waging war against others that look like them, rather focusing that energy on beating down this system that holds them in their clutches.

"Let's not get hung up on who we are in love with and rather start creating communities of Love that elevate our own people, taking a stand against everything that kills us and annihilating institutions, policies, and ideas that harm us."

#NguzoSabaChallenge

I have two major examples of this one current and the other over a decade old, but many of you can chime in and share your experiences. I Will share on the podcast so be sure to tune in and get the rest. You have a great Imani, and I will see you on Umoja for the Toast, and the oldman rant. By the way, I got my site fixed so you should not have a problem getting to it.

Proverb Of The Day

Umoja - While the sun is shining, bask in it.

Kujichagulia - You can see the fowl's innerness when the wind is blowing.

Ujima - Work is good, as long as you don't forget to live.

Ujamaa - What you cook with dislike is what your bound to eat.

Nia - The man who counts the bits of food he swallows is never satisfied.

Kuumba - The two hardest things in life to handle are success and failure.

Imani - It is childish to remain in a hole when you can take yourself out.

Folktale Of The Day

Umoja - The Ass In The Lion Skin

Kujichagulia - The Sparrow & The Hare

Ujima - The Flea & The Ox

Ujamaa - The Goods & The Ills

Nia - The Dove & The Crow

Kuumba - Mercury & The workmen

Imani - The Eagle & The Jackdaw

Exclusive Podcast for Supporters

- Umoja - The 5 Most Powerful Resource
- Kujichagulia - How To Use Kujichagulia (Finding Your Way)
- Ujima - Building Your Tribe
- Ujamaa - Ujamaa Of Rites Of Passage
- Nia - Ujamaa Of Rites Of Passage 2
- Kuumba - Kuumba Can Free Us!.....Maybe
- Imani - Unused Resource

The Gye-Nyame Tribe is an African Centered Organization, born of the will to survive and thrive as a people and community. Our approach is simple: We develop a stable, historically centered and healthy group of people who survive, create and grow economically. This provides us with the power to attain territory that we can call our own, where we can develop a distinctive culture and language in common. We are a tribe. Our mission is to protect and defend our people, land, and the creation of a new future for our children. We are about excellence. We will go to any length to earn the fear of our enemies and the respect of our friends. In peacetime we grow stronger, learning new skills so that we will be prepared for war. We hide in plain sight as everyday citizens so that no one knows who we are or what we are capable of until it is too late.

Are you interested in joining an Afrocentric tribe? We're here to help you determine if the Gye-Nyame tribe is a good fit for you.

Learn more by signing up for our free ecourse:

Day 1 - Unleashing The Power Of The Nguzo Saba - The Player's Pyramid

Day 2 - Understanding How To Use Folktales, Myths, & Legends - Folktales For GrownFolks

Day 3 - Wisdom Mining - Tribal Quotes

Day 4 - Power Of Libations - Daily Toast

Day 5 - Pulling It All Together - Warrior's Hand Book To Life's Journey

Day 6 - Power Of Meditation - Meditation By The #'s

Day 7 - The 224 Self Help Process & 21 Day Nguzo Saba Challenge

RESOURCE