

## **“I am NOT my ancestor’s wildest dreams; they are my wildest dreams!”**

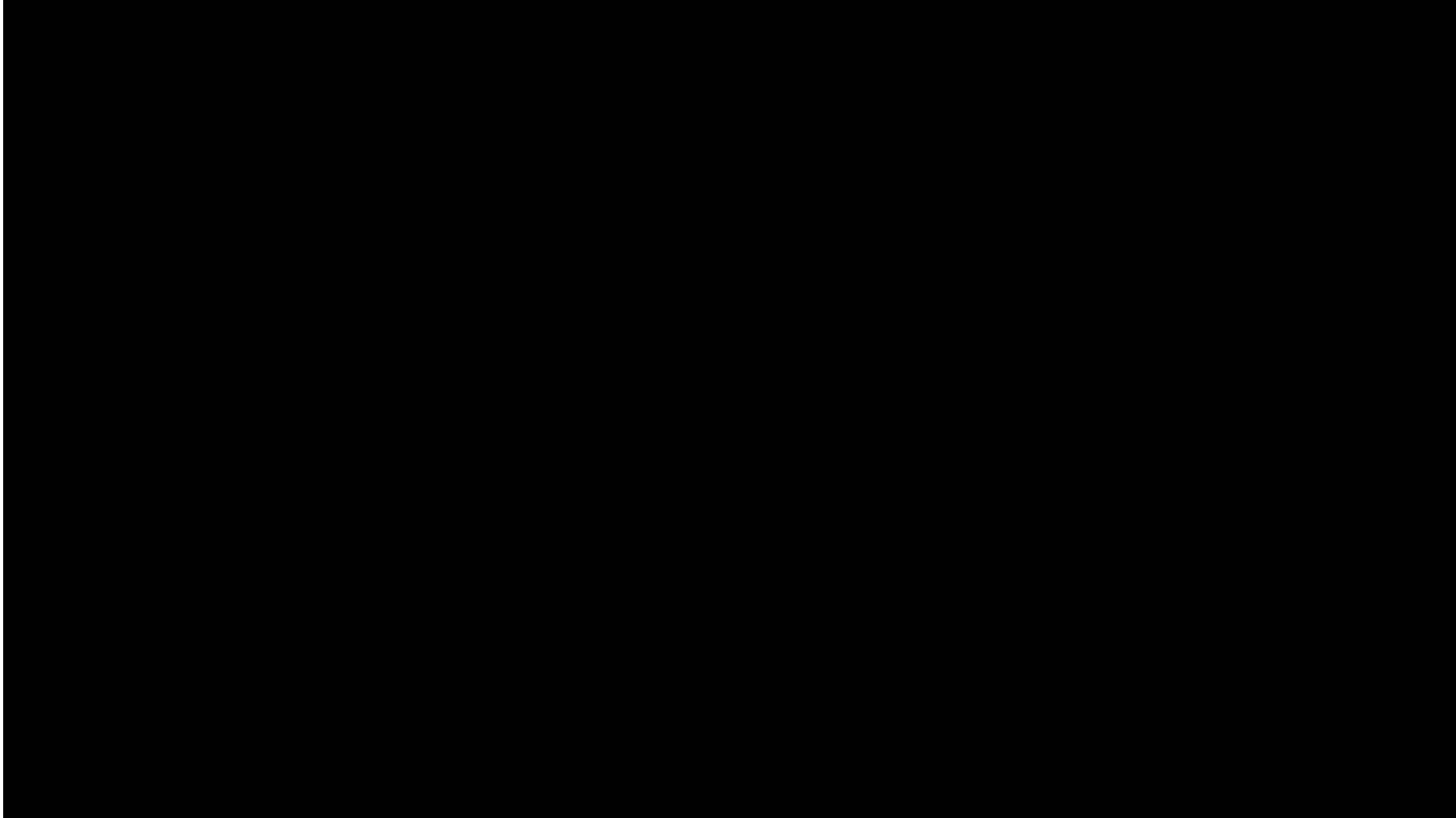
“I am NOT my ancestor’s wildest dreams; they are my wildest dreams!” This statement offers another perspective to the all too familiar declaration, “I am my ancestor’s wildest dreams.” Join us as we grow deeper in our understanding of ancestors from a traditional African perspective. In community, we will explore how a change in perspective can illuminate and deepen our connection, love and ancestral obligation to those that came before us.

### **Presenters:**

Mwalimu Denise Marshall-Mills, Cosumnes River College  
Sharnette Brooks-Davis, CRC Instructional Assistant  
Nalani Kennedy, CRC Umoja Diop Student  
Jemirah Dillingham, CRC Umoja Diop Student  
Annais Wallace, CRC Umoja Student

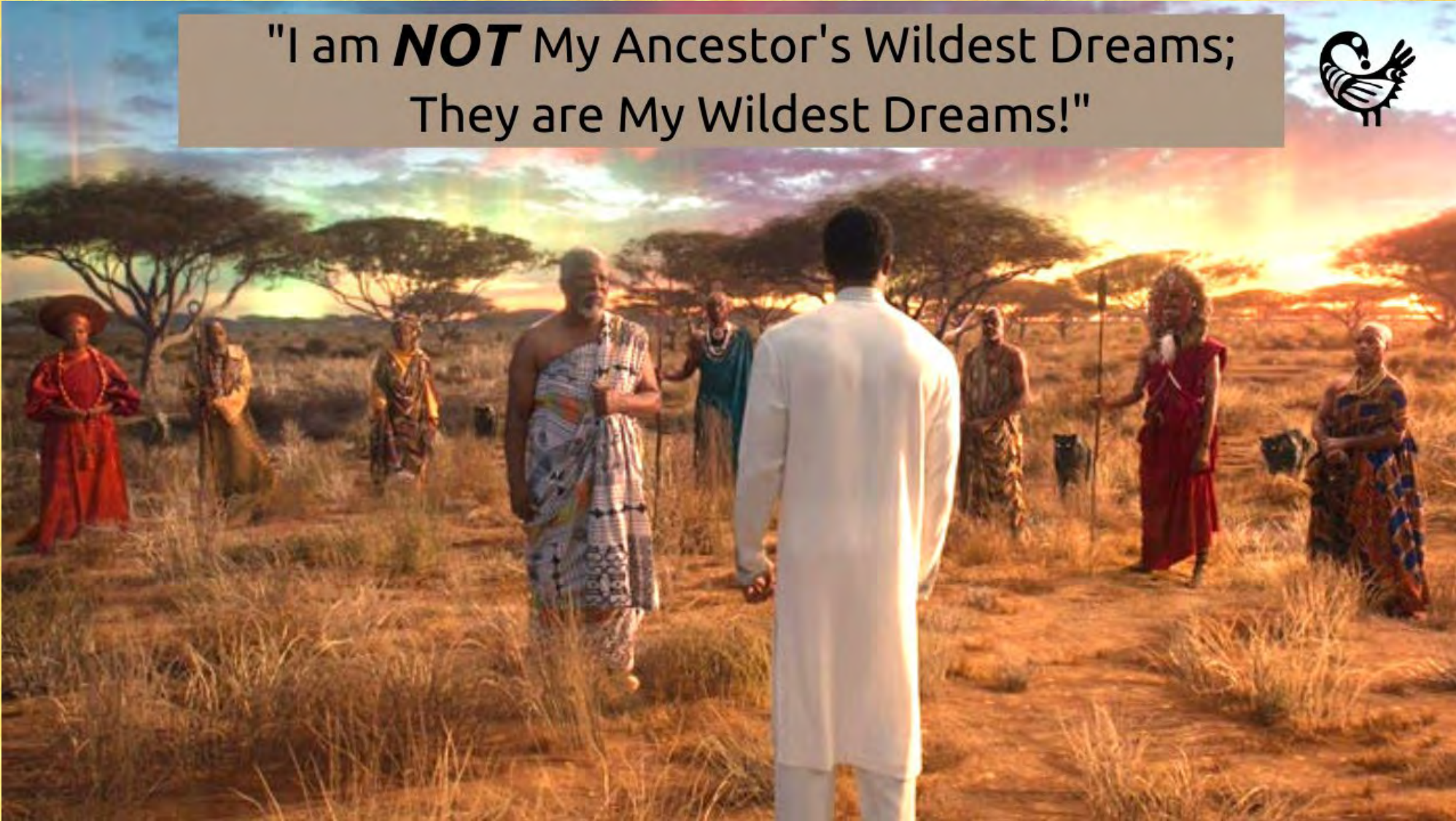
# African Drumming Song - Ancestors Forever!

## Mababu Milele





"I am **NOT** My Ancestor's Wildest Dreams;  
They are My Wildest Dreams!"







## Prayer to the Ancestors

**Baba Asa G. Hilliard III**  
(August 22, 1933 – August 13, 2007),








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This statement offers another perspective to the familiar declaration, *“I am My Ancestor’s Wildest Dreams!”* Join us as we grow deeper in our understanding of ancestors from a traditional African perspective. In community, we will explore how a change in perspective can illuminate and deepen our connection, love and ancestral obligation to those that came before us.








# Umoja Diop Scholars Cosumnes River College

Mwalimu Denise Marshall-Mills, Umoja Faculty  
Sharnette Brooks-Davis, Student Assistant  
Jemirah Dillingham, Nalani Kennedy, Annais Wallace,  
Umoja Diops Scholars







## Introductions

Who are you? Who are your people?

Take a minute and write the names of your people in the chat.

Parents

Grand parents

Great- grand parents







Intent:

To offer another take on the more popular statement... *"I am My Ancestors Wildest Dreams!"*

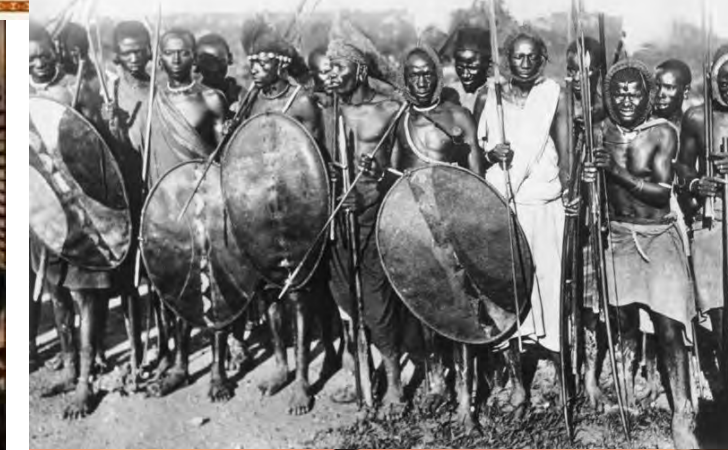
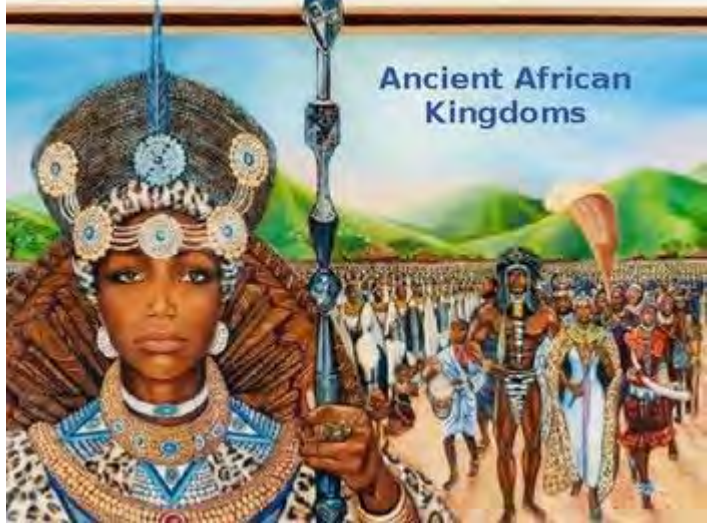
To remind us about the necessity and value of knowing who and what came before us.



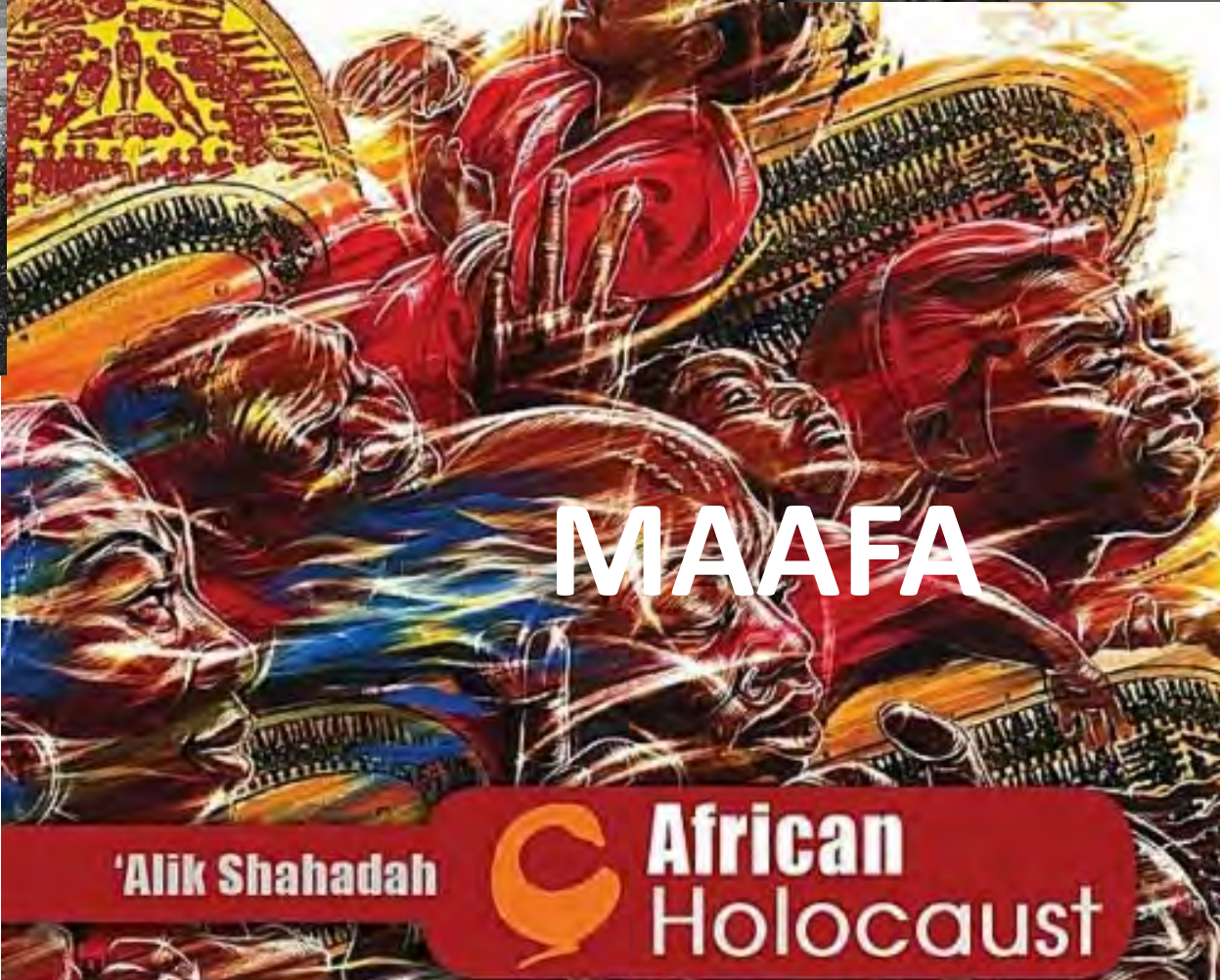
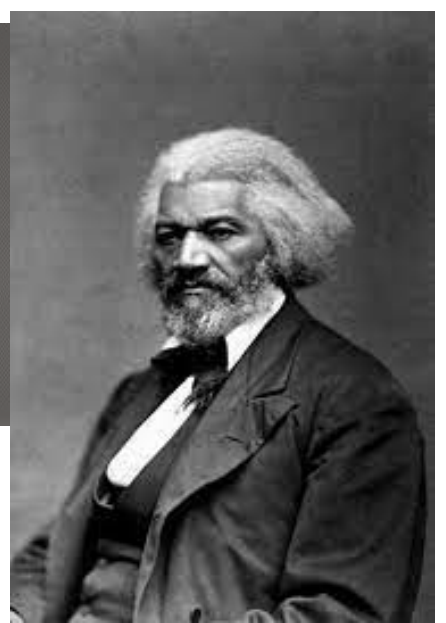
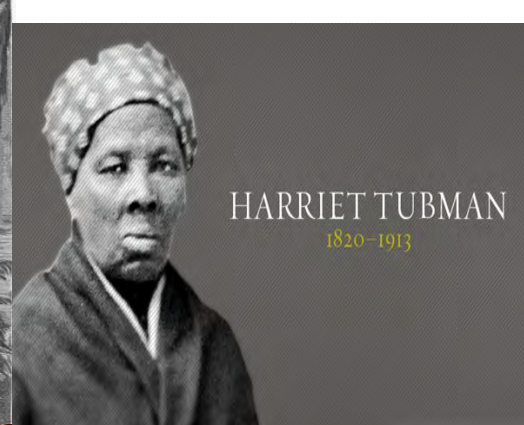
To honor our ancestral obligation











[African Holocaust:: Maafa](#)  
by 'Alik Shahadah



# Maafa:

- Kiswahili word, means great tragedy, great disaster
- African Holocaust of Enslavement, Black Holocaust
- Describes the history & ongoing effects of atrocities inflicted on African people
- Used to describe effects of slavery & 500 years of suffering in the African community  
Much more than the Middle Passage, Transatlantic Slave Trade
- Marimba Ani, *Let the Circle Be Unbroken*

Asante Sana (thank you) Ancestors





Vietnamese



Native American



Japanese



Chinese



Latinx



*"I am **NOT** my Ancestor's Wildest Dreams; **they** are My Wildest Dreams!"*



"I have a incredible debt to pay."

"My ancestors have asked me to do something."

"When I acknowledge my ancestors, I acknowledge myself."

"I am my ancestors!"

"I carry both their trauma and their victories. "



Dr. Edward Bush, President  
Cosumnes River College





“I am My Ancestor’s Wildest Dreams.”



***"I am **NOT** my Ancestor's Wildest Dreams; **they** are My Wildest Dreams!"***

*Such a statement obligates us to:*

# Know history

# Know our history

## Know our ancestors

*When they lived?*

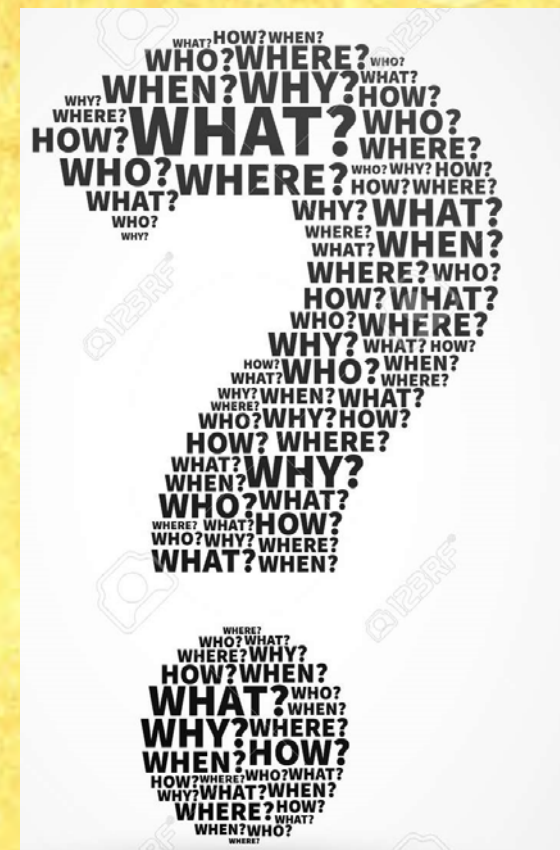
## How they lived?

*Where they lived?*

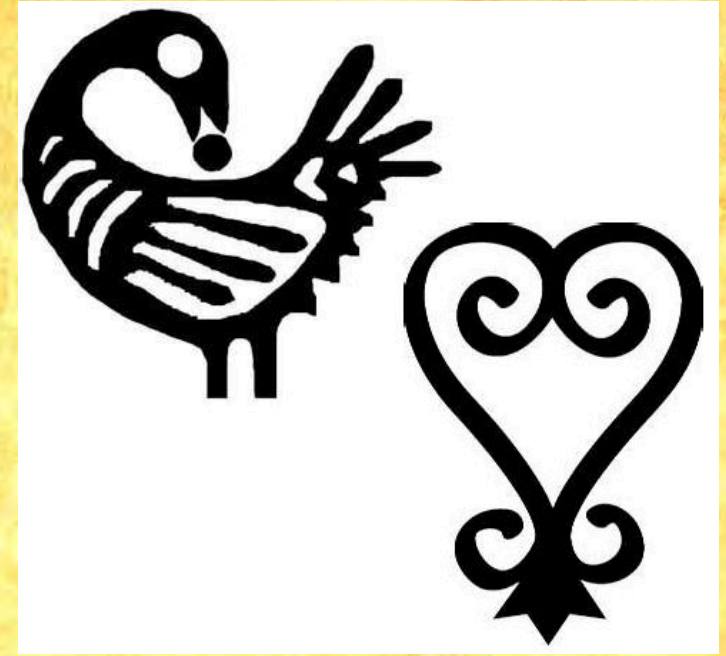
## What they accomplished?

## How they survived?

*How they were able to keep on keepin' on?*







Sankofa: Akan word translates to  
“*Go back to fetch it*”. Symbol of the wisdom of  
learning from the past to build for the future.





# Ancestors



The image features a central title 'Ancestors' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background is a textured, light yellow surface. The top and bottom edges are framed by decorative borders. The top border consists of a repeating pattern of red and yellow triangles pointing downwards, separated by black lines. The bottom border is more complex, featuring a repeating pattern of red and yellow triangles pointing upwards, with some triangles containing black circles or spirals, all separated by black lines.

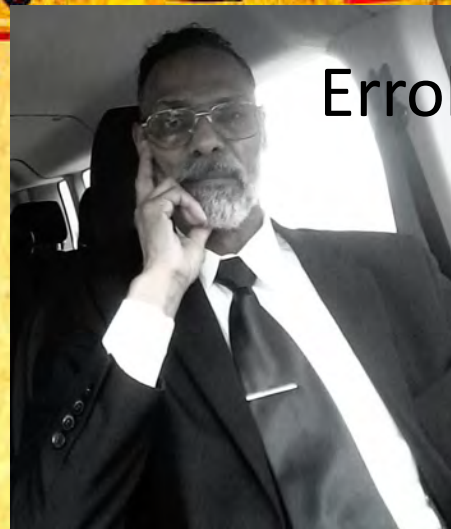




Joseph Duncan, Papa  
Louise Duncan, Gue-Gue  
Joseph Earl Marshall, Joe Baby



Big Mama & Big Daddy

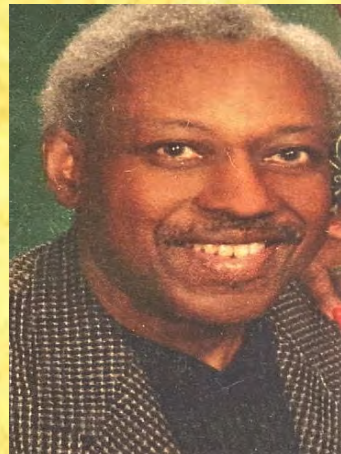


Errol Reece



Ruth Foster

Big Granny,  
Mattie Evans



McKinley  
Lloyd

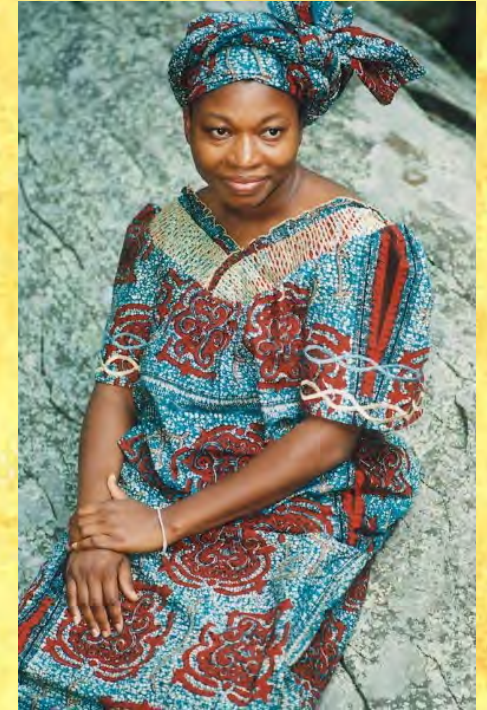
*Some of our Ancestors;  
our Wildest Dreams*



“If it is difficult for you to go to an immediate ancestor, you can go to what we call, ‘the pool of the ancestor.’”

“The pool of the ancestor has nothing to do with your genealogy; it can be anyone who is an ancestor. It can be the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr, and all the brave, ‘crazy’ women who encouraged women to speak up and not let their voices go silent.”

**Sobonfu Some’**, Dagra people of Berkino Faso







Queen-Mother Yaa Asantewaa



Malcolm X, el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz

Louise Taylor  
“Mama Lu”







**In traditional African worldview  
life is a cycle of birth, death  
and rebirth, meaning spirit  
never dies, just as physics teaches  
us that energy is never destroyed  
only transformed.**

**The ancestors  
are no longer present in the  
physical but still can  
communicate with their  
descendants and act as  
spiritual guardians.**

Ancestral Voices Esoteric African Knowledge 2013







*Peace to my Ancestors and my Elders...*

*I walk in your Legacy, Strength and Power  
Today and EveryDay*

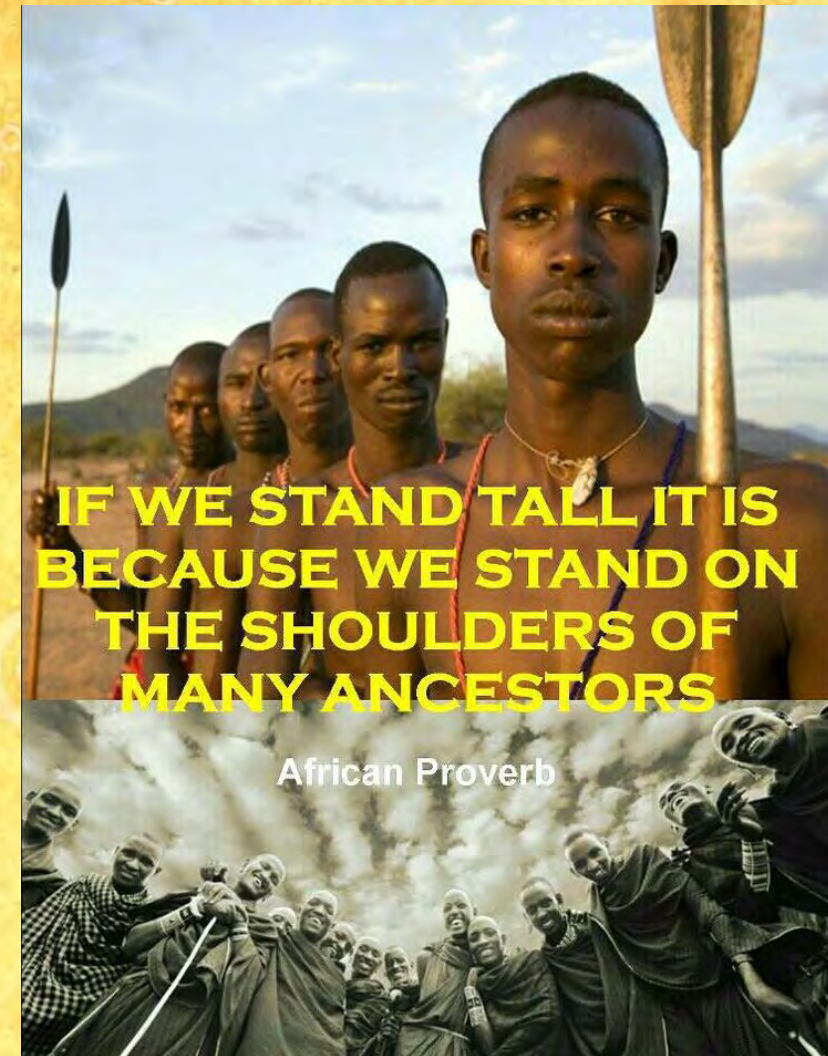


***“Walk like you have 3,000 ancestors walking behind you.”***

***African Proverb***

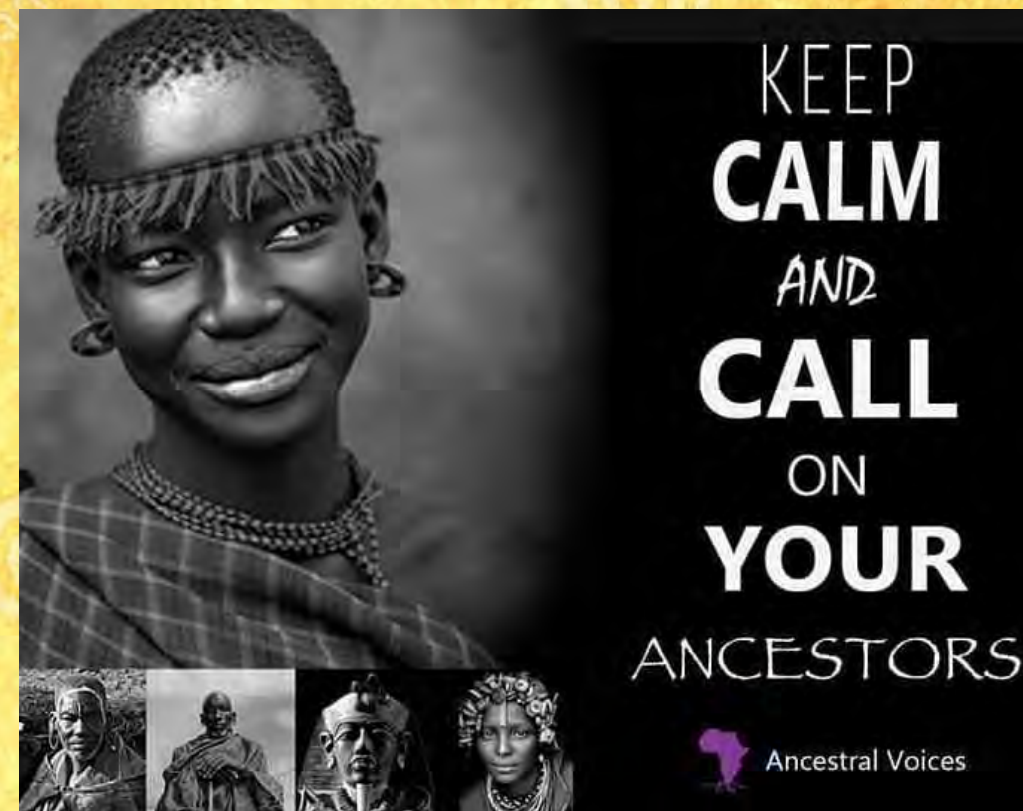








My Ancestors  
endured too much  
for me to be  
indecisive about  
my power







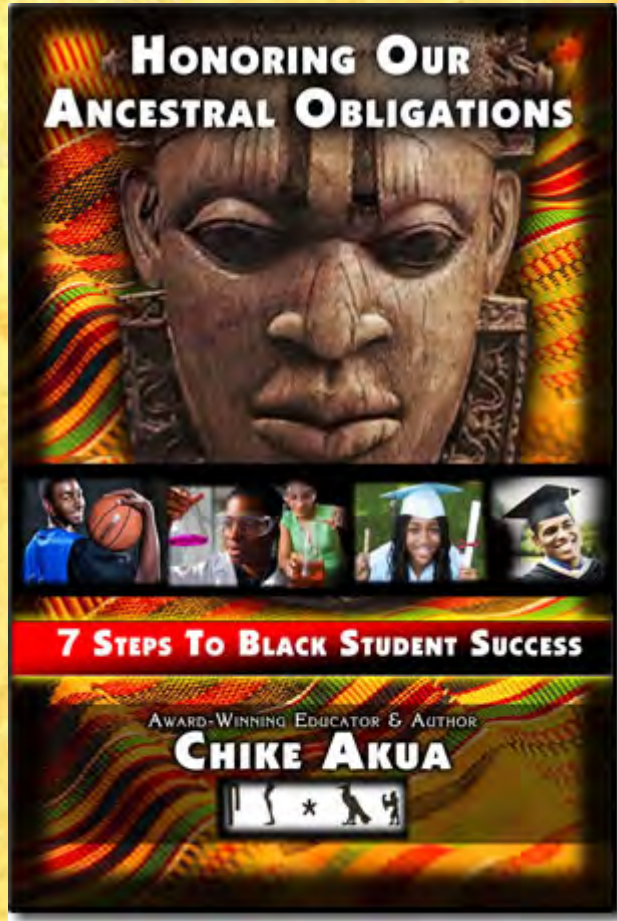
**LET US BE THE  
ANCESTORS OUR  
DESCENDANTS WILL  
THANK.**

**- WINONA LADUKE -**

“

[www.pepquotes.com](http://www.pepquotes.com)





Honor: to show deep respect

Obligation: is a responsibility one has that must be done without question

So to honor our ancestral obligation we must first know our ancestors





# Honoring Our Ancestral Obligation



The image features a central title on a textured, light yellow background. The title is flanked by two decorative borders at the top and bottom, each consisting of a repeating pattern of red, yellow, and black geometric shapes. Faint, diagonal watermarks with the word 'dreamstime' are visible across the background.





Say their names

Talk about them, tell their stories & thank them

Honor them by how we live your life

Continue to do their work







## Ancestral Alter

A space a box or table. Cover the altar with the following:

- White cloth

- White candle

- Fresh glass of water

- Photographs of relatives you would like to venerate



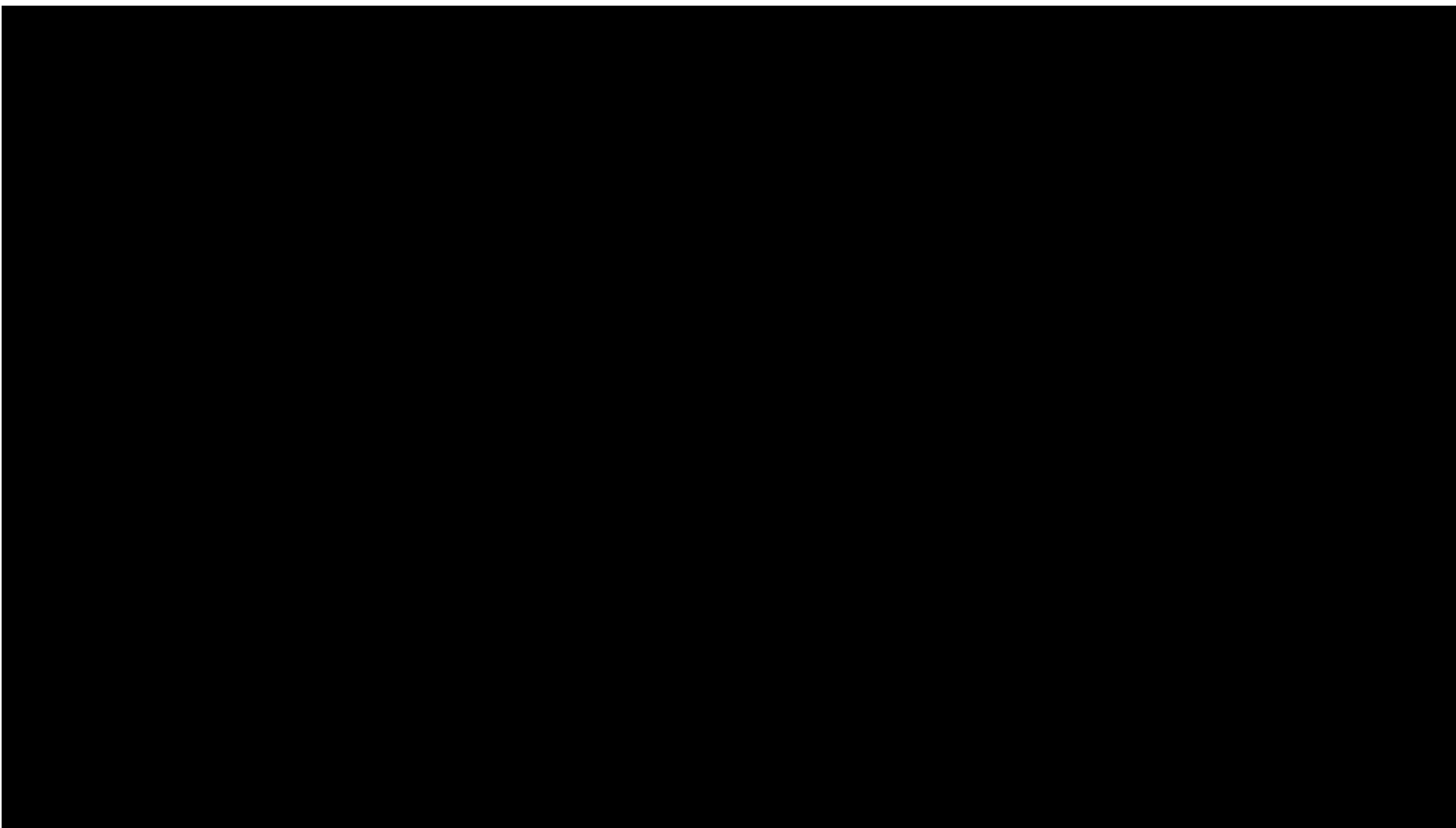




# Creating a Pledge to the Ancestors









# Pledge

We are an African People.

We will commit to learning about those before us;

re-establishing our roots so that we stand firm in the truth of who we are.

We will honor our ancestors by remembering their courage, perseverance, and their struggle.

We will promote independence, self-determination and a sense of purpose within our community.

We will create new values, love, and unity amongst ourselves.

We will stay focused, celebrate our people, and reassess our goals along our journey.

We will model after our ancestors before us to set foundations for our children and descendants to come.

We will triumph over any obstacles and we will succeed.

We can, we will and we must. **Ase! Ase! Ase!**





# Resources

Accessing the Wisdom of Our Ancestors: An Interview with Sobonfu Some', Randy Peyser

The Healing Wisdom of Africa; Finding Life Purpose Through Nature, Ritual and Community  
Malidoma Patrice Some, New York, Penguin Putman, Inc


<https://ancestralvoices.co.uk/communicating-with-your-ancestors/>

African Religions and Philosophies, Mbiti, J., New York: Anchor Press, 1970

Tapping the Power Within, A Path to Self-Empowerment for Women, Iyanla Vanzant Hay House, 2008,

<https://www.urbanlotusjewelry.com/blogs/musings/how-to-connect-with-your-ancestors>

Ancestor Veneration: What is it and why is it important? Shelly Richardson







# Closing Remarks



The background of the slide is a textured, light yellow surface. It features a repeating pattern of stylized, interlocking triangles in red and yellow, outlined in black, running horizontally across the top and bottom edges. Faint, diagonal watermarks with the word "dreamstime" and spiral icons are visible across the central area.



