

Review of Blue Skies for Afrikans

Brother Ifayomi raps out an exhaustive debate that outlines the links between Western Materialism and its Patriarchal form of cultural imperialism, that was first dissected by Franz Fanon and later autopsied by Ngugi Wa Thiongo as he advised Africans how to decolonize the mind from the cultural perils of White domination. A potent and relevant theme explored by retracing the roots of an Afrocentric heritage back to a compassionate and nurturing Matriarchal, Woman centred social order. The search for lost treasures that is part of an ongoing consequence of White Supremacy and its World devouring Market forces that call themselves Global Capitalism.

The author takes us on an inter-disciplinary journey that uses a range of studies and evidence drawing on Sociology, Psychology, economic theory, and political strategy. The heart of 'Blue Skies' is the ongoing project of many Creative Black thinkers, and intellectuals who are struggling for some cohesive vision of a Black Future free from the hegemony of White Supremacy that has subjugated all non-White people as part of its main agenda, whether for economic reasons, or just out of fear of a Black Planet.

The author cites White Cultural jealousy, Racism, and Black susceptibility to hegemonic schemes, and our ignorance of our own history, culture, as the potential root causes of our collective, and individual problems as Afrikan Diasporans in the West. The anti-dote is the continual striving of the Black inspired Soul towards a liberating Self-Awareness based on Cultural Autonomy or Cultural Integrity as described by Amiri Baraka. A knowledge of Self that puts you firmly on the path towards an inclusive and synergetic Spiritual value system, that both reflects and respects study, and ancient tradition, within a nurturing Female centred society, based on an adopting notion of the extended family.

The overall work is a field holler calling for a humane, and Hue-man value system, that says, 'Mek we leggo da Bling- and mek we do our own ting widh an Afrikan swing.' It has been all too easy in recent years to lament the demise of what I once knew as Black Consciousness, but now I think along with the long standing work of people like Martin Glynn (Dr. G) and his work on Rites of Passage, and the work of brothers like Abdullah Uhuru, Nottingham seems to be birthing the seeds of a new renaissance in progressive Black thought that could sway that downward trend.

Blue Skies For Afrikans takes up this mission of Love and Light and runs with it, straight into the line of fire holding up the Sankofa bird, as it's symbolic banner.

Muhammad Khalil.

April 2006