



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**ALKEBU-LAN:** One of the oldest names for the continent of Afrika

**ANKH:** Kemetic symbol that means and represents life through the unity of man and woman

**AKWAABA:** Akan word that means, “Welcome”

**AMEN-RA:** A Kemetic term for The Creator. Literally the “Unseen/Hidden One”. This is where the term “Amen” in Jewish and Christian prayer, and “Amin” in Muslim prayer

**AFRIKAN\*\*:** People who self-describe or are described as Afrikan, Afrikan-Caribbean, Afrikan-British, Black-British, Mixed-Parentage, etc.

*“All people of Afrikan descent, whether they live (or were born) in North or South America, the Caribbean or any other part of the world, are Afrikan and belong to the Afrikan Nation.” – ‘Osagyefo’ President Kwame Nkrumah*

**AFRIKA\*\* (circa 100CE):** Derived from a Roman word meaning ‘stalks of corn’/‘without cold’ and an Arabic word meaning ‘place where the sun always shines’. Also Latin term Africanus, from Africa terra; Land of the Afrikans

**AFRIKAN DIASPORA:** The term used to refer to wherever Afrikans live outside the Afrikan continent in significant numbers e.g. Brasil, North America, Caribbean, India, Europe, Australia

**ASANTE (SANA):** Swahili word that means ‘Thank you’ (‘very much’)

**ASHE** (pron. Ash-ay): Usually said in Tambiko or Libation ceremonies which means, “So let it be”

**BABA:** A word that usually means ‘Father’. Afrikan men who are fathers are often addressed with ‘Baba’ followed by the name of their first born e.g. Baba Safiya (Father of Safiya). Sometimes the word is used as a term of respect for Afrikan Elders e.g. Baba Marcus Garvey.

**BCE:** Before the Current, Christian or Common Era

**BLACK:** “Intensely dark in colour (opposite of white); destitute of light; obscure, angry, gloomy, dirty; dark-skinned, or of pertaining to the Negro race (term offensive in many countries)...atrociously wicked, disastrous, dismal, and mournful.” Source: Cassell Encyclopaedia Dictionary 1991 CE

**CE:** The Current, Christian or Common Era

**ETHIOPIA:** Derived from the Greek language: “The people with sun-burnt faces”. Ethiopia was once used to describe the whole continent of Afrika. The present day Atlantic Ocean was once known as the Ethiopic or Ethiopian Ocean.

**HOTEP:** Kemetic (Ancient Egyptian) word which means “Peace!”

**KEMET:** The ‘Land of the Blacks’; now incorrectly known as “Egypt” – derived from a Greek word. Kemet, or Kmt was the name the Afrikan who lived there gave the land.

**KUSH:** Ancient name for the present day Ethiopia

**KWANZAA:** Afrikan cultural celebration that takes place December 26<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr Maulana Karenga developed this celebration rooted in Afrikan harvest culture in 1966 CE.

**LIBATION:** For Afrikans, Ancestors are the focus of deep respect. The pouring of libation involves the pouring of liquid, water or clear alcohol (e.g. gin) whilst offering a prayer to The Creator and homage to the Ancestors.

**MAAFA:** Ki-Swahili term to describe a terrible and disastrous event or situation e.g. the kidnapping of our Ancestors from our Holy Motherland Alkebu-Lan, and enslavement abroad

**MAMA:** Word that usually means, “Mother”. Afrikan women who are mothers are often addressed or greeted with this word plus the name of their first born; e.g. Mama Malaika (Mother of Malaika). Sometimes the word is used as a term of respect for Women Elders e.g. Mama Sojourner Truth.

**MADASI:** Ghanaian term that means, “Thank You”

**MWALIMU:** Ki-Swahili word meaning, “Teacher”

**MWANAFUNZI:** Ki-Swahili word meaning student or pupil

**MA’AT:** Kemetic/Ancient Afrikan Law. Represented by a Woman with wings and a feather in her hair – sometimes a stool symbolic of authority; Ma’at represents 42 declarations of virtue and 7 principles: Truth, Justice, Righteousness, Balance, Harmony, Good Order and Reciprocity.

**NANGADEF:** From the Wolof language that means, “Greetings”, “Hello” etc

**NDADA:** Ki-Swahili term that means ‘Sister’

**NDUGU:** Ki-Swahili term that means ‘Brother’

**“NEGRO”:** A derogatory and insulting term imposed on Afrikans by the Spanish and Portuguese in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century CE. Taken from the Latin niger, nigris meaning black. Rooted in the Greek word Necro=dead. Greeks said Afrikans communed with the dead through Libation/Tambiko, which they called Necromancy.

**NUBIAN:** An Afrikan people from the land of NUBA, present day Sudan.

**TAMBIKO:** Swahili term for LIBATION

**TENDAI MWARI:** A term from the Shona language, spoken mainly in some south eastern regions of Afrika e.g. Zimbabwe; terms means, "Thanks be unto the Creator"

### **\*\*Why spell Afrika with a K?**

An analysis by: **Dr. Kwame Nantambu**

According to the Afrikan-American poet and writer Haki Madhubuti in his From Plan to Planet (1973), there are basically four reasons to spell Afrika with a K.

They are:

1. Most vernacular or traditional languages on the Continent spell Afrika with a K. K is germane to Afrika. Acclaimed Historian, Kemetologist (and now Ancestor) Dr. Chiekh Anta Diop explained that the cultural unity of Afrika was best demonstrated through the phonetic relationship evident between Bantu languages; languages the majority of Afrikans spoke. Importantly, Bantu languages use a 'K' instead of a 'C'.
2. Europeans particularly the Portuguese and British, polluted Afrikan languages by substituting 'C' whenever they saw 'K' or heard the 'K' sound B as in Kongo and Congo, Akkra and Accra, Konakri and Conakry B by substituting Q whenever they saw KW. No European language outside of Dutch and German has the hard 'C' sound. Thus, we see the Dutch in Azania calling and spelling themselves Afrikaaners.
3. The 'K' symbolises a kind of Lingua Afrikana, coming into use along with such words and phrases as Habari Gani, Osagyefo, Uhuru, Asante, together constituting one political language, although coming from more than one Afrikan language.
4. As long as Afrikan languages are translated (written) into English, etc., the European alphabet will be used. This is the problem. The letter 'K' as with the letter 'C', is part of that alphabet, and at some point must be totally discontinued with the original name of Afrika used. The fact that Boers (peasants) in Azania also use the 'K', as in Afrikan to represent the hard 'C' sound demonstrates one of the confinements of the alphabet. Azania is the original name for South Afrika.

Shem Hotep ("I go in peace").

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**NB:** Merely changing 'C' to 'K' when spelling Afrika is not sufficient in itself for the reclamation and restitution of the Afrikan struggle. It is a small, but important part of our efforts to resurrect and re-instate our historical, linguistic, social, political, economic and spiritual Afrikanity.

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