

## **FOR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH: Remembering What We Already Know**

*Nene Kwasi Kafele*

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**W**e must:

- Impress on our children and youth that there is a circle of Afrikan centred adult love that is here for them; to nurture their spirits, coax their innate genius and to provide loving direction and consistent support.
- Support and encourage their appreciation and understanding of the importance of Eldership and of community. To use our grandmothers and grandfathers to build awareness, connect with our history and reinforce our positive cultural traditions.
- Reinforce for them that they are an important part of an amazing and still-unfolding historical legacy of achievement, resistance, activism and progress, starting from the very beginning of humankind.
- Demonstrate to them that they carry within their genes the program for greatness and that Afrikan people are achieving every day despite the odds. We want them to know that they can be anything they want to be.
- Show them how to value, respect and support life, to build up that which is positive and to be strong and proud of who they are.
- Consistently glorify and promote their innate beauty and uniqueness and show them that we define our beauty, our self-worth according to our standards and criteria, no one else's.
- Actively support and promote their spiritual, emotional and physical health and balance, and encourage them to be confident and culturally self-assured in a world that makes this a challenge.
- Teach them and model for them everyday that anti-Black racism and oppression have nothing to do with their value or competence as human beings regardless of how they are treated.
- Teach them about the pain of racist tyranny that our fore parents and Ancestors confronted and that members of our community deal with all the time; so that they understand how to use it as a springboard to surviving and thriving in an uncertain world.

- Lean them away from self-destructive, unhealthy, self-hating behaviors and lean towards peace and balance. Fill them up with good energy and optimism to balance the harsh realities that many of them deal with every day.
- Prepare them with all the basic skills necessary for negotiating an increasingly complex, interdependent world. We encourage their interest in scholarship and excellence for the betterment of the family and the community.
- Lovingly build their awareness of and reinforce their pride in their root; to know Afrika; the Afrika inside of them, around them, the international Afrikan family and the Afrikan continent.
- Support and encourage their understanding of their role in respecting and preserving *Asaase Yaa* (Mother Earth), in collective responsibility, in challenging injustice and in working with other communities to build a better future for all for all of us
- Model for them in our daily lives, the behaviour, life style and Afrikan centred values and ethics that we wish for them to emulate.
- Pray that they come to know themselves, come to get anchored in their true identity and be positive forces for good.

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