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Reclaiming the Village through Education: Re-awakening — Tell Your Story

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Abstract

How does one reclaim a village? This piece is about filling an empty space. A soul left to wither and die from knowledge stolen generations ago. I am only one person on a quest to reclaim knowledge meant to nourish my soul and generations to come. A journey which no one who has not experienced the emptiness, can understand. Imagine, never at rest because of the yearn to learn, just who you are. So many souls left to wither away a slow and painful death. To die of starvation is a painful death. The pain from hunger, the body craving nourishment, yet none in sight. Grabbing and clenching at your core leaving your body doubled over from pain. All life activity ceases to be carried out with clear focus because the nucleus of all human consciousness is centered around a basic need, nourishment. After all what is a body with no nourishment? An empty shell. The village, the place of protection and nourishment, once known is no more. This colonized environment has continued to snuff out the light of my people’s souls. The light has grown so dim we are losing control of who we once were, but there is power in our stories. We can keep our flames burning through our stories. Sankofa, retrieve what was ours, go back, get your knowledge and return. Reclaim the village.

Sankofa (pronounced SAHN-koh-fah) is a word in the Akan Twi and Fante languages of Ghana that translates to “retrieve” (literally “go back and get”; san - to return; ko - to go; fa - to fetch, to seek and take) and also refers to the Bono Adinkra symbol represented either with a stylized heart shape or by a bird with its head turned backwards while its feet face forward carrying a precious egg in its mouth. Sankofa is often associated with the proverb, “Se wo were fi na wosankofa a yenkyi,” or “Sankofa w’onkyir” which translates as: “It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten.”[1][2] It implores for Africans to reach back into ancient history for traditions and customs that have been left behind.

