



AFRICA-FRIDAY REFLECTIONS

"AFROCENTRIC THOUGHT"



WHAT SORT OF MESSAGE ARE WE LEAVING FOR OUR CHILDREN?

AFRICA THABA.

“INTENT is everything to me. We are living in a world where the livelihood of the people comes LAST. Decisions are made, NOT based on what is believed to be RIGHT for the people, but on how to control and OPPRESS the people. I pray that one day we will TRULY have LEADERS, instead of ignorance pretending to be nobility. More compassion. And deeper understanding. Please.”

I greet you all in the name of the powerful question which begins our most important conversation today. The world seems to be plunging into deeper decay, and while all of this occurs, the very same institutions created to lead us, are following the same fate. We seem to be spiralling in somewhat of a cycle and yet every time we come around, the damage is far more significant.

Where are our leaders? Who are our leaders? We look to church for a response

and in return, we receive manipulation and fraud; we turn to our schools and we see battlefields; students and teachers alike, frustrated, angered and damaged. We turn to our own homes for counsel, but instead we are faced with poverty, unemployment and violence. Where, oh where, are we to receive this leadership we are so desperately in need of?

The problem begins as always internally, for as long as an individual does not possess any bit of self-determination, coupled with self-belief, will they care enough to understand that their actions actually affect the next person in real ways. In essence, when you are on a destructive path internally, you are destroying more people in the real world every single time you engage with them. Equally, when you are on a positive pilgrimage, you will affect every individual with the same energy you carry. This unfortunately impacts all of us for WE ARE ONE. Whether outspoken or shy, your response is heard by many more generations to come. But where did this problem come from? Where did we lose our leaders? Did we have them at all?

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The problem began when we began associating wise counsel and leadership exclusively with certain roles in society: your teachers, preachers and of course the most influential, the politicians. While we were frantically looking to associate guidance to these roles and positions, along the process, we forgot that these roles and positions are filled by humans just like you and I, meaning that they can change; meaning that at any given moment, you could be the individual to fill this position.

What then happened, was the unfortunate reality that the wise counsel we believed was attained by these positions and roles, was actually knowledge that came from the people behind the positions, and instead of appreciating the knowledge from the source, we assumed that anybody in that position would fulfil the same duties with the same level of diligence.

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What was left ultimately were position-less leaders, and as a result of the preconceived notion of wisdom and guidance coming from certain positions, these leaders had no longer a platform to which they would inspire the community and lead them to a fruitful future. Instead, in their positions emerged

individuals who saw an opportunity; a chance to gain this power and platform, but rather than occupy these positions for the betterment of the greater common good, their own egotistical desires gained priority.

A previously powerful notion of leadership tarnished in return for some temporary pleasures that bring nothing but division and animosity amongst society. As the true leaders faded darker and darker into the abyss of anonymity, the frauds took over - in the classroom; in the family lounge; in the church; on the playground; on our screens; EVERYWHERE. A mass pandemic aimed at destroying the greater common good of the community, while promoting the egotistical needs of the individual. And as expected, the individuals benefitted. Martyrs of material, the rich, elite and wealthy. As they got richer, they began growing paranoid, fearful of the reality that people would see beyond their false promises and fraudulent leadership, and remove them from of these sacred positions.

Because like the rest of society, they knew and holistically respected the power and influence of these positions, so instead they vowed to ensure that they would never lose the power and source to material wealth. Thus the infamous “cadre deployment” theorem manifested into reality.

Positions were to be protected by all means necessary to ensure that the new purpose for these positions would continue undisturbed. Genuine leaders would attempt to once more occupy these positions and rebuild the little credibility these institutions carried, however, faced by a common conglomerate of greed and manipulation, no genuine leader would ever occupy a position of power again.

But for today, I would like to propose a remedy to this seemingly impossible battle against maladministration and flawed leadership. And much like the problem itself, it begins within, inside you reading this right now. We can all recall listening to the wise counsel of any given person, and eventually asking or wondering why exactly that person was not in a position of leadership, or blessed with that platform. However, the root problem begins with our undying respect for positions.

We need to understand that power and guidance comes from within and not through a job description. We all have an individual responsibility to the greater common good of the community. But how can such a responsibility be achieved if at every given opportunity we choose to give our power away to those who have no regard for the wellbeing of our destiny?

Everybody has a positive contribution to the uprising, whether it is through art, academia, family or anything under the sun.

THE TIME FOR PASSIVITY TOWARD OUR OWN FUTURE HAS PASSED. This is no longer about us. Ask yourself this: what sort of message are we leaving for our children?

"THE TIME FOR PASSIVITY TOWARD OUR OWN FUTURE HAS PASSED."

For our rich heritage, wisdom and untapped potential, what are we leaving behind as a symbol of our respect to the struggle? We are birthed into pre-existing ambitions, dreams and expectations that were forged long before our identity was part of the collective.

We have always been a part of the plan. The way has been paved by our ancestors, who knew of our coming. Through this knowledge, they were able to prepare the ground and soil to ensure that the seed would grow in a garden free from anything that will threaten its blossom. Resources, in all forms of manifestation, were left for us on the earth. An abundance of gifts and abilities sacrificed to ensure that we would reap them.

Now the garden is in our hands; the pendulum has once more shifted and the responsibility is now unto us. What are we doing today to ensure that the future of this destiny is protected by any means necessary?

Our passive mentality toward leadership is compromising our destiny. Our inability to unite in prospect of the common greater good will only keep the broken cycle spinning evermore. We need to once more respect the power of constructive collective problem-solving, and respect the reality that we all have a responsibility in ensuring that our future is invested in and protected.

We often speak of generational wealth and yet we limit this wealth to a mere financial material accumulation. Abandoning the unspoken pillars of life: respect; accountability; creativity and love. Without these internal values, we will continue to plant dead seeds in this fertile earth.

WE ARE ALL LEADERS and we have to respect this responsibility. Some of us will ultimately assume these sacred positions of power as our destinies dictate, and when we occupy these positions, we must do so with the utmost integrity, keeping in mind the lives of our children, immediate and for those millions of years yet to come. We are all children of mother nature, and we have to make sure that we take care of our siblings at all times. Love each other as we love ourselves, and through this collective love will we grow stronger and greater.

The power as always lies in our hands; why should we waste it for temporary materialistic gains? You have so much more to offer this beautiful life than the ignorance you give.

Rise, child of the soil; rise and build on the land your ancestors have built for you, so that you may be an ancestor praised and not cursed when the pendulum swings once more. Whatever you do, do it through love for unity. Everything under this sun is connected, and the one thing that connects us all is love. So when given the platform to bring about change, do so. And make sure that the seed you plant in this garden will bear fruit for many generations to come. Motho ke motho ka batho. Amandla Leadership!

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