

**Canadian Yearly Meeting,  
Religious Society of Friends  
King's Edgehill School, Windsor, N.S.  
August 20, 1998**

**Agenda**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Diversity: Do We Really Want It?**
- 3. Overview of Historical Periods of Africans in America**
- 4. Secular Efforts towards Racial Harmony today**
- 5. My Own Spiritual/Cultural Journey**
- 6. Worship Sharing on Evening's Theme**

**Is there aught of culture which is eternal?**

**Do I really want diversity?**

Cesley Reed

# The Canadian Friend

Guests of my life—  
You came in the early dawn,  
and you in the night  
Your name was uttered by  
the Spring flowers  
And yours by the showers  
of rain.  
You brought the harp  
into my house  
And you brought the lamp.....  
After you had taken your leave  
I found God's footprints  
on my floor

TAGORE

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Quakers in all their diversity



**"Now let me say that the next thing we must be concerned about if we are to have peace on earth and good will toward men is the nonviolent affirmation of the sacredness of all human life. Every man is somebody because he is a child of God." - King**

"In my model of epistemology (how do we communicate what we have come to understand) I must profess to be eclectic. My answer will no doubt be, who's my audience. I am attempting to be well schooled in the various cultures of knowing. I can speak in cognitive/linear terms well enough to secure six-figure funding from government sources to secure the health of community programmes, I can speak in affective rhythmic terms well enough to 'get a witness' when preaching to an all Black congregation, I am familiar enough with 'the way' to be quite conversant with my Asian friends and Buddhist coworkers and I am learning to feel the folk wisdom of my ancestors in a way that heightens intuition and needs no explaining (so it seems with my traditional native friends - so much so, that little has been written from a first person perspective on Native epistemology)." - Wright

**"And now the torch is passed. Each generation sees a little more through the cocoon, and each generation reclaims a little more of the history and culture." - Asante**

## I, Too, Sing America

I am the darker brother  
They send me to sit in the kitchen  
When company comes,  
But I laugh,  
And eat well,  
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,  
I'll sit at the table  
When company comes.  
Nobody'll dare  
Say to me,  
"Eat in the kitchen,"  
Then.

Besides,  
They'll see how beautiful I am  
And be ashamed.

- Hughes

"We walk the way of a new level of freedom. We seek to no longer be victimized by others as to our place in the center of world history. We do this not because of arrogance but because it is necessary to place Africa at the center of our existential reality, else we will remain detached, isolated, and spiritually lonely people in societies which constantly bombard us with anti-Africa rhetoric and symbols, sometimes from Africans themselves who have been trained by the enemies of Africa." - Asante

"In the theaters gold cannot procure a seat for the servile race beside their former masters; in the hospitals they lie apart; and although they are allowed to invoke the same God as the whites, it must be at a different altar and in their own churches, with their own clergy. The gates of heaven are not closed against them, but their inferiority is continued to the confines of the other world. When the Negro dies, his bones are caste aside, and the distinction of condition prevails even in the equality of death." - de Tocqueville

## **5. My Own Spiritual/Cultural Journey**

**6. Worship Sharing on Evening's Theme**

**Is there aught of culture which is eternal?**

**Do I really want diversity?**

Chart of Robert S. Wright World View

World View	Axiology	Epistemology	Logic	Process
Afrocentric/ feminist, fundamental Adventist/ Universalist	Spiritual Kinship	Eclectic: How do we speak what we know? Who's the audience (Universalist?)	Anti-racist/ feminist	Providential investment

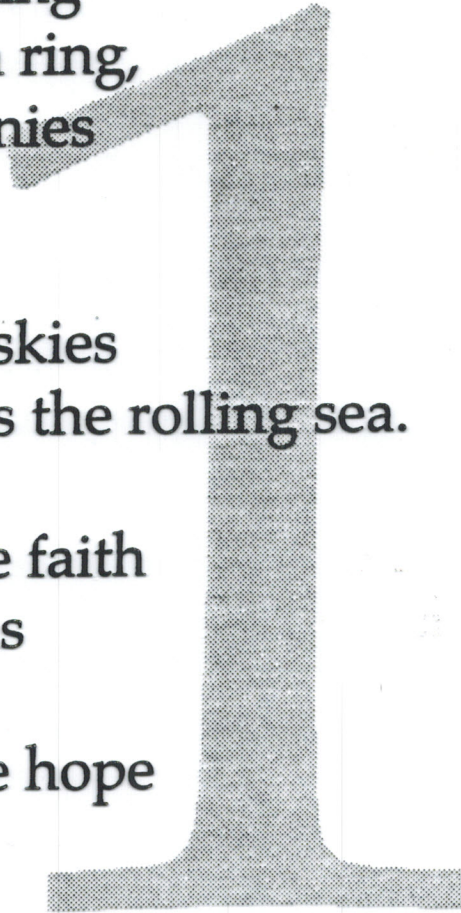
## **The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa**

1. **NIA (Purpose)** - To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
2. **Umoja (Unity)** - To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.
3. **KUJICHAGULIA (Self-determination)** - To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves instead of being defined, named, created for and spoken for by others.
4. **UJAMMA (Cooperative Economics)** - To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.
5. **UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility)** - To build and maintain our community together and make sure our sister's and brother's problems are our problems and to solve them together.
6. **KUUMBA (Creativity)** - To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
7. **IMANI (Faith)** - To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Lift ev'ry voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies  
of liberty  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith  
That the dark past has  
Taught us  
Sing a song full of the hope  
That the present has  
Brought us

Facing the rising sun  
Of our new day begun  
Let us march on  
Till victory is won.



Stony the road we trod  
Bitter the chast'ning rod  
Felt in the days when hope  
Unborn had died  
Yet with a steady beat  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which  
Our fathers sighed.

We have come over a way  
That with tears have been  
Watered  
We have come, treading our  
Path through the blood of  
The slaughtered

Out of the gloomy past  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam  
Of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us  
Thus far on the way  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light  
Keep us forever in the path,  
We pray

Lest our feet stray from the places,  
Our God, where we met Thee  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the  
wine  
Of the world, we forget Thee;

Shadowed beneath Thy hand  
May we forever stand  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.