

IN COMMEMORATION OF WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHTS DAY

By Joy Dumsile Ndwandwe

This year's World Book and Copyrights Day theme is 'In Books I find'. I dedicate this article to 92-year-old Credo Mutwa, author, historian and spiritual leader; with whom I spent a week at his homestead facilitating interactive learning between him and students from all nine South African Provinces, as part of IKSSA Trust Skills Transfer Programme from National Living Treasures and Indigenous Knowledge Holders.

Baba Credo Mutwa is a living African Library, who has paid the ultimate price of being a custodian of Indigenous Knowledge Systems; as his books have been targets for western knowledge holders, committed to suppressing African's greatness, to maintain the continent knowledge inferiority complex.

Credo Mutwa's lost his copyrights to knowledge mongers committed to ensuring that this prolific organic intellectual is their captive; and during our interactive learning with Mutwa, he out-rightly accused them of having attempted to kill him, as when dead his books would regenerate high revenue.

Why was Baba Credo's copyrights raided by knowledge mongers?

Credo Mutwa argues firmly on how Africa is the Cradle of Humankind and how in the beginning of time, other Africans migrated into Europe; the colour of their skin was affected by the cold weather, whilst other Africans migrated into Asia, hence the colour of their skin.

These are uncomfortable truths that are found in the books of African organic intellectuals like Credo, that are suppressed using power as control to ensure Africa's inferiority complex is engrained.

This inspiring prolific organic intellectual believed in himself and his eminent role of leading Africa out of knowledge captivity created by colonial and apartheid regime; designed to control and limit our imagination and appreciation of Africa's greatness.

The loss of copyrights reflects how Credo Mutwa was courageous to write uncomfortable truths during the tyranny of the Apartheid Regime, whose moral was power as control through suppressing all forms of knowledge affirming Africa's greatness.

In my view Baba Mutwa must be honoured by all Southern Africans as a hero in the struggle against all forms of captivity and suppression of Africa's knowledge, particularly Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

I honour Credo Mutwa for not narrowly understanding his role as being a renowned traditional healer with herbs and bones; for he explored healing with knowledge that resonates in our souls, constantly channelling God's wisdom



FAMILY SUPPORT: Joy Ndwandwe far right, front centre is Credo Mutwa.

of Africa's greatness. As Knowledge is the ultimate healer, and Baba Mutwa listened to God the ultimate source of all that is, hence his copyrights were raided by knowledge mongers.

This loss of copyrights reflects Baba Credo Mutwa being a writer when the legal profession was still limited to the few Africans; hence it was predominately a white dominated profession, rendering him vulnerable and unprotected by the law. Today, this lesson challenges the legal profession to engage copyrights law, to protect the many African writers who are challenging the status quo.

The legacy of Mutwa is an invaluable lesson on the role of authors, as contributors in knowledge creation towards developing conscious citizenry; that find in the book, knowledge that enables them to question leadership, religion, education and all social scarce resources. What should be found in books are uncomfortable truths that keeps leaders in all spheres of society thinking, particularly on what will written about their legacies in the future.

Lessons learnt during my March 18th to March 21st, 2013 encounter with Baba Mutwa

Baba Mutwa's Outfit sitting in the middle on Picture

According to Baba Credo all Sangoma's work for God, like Father they wore robes symbolic of their role: protectors of humanity.

The cross symbolises being a guardian of humanity, a knower of Stars, a keeper of the Sun, guided by God the lion of heaven and also guide mother of eternity.

A keeper of the serpent knowledge of self renewal, who is not allowed to kill, the protector of the young who rather die than witness the young being harmed, the keeper of high laws, and the chain is heavy symbolic of his spiritual responsibilities.

Conflicts in Africa

Baba Credo expressed how his heart is bleeding as African's are killing each other and this is contrary to the continents responsibility as the Cradle of Humankind;

blessed with harmony, balance, truth, interconnectedness since the beginning of time.

The perpetual conflicts in Africa evident in sexual abuses, rape, poverty, corruption, greed, conflict, wars, and xenophobia, indicative of African's failure to unite, as it is through unity that we can conquer the power that controls scarce social resources.

Most significantly being members of the Cradle of Humankind, means that we all come from the same source, God the ultimate source of all that is.

God within and not in the Sky

Baba Credo pleads with Africans to acknowledge the God within them, as they spend precious time and effort looking into the sky for God to provide solutions, and yet God is within them.

According to Baba Mutwa, Africans are God's people and it's time for them to realise who they are; in order to evoke the God within them, 'n'f'u' the soul that God sends into the world to learn to be 'umunfu'.

The acknowledgement that all African's have God within them, 'n'f'u' or soul will enable them to be cautious of how they represent the God within whilst on earth. They will be cautious on how they relate to themselves, and others, as it was revealed to Africans from the beginning of time that we are God's representatives on earth.

'Umunfu wa n'f'u' indicative of how we are God's representatives on earth, representing the God that is within us, hence we embody God and we do not require power as control to be true representatives of God.

Respect Women as Higher Spiritual Beings

Africans have from the beginning of time respected women as higher spiritual beings, who give birth, feed, find food and nurture children to understand the God within them. According to Baba Credo the word 'umkani' means she who is me in body and soul, she is more than me; and mama means she who is greater than I am, who produced me. Africa's greatness requires us to revert into respecting women as higher spiritual being, evident in the

Hence it was easy for Africans to embrace Jesus Christ, whom according to Baba Mutwa as Black; an utterance that resulted in his expulsion from Catholic school at a young age.

Africa's second Enslavement According to Baba Credo, Africa will experience a second invasion from Asians who have infiltrated African communities; they have businesses are in every corner of this continent including the villages and informal settlements. Looking back to the colonial era, when Africans aspired to be white, applied skin lightning creams and straightened hair.

Today Africans are buying synthetic and human hair to look like Asians, they buy traditional clothes from Asians; these trends of the second invasion are evident, as enslavement begins with cultural dilution and the illusion of how Asian is classy African is not-classy.

African Governments are signing bilateral agreements with Asian countries for infrastructure investments, and we are uncertain about how these poor governments will repay the loans. However these bilateral agreements are delaying the vision of a United States of Africa, which could result in the African continent as an economic giant as opposed to the economically weak individual states, with untapped mineral resources as primary goods.

African traditional healers must unite Baba Mutwa called for the unity of traditional healers, as the current disunity is creating a vulnerable healing space, hence the inability to find an HIV/Aids cure.

He also stated that the HIV/Aids virus was created in the laboratory, as Africans during famine and war survived on bush meat, which was monkey meat and there was no HIV/Aids virus.

This vulnerable healing space requires a strong association of traditional healers, who will protect their individual knowledge, whilst pulling their efforts towards the common objective of finding the HIV/Aids cure. His major concern is that advancement towards the HIV/Aids cure being short circuited by lack of unity, hence short term personal gains dominate healers whilst perpetuating pharmaceutical industry domination.

And yet traditional medicines within Africa, when co-ordinated in a cohesive manner, can produce a cure for the HIV/Aids.

Africa is a Prophetic Continent Lastly Africa is a prophetic continent; hence the African Renaissance must be about following God's foot path. This requires that Africans to stop hating, detesting and most significantly killing each other, but focus on working together towards following the God's path.

As we are still the same Africa that is decades ahead of the western world in our spirituality; hence it should be the mission of the African Renaissance to reclaim that spiritual leadership space. As the African Renaissance enables us to preserve our cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge systems, through acknowledging how they belong to those greater than ourselves.

use of 'khati' the great one when referring to women: indodana vs. Indodakhati; malume vs. malumekhathi; inkosi vs. inkosikhathi; common in most of the Bantu languages. Symbolic on how the feminine power is revered for its greatness as a moral protector and shield of humanity, when living according to spiritual principles.

Spiritual warfare on IKS

Baba Mutwa expressly stated that there is a spiritual warfare targeting Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS), as they challenge western knowledge; and he was poisoned because his books tell uncomfortable truths, which are being suppressed for they will empower Africans with self knowledge. He asserted how western Professors harvest the Indigenous Knowledge Systems and try to kill the indigenous knowledge holders, so that they claim that this is their knowledge.

This is fundamentally due to the fact that Africa has always been decades ahead spiritually from the western world; hence we were colonised and dehumanised, to feel vulnerable and at the mercy of western development and Christianity.

IKS does not contradict Christianity

Indigenous Knowledge Systems do not contradict Christianity and yet Christians despise these knowledge systems; because they consider them barbaric, uncivilised and knowledge's of the poor. Baba Mutwa appealed to Africans not to allow Christianity to create conflict, within families and communities by despising IKS; and most recently by the current practice where one family has different churches going against the principles of God.

This creates disunity within the family as each church believed that the others are not born again Christian enough, resulting in competitive religion that fragments the concept of family.

In despising IKS be mindful of the fact that African, accepted missionaries because from the beginning of time, understood the concept of the trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Mother of Eternity.