


## Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

### Letter to Our Readers from the Editor-in-Chief<sup>1</sup>

It is with deep reverence and renewed purpose that I welcome you to the 2025 issue of *Imhotep Graduate Student Journal*. Allow me to reintroduce not only our scholarly publication, but the visionary ancestral figure for whom it is named. Imhotep, the ancient Hapy Valley genius—healer, doctor, architect, priest, and philosopher—was later deified, not merely for his accomplishments but for his alignment with : mɜˈt: Ma’at, the Kemetic (ancient Egyptian) principle of divine justice, truth, and order. In that spirit, *Imhotep Journal* is a space where graduate scholars engage African/Black world-making with clarity, courage, and community. *Imhotep Journal* is a vessel for ancestral memory, diasporic rigor, and liberatory imagination.

Our theme, Victorious Consciousness, is both timely and timeless. It reflects a core tenet of Africology: that we are not a people defined by defeat, but by our ongoing refusal to be conquered. This issue invites us to remember—a call to Sankofa—not merely as an act of recollection, but of restoration and reconstruction. In a time when the current re-segregationist White House openly threatens the hard-won victories of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power Movement, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the birth of Black/Africana Studies, our ancestors direct us to a different strategy: speak ma’at, do ma’at, and bring the ancestors with you. This issue stands as testimony to our mighty, righteous power and multidimensional, intellectual traditions.

We offer these pages as an archive of African/Black remembrance and resistance. From the heady days of the Black Campus Movement to contemporary pan-Africa’s global, national, and local struggles for liberation, sovereignty, and community care, Victorious Consciousness, connects our past triumphs to the work ahead. As you engage the essays, reflections, and creative offerings within, may you be reminded of the truth John Henrik Clarke often affirmed: “History is not everything, but it is a starting point. History is a clock that people use to tell their political and cultural time of day. It is a compass they use to find themselves on the map of human geography. It tells them where they are but, more importantly, what they must be.” And in this issue, we, continental and diasporan Africans, and scholar-activists remember—we re-member—who we are.

M Ma’at,

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Editor-in-Chief, *Imhotep Graduate Student Journal*

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