

Diop's Challenge, Our Duty¹

At the heart of Temple Africology is a radical proposition: African people are not marginal to world history—they are its originators. Cheikh Anta Diop devoted his life to defending this truth, even when it meant confronting religious orthodoxy, academic gatekeeping, and the internalized beliefs of colonized African minds. His scholarship continues to challenge not only the West's erasure of African civilizations but also the persistent refusal among many Africans to accept that spiritual sovereignty existed long before the arrival of Christianity.

The Spring 2025 edition of *Imhotep* features eight essays rooted in Diop's uncompromising commitment to African truth. Each article interrogates how knowledge, culture, and spirituality must be grounded in Africa's classical foundations—from Kemet to Congo—not filtered through the theological frameworks of Rome or the philosophies of Athens. These scholars exemplify Africological methodology: they analyze, correct, and reconstruct.

Yet the most significant obstacle Africology faces is not external critique but internal resistance, especially from those who still treat biblical theology as sacred ground. The question, "Do you still believe in Jesus?" is often weaponized to dismiss Afrocentric inquiry, as though African knowledge must be approved by Christian belief. This is not faith—it is colonization.

Diop warned us: historical truth cannot serve two masters. Any version of Christianity that caters to Black people but ignores 3,000 years of African spiritual transcendence is not liberation theology—it is theological captivity. Africology cannot flourish where biblical dependency persists. The essays in this edition do not attack faith. They restore memory. They remind us that African cosmologies are self-sustaining, ethically rich, and intellectually complete. They do not require permission to exist. Diop taught that knowing one's origin is knowing one's destiny. Let this edition of *Imhotep* move us toward that destiny—unshackled, unapologetic, and rooted in the spiritual sovereignty of Africa.

Min. Qadry Harris
Associate Editor, *Imhotep Graduate Student Journal*

¹ Minister Qadry Harris, M. Div., PhD Candidate, Africology & African American Studies, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, USA
Email: qadry.harris@temple.edu

Imhotep Graduate Student Journal 2. © 2025 Harris. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial No Derivatives License, which permits the user to copy and distribute the work in unadapted form only, for noncommercial purposes only, provided that the original authors and source are credited.

DOI: 10.15367/cnnsze66

<https://tuljournals.temple.edu/index.php/imhotep/index>