



# Our Mothers Powers Texts Manifestations

**LaToya Jefferson-James**



## **Our Mothers Powers Texts Manifestations:**

*Our Mothers, Our Powers, Our Texts* Teresa N. Washington, 2005-06-27 Washington writes supple and thoughtful prose and creatively integrates African and African derived terminology which never distract the reader I consider *Our Mothers Our Powers Our Texts* not only a brilliant study but also a model to be emulated Ouseyounou B Traore William Patterson University of Iowa is a Yoruba word that signifies a spiritual power of vast potential as well as the human beings who exercise that power Although both men and women can have *je* its owners and controllers are women the literal and cosmic Mothers who are revered as the gods of society Because of its association with female power its invisibility and profundity *je* is often misconstrued as witchcraft However as Teresa N Washington points out in *Our Mothers Our Powers Our Texts* *je* is central to the Yoruba ethos and cosmology Not only does it underpin the concepts of creation and creativity but as a force of justice and retribution *je* is essential to social harmony and balance As Africans were forced into exile and enslavement they took *je* with them and continued its work of creating destroying harming and healing in the New World Washington seeks out *je*'s subversive power of creation and re creation in a diverse range of Africana texts from both men and women from both oral and contemporary literature and across space and time She guides readers to an understanding of the symbolic methodological and spiritual issues that are central to important works by Africana writers but are rarely elucidated by Western criticism She begins with an examination of the ancient forms of *je* in Yoruba culture which creates a framework for innovative readings of important works by Africana writers including Zora Neale Hurston Toni Morrison Ben Okri Wole Soyinka Jamaica Kincaid and Ntozake Shange This rich analysis will appeal to readers of Africana literature African religion and philosophy feminist studies and comparative literature *Gender History Across Epistemologies* Donna R. Gabaccia, Mary Jo Maynes, 2013-02-19 *Gender History Across Epistemologies* offers broad range of innovative approaches to gender history The essays reveal how historians of gender are crossing boundaries disciplinary methodological and national to explore new opportunities for viewing gender as a category of historical analysis Essays present epistemological and theoretical debates central in gender history over the past two decades Contributions within this volume to the work on gender history are approached from a wide range of disciplinary locations and approaches The volume demonstrates that recent approaches to gender history suggest surprising crossovers and even the discovery of common grounds ASHÉ Paul Carter Harrison, Michael Harris, Pellom McDaniels III, 2022-04-28 *ASH Ritual Poetics in African Diasporic Expressivity* is a collection of interdisciplinary essays contributed by international scholars and practitioners Having distinguished themselves across such disciplines as Anthropology Art Music Literature Dance Philosophy Religion and Theology and conjoined to construct a defining approach to the study of Aesthetics throughout the African Diaspora with the Humanities at the core this collection of essays will break new ground in the study of Black Aesthetics This book will be of great interest to scholars practitioners and students interested in tracing African heritage identities throughout the African Diaspora through

close examination of a variety of discourses directly connected to expressive elements of cultural production and religious rituals

**New Criticism and Pedagogical Directions for Contemporary Black Women Writers** LaToya

Jefferson-James, 2022-03-03 *New Criticism and Pedagogical Directions for Contemporary Black Women Writers* is a collection of critical and pedagogical essays that shed new light on the creative depths of Black women writers. On the one hand, some Black women writers have been heavily anthologized; they have more often than not been restricted by critical metanarratives. Some of their works have been lionized while others remain neglected. On the other hand, some Black women writers have been ignored and understudied. This collection corrects the gaps in our critical thinking about Black women writers by introducing them to a new generation of undergraduate and graduate students and by presenting pedagogical essays to our colleagues currently working in the field.

**The Spirit and the Word** Georgene Bess Montgomery, 2008

**The Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Literature: U-Z** Hans A. Ostrom, J. David Macey, 2005. Designed to meet the needs of high school students, undergraduates, and general readers, this encyclopedia is the most comprehensive reference available on African American literature from its origins to the present. Other works include many brief entries or offer extended biographical sketches of a limited selection of writers. This encyclopedia surpasses existing references by offering full and current coverage of a vast range of authors and topics. While most of the entries are on individual authors, the encyclopedia gathers together information about the genres and geographical and cultural environments in which these writers have worked and the social, political, and aesthetic movements in which they have participated. Thus, the encyclopedia gives special attention to the historical and cultural forces that have shaped African American writing. Publisher: *African Spiritual Traditions in the Novels of Toni Morrison*. K. Zauditu-Selassie, 2009. Addresses a real need: a scholarly and ritually informed reading of spirituality in the work of a major African American author. No other work catalogues so thoroughly the grounding of Morrison's work in African cosmologies. Zauditu Selassie's many readings of Ba Kongo and Yoruba spiritual presence in Morrison's work are incomparably detailed and generally convincing. Keith Cartwright, University of North Florida. Toni Morrison herself has long urged for organic critical readings of her works. K. Zauditu Selassie delves deeply into African spiritual traditions, clearly explaining the meanings of African cosmology and epistemology as manifest in Morrison's novels. The result is a comprehensive tour de force critical investigation of such works as *The Bluest Eye*, *Sula*, *Song of Solomon*, *Tar Baby*, *Paradise*, *Love*, *Beloved*, and *Jazz*. While others have studied the African spiritual ideas and values encoded in Morrison's work, *African Spiritual Traditions in the Novels of Toni Morrison* is the most comprehensive. Zauditu Selassie explores a wide range of complex concepts, including African deities, ancestral ideas, spiritual archetypes, mythic trope, and lyrical prose representing African spiritual continuities. Zauditu Selassie is uniquely positioned to write this book, as she is not only a literary critic but also a practicing Obatala priest in the Yoruba spiritual tradition and a Mama Nganga in the Kongo spiritual system. She analyzes tensions between communal and individual values and moral codes as represented in Morrison

s novels She also uses interviews with and nonfiction written by Morrison to further build her critical paradigm

**New Books on Women and Feminism** ,2007 **African American Review** ,2005 As the official publication of the Division on Black American Literature and Culture of the Modern Language Association of America African American review promotes an exchange among writers and scholars in the arts humanities and social sciences who hold diverse perspectives of African American literature and culture *African Studies Association Annual Meeting. [Program]* African Studies Association. Annual Meeting,2005 *Research in African Literatures* ,2007 Vol 1 spring 1970 include A Bibliography of American doctoral dissertations on African literature compiled by Nancy J Schmidt Afrikan Wisdom Valerie Mason-John,2021-07-20 A spiritual political and interdisciplinary anthology of wisdom stories from Black liberation leaders and teachers Afrikan Wisdom represents an intersectional cross pollinated exploration of Black life past present and future Award winning author and editor Valerie Mason John Vimalasara s collection of 34 essays written by an eclectic and inspirational group of Black thought leaders and teachers reflects on the unique and multilayered experience of being Black in the world today This anthology instills in readers the knowledge awareness validation and spiritual tools necessary to nurture both individual and collective liberation It is both an inspiration and a motivation for Black readers as well as anyone else interested in reading about emerging spiritual voices Topics include African and Afro Diasporan cultures histories spiritualities art music and literature Black radical traditions of liberation and consciousness Anticolonialism and antislavery Buddhist philosophy Social and environmental justice The prison industrial complex and mass incarceration Kemetic yoga healing and mindfulness Intersections with Indigenous cultures Addiction and recovery Transgenerational trauma Christian Herald and Signs of Our Times ,1885 *Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora* Carole Boyce Davies,2008-07-29 Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora spans global history tracing the movements that created the African Diaspora and the ways that African peoples have recreated themselves all over the world Emphasizing the recurring themes of dispersal re creation and transformation the encyclopedia offers vivid coverage of Diaspora communities locations peoples culture and the arts historical events organizations and theories and concepts developed by the scholars who have made this field of inquiry so rich and evocative pub desc Signs of the Times, and Doctrinal Advocate and Monitor ,1897 **The International Journal of African Historical Studies** ,1972 Choice ,2005 Rewriting Osun Jessica M. Alarcon,2008 Known to practitioners and scholars as the Yoruba goddess of sweet waters sensuality fertility and delight Osun is a deity of great controversy Nigerians see her as an astute responsible mother of many children yet across the ocean in the New World she has become a promiscuous fun loving deity who abandons her children and gives them to Yemaya to raise Alarcns research analyzes the diverse representations of Osun as a metaphor for women found in trans national Yoruba literature specifically the verses of Odu Ifa divination poetry and Apataki stories legends and examines the roles gender race and sexuality have played in cultural interpretations of Osun and therefore on the journey of women throughout the diaspora Re Writing Osun challenges us to

move beyond the remnants of limited colonial interpretations of African spiritual practices and begin the process of re writing OsunS narrative Book includes color photographs     **Ariel** ,2011     **CLA Journal** ,2008

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