

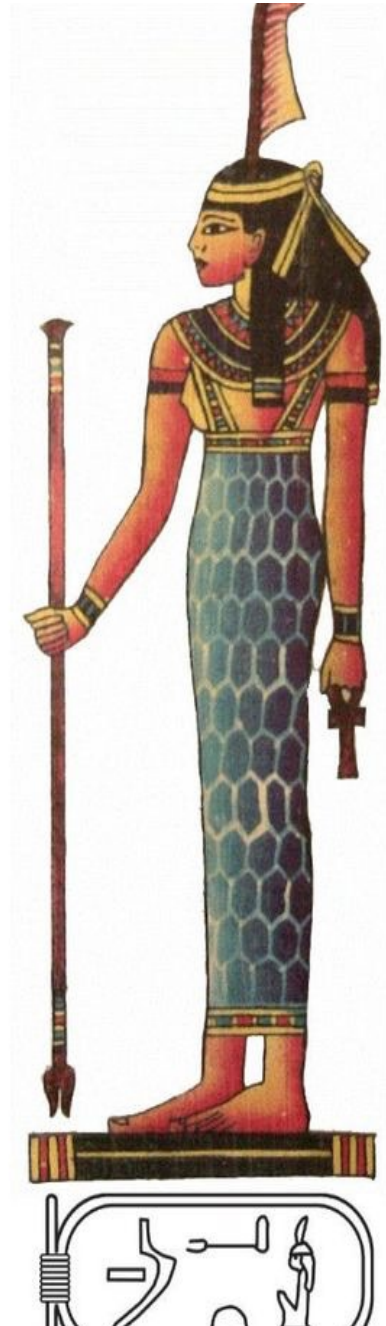
Geneal Theme:

Maatian Anthropology

Oseromore Okoh

42 Ideals of Ma'at

1. I honor virtue
2. I benefit with gratitude
3. I am peaceful
4. I respect the property of others
5. I affirm that all life is sacred
6. I give offerings that are genuine
7. I live in truth
8. I regard all altars with respect
9. I speak with sincerity
10. I consume only my fair share
11. I offer words of good intent
12. I relate in peace
13. I honor animals with reverence
14. I can be trusted
15. I care for the earth
16. I keep my own council
17. I speak positively of others
18. I remain in balance with my emotions
19. I am trustful in my relationships
20. I hold purity in high esteem
21. I spread joy
22. I do the best I can
23. I communicate with compassion
24. I listen to opposing opinions
25. I create harmony
26. I invoke laughter
27. I am open to love in various forms
28. I am forgiving
29. I am kind
30. I act respectfully of others
31. I am accepting
32. I follow my inner guidance
33. I converse with awareness
34. I do good
35. I give blessings
36. I keep the waters pure
37. I speak with good intent
38. I praise the Goddess and the God
39. I am humble
40. I achieve with integrity
41. I advance through my own abilities



Lesson 1.

Notion of Maat
Notion of anthropology



- ❖ **Primary source/bibliography**
- ❖ **About our author**
- ❖ **The notion of Maat**
- ❖ **The notion of anthropology**

Primary source/bibliography



Book

**Maat, The Moral Ideal in Ancient Egypt:
A Study in Classical African Ethics**
(chapt. six)

By: Maulana Karenga

Published in 2004

About our author



Dr Maulana Karenga

- Born **Ronald McKinley Everett**, July 14, 1941. He changed his name!
- He is an American activist, author, and professor of African Studies.
- Best known as the creator of the pan-African and African-American holiday of Kwanzaa.
- Studied at Los Angeles City College and the University of California, Los Angeles.
- Was active in the Black Power movement (self-determination) of the 1960s, joining the Congress of Racial Equality and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.





About our author, cont.

Influences

Councill Taylor: a Jamaican anthropologist and Negritudist who contested the Eurocentric view of other cultures as primitive and uncivilised.

In 1965, He and Hakim Jamal co-founded the black nationalist group US Organization.

Malcolm X: "Malcolm was the major African American thinker that influenced me in terms of nationalism and Pan-Africanism..."

...cultural revolution: Malcom X argues that we need a cultural revolution, that we must return to Africa culturally and spiritually, even if we can't go physically. And so that's a tremendous impact on US.

Intellectual Journey



- BA and MA degrees in political science.
- (1976) first Ph.D. **"Afro-American Nationalism: Social Strategy and Struggle for Community."**
- (1994) second Ph.D. in social ethics. **"Maat, the moral ideal in ancient Egypt: A study in classical African ethics."**
- Numerous awards for scholarship and service...

Change of name from Ronald McKinley Everett

- Connect with his African origins
- **Karenga** (Swahili for "keeper of tradition")
- **Maulana** (Swahili-Arabic for "master teacher") = emblematic...
- **Also:** Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o (James), Chimamanda



About our author, cont.

Contributions

The rediscovery and appreciation of ancient Kemetic traditions in a new, relatable and meaningful way.

A departure from the dull and reductive translations of a very beautiful and moving literature...(fascination for literal and exact translation).

Understanding interpretation and application: Foundation of the Maatian moral ideal and its fruitfulness **as an ethical option for our times.**

Kwanzaa (1966): The first pan-African holiday (Dec. 26-Jan.1) **AIM:** to "give Blacks an alternative to the existing holiday and give Blacks an opportunity to celebrate themselves and their history, rather than simply imitate the practice of the dominant society."

**Kwanzaa
= cultural
revolution**

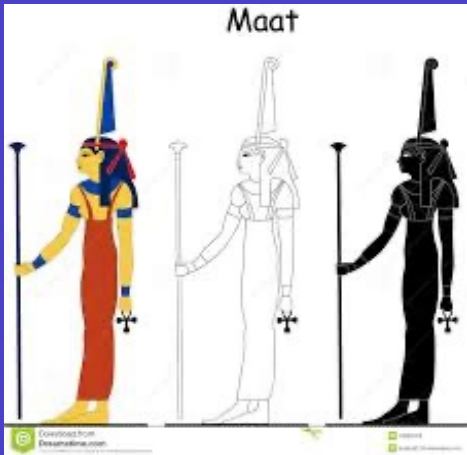
- "you must have a cultural revolution before the violent revolution.
- The cultural revolution gives identity, purpose, and direction."

**7 Pillars of
Kwanzaa**

- Umoja (unity)
- Kujichagulia (self-determination)
- Ujima (collective work and responsibility)
- Ujamaa (cooperative economics).
- Nia (purpose)
- Kuumba (creativity).
- Imani (faith)



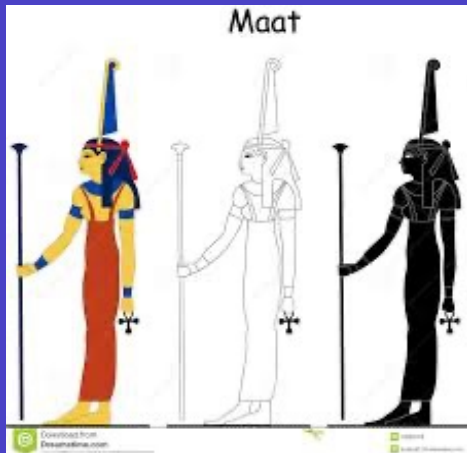
The notion of Maat



What is Maat?

- Maat was the foundational ideal of ancient Egyptian religion and ethics.
- Polysemic (coexistence of many possible meanings).
 - Conceptual elasticity. Categorical preciseness? Problematic?
- Maat has a “rich treasury of meaning.”
- A pervasive and enduring element in Egyptian civilization, an inclusive defining cultural category.
- **The conceptual elasticity of Maat as a category of interrelated ethical, social, religious, political and/or natural order significance proves invaluable.**
- A general concept of rightness, including the ontological and ethical sense of truth, justice, righteousness, order-in a word, the rightness of things

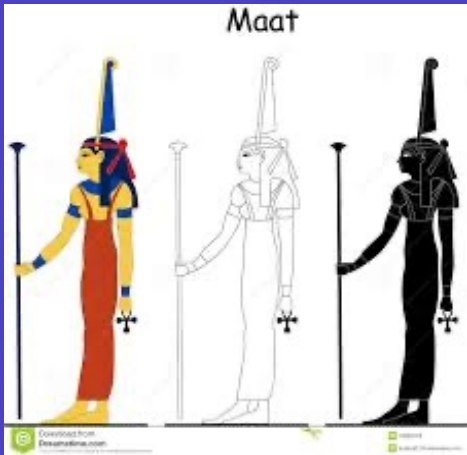
The notion of Maat



What is Maat? Cont. 1

- Maat as **guide** and **order**, whose centrality is not only as the basis (*Grundlage*) of existence but also as a guiding principle (*Richtschnur*) and goal (*Ziel*) of the divine world order. Moreover, it is **defined as "rightness" and as a lawfulness of the social and natural order**
- Maat is **both the goddess and the personification of truth, cosmic balance, and justice.**
- In philosophical terms, maat is the articulation of three ideals, namely:
 - **a**), the **ideal of knowledge**, that is to say, the love of science, the aspiration for knowledge (*tmlzj r rb*), and more precisely, for **the knowledge of 'true being'**, of 'that which is true, sure, certain';
 - b**) the moral ideal of truth, justice, and rectitude and;
 - c**) the metaphysical ideal of love and of the knowledge of Being (*Hpr*) which is at the 'beginning' of all being (*wnnt nbt*).

The notion of Maat



What is Maat? **Conclusion**

- "It is interesting and important to note that Ra creates the universe through maat, a term with multiple meanings, i.e., **righteousness, truth, justice, order, harmony, rightness, evenness, levelness, etc.**
- Its importance lies in the fact that it is a divine concept, power and practice which not only informed and aided Ra's action, **but** was established as the fundamental concept, power, and practice for the organization, maintenance and development of human society also. Thus, in each book maat is a central concern and focus, whether as truth, justice, righteousness, order or harmony." - ***The Husia: Sacred wisdom of Ancient Egypt*** (1984).



The notion of anthropology

General notion of anthropology

- Anthropology is the systematic study of humanity, with the goal of understanding our evolutionary origins, our distinctiveness as a species, and the great diversity in our forms of social existence across the world and through time.
- The focus of Anthropology is on understanding both our shared humanity and diversity, and engaging with diverse ways of being in the world.

Maatian anthropology

- Every people and culture have their worldview (philosophy, way of life).
- Ancient African vision of the human person.
- The individual and community.
- Female and male (duality, not dualism).
- Maat as the African notion of the human person. Our uniqueness and contribution.



Conclusion



Q & A With Dr. Maulana Karenga



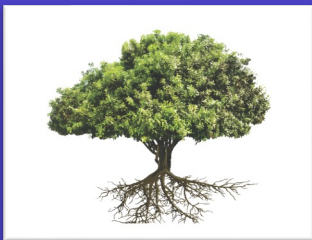
— “ —

This is our duty: to know our past and honor it; to engage our present and improve it; and to imagine a whole new future and forge it in the most ethical, effective and expansive ways.

— ” —

Dr. Maulana Karenga
Professor & Chair of Department of Africana Studies
California State University, Long Beach

The mandate



Know

Our past and honour it!

Engage

Our present and improve it!

Imagine

A new future for Africa (and ourselves)

- Ethical
- Effective
- Expansive (inclusive)!



OBULU!

O ŞEUN PUPỌ!

THANK YOU!

ASANTE SANA!

