

HOW IS PEOPLE OF A AFRIKAN NATIONALITY, NOT WANT TO EDUCATE THEMSELVES, OR THEY PEOPLE ABOUT OUR STRUGGLE, AS ITS TIME TO CELEBRATE KWANZAA DURING THE FINAL WEEK OF THE YEAR TO REAFFIRM OUR AFRIKAN ROOTS, AN SUPPORT OUR MOTHERLAND IN OBSERVING THIS BLACK HOLIDAY... KWANZAA, IS SWAHILI FOR "FIRST-FRUIT", AN A ELABORATE & SYMBOLIC TABLE SETTING IS A CENTRAL PART OF RECOGNIZING KWANZAA BY PLACING ON A TABLE ONE OF TWO ITEMS, A MAT MADE OF STRAW OR A KENTE-PATTERNED TEXTILE, WHICH REPRESENTS THE AFRIKAN AMERIKAN HERITAGE IN THE MATERIALS OF TRADITIONAL AFRIKAN CULTURE, BY PUTTING A SEVEN-PRONGED CANDLEHOLDER IN THE CENTER OF THE MAT... THE CANDLEHOLDER CONTAINS ONE CENTRAL BLACK CANDLE THAT IS FLANKED BY 3 RED & 3 GREEN CANDLES, AS EACH CANDLE STANDS FOR ONE OF THE 7 PRINCIPLES KWANZAA COMMEMORATES... NEAR THE BASE OF THE CANDLEHOLDER, YOU PLACE A CUP, WHICH SYMBOLIZES THE UNITY OF ALL AFRIKAN PEOPLES, AND AROUND THESE TWO CENTERPIECES, VEGETABLES, FRUITS, & NUTS ARE ARRANGED, WHICH REPRESENT THE YIELD OF THE FIRST HARVEST... THE PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATION OF KWANZAA IS THE 7 PRINCIPLES COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS THE NGUZO SABA... THEY INCLUDE UMOJA (UNITY); KUTICHAGULIA (SELF-DETERMINATION); UJIMA (COLLECTIVE WORK & RESPONSIBILITY); UJAMMA (COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS); NIA (PURPOSE); KUUMBA (CREATIVITY); IMANI (FAITH), THAT IS ALL SWAHILI-NAMED CORE PRINCIPLES "BY WHICH BLACK PEOPLE MUST LIVE IN ORDER TO BEGIN TO RESCUE & RECONSTRUCT THEIR HISTORY & LIVES"... EACH DAY BEFORE DINNER DURING KWANZAA, YOU LIGHT A CANDLE & INTERPRET ITS CORRESPONDING PRINCIPLE, BY EXPLAINING THE PRINCIPLE & ILLUSTRATING IT THROUGH PARABLES, AFRIKAN-AMERIKANS DISCUSS HOW TO LIVE ACCORDING TO EACH PRINCIPLE, THEN BLOWING OUT THE CANDLE AFTER DINNER, LIGHTING A ADDITIONAL CANDLE EACH DAY, UNTIL THE SEVENTH DAY WHEN ALL 7 CANDLES BURN TOGETHER... A TYPICAL KWANZAA FEAST MAY FEATURE BLACK SOUL FOOD, AND COMPLETED BY DESSERTS, AS EVERYBODY DRINK FROM THE UNITY CUP IN REVERENCE OF OUR PREDECESSORS, WE TELL HISTORY STORIES ABOUT OUR PEOPLE, SING & DANCE, AN AS PART OF THE CELEBRATION FAMILY MEMBERS EXCHANGE GIFTS OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, TO SUPPORT OUR PEOPLE IN AFRIKA, AN URBING THAT GIFTS AS WELL AS ALL DECORATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAY BE HOMEMADE, SO THAT EVERYBODY IS IN THE FESTIVE SPIRIT, BY BUYING AFRIKAN MADE ART & SCULPTURES FROM THE MOTHERLAND AFRIKA TO FILL OUR HOMES WITH CULTURAL HERITAGE, IN HELPING THEM OVERCOME THEY SITUATION IN POVERTY, AN KWANZAA CONTINUING TO BE A CULTURAL MAINSTAY IN THE HOMES OF MANY AFRIKAN-AMERIKANS. ---