

Yosef A.A. Ben-Jochannan: Scholar and Servant of the People



(photo by Reggie Mabry)

This special edition is dedicated to the life and work of the late Yosef A.A. Ben-Jochannan (1918-2015). Hence, the overall aim was to host papers examining his books, articles and multi-media presentations and to engage several themes via a Call for Papers issued in 2012. The themes included:

Ben-Jochannan and the African Studies Committee of UNESCO
Ben-Jochannan teaching Egyptology at Malcolm King College (City College, NY)
Adjunct Professor, Cornell University
In Kemet: Tour Guide and Mentor
Nile Valley Civilizations: Before Popularization
The Original Jews: African People from Ethiopia
Ben-Jochannan's personal library via The Nation of Islam
The Contributions of Ben-Jochannan to Africana (Black) Studies
Ben-Jochannan and the Advancement of ASCAC
Ben-Jochannan and African-centered Community Outreach in New York City
Ben-Jochannan and his scholar peers/contemporaries
Ben-Jochannan and the African Origin of the Major Western Religions
Ben-Jochannan and the Education of African Youth

In this volume, with the kind assistance of *Africology: The Journal of Pan African Studies* editorial board member Dr. Runoko Rashidi we present: a bibliographic introduction to Dr. Ben; Dr. Ben in His Own Words” by Herb Boyd; a 1986 speech by Dr. Ben titled “We, the Sons and Daughters of “Africa’s” Great Sperms and Ovum, Let Us This Day of 6086 N.Y./1986 C.E. Speak as One Voice, Academically” presented to the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilization; a selected and edited work on the philosophy and opinions of Yosef A.A. ben-Jochannan by Itibari M. Zulu; “Cementing Scholarship with Service: Dr. Ben at the Foothills of the Mountains of the Moon Where the God Hapi Dwells” by Patrick Delices that serves as an extension of the official tribute statement to Dr. Ben’s legacy which first appeared in the *Black Star News* on April 8, 2015, and then in the *New York Amsterdam News* on April 9, 2015 as a research collaboration among Dr. Leonard Jeffries, Professor James Small, Dr. Georgina Falu, Dr. Greg Carr, Dr. Mario Beatty, and Reggie Mabry; “Yosef Ben-Jochannan: A Note and Photo Essay about His Life, Work and Influence” by Runoko Rashidi; “A Tribute to Dr. Yosef Ben Jochannan: The Black Wombman as God” by K. Kelile Ntwadumela that explores the spiritual origins of the worship of the female as the original deity, most specifically the African ‘wombman’, and the obituary and program celebrating the life of Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannan.

Obviously, there is much more that can be examined in the life and times of Dr. Ben (also see ‘Doctor Ben,’ *Legendary Scholar of Egypt: Dean of the Harlem Street University* by Todd Steven Burroughs in the vol.8, no.1, June 2015 edition of *The Journal of Pan African Studies*, pp.B-1-4), and thus, the themes in our 2012 call and others are open for discussion and research in an ongoing request for constructing a solid history of Dr. Ben’s contribution to African world history, pride and culture.