

Engagements--Africana Womanism

AFRICANA WOMANISM

Dr. Clenora Hudson-Weems is the conceptualizer of Africana Womanism and author of three books on the subject: *Africana Womanism: Reclaiming Ourselves* (1993), *Africana Womanist Literary Theory* (2004), and *Africana Womanism and Race and Gender in the Presidential Candidacy of Barack Obama* (2008). Africana Womanism is an authentic global paradigm designed specifically for all women of African descent, and by extension for all men and women in general. It demonstrates that we are all--men, women and children--In It Together!

This theoretical concept prioritizes RACE, CLASS and GENDER. There are 18 characteristics of Africana Womanism: Self Namer, Self Definer, Family Centered, Genuine in Sisterhood, Strong, In Concert with Male in Struggle, Whole, Authentic, Flexible Role Player, Respected, Recognized, Spiritual, Male Compatible, Respectful of Elders, Adaptable, Ambitious, Nurturing, and Mothering.

Dr. Zulu Sofala, distinguished as Nigeria 1st female playwright, asserts

***Africana Womanism: Reclaiming Ourselves* is not simply a scholarly work, one of those in the mainstream, but our own. It is a new trail blazed with incontrovertible relations on the African heritage and gender question (*Africana Womansim*, p. xvii)**

According to the editors of *Call and Response* (p 1911, Houghton Mifflin):

First African American woman intellectual to formulate a position on Africana Womanism was Clenora Hudson-Weems, author of the 1993 groundbreaking study *Africana Womanism: Reclaiming Ourselves*. Taking the strong position that black women should not pattern their liberation after Eurocentric feminism but after the historic and triumphant woman of African descent, Hudson-Weems has launched a new critical discourse in the Black Women's Literary Movement.

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