

**400 Years of  
African American Folklore**

# **FROM MY PEOPLE**

**An Anthology**



**Edited by Daryl Cumber Dance**

**"What an astonishingly rich collection  
of African American folklore Daryl Dance has produced!  
A major contribution." —Henry Louis Gates Jr.**

# From My People 400 Years Of African American Folklore

**Via Hedera**



## **From My People 400 Years Of African American Folklore:**

**From My People** Daryl Cumber Dance, 2002 A celebration of African American life and culture brings together four hundred years of folklore traditional tales recipes proverbs legends folk songs and folk art African American Folklore Anand Prahlad, 2016-08-08 African American folklore dates back 240 years and has had a significant impact on American culture from the slavery period to the modern day This encyclopedia provides accessible entries on key elements of this long history including folklore originally derived from African cultures that have survived here and those that originated in the United States Inspired by the author's passion for African American culture and vernacular traditions African American Folklore An Encyclopedia for Students thoroughly addresses key elements and motifs in black American folklore especially those that have influenced American culture With its alphabetically organized entries that cover a wide range of subjects from the word conjure to the dance style of twerking this book provides readers with a deeper comprehension of American culture through a greater understanding of the contributions of African American culture and black folk traditions This book will be useful to general readers as well as students or researchers whose interests include African American culture and folklore or American culture It offers insight into the histories of African American folklore motifs their importance within African American groups and their relevance to the evolution of American culture The work also provides original materials such as excerpts from folktales and folksongs and a comprehensive compilation of sources for further research that includes bibliographical citations as well as lists of websites and cultural centers The Annotated African American Folktales Henry Louis Gates Jr., Maria Tatar, 2017-11-14 Winner NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work Fiction Winner Anne Izard Storytellers Choice Award Holiday Gift Guide Selection Indiewire San Francisco Chronicle and Minneapolis Star Tribune These nearly 150 African American folktales animate our past and reclaim a lost cultural legacy to redefine American literature Drawing from the great folklorists of the past while expanding African American lore with dozens of tales rarely seen before The Annotated African American Folktales revolutionizes the canon like no other volume Following in the tradition of such classics as Arthur Huff Fauset's Negro Folk Tales from the South 1927 Zora Neale Hurston's Mules and Men 1935 and Virginia Hamilton's The People Could Fly 1985 acclaimed scholars Henry Louis Gates Jr and Maria Tatar assemble a groundbreaking collection of folktales myths and legends that revitalizes a vibrant African American past to produce the most comprehensive and ambitious collection of African American folktales ever published in American literary history Arguing for the value of these deceptively simple stories as part of a sophisticated complex and heterogeneous cultural heritage Gates and Tatar show how these remarkable stories deserve a place alongside the classic works of African American literature and American literature more broadly Opening with two introductory essays and twenty seminal African tales as historical background Gates and Tatar present nearly 150 African American stories among them familiar Brer Rabbit classics but also stories like The Talking Skull and Witches Who Ride as well as out of print tales from the 1890s Southern

Workman Beginning with the figure of Anansi the African trickster master of improvisation a spider who plots and weaves in scandalous ways The Annotated African American Folktales then goes on to draw Caribbean and Creole tales into the orbit of the folkloric canon It retrieves stories not seen since the Harlem Renaissance and brings back archival tales of Negro folklore that Booker T Washington proclaimed had emanated from a grapevine that existed even before the American Revolution stories brought over by slaves who had survived the Middle Passage Furthermore Gates and Tatar's volume not only defines a new canon but reveals how these folktales were hijacked and misappropriated in previous incarnations egregiously by Joel Chandler Harris a Southern newspaperman as well as by Walt Disney who cannibalized and capitalized on Harris's volumes by creating cartoon characters drawn from this African American lore Presenting these tales with illuminating annotations and hundreds of revelatory illustrations The Annotated African American Folktales reminds us that stories not only move entertain and instruct but more fundamentally inspire and keep hope alive The Annotated African American Folktales includes Introductory essays nearly 150 African American stories and 20 seminal African tales as historical background The familiar Brer Rabbit classics as well as news making vernacular tales from the 1890s Southern Workman An entire section of Caribbean and Latin American folktales that finally become incorporated into the canon Approximately 200 full color museum quality images

**American Folk Art** Kristin G. Congdon, Kara Kelley Hallmark, 2012-03-19 Folk art is as varied as it is indicative of person and place informed by innovation and grounded in cultural context The variety and versatility of 300 American folk artists is captured in this collection of informative and thoroughly engaging essays American Folk Art A Regional Reference offers a collection of fascinating essays on the life and work of 300 individual artists Some of the men and women profiled in these two volumes are well known while others are important practitioners who have yet to receive the notice they merit Because many of the artists in both categories have a clear identity with their land and culture the work is organized by geographical region and includes an essay on each region to help make connections visible There is also an introductory essay on U S folk art as a whole Those writing about folk art to date tend to view each artist as either traditional or innovative One of the major contributions of this work is that it demonstrates that folk artists more often exhibit both traits they are grounded in their cultural context and creative in the way they make work their own Such insights expand the study of folk art even as they readjust readers understanding of who folk artists are

*Sticks, Stones, Roots & Bones* Stephanie Rose Bird, 2004 Tracing the magical roots of hoodoo back to West Africa the author provides a history of this nature based healing tradition and offers practical advice on how to apply hoodoo magic to everyday life

**The Culture and Philosophy of Ridley Scott** Adam Barkman, Ashley Barkman, Nancy Kang, 2013-03-08 While recognizing Scott's undeniable contributions to contemporary popular cinema the volume does not shy away from honest and well evidenced critique Each chapter's approach correlates with philosophical literary or cultural studies perspectives Using both combined and single film discussions the contributors examine such topics as gender roles and feminist theory philosophical abstractions like

ethics honor and personal responsibility historical memory and the challenges of accurately rendering historical events on screen literary archetypes and generic conventions race relations and the effect of class difference on character construction how religion shapes personal and collective values the role of a constantly changing technological universe and the schism between individual and group based power structures

### **Emotionally Focused Therapy with African American Couples**

Paul Guillory, 2021-08-09 Emotionally Focused Therapy with African American Couples Love Heals is an essential guide that integrates emotionally focused therapy EFT with cultural humility It provides a pathbreaking evidence based model of couples work that reinforces the bond between partners in the face of race based distress Guillory explores and brings a deep understanding of the legacy of racial trauma and the cultural strengths of African American couples by using real life case studies The chapters in the book focus on several key clinical issues in the field such as communication problems anxiety infidelity depression and porn Each case study is enhanced by a consultation with EFT master therapist Sue Johnson The book is an essential text for students and mental health professionals looking to provide culturally competent therapeutic interventions It will also appeal to psychologists mental health workers social workers marriage and family therapists and religious leaders

Shaping Memories Joanne V. Gabbin, 2009 This anthology offers short chapters by notable black women writers on pivotal moments that strongly influenced their careers It provides a thorough overview of the formal concerns and thematic issues facing contemporary black women writers and includes an introduction that places these writers in the context of American literature in general and African American literature in particular

*American Trickster* Emily Zobel Marshall, 2019-06-18 Our fascination with the trickster figure whose presence is global stems from our desire to break free from the tightly regimented structures of our societies Condemned to conform to laws and rules imposed by governments communities social groups and family bonds we revel in the fantasy of the trickster whose energy and cunning knows no bounds and for whom nothing is sacred One such trickster is Brer Rabbit who was introduced to North America through the folktales of enslaved Africans On the plantations Brer Rabbit like Anansi in the Caribbean functioned as a resistance figure for the enslaved whose trickery was aimed at undermining and challenging the plantation regime Yet as Brer Rabbit tales moved from the oral tradition to the printed page in the late nineteenth century the trickster was emptied of his potentially powerful symbolism by white American collectors authors and folklorists in their attempt to create a nostalgic fantasy of the plantation past American Trickster offers readers a unique insight into the cultural significance of the Brer Rabbit trickster figure from his African roots and through to his influence on contemporary culture Exploring the changing portrayals of the trickster figure through a wealth of cultural forms including folktales advertising fiction and films the book scrutinises the profound tensions between the perpetuation of damaging racial stereotypes and the need to keep African American folk traditions alive Emily Zobel Marshall argues that Brer Rabbit was eventually reclaimed by twentieth century African American novelists whose protagonists trick their way out of limiting stereotypes break down social and cultural boundaries

and offer readers practical and psychological methods for challenging the traumatic legacies of slavery and racism

*Rituals of Resistance* Jason R. Young, 2011-02-11 In *Rituals of Resistance* Jason R. Young explores the religious and ritual practices that linked West Central Africa with the Lowcountry region of Georgia and South Carolina during the era of slavery. The choice of these two sites mirrors the historical trajectory of the transatlantic slave trade which for centuries transplanted Kongolese captives to the Lowcountry through the ports of Charleston and Savannah. Analyzing the historical exigencies of slavery and the slave trade that sent not only men and women but also cultural meanings, signs, symbols, and patterns across the Atlantic, Young argues that religion operated as a central form of resistance against slavery and the ideological underpinnings that supported it. Through a series of comparative chapters on Christianity, ritual, medicine, burial practices, and transmigration, Young details the manner in which Kongolese people, along with their contemporaries and their progeny who were enslaved in the Americas, utilized religious practices to resist the savagery of the slave trade and slavery itself. When slaves acted outside accepted parameters in transmigration, spirit possession, ritual, internment, and conjure, Young explains, they attacked not only the condition of being a slave but also the systems of modernity and scientific rationalism that supported slavery. In effect, he argues, slave spirituality played a crucial role in the resocialization of the slave body and behavior away from the oppressions and brutalities of the master class. Young's work expands traditional scholarship on slavery to include both the extensive work done by African historians and current interdisciplinary debates in cultural studies, anthropology, and literature. Drawing on a wide range of primary sources from both American and African archives, including slave autobiography, folktales, and material culture, *Rituals of Resistance* offers readers a nuanced understanding of the cultural and religious connections that linked blacks in Africa with their enslaved contemporaries in the Americas. Moreover, Young's groundbreaking work gestures toward broader themes and connections using the case of the Kongo and the Lowcountry to articulate the development of a much larger African Atlantic space that connected peoples, cultures, languages, and lives on and across the ocean's waters.

**Black Theology—Essays on Global Perspectives** Dwight N.

Hopkins, 2017-06-15 Since its start in 1966, black liberation theology in the United States has continually engaged international developments with Africa and the entire world. But after Nelson Mandela was released from prison in February 1990, there has been an almost twenty-year break in books on black theology and international affairs. *Black Theology: Essays on Global Perspectives* bridges that post-1990 gap and makes a vital contact with Africa again. This book conceptualizes black theology to take on the global reconfigurations and opportunities brought about by the rapidly shrinking earth of fast-paced worldwide contacts. In other words, in the specificity of the genealogy of black theology, we need to reforge ties with Africa. This claim is based on tradition. And in the generality of the larger worldwide intertwining of technologies and economics, we need a new type of black theological leadership for the twenty-first century. This claim is based on today's international challenges. The essays in this book draw on tradition and point forward in the midst of today's worldwide challenges and

favorable possibilities given the closeness of all nations and the varieties of cultures      **Yo Mama!** Onwuchekwa Jemie,2003 Collected primarily in metropolitan New York and Philadelphia during the classic era of black street poetry i e during the late 1960s and early 1970s these raps signifying toasts boasts jokes and children s rhymes will delight general readers as well as scholars Ranging from the simple rhymes that accompany children s games to verbally inventive insults and the epic exploits of traditional characters like Shine and Stagger Lee these texts sound the deep rivers of culture echoing two continents Onwuchekwa Jemie s introductory essay situates them in a globally pan African context and relates them to more recent forms of oral culture such as rap and spoken word      **Crazy as Hell** Hoke S. Glover III,V. Efua Prince,2024-06-04 By turns hilarious candid and heartbreaking this powerful book takes the straitjacket off Black history A refreshing insightful sacrilegious take on African American history Crazy as Hell explores the site of America s greatest contradictions The notables of this book are the runaways and the rebels the badass and funky the activists and the inmates from Harriet Tubman Nina Simone and Muhammad Ali to B rer Rabbit Single Mamas and Wakandans but are they crazy as hell or do they simply defy the expectations designated for being Black in America With humor and insight scholars and writers V Efua Prince and Hoke S Glover III Bro Yao offer brief breakdowns of one hundred influential archetypal and infamous figures building a new framework that emphasizes their humanity Including an introduction by MacArthur Fellow Reginald Dwayne Betts and peppered with little known historical facts and PSAs that get real about the Black experience Crazy as Hell captures the tenacious irreverent spirit that accompanies a long struggle for freedom      Folkloric American Witchcraft and the Multicultural Experience Via Hedera,2021-02-26 Witchcraft and magic in America is an inherently multicultural experience and the folklore of our ancestors from every country converges here at a crossroads It s a complicated history one of uncertainty and fear displacement and enslavement merging and migration Our ancestors may not have agreed on how they saw the world or the magic that inhabits the world but they shared a very real fear of Witches Hags Devils charms and spells witchery is rooted in our deepest superstitions and folklore The traditions of people and their cultures stretch and intersect across the country and this is where the unique traditions of American witchcraft and magic are born As practitioners seek to revive and reconstruct the paths of our ancestors we ve begun to trace the interconnected roots of witchcraft folklore as it emerged in the Americas from the blending of people and their faiths For multiracial practitioners this is part of our identity as Americans and as witches of this country Folkloric American Witchcraft and the Multicultural Experience is an exploration of the folklore magic and witchcraft that was forged in the New World      Encyclopedia of African-American Literature Wilfred D. Samuels,2015-04-22 Presents a reference on African American literature providing profiles of notable and little known writers and their works literary forms and genres critics and scholars themes and terminology and more      **Sisterlocking Discoarse** Valerie Lee,2021-11-01 Finalist for the 2021 Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Award in the Education Category In Sisterlocking Discoarse hair is a medium for reflecting on how academic

leadership looks performs and changes when embodied by a Black woman In these ten essays Valerie Lee traverses disciplines and genres weaving together memoir literary analysis legal cases folklore letters travelogues family photographs and cartoons to share her story of navigating academia Lee s path is not singular or linear but rather communal and circular as she revisits her earliest years in her grandmother s home advances through the professoriate and senior administration and addresses her hopes and fears for her own children Drawing inspiration from the African American storytelling traditions she has spent decades studying and teaching Lee approaches issues of race gender social justice academic labor and leadership with a voice that is clear intimate and humorous As she writes in the introduction Sisterlocking Discoarse is about braiding and breathing and believing that a Black woman s journey through the academy is important Lee s journey will appeal to students faculty and administrators across fields and institutions who are committed to making higher education more inclusive while speaking to the experiences of professional women of color more broadly

The Healing Tree  
Stephanie Rose Bird,2025-09-12 A beautiful blend of folklore botanical science acquired wisdom and spiritual guidance from the foreword by Luisah Teish If you want to learn about the reciprocal spiritual connection between humans and trees you re going to love this beautiful book Tess Whitehurst author of The Magic of Trees Reclaiming traditional botanical and herbal practices has never been more important than it is today So much of our future depends on our ability to use ancient earth knowledge In this crucially important book author Stephanie Rose Bird recounts the story of the sacred wood how to live in it learn from it and derive spiritual enrichment from it as well as how to preserve and protect it The Healing Tree offers functional accessible recipes remedies and rituals derived from a variety of African and African American traditions to serve mind body soul and spirit The Healing Tree celebrates the forest its powers spirits magic medicine and mysteries Bird shares how trees have provided her with personal healing then allows us to share in that process for our own benefit Bird s book follows her own personal journey but Africa is always her touchstone the persistent and tenacious ancestral mother wisdom and spiritual foundation that refuses to fade away The Healing Tree preserves this knowledge presenting it as relevant and viable and demonstrating in intimate detail how vestiges of that knowledge took root in the Western Hemisphere in African American culture and more broadly in American culture in general Previously published as A Healing Grove this updated edition includes a new preface by the author and a source guide for the botanicals discussed within

*Toward a Conceptual Framework for the Study of Folklore and the Internet* Trevor J. Blank,2014-06-14 Trevor Blank broke new ground for the field of folklore studies in this essay by rationalizing the study of the internet as an important area of expressive vernacular culture Pushing back against traditionalists who dismissed the digital as simply the domain of technicians and mass media Blank argues that from the earliest moments of the modern Internet s existence folklore was a central component of the domain moderating the intersection of computer professionals with hackers newfangled lingo and the dispersal of stories pranks and legends With this essay and the volume it introduces Blank theorizes the internet as an important analytic venue



for folklorists and sets the agenda for digital folklore research Utah State University Press's *Current Arguments in Folklore* is a series of thought provoking short form digital publications made up of provocative original material and selections from foundational titles by leading thinkers in the field Perfect for the folklore classroom as well as the professional collection this series provides access to important introductory content as well as innovative new work intended to stimulate scholarly conversation

*Digital Griots* Adam J. Banks, 2011-03-16 Scholar Adam J Banks offers a mixtape of African American digital rhetoric in his innovative study *Digital Griots African American Rhetoric in a Multimedia Age* Presenting the DJ as a quintessential example of the digital griot high tech storyteller this book shows how African American storytelling traditions and their digital manifestations can help scholars and teachers shape composition studies thoroughly linking oral print and digital production in ways that centralize African American discursive practices as part of a multicultural set of ideas and pedagogical commitments DJs are models of rhetorical excellence canon makers time binders who link past present and future in the groove and mix and intellectuals continuously interpreting the history and current realities of their communities in real time Banks uses the DJ's practices of the mix remix and mixtape as tropes for reimagining writing instruction and the study of rhetoric He combines many of the debates and tensions that mark black rhetorical traditions and points to ways for scholars and students to embrace those tensions rather than minimize them This commitment to both honoring traditions and embracing futuristic visions makes this text unique as do the sites of study included in the examination mixtape culture black theology as an activist movement everyday narratives and discussions of community engagement Banks makes explicit these connections rarely found in African American rhetoric scholarship to illustrate how competing ideologies vernacular and academic writing sacred and secular texts and oral print and digital literacies all must be brought together in the study of African American rhetoric and in the teaching of culturally relevant writing A remarkable addition to the study of African American rhetorical theory and composition studies *Digital Griots African American Rhetoric in a Multimedia Age* will compel scholars and students alike to think about what they know of African American rhetoric in fresh and useful ways

**Folklore and the Internet** Trevor J. Blank, 2009-09-07 A pioneering examination of the folkloric qualities of the World Wide Web e mail and related digital media These studies show that folk culture sustained by a new and evolving vernacular has been a key since the Internet's beginnings to language practice and interaction online Users of many sorts continue to develop the Internet as a significant medium for generating transmitting documenting and preserving folklore In a set of new insightful essays contributors Trevor J Blank Simon J Bronner Robert Dobler Russell Frank Gregory Hansen Robert Glenn Howard Lynne S McNeill Elizabeth Tucker and William Westerman showcase ways the Internet both shapes and is shaped by folklore

## **From My People 400 Years Of African American Folklore** Book Review: Unveiling the Power of Words

In some sort of driven by information and connectivity, the energy of words has be much more evident than ever. They have the ability to inspire, provoke, and ignite change. Such could be the essence of the book **From My People 400 Years Of African American Folklore**, a literary masterpiece that delves deep to the significance of words and their impact on our lives. Published by a renowned author, this captivating work takes readers on a transformative journey, unraveling the secrets and potential behind every word. In this review, we will explore the book is key themes, examine its writing style, and analyze its overall affect readers.

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## From My People 400 Years Of African American Folklore Introduction

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