



ADINKRA, KASA!

KWABRE NYAME



Nnianimu asεm

INTRODUCTION

In the separation among Akan ancestors: through the traveling to different destinations or through death where the human soul is believed to embark on a journey into a different world, farewell messages were left for these departing humans (souls) to carry on to their next destinations.

These messages were embedded in symbols called Adinkra which translates as “to bid farewell”.

Over centuries, the Adinkra symbols are passed on mostly through prints in cloths (especially funeral cloths), and also through paintings on walls in Akan societies, jewellery made by Akan smiths and various sculpture works.

The Adinkra symbology is a language and I see this language speaking and therefore can be a written language today to comment on the current situation of our community. This thought was motivated by the current Adinkra Poetry Prize competition organized by Dr. Afua Ansong and the Library Of Africa and The Diaspora. In this exercise, writers submitted poems that talk about the based on the name of an Adinkra symbol in the context of Ghana's political and socioeconomic state. I emerged the winner in the spoken word category of this contest, 2023 edition.. This idea extends into an application of the adinkra symbols by myself to write a letter to my mother (MAAME KRATAA, 2022: available on audio and video streaming platforms).

ADINKRA, kasa! is a story of Adinkra symbols speaking in the context of Ghana/Africa's state of affairs. The messages embedded in these symbols by our ancestors shall be opened up to illuminate today's Ghanaian and African people on issues that have built us up, issues that have broken us down, and our way forward.

Nwoma no mu nsɛm

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