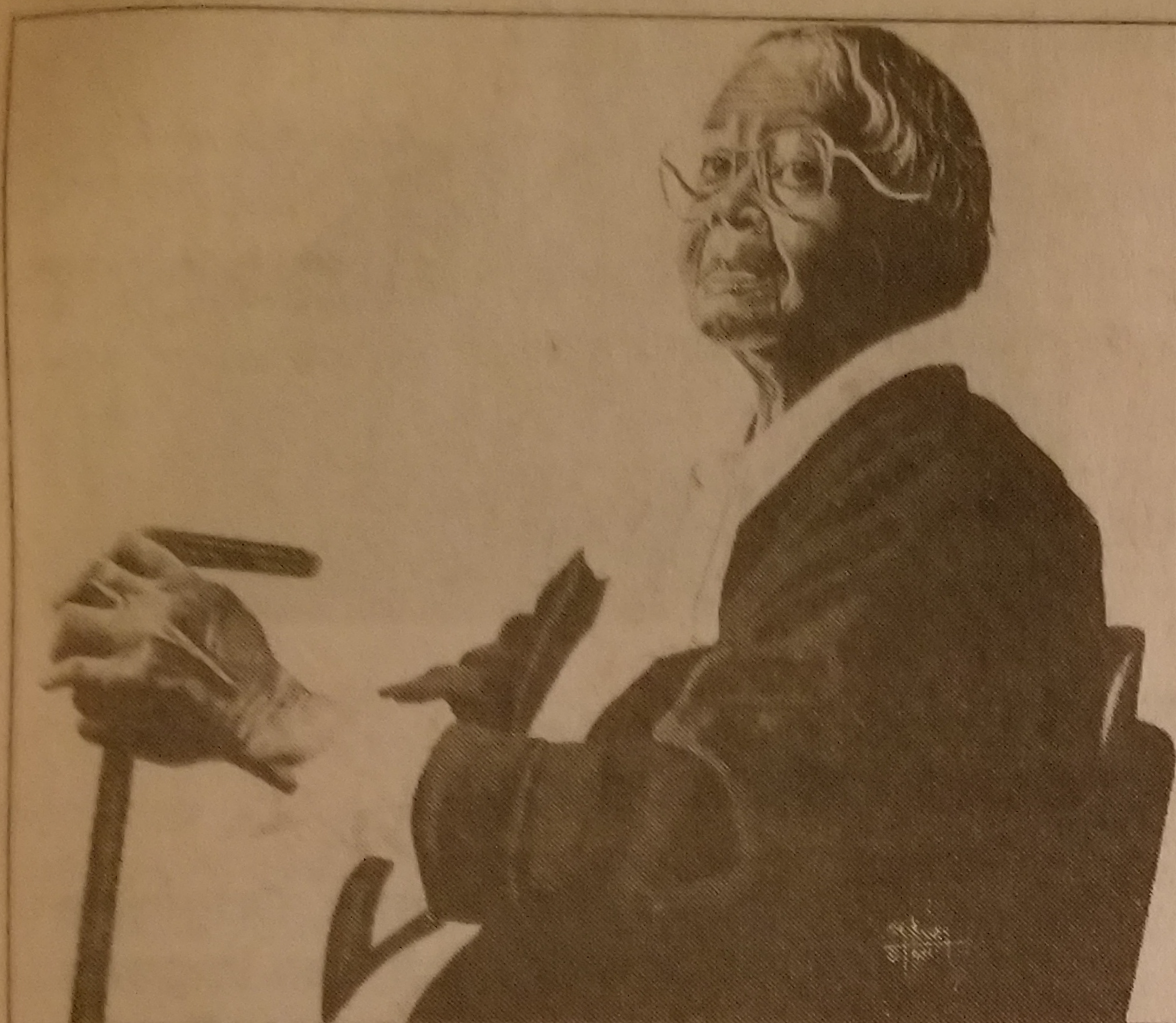


Cultural Center and Book Store Review

A Special Tribute To The Black Woman



MOTHER TO SON

Well, son, I'll tell you:

*Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it, and splinters, and
boards torn up, and places with no carpet on
the floor—bare.*

*But all the time I've been a-climbin' on,
and reachin' landin's, and turnin' corners,
and sometimes goin' in the dark where
there ain't been no light.*

*So boy, don't you turn back, don't you set down
on the steps 'cause you finds it's kinder hard.
Don't you fall now—for I've still goin', honey,
I've still climbin', and life for me ain't been no
crystal stair.*

Langston Hughes

A Word from the Editor-In-Chief

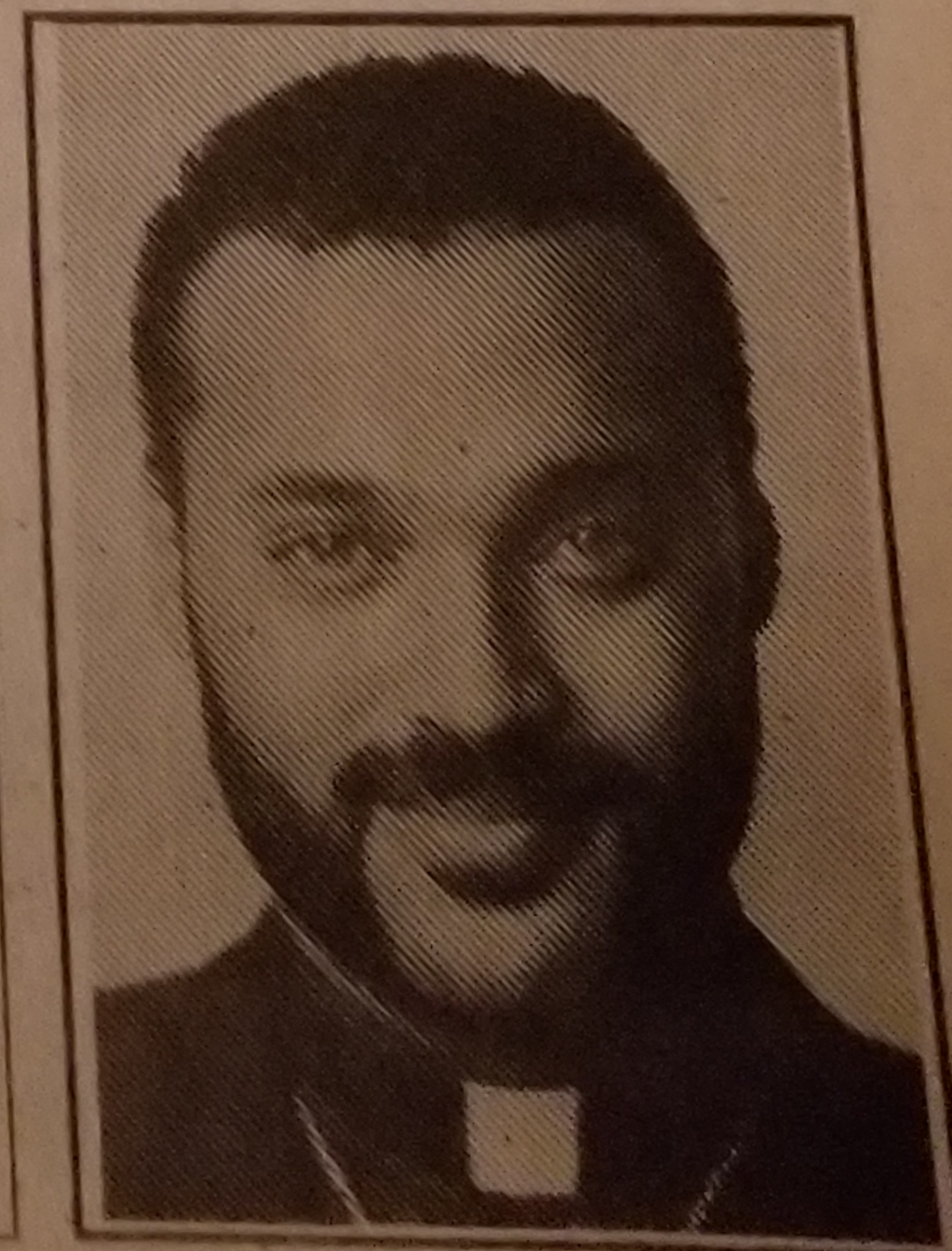
On Easter Sunday in 1967 the Founder and Holy Patriarch of the Shrines of the Black Madonna of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church, Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman (Bishop Albert B. Cleage Jr.) made a profound theological impact on the religious world when he unveiled a 30 foot chancel mural of the Black Madonna and Child. Aside from being a testament to the fact that Jesus of history and Mary his mother were Black, this unveiling was a kudos to all Black women for the many sacrifices and contributions they have made to secure salvation and liberation for our people.

The role African women have played in civilizing the world was a story that "others" refused to tell. Yet, today even the scientist of the west in search for the genetic origin of man have found and admitted that the BLACK WOMAN of Central Alkebu-lan (AKA: Africa) is the MOTHER of all humankind.

Brothers, we can no longer sit back and allow the Mother of Humanity to be subjected to the type of oppressive treatment that has been leveled against her for the past four hundred years. The BLACK WOMAN is our MOTHER; she is our SISTER; she is our LADY, and she is the essence of divine, social, intellectual, and sensual love that our God created to be our equal partner in the preservation of our race. Never are we to look upon her with eyes of contempt and competition. She is not our enemy, nor is she the source of our felt emasculation.

BLACK MAN, as we vie for the power to control and define our race destiny, success and happiness demand that we do so with the BLACK WOMAN standing with us; not behind nor beneath us. Let us this day, pledge an Oath of Allegiance unto her, our children and our God, that no power less than the sun will cause us to betray our sacred union nor her trust. For she is the BLACK WOMAN; THE MOTHER OF HUMANITY, and it is for this reason that we humbly dedicate to her this issue of the Cultural Center and Book Store Review.

With Love and Blessings
Happy Mother's Day
Bishop Olu Ufum



NOTE:

The Cultural Center Book Store Review welcomes your film, play, photographs, book reviews and comments geared toward enriching the Black Experience. Articles should be typed, doubled-spaced and a maximum of 500 words. Please note that materials cannot be returned, so be sure to duplicate your materials before submitting them. (The editors reserve the right to edit for length and clarity.)

SHRINE CULTURAL CENTER

5309 M. L. KING BLVD.

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77021

(713) 645-1071

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