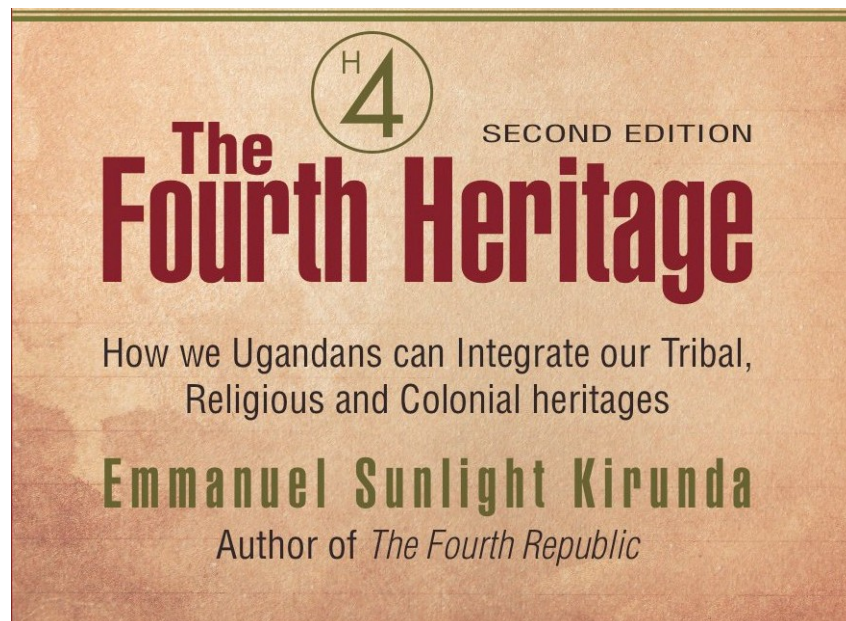


Invitation to the Retreat on Unpacking and Actualizing The Fourth Heritage



Retreat Modalities

Venue: Serena Hotel, Kampala

Date: Saturday 19/12/2015

Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Who can attend: If you've read book by 30/10/2015
(Purchase the book at amazon.com or contact the following)



For more information:

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CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE RETREAT ON UNPACKING AND ACTUALIZING THE FOURTH HERITAGE

I: Background Information

The Fourth Heritage is a book Emmanuel Kirunda wrote as a solution-driven response to Dr. Ali Mazrui's 1986 book (also a BBC Documentary) *The Africans: A triple Heritage*. Upon reading Mazrui's book and identifying with what Mazrui called the curse of the ancestors (it takes the form of inefficiency, mismanagement, corruption, and decay of the infrastructure, or idealized primitivism – the tendency to revel in the triumph of simplicity and the virtues of non-technicalness, or cultural confusion - a state of confusion generates its own attempts to escape. Some Africans reach out for a cultural revival, a restoration of authenticity. Others capitulate to the new civilization, engage in cultural surrender. And many become alienated, bewitched, bothered, and bewildered), Kirunda goes on to write about how he overcame the curse of the ancestors, and more importantly he lays out a framework that can help other Africans to overcome it.

In a brutally honest and yet reflective way, Mr. Kirunda uses simple but powerful reasoning to advocate for a paradigm shift in the way Ugandans look at their Tribal, Religious and European/ Colonial heritages. In an analytical and creative style Mr. Kirunda vividly describes his tribal life and the impact his parents had on his worldview. He then offers an unusually cold and intimate analysis of: the cultural confusion within the Uganda society; his personal hypothesis of why the Americans, Germans and Japanese are economically and intellectually developed; the two hindrances to development in Uganda; and his personal creative proposal called “The Fourth Heritage” which is a way to integrate the triple heritages and also solve the two hindrances. He specifically outlines 3 steps to help each individual on the journey of reconciling the triple heritages and overcoming the curse of the ancestors: Step 1: Fall in love with reason and science(knowledge) first, Step 2: keep whatever tribal or religious beliefs, traditions or myths make you happy, but hopefully which don't conflict with reason and science. Step 3: if there are still lingering unanswered questions not covered by reason or acceptable myths, whose insight you have, you should create new words, new concepts, or new models to help other people access the insight you have. Lastly, he generalizes his thesis to accommodate Kantian moral philosophies and offers a thrilling discussion of the scientific account of humanity's origin in East Africa and what that means for our collective human heritage.

Due to overwhelming positive feedback from readers of the book (both Ugandans and non-Ugandans) it has necessitated a retreat so that we can discuss ways to unpack and actualize “The Fourth Heritage” within the general Ugandan society.

II: Objectives of the Retreat

The retreat will be used as a conduit to discuss the above message from the book, and more specifically, achieve the following:

1. Understanding the central message that the author wants to convey.
2. Practical ways for each individual to go about actualizing “The Fourth Heritage”.
3. Discuss opportunities to disseminate the book to the general public (media, schools, etc).
4. Discuss the idea of an annual Critics Challenge to serve as an incentive for the general public to access the book and actively engage in its ideas.

III. Guiding Questions

1. What intellectual reference point can we use when discussing conflicting issues to do with tribal, religious and colonial heritages?
2. Can we find something out of political debate that we can use as a rallying point to inspire society and provoke them to critically analyze facets of our society that don’t work?
3. Can we find something outside European ideologies and foreign religious theologies that we can embrace as “our own” and use it as a stepping stone to understand the world which up to now is largely shaped by European ideas?

IV. Selected Feedback from Readers

1. **Dickson Wasake:** I too hope, as sincerely as the author does that as Ugandans, we shall truly embrace a “4th heritage” and experience a paradigm shift we so desperately need ... and when someone boldly asks me “what about you, what are you proud of”? I will look to the 4th heritage [not my tribe, not my religion] and proudly answer him. When you read this book, your mind will be opened and you will be like me no longer falling apart. But matching on as a proud Ugandan, a proud African.
2. **Dr. Daniel Kawuma:** The book is a must read for Africans from any corner of the continent and those who strive to find real solutions to Africa’s demise. Kirunda offers a framework we can follow to lift Africa and her nations out of dormancy. [He] sets out with a mission to help us understand the fundamental weaknesses of our society and then offers a platform we need to re-define who we are.



Nicholas Sengoba: What follows is entrenchment and self-preservation. The woes of Africa are such that throughout the continent there is no time, energy or any other known resource dedicated to building a civilization that will endure.

3. **Jehanzeb Noor:** Rarely has an author come out with such a compelling discourse that challenges the readers to redefine their social DNA and become in charge of their destiny. Targeted for an African audience by applicable to all human beings, Mr. Kirunda's *The Fourth Heritage* is an ambitious journey through mankind's intellectual and religious history, Africa's tribal culture and a new pragmatic framework for each individual to realize their full potential. *The Fourth Heritage* is a must read for all who care about the world, including citizens of developed countries and all children who need intellectual development.
4. **Nick Twinamatsiko:** What will crank up African evolution to gear four and beyond? If you believe Mr. Kirunda – and I have to say he is quite credible – it's the adoption of a fourth heritage and a "heri". Even if you dismiss his views, you can't deny that his book is a potential trigger of the most important debate that we ought to have as Africans.
5. **Stig Aune:** I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Very well written and unsentimental. Although I disagree with the author's view that religion and science are compatible, it's an understandable advocacy in light of his core message, namely a call for the end of tribalism that is such a killer social disease in so many poor parts of the world. His descriptions of morality and science are so well done that I'll refer back to the book when I feel some reinforcements are required from time to time
6. **Lynn Gilbert:** The contrast here with the Asian 'tiger' economies is dramatic: they have struggles but their cultures and religions have been more integrated with Western influences, so they can put their peoples' energies to work. The idea of the fourth "heri" looks like a good teaching device, so that your readers in Uganda can appreciate reason/science as ONE OF their heritages, along with tribal culture, religion, and Western influence.



Charles Onyango Obbo: Since before independence, most Africans have been prisoners of a protest, anti-colonial, anti-imperialistic, and ultimately anti-white culture.... The result is that we have very little quiet-toned reflective writing that examines the African story in any sophisticated way. This tradition of angry and fighting scholarship so deformed the African intellectual space that even when it moved away to other subjects, the mindset remained.