

Group 5

Questions for Adodi and Gay Men of African Descent

Why might African spiritualism have relevance for Black communities facing or combatting AIDS?

Consider the spiritual message of the poem about AIDS.

REPORT OUT: Does white media miss the “pulse” of African heritage in how it chooses to report on Black churches and AIDS?

Document G: Gay Men of African Descent



Following the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the constitutionality of state sodomy laws, Rev. Charles Angel and Colin Robinson, founders of Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD), protested the ruling. **Citation:** "Photo," GMAD at 25: *History in Words and Images* [exhibit], February 1–December 31, 2012

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library.

Document L: Adodi New York Webpage

The Adodi organization was formed out of Black gay men's need for grieving during the early AIDS epidemic. In 1991, GMAD hosted ADODI to talk about "exploring the spiritual side of our development..." GMAD explored the healing inherent in considering that Adodi were the wise men/healers of Yoruba society.

ADODI's HERITAGE
(Established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1986)
Our 23rd Year!

ADODI, the plural of **ADO**,
is a Yoruba word that describes a man who "loves" another man.
More than just a description of partners in Africa, the ADODI
of the tribe are thought to embody both male and female ways
of being and were revered as shamans, sages and leaders.

Who is ADODI?
ADODI is a community of men of color who affirm their
African lineage and love of men. Our purpose is to foster and
encourage the self-discovery, validation, empowerment and
liberation of all members of our diverse community.

Remember, Each One Reach One
Share The Experience:

- 1) Forward a Link To Other Bruthaz
About Our Archive and e-Newsletters
- 2) Invite and Bring Other Bruthaz To Our Gatherings
in Brooklyn, New York

www.ADODIntl.org

Citation: "ADODI New York | Habari Gani e-Newsletter Archive Homepage"
<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs065/1101859413381/archive/1102432339232.html>. Viewed 01-06-23.

Document H Marlon Riggs

Poem from documentary film about Black gay men, [Tongues Untied](#) (1989) by Black gay filmmaker Marlon Riggs. Riggs documented the devastation of his community by AIDS and concluded the film with this poem.

*I listen to the beat of my heart,
let this primal pulse lead me,
though lately I've lived with another rhythm.*

*At first, I thought just time passing. But I discovered a time bomb
ticking in my blood.*

Faces, friends disappear.

I watch.

I wait.

I watch.

I wait.

I listen

for my own

quiet

implosion.

But while I wait,

older, stronger rhythms resonate within me,

sustain my spirit, silence the clock.

Whatever awaits me, this much I know:

I was blind to my brother's beauty, and now I see

my own.

Citation: Poem quoted in Daniel Royles, "Black Gay History and the Fight Against AIDS," *The Weekly Challenger*, Dec. 28, 2017.

<https://theweeklychallenger.com/black-gay-history-and-the-fight-against-aids/>