

George James

First Last Name

Institution

Date

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George James was an author and a historian from Guyana. He was born to rev. Linch and Margret James in the nineteenth century. He is best known for his book *Stolen Legacy* in which he argues that the Greek philosophy did not actually originate from Greece but from the ancient Egypt. He studied his elementary and secondary education at his native home. He then went to England for further education where he studied at Durham University. He earned a bachelor's degree and masters from the same university but later went to Columbia where he earned a Ph.D. He also received the qualification to teach Latin, Greek and mathematics at The State of New York (Onyewuenyi 1993).

During his work, he faced numerous problems especially with the publication of his book. The book was published while he was still working with the University of Arkansas yet there is no copy of his book in its library. People in his native home Guyana have never paid tribute to him. Neither does the University of Arkansas where he worked although it is primarily a black institution. He met his death in a cold-blooded murder. He was found dead at Nashville, Tennessee a short period of time after the publication of his book.

In his work, he states that the Greek philosophy and the Roman civilization did not actually originate from this country but from North Africa (James 1954). He argues that the Egyptians had been civilized and developed the mysteries of religion before the Greek. It was the Greek who copied or stole these civilizations and religious mystery from the Egyptians. The Egyptians had the ancient books that were plundered during alexander the great's invasion. It was with this material that Aristotle set up himself as a wise man and a philosopher. For example, the Egyptian goddess Isis holding her child Horus in her arms was stolen to mean Mary

George James

with Jesus on her arms. He also mentions that all the biblical greats including Moses can trace their roots to the Egyptian mystery. He has been referred to some as an Afro-centrist for arguing that European scholars are guilty of neglecting or denial of the African intellectual contribution to history and civilization. He has provided facts and supported them with historical references and illustrations that are reliable.

The research and findings of his work are paramount in the history of the African American history. It serves to reconstruct the tainted history of the African people. The notion that they are natural backward and have no contribution to civilization has been cleared as false. The work has also served to set right the misunderstanding of the origin of arts, science, and culture. The common knowledge that Aristotle was the wisest man to live has actually been informed that the knowledge he gained was the knowledge stolen from the Egyptians. The reasons why the Greek philosophers were persecuted by their own governments was a confirmation that the knowledge and the myths were stolen; they were persecuted for introducing different mythologies and philosophies. Alexander the Great's invasion of Egypt has also cleared the misunderstanding to a great extent. Aristotle was his friend, and it was during the invasion that the temples and libraries of the ancient Egypt were plundered. It has set straight the records about the ancient civilization.

The teachings of philosophy are to make a person understand and appreciate their own civilization and to know of the others too. *The Stolen Legacy* is important to the African American communities to recognize their contribution to history. The long time condemnation of the Africans as having not contributed to history has been confirmed as a myth according to George James. The European community should appreciate the contribution of Africa to arts, science, and civilization. Africans should not feel as inferior as the allegation they are not

George James

intelligent is a myth. The work has set to reclaim the glory of the African community, that their legacy is what was stolen. It is to restore the dignity of the African people as key contributors to civilization and restore the glory lost due to discrimination.

The key topics in this book are that the Greece and philosophy is a stolen one. It mentions how the Greek got access to this material that did not belong to them but made a legacy out of them. It also argues about the legacy of Aristotle, that the fact he was the wisest man is probably not true. The conflict between his philosophy and that of Plato has also been questioned. The question that the Africans have no choice but as they have already been prejudged is also a great injustice to the Africans. They have made a significant contribution only that it has not been appreciated. The biggest mistake the European community made was theft of the African heritage and using it against them in the form of discrimination. The false taking of what was not theirs and claiming it as their own is a high form of arrogance for the Greece and Europe as a whole. For example, the number of books and philosophies credited to Aristotle are an exaggeration as it is not possible for one man to achieve all that, even in the modern era where there are writing aids like the Microsoft word.

He also mentions that the Greek philosophy was alien to the Greek and their ways of life. It was a learned philosophy which did not have its origin from the Greek people. As such, conflicts were bound to arise due to the differences between the learned and the first philosophies. This explains the persecution of some of the Greek philosophers by their own people. The Greek philosophy was the offspring of the Egyptian mystery systems. It was as a result of the Egyptian mystery system that the Greek formulated their philosophies. Even the biblical people like Moses and Jesus had their roots traced back to Egypt (James & Asante 1992).

George James

George James in his book has supported every single statement and claim with sources that can be verified. Without bias, his work is an authentic narration of the historical events and the relationship between that past and the present. He was murdered in cold blood shortly after the release of his book, pointing out that it is probably the publication of his book that motivated his murderer to kill him. The reason why he was murdered was because he had exposed the truth just the way it is. This does not auger well with the firm believers in the history as it is. There has been a deliberate effort to sabotage the progress of this book, especially among the European readers.

References

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