

## **Dr. Molefi Kete Asante**

Dr. Molefi Kete Asante is Professor, Department of African American Studies at Temple University. Considered by his peers to be one of the most distinguished contemporary scholars, Asante has published 61 books, among the most recent are *Encyclopedia of Black Studies*, (2004), co-edited with Ama Mazama, *Race, Rhetoric, and Identity: The Architecton of Soul*, *Erasing Racism: The Survival of the American Nation*, (2003), *Ancient Egyptian Philosophers* (2003), *Scattered to the Wind, Custom and Culture of Egypt*, and *100 Greatest African Americans*. The second edition of his high school text, *African American History: Journey of Liberation*, 2nd Edition, (2001), is used widely throughout North America.

He has published more scholarly books than any contemporary African author and has recently been recognized as one of the ten most widely cited African Americans. In addition, *Black Issues in Higher Education* recognized him as one of the most influential leaders in the last 15 years. Asante completed his M.A. at Pepperdine and received his Ph.D. from UCLA at the age of 26 and was appointed a full professor at the age of 30 at the State University of New York at Buffalo. At Temple University he created the first Ph.D. Program in African American Studies in 1987. He has directed more than 125 Ph.D. dissertations. He has written more than 300 articles for journals and magazines and is the founder of the theory of Afrocentricity.

Asante was born in Valdosta, Ga., one of sixteen children. He is a poet, dramatist, and a painter. His work on African culture and philosophy has been cited by journals such as the *Journal of Black Studies*, *Journal of Communication*, *American Scholar*, *Daedalus*, *Western Journal of Black Studies*, and *Africaological Perspectives*. The *Utne Reader* called him one of the “100 Leading Thinkers” in America and Asante was recommended in a survey as one of the 25 influential African male leaders of the last two hundred years. In 2001, *Transition Magazine* said “Asante may be the most important professor in Black America.” He has appeared on *Nightline*, *Nighttalk*, *BET*, *Macnell Lehrer News Hour*, *Today Show*, the *Tony Brown Show*, *Night Watch*, *Like It Is* and *60 Minutes*. In 2002 he received the distinguished *Douglas Ehninger Award for Rhetorical Scholarship* from the *National Communication Association*. The *African Union* cited him as one of the twelve top scholars of African descent when it invited him to give one of the keynote addresses at the *Conference of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora* in Dakar in 2004. He was inducted into the *Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent* at the *Gwendolyn Brooks Center* at *Chicago State University* in 2004.

Dr. Asante is the founding editor of the *Journal of Black Studies* (1969) and was the President of the *Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee* chapter at UCLA in the 1960's. In 1995 he was made a traditional king, *Nana Okru Asante Peasah*, *Kyldomhene* of *Tafo, Akyem, Ghana*. Dr. Asante has been or is presently a consultant for a dozen school districts. An activist scholar, he believes it is not enough to know, one must act to humanize the world.