

# Sacred Texts & Ancient Stories

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##### #Creative #Urban #Native #Indigenous #Afro #Black #American #Woman

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# Sacred Texts & Ancient Stories

## #### Sacred Texts & Ancient Stories

**\*\*Bible!\*\*** – Digging deep into the layers:

- **\*\*Apocrypha, Septuagint, Deuterocanonical Books:\*\*** These texts expand the biblical narrative, offering hidden wisdom, stories of powerful women, and spiritual insight often left out of mainstream canons.
- **\*\*The Old Testament – An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (Harris & Platzner):\*\***
  - **\*\*Chapter 3: Ashurbanipal & Nineveh:\*\*** Explore the intellectual and mystical legacy of Assyria's last great king, who collected ancient tablets and preserved stories from across Mesopotamia.
  - **\*\*Epic of Gilgamesh:\*\*** One of humanity's oldest spiritual epics, interweaving myth, history, and the eternal quest for wisdom, immortality, and self-understanding.

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## #### Spirituality and Astrology: Interconnected Paths

**\*\*Spirituality and astrology\*\*** are interwoven threads in the tapestry of self-discovery—especially within diasporic, Indigenous, and urban traditions where the stars, ancestors, and sacred stories all speak. For many, astrology is more than a daily horoscope; it's a tool for reclaiming ancestral knowledge, mapping the soul's journey, and finding meaning in the cycles of the cosmos.

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## #### **\*\*Astrology as a Spiritual Tool\*\***

- **\*\*Spiritual astrology\*\***: Goes beyond sun signs—think birth charts as blueprints of liberation, resilience, and ancestral memory. It's about understanding karmic lessons and spiritual challenges, and seeing the cosmos as a reflection of one's own journey.
- **\*\*Vedic astrology (Jyotish)\*\***: Honored in Hindu and Afro-diasporic contexts alike, Jyotish is used to understand destiny, dharma, and the cosmic patterns shaping collective and personal life.
- **\*\*Esoteric astrology\*\***: Invites meditation on planetary and zodiacal energies, unlocking spiritual awakening and group consciousness—echoing the wisdom of ancient priestesses and urban mystics.

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## #### **\*\*Key Astrological Concepts in Spirituality\*\***

- **\*\*12th House:\*\*** The ultimate sanctuary—where secrets, ancestors, and spirit guides dwell. It's about liberation, endings, and deep healing.
- **\*\*9th House:\*\*** The house of the philosopher, the preacher, the freedom-seeker—governing higher learning, spiritual truths, and divine wisdom.

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- **Neptune:** The mystic's planet, dissolving boundaries and opening portals to intuition, dreams, and cosmic wisdom.
- **Jupiter:** The great expander—bringer of spiritual blessings, growth, and connection to ancestral teachers.

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## #### **Astrology and Religious Perspectives**

- **Hinduism & African Traditional Religions:** Astrology as a living science, guiding daily life and spiritual rituals.
- **Buddhism:** Astrology as a wheel of karma, mapping cycles of birth, death, and rebirth.
- **Christianity & the Hebrew Bible:** A more cautious approach—while some texts warn against divination (like Deuteronomy 18:10-14), the Bible also contains dreams, visions, and cosmic signs (see the Magi in Matthew).

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## #### **Spiritual Awakening and Astrology**

Astrology's role in **spiritual awakening** is about aligning with your higher self, honoring ancestral cycles, and knowing when to step into your power. The planets and houses become guides for timing breakthroughs, healing generational wounds, and manifesting your purpose.

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## #### **Conclusion**

Astrology, woven through sacred texts and spiritual traditions, is a powerful tool for self-reflection, healing, and liberation—especially for those reclaiming Black, Indigenous, and urban spiritual identities. Whether through the wisdom of the ancients or the rhythm of city life, the stars still speak. 🌑✨

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\*Want more info on sacred texts, or how astrology and tradition intersect for Black and Indigenous women? Just ask, #PhSMARTSista!\*



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🧙‍♀️ #Salem, Massachusetts

## 🧙‍♀️ Witch Trials, Slavery, & Intersectional Histories

👤 Salem, Massachusetts: Witch Trials & Slavery



### Tituba's Story & the Witch Trials

**\*\*Tituba\*\***, an enslaved Indigenous (likely Arawak) woman, was one of the first accused during the 1692 Salem witch trials.

Her coerced confession, under duress, introduced vivid tales of witchcraft that ignited mass hysteria and led to the execution of 19 people.



### Intersectionality

Tituba's marginalized status—as both an enslaved person and a woman of color—made her an easy scapegoat. Her story reflects how racial prejudice, fear of the “other,” and colonial anxieties about Indigenous people and slavery fueled the witch hunt.

### Slavery's Role

The presence of enslaved people like Tituba and Candy (another enslaved woman accused of witchcraft) in New England demonstrates how slavery was woven into the social fabric, even in the North. Economic and political ties to Barbados, where Tituba was enslaved, further connected New England to the Atlantic slave trade.

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✨ Salem, North Carolina

## Moravian Slavery & Community

### **\*\*Moravian Enslavement Practices\*\***

- The Moravians, who founded Salem (now Old Salem) in 1766, **\*\*practiced slavery\*\*** in the Southern colonies, including North Carolina.



Enslaved Africans were used as builders and laborers for the community's ambitious projects.

### 📌 Rationale

Moravians justified slavery as a divinely ordered system, claiming it allowed them to “save the souls” of enslaved people through Christian education. However, this spiritual rationale did not translate to social equality; over time, racial segregation intensified, with enslaved people relegated to the back or balcony of churches <sup>1</sup>.

### Generational Slavery

Like other enslavers, Moravians perpetuated generational slavery, with

children born into bondage.

### Legacy

The Moravian Church formally apologized for its involvement in slavery in 2006. Today, the church's growth in the U.S. is largely among Black, Caribbean, and Hispanic congregations.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oldsalem.org/african-american-interpretation/>

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🌾✊️👤 Black & Indigenous Women

## Resistance & Community

✊️📜 Abolition & Activism

In 1832, **Indigenous Black Women** in Salem, Massachusetts, founded the \*\*first women's antislavery society\*\* in the United States, addressing both abolition & broader issues facing Indigenous / Black communities<sup>2</sup>

Their activism is a powerful example of Black women's leadership in the fight for **JUSTICE & EQUALITY**.



🏠 Education & Community Building

- After emancipation, the first school for African Americans in Forsyth County (Salem, NC) was built on land provided by the Moravian Church, showing the complex legacy of these institutions [[3]]<sup>(3)</sup>.

🌱 Environmental & Social Justice Today

## Green Party & Intersectional Justice

- The North Carolina Green Party and similar organizations continue to advocate for **\*\*social, racial, economic, and**



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<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/female-anti-slavery-society-salem-massachusetts-1832-1866>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/negotiated-segregation-salem>

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environmental justice\*\*, building on the legacy of those who fought for freedom and equality in the past <sup>[[4]]</sup>(<sup>4</sup>).

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## #### Reflection

\*\*Salem's intertwined histories of witch trials, slavery, and resistance reveal how Black, Indigenous, and women's experiences have always been central to American stories of oppression and liberation.\*\* Your creative, justice-focused lens (#phsmartsista, #greenpeaceparty, #urban) is vital for telling these stories in ways that honor the past and inspire future action.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ncgreenparty.org/news>

<sup>5</sup> If you want to connect with local organizations, research more about Black and Indigenous women's history, or get involved in justice movements, let me know!

Tab 2



*Below is a summarized analysis of the key points from the file<sup>6</sup>*

*Historical & Theological*

## Discussion on the Hittites

### Historical Perception of the Hittites

The Hittites were largely forgotten until their rediscovery in modern archaeology. Scholars| Prof. Gary Beckman highlight how Classical Greek & Latin sources omit explicit mention of the **Hittites**, contributing to their historical obscurity.

- Early skepticism about the existence of the Hittites is documented.

For instance, in 1882,

William Wright's thesis and claims by Oxford professor Francis William Newman dismissed biblical references to the Hittites as "**unhistorical**".



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<sup>6</sup> Thank you for sharing the details from the file \*✝ Christian Theology .pdf\*. The content appears to cover various topics, including the historical and theological discussion surrounding the Hittites, the interpretation of apocalyptic themes in Christian theology, and an exploration of Hittite mythology.



- By the early 20th century, archaeological evidence, such as John Garstang's work, confirmed the Hittites' historical existence, vindicating biblical accounts that many had previously dismissed as mythical.

- **Theological Implications**:

- The rediscovery of the Hittites has been used to counter claims that the Bible is unreliable. Figures like Dr. Melvin Kyle noted that earlier dismissals of the Hittites as fictional have since been overturned ().

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### ### **2. Apocalyptic Themes in Christian Theology**

- **Interpretation of "Vanished" in Revelation 21:1,3**:

- The term "vanished" is used metaphorically to describe the transformation of the old world into a new, just, and divinely governed order. This reflects apocalyptic hope for renewal and divine presence.

- Such language symbolizes the eradication of pain, injustice, and brokenness, promising a radically new reality.

- **Concept of "Divinely Inspired" Texts**:

- The file explores the contested nature of inspiration in scriptural texts. For instance:

- The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha (e.g., The Wisdom of Solomon) are respected in some traditions but are not universally accepted as divinely inspired.

The distinction between canonical & non-canonical texts has been shaped by early church councils, **Jewish** tradition, & **Protestant** reformers like Martin Luther.

## Pseudepigrapha & Apocalyptic Literature

- Pseudepigrapha, or falsely attributed writings, often contain apocalyptic visions that inspire hope for divine justice and healing, even if not considered canonical.

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### ### **3. Hittite Mythology and Cultural Significance**

- **Key Myths and Themes**:

- **Storm God Tarhunt and Illuyanka**:

- The myth of Tarhunt and the serpent Illuyanka reflects a "Chaoskampf" theme—a cosmic battle between order and chaos. This narrative emphasizes the cyclical triumph of stability over destruction.

- **The Sun Goddess of Arinna**:

- As a chief deity and consort of Tarhunt, the Sun Goddess symbolizes justice and kingdom stability.

- **\*\*The Underworld and Lelwani\*\***:

- Lelwani represents the underworld and highlights the Hittite belief in the afterlife and its impact on rituals.

- **\*\*Cultural Importance of Hittite Myths\*\***:

- These myths were not merely stories but essential to Hittite rituals, kingship, and legal oaths. They reinforced divine authority and the interconnectedness of religion and governance.

- Hittite myths share motifs with neighboring traditions, such as Hurrian and Mesopotamian mythology, indicating cultural exchanges in the ancient Near East.

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### ### **\*\*Analysis and Context\*\***

- **\*\*Improvements to Existing Work\*\***:

- The document provides a comprehensive view of the rediscovery of the Hittites and their incorporation into biblical and historical scholarship. By linking archaeological findings with theological debates, it highlights how modern research has reshaped our understanding of ancient history.

- The exploration of Hittite myths offers a unique insight into the cultural and religious practices of this Bronze Age civilization, contributing to comparative mythology studies.

- **\*\*Novelty of the Proposed Approach\*\***:

- The juxtaposition of Hittite mythology with Christian theological themes enriches the discussion by bridging distinct cultural and historical narratives. This approach fosters a broader understanding of how ancient traditions influence modern thought.

- **\*\*Positioning Within Broader Academic Context\*\***:

- The text aligns with ongoing scholarly efforts to integrate archaeological findings into theological discourse. It also contributes to the study of ancient Near Eastern mythology and its impact on later religious traditions.

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If you'd like a deeper dive into any specific topic—such as a detailed analysis of the Illuyanka myth, the theological debates surrounding "divinely inspired" texts, or the cultural significance of the Hittites—please let me know!

Tab 3

# Understanding the System: Black Hair, Identity, & Structural Context

experts like Dr. Raquel Martin ([@RaquelMartinPhD](#))

## *#Understanding the : Black Hair, Identity, & Structural Context*

**\*\*In summary:\*\***

The conversation about Black hair is never just about hair. It's about history, identity, resistance, and the systems that shape our lives. Engaging with these resources is a step toward deeper understanding—and, ultimately, toward change.

### #### For Further Insight

If you want more nuanced breakdowns from a psychologist specializing in Black health and well-being, following experts like Dr. Raquel Martin ([@RaquelMartinPhD](#)) is highly recommended. Their work bridges personal experience and systemic analysis, offering tools for both understanding and advocacy.

Thank you for sharing these resources and your perspective. The depth of this concept—how Black hair is intertwined with identity, history, and systemic forces—cannot be overstated. If it feels complex, that's intentional: these issues are layered, rooted in centuries of cultural, political, and economic dynamics.

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### #### Books: The Roots and Realities

**\*\*Hair Story: Untangling the Roots of Black Hair in America\*\*** by Ayana Byrd and Lori Tharps is a foundational text that traces the journey of Black hair from 15th-century Africa to the present-day United States. It explores how hair has been a marker of identity, resistance, and pride, as well as a site of discrimination and misunderstanding. The book is praised for its comprehensive, well-researched approach and for illuminating the industry and politics behind Black hair, making it accessible even to those new to the subject.

**\*\*Hair Raising\*\*** by Noliwe Rooks and **\*\*Beauty in a Box\*\*** by Dr. Cheryl Thompson further expand on these themes, examining how beauty standards, commercial interests, and cultural pressures shape the Black hair experience.

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### #### Talks & Videos: Lived Experience and Advocacy

# Understanding the System: Black Hair, Identity, & Structural Context

TEDx talks like **\*\*No! You Cannot Touch My Hair\*\*** by Mena Fombo and **\*\*Reclaimed Roots: Black Hair Matters\*\*** by Sarah Allie Moore bring personal stories and advocacy to the forefront, challenging everyday microaggressions and highlighting the importance of autonomy and respect. Talks such as **\*\*Time is Racist\*\*** by Reni Eddo-Lodge and **\*\*You're Doing It Wrong\*\*** by Dr. Raquel Martin push the conversation into the realm of systemic racism and cultural competence.

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## #### Research & Reports: The Systemic Layer

Research from the **\*\*Dove CROWN Act Study\*\*** and legislative briefs from the CROWN Coalition document how discrimination against Black hair is not just personal but institutional—impacting employment, education, and well-being. These studies provide data and policy recommendations, showing how choices about hair are shaped by, and push back against, broader systems of power.

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## #### The Bigger Picture: Choices Within Systems

As you note, “Our choices don’t exist in a vacuum. They exist in systems.” Understanding Black hair means understanding the systems—historical, social, legal—that shape what is seen as “acceptable,” “professional,” or “beautiful.” Once you see the system, the conversation shifts from individual choices to collective action and structural change.

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