

Kwanzaa Theme Song

Written by Okera Ras I. Copyright 1994

Chorus

Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa
Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa
Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa
Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa

This is a song about Kwanzaa (Kwanzaa)
This is a song about Kwanzaa (Kwanzaa)
This is a song about Kwanzaa (Kwanzaa)
This is a song about Kwanzaa (Kwanzaa)

Verse 1

This is a message for everybody
You, your bredren, your sistren and your family
The word Kwanzaa means **First Fruits** in Kiswahili
It's a special time for you and for me
It's from December 26th to the first of January
But we have to live it out daily-lee-lee-lee (Everyday)
A time to reaffirm our values and our identity
And fight the negative results of slavery
It's start was 1966 by Maulana Karenga
I tell you that ya man he is a professor
He teaches Black studies inna California
The roots of Kwanzaa come from **Afrika**
We the Afrikans living in the **diaspora**
We pull upon this energy so we can prosper
That's the Seven Principles called the Nguzo Saba

Principle number 1 - **UMOJA**

Principle number 2 - **KUJICHAGULIA**

Principle number 3 - **UJIMA**

Principle number 4 - **UJAMAA**

Principle number 5 - That's the one **NIA**

Principle number 6 - **KUUMBA**

And number 7 you see, is called **IMANI**

Chorus

Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa
Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa
Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa
Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa

You know that Kwanzaa (Kwanzaa)

Is for the people (People)

So let us tell you (Tell you)

About the symbols (Symbols)

(Repeat)

The place mat is the **MKEKA**

The candle holder is the **KINARA**

The 7 candles, the **MISHUMAA SABA**

The Unity cup, **KIKOMBE CHA UMOJA**

The gifts that that we give are the **ZAWADI**

The corn is the children, it's the **MUHINDI**

The fruits and veggies are the **MAZAO**

The **BENDERA YA TAIFA** are the colors that flow

Before the 7 days of celebration are through

We all have a feast called the **KARAMU**

Chorus

Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa
Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa
Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa
Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa

(Repeat)

The lyrics from this song are from the Kwanzaa Kwest Video. For info visit www.kwanzaamedia.com. Call toll free
1.800.614.3641 info@kwanzaamedia.com

Umoja

written by Koran Carlos, copyright 1994

pronunciation: **Umoja**(Ooo-moe'-jah), **Nguzo Saba**(En-goo'-zoe Sah'-ba)
Liver(not the body part, but **more live!**)

Umoja, it's the **Umoja**

Come on let me tell you 'bout the **Umoja-wa-wa**

Umoja, it's the **Umoja**

Come on let me tell you 'bout the **Umoja**.

Verse

To strive for and maintain peace in the family,
community, nation and race

We need to place, **Umoja**

*or should I say Unity my sister (brother)

*without Unity how could our people be free? It couldn't happen

Yes, so we need to be together

could evil forces come against us? Never, cause they aint that clever

So, I think you gotta

kick a little somethin' about the **Nguzo Saba**

The Seven Principles

somethin' sensible not stupid

*like the rhythm I and that Rasta brother looped it

for your listening pleasure

and that takes **Umoja**

*togetherness for nationhood and I hope you understood

this little story from Jah witness

and if you don't I have to flip just like a gymnast

But uh, my Idren make me mash it up **Liver**

Peace! I'm outta here

*Afrika for I-ver

Umoja, that's the Unity

In the race, nation and the community

Umoja, that's the Unity

in the race, nation and the family

Umoja, it's the **Umoja**

come and let us tell you 'bout the **Umoja - wa - wa**

Umoja, it's the **Umoja**

Come and let us tell you 'bout the **Umoja**

*C'mon, we know that you can

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Kujichagulia

written by: Ras Hassan, copyright 1994

Pronunciation - **Kujichagulia** (Koo'-jee-cha-goo-lee'-ah)

Nguzo Saba (En-goo'-zoe Sah'-bah)

Chorus

It's the **Kuji (What !)** **Kujichagulia**, it's the **Kuji (What !)** **Kujichagu-lia**
Kuji (What !) **Kujichagulia**, it's the **Kuji (What !)** **Kujichagulia**

M.C. Dee, I know that you're rough
and when I hear your lyrics I can't get enough
So break it down 'bout the **Nguzo Saba**
And tell the people 'bout **Kujichagulia**

Verse 1

Harken children and heed the secret
What I gotta tell you is well worth seeking
So listen if you're Indian or Black or Puerto Rican
Knowledge is supreme, so peep it
How would you like to be brave and stand firm and not afraid
To be yourself, not ashamed of what Jah made
See he made you and plus me too
So just be confident and Jah will lead you
To wherever you want to go
just remember this
Show and prove to yourself who you are so that you know
And never think that you can get something for nothing
Yo, I aint bluffing or full of stuffing, nothing from nothing is nothing

Chorus

(**What !**) **Kujichagulia**, it's the **Kuji (What !)** **Kujichagu-lia**
Kuji (What !) **Kujichagulia**, it's the **Kuji (What !)** **Kujichagulia**

M.C. Dee, I know you did rehearse, so
Go right ahead and kick a next verse, yo

Verse 2

So what's the secret of success, you want to know? I'll tell you
It's **Self - Determination**, working our way on through
Recession, or even a depression
Could never stop the strength that's coming from this message
In Swahili, **Kujichagulia** means **Self - Determination**
Kwanzaa's once a year, so put this principle in effect everyday of your life
Determine how your gonna spend your time each day and night ... for life
This invincible principle gets in you, sensing you, hitting you
On the strength sending you for endless miles
Through tribulations, or even trials
Dont be scared to throw your Will-Power into gear
(With what)
With **Kujichagulia**

Chorus

Kuji (What !) **Kujichagulia**, it's the **Kuji (What !)** **Kujichagu-lia**
Kuji (What !) **Kujichagulia**, it's the **Kuji (What !)** **Kujichagu-lia**
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Kuji (What !) **Kujichagulia**, it's the **Kuji (What !)** **Kujichagu-lia**

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Ujima

Collective Work & Responsibility
Call & Response

written by: Okera Ras I, copyright 1994

Pronunciation:

Ujima (oo-jee'-ma)

Ujima, it's the Ujima

Ujima, it's the Ujima

Come on let me tell you 'bout the Ujima

Come on let me tell you 'bout the Ujima

Ujima, it's the Ujima

Ujima, it's the Ujima

Come on let me tell you 'bout the Ujima

Come on let me tell you 'bout the Ujima

Collective Work and Responsibility

Collective Work and Responsibility

I look out for you, you look out for me

I look out for you, you look out for me

Verse

You can warn me about things I can't see

You can warn me about things I can't see

And I can tell you of things out of your view

And I can tell you of things out of your view

Your problems are my problems

Your problems are my problems

My problems are your problems

My problems are your problems

Like birds of a feather we solve them together

Like birds of a feather we solve them together

Any time of day, any kind of weather

Any time of day, any kind of weather

Ujima, it's the Ujima

Ujima, it's the Ujima

Come on let me tell you 'bout the Ujima

Come on let me tell you 'bout the Ujima

Collective Work and Responsibility

Collective Work and Responsibility

I look out for you, you look out for me

I look out for you, you look out for me

Ujima, it's the Ujima

Ujima, it's the Ujima

Come on let me tell you 'bout the Ujima

Come on let me tell you 'bout the Ujima

Collective Work and Responsibility

Collective Work and Responsibility

I look out for you, you look out for me

I look out for you, you look out for me

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Ujamaa

(Cooperative Economics)

written by: Okera Ras I, copyright 1994

Pronunciation:

Ujamaa (oo-jah-ma')

Chorus

Ujamaa

Cooperative Economics

(4x)

Verse

Where did you spend your money today?

Did you support one of our own businesses along the way

With Ujamaa we build our business and profit from them together

If we all carry some weight, the load is as light as a feather

In a barrel the jealous crabs are forever bound

So when one of us is rising, let's lift them up and not pull them down

We can get on track and pick up the slack

But we seem to lack a desire to Buy Black

It seems so easy to recycle our dollars and cents

So in each other let's increase our confidence

This is our life, not a story in the comics

We all can benefit from Cooperative Economics

Chorus

Ujamaa

Cooperative Economics

(8x)

Where did you spend your money today?

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Nia

written by Ras Okera, copyright 1994

pronunciation: **Nia** (Nee'-yah), **Nguzo Saba** (En-goo'-zoe Sah'-ba)
Swahili (Swah-hee'-lee)

Verse

It's the **N** to the **I** to the **A**
We need **Nia** in our lives each and everyday
Nia is a word that means purpose
So, big up yourself because you're not worthless

Chorus

Nia
That's a part of Kwanzaa
Nia
Fifth principle of the Nguzo Saba
Nia
In Swahili it means purpose
Nia
There's a reason we're here on this earth

Verse

The things that we do, they won't hurt us
If we do it for a purpose
The things that we work for won't be worthless
If we're working for a purpose
It's the job of everybody
To help build and develop the community
If we work hard, soon we will be
In the light and in the glory

We're a strong, strong people
and we're coming from a strong, strong past

(Uh-huh)

We're moving up to the front

"Cause for too long we've been last

(Uh-huh)

We're a strong, strong people
and we're coming from a strong, strong past

(Uh-huh)

We're moving up to the front

"Cause for too long we've been last

It's the **N** to the **I** to the **A**

We need **Nia** in our lives each and everyday

Nia is a word that means purpose

So, big up yourself because you're not worthless

Chorus

Nia

That's a part of Kwanzaa

Nia

Fifth principle of the Nguzo Saba

Nia

In Swahili it means purpose

Nia

There's a reason we're here on this earth

Verse

The things that we do, they won't hurt us

If we do it for a purpose

The things that we work for won't be worthless

If we're working for a purpose

It's the job of everybody

To help build and develop the community

If we work hard, soon we will be

In the light and in the glory

Whatever you do, have a good reason
"Cause everything has it's own time and season
Whatever you do, have a good reason
"Cause everything has it's own time and season

Nia

That's a part of Kwanzaa

Nia

Fifth principle of the Nguzo Saba

Nia

In Swahili it means purpose

Nia

There's a reason you're here on this earth

Nia

Nia, purpose

Nia

Nia, purpose

Nia

Nia, purpose

Nia

Nia, purpose

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Kuumba

Written by: **S.G.** The **Servant of God**, copyright 1994

Pronunciation: **Kuumba** (Koo- oom'-ba), **Nguzo Saba** (En-goo'-zoe Sah'-bah)

Kuumba, Kuumba ...Creativity, Kuumba, Kuumba ...Creativity

Kuumba, Kuumba ...Creativity, Kuumba, Kuumba ...Creativity

*Now I'm a call on my brother (Royal). Why don't you start this, just like an artist and cold catch wreck like only you know how ...

Verse 1

I use the principles of **Kwanzaa, Nguzo Saba**

I realize this to be a survivor

I must create, determine my own fate

using **Kuumba** I'm swift like a puma

Knowing soon we must, put all trust, in us, this way is a plus

To leave our community more beautiful and beneficial

than we inherited initially see

our condition depends on our vision and decision to work not play today

All have a place in the human light

the same way there's your left from your right

So every night, I write, as activity, of creativity and that's how I live with me

To be free without blunder

*So what cha usin' (Royal)

I'm using **Kuumba**

Kuumba It's the **Kuumba**. Come on, let us tell you 'bout the **Kuumba**

Kuumba, It's the **Kuumba**. Come on, let us tell you 'bout the **Kuumba**

With my brother (Royal) as the mic chanter

The first verse was dope, so let me hear another

Verse 2

God has given me all the possibilities
As he's instilled in me, the necessities
Only the best can be never less than free
They arrested me to develop me
I say well can it be my lack of identity
Didn't realize greatness in my chemistry
I got the remedy, kinetic energy
Melanin in my skin, I'm an Afrikan
God has fashioned men to live like him
So I'm a ten without no question
Learn your lessons well to excel
but if you fail, you're still not frail, shoot yourself bail
'Cause you can flip your coins heads or tail
Male or female, man is still wholesale
God created whales and the waters you sail
the boat, of course there is still hope
And it lies on you in the last day
Our time is up, so let's use our **Kuumba**

Kuumba, Kuumba ...Creativity, Kuumba, Kuumba ...Creativity
Kuumba, Kuumba ...Creativity, Kuumba, Kuumba ...Creativity
(Repeat to the end)

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Imani

(Faith)

written by: Dee Roots/Nyabinghi/Okera Ras I, copyright 1994

Pronunciation - **Imani** (i-ma'-nee)

Jah - a name for God. Found in the Bible in Psalms 68:4

Shashamani - (Sha-sha-ma'-nee) - Land set aside in Ethiopia for Africans around the world who wish to come home and settle

Poem

Imani means Faith

He or she who has Faith is great

Have Faith in Jah

Have Faith in the prophets of the past and of the present

Have Faith in the people

Have Faith in the I's self (*yourself*)

Create the ways and means to uplift the African race

Mentally, spiritually, physically and economically

The I sight? (*you see?*)

Seen!! (*I see*)

(Afrikan Call)

Chorus

Imani

Faith

Imani

Come in Nyabinghi

Rap

Imani is Faith
It's time for us to relate, debate
And let the boomin' bass penetrate
Feel the vibes from the Afrikan Drum my son

Hold fast through a calm or storm
And give thanks to Jah and don't prolong

To have Faith in our people and our victorious struggle
Fools try to test me 'cause I'm calm and humble

But I stand firm
Because there's much to learn
About our Culture

Ethiopia, Shashamani
In going there because I got Imani

Chorus

Imani
Faith
(8x)

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