

A NOTE BEFORE THE GENERATIONS BEGIN

Four Reckonings of Time

Let it be known, before these generations are set down, by what four measures time is counted in this book — for this people have been reckoned by more than one clock.

I. THE NILE

3100 BCE – 656 BCE — from Narmer, who united the Two Lands and founded the First Dynasty upon the Nile, to the fall of the Five-and-Twentieth Dynasty, the Kushite kings out of Nubia who ruled Egypt and Nubia as one throne until the armies of Assyria drove them out. Four and twenty dynasties stood between them, and all were African.

5,126 YEARS SINCE

II. THE UMMAH

615 CE · 7 years before the Hijra — when Sumayyah bint Khabbat, an Abyssinian woman held in bondage at Mecca, became the first to die for her faith, and Bilal ibn Rabah, son of an enslaved Abyssinian mother, was raised to be the first voice to call the faithful to prayer. The dignity of the African was written into the Ummah here, a thousand years before the Crossing.

1,411 YEARS SINCE

III. THE CROSSING

1619 CE · 1028 AH — when the ship White Lion brought Anthony and Isabella to Point Comfort, Virginia, the first of this line to stand on Virginia soil in bondage.

407 YEARS SINCE

IV. THE EMANCIPATION

1865 CE — when the Thirteenth Amendment broke the chains of bondage in this land, and the generations that followed began to be counted as free.

161 YEARS SINCE

Mark well: five thousand years before the Crossing, African kings already sat upon thrones beside the Nile; thirteen centuries before the Crossing, the worth of the African had already been declared sacred at Mecca. What was taken at Point Comfort had already been built, and already been honored, long before.

RECKONED TO THE YEAR 2026 CE · 1447–1448 AH