

## **EUSI VERSUS THE REST (IDEA—A PLAY IN 1976) 4/12/04, 4/13/04, 4/14/04**

Eusi Kwayana (Sydney King)—innovator, playwright, poet, songwriter, actor, lay reader, writer, editor, photographer, cultural activist was born on Plantation Lusignan in 1925 and carved his own legacy universally... .

Critiqued ---RACE and RACISM... Cultism, Plantocracy, the doctrine of Party paramountcy. World Market, Colonialism, Capitalism, Globalization, Marginalization, Dogma, Religion, Theology, Truism, reality, Prophecy, The Church, The Crown, Emasculated Emperors, Costumes of Colonial Humiliation, Domination by European and Indo-Europeans, Social Stratification and Conditioning. Labor, Money—Marxism, Leninism, Pan-Africanism, Ghandiism, Federation—Caribbean Unity. Universal Brotherhood, reparations---the indigenous perspective and the struggles of the down trodden ---Liberation struggles ... .

As a boy, he participated in outdoor activities including sports, youthful pranks, attended St. Augustine Church, choir, debating club, drama, community programs, forums ---concerts, dances, wakes, --queh-queh, traditional festivals etc. ... .

Through self-education he acquired self-discipline and created ‘his’ way. He spearheaded and participated in the village movement, through educational and continuing developmental projects. He had a reputation to uphold standing on the shoulders of village elders; men and women who established a fluid tradition and History. Buxton had garnered a reputation as a premier village with a literary institute in 1930, East Indian Literacy Institute, Public free library serving the Buxton/Friendship communities, Buxton Improvement Association in the 1940’s, A Cooperative Bank ... Buxton sponsored a Community Council fair later called “Sydney King fair”. He galvanized the youths of all races in the 1953 Demerara youth rally attracting villagers from Betervewagting, Mon Repos, Lusignan, Annandale, Buxton/Friendship.

As Eusi continued to master “a” philosophy –“His” transforming himself the way he wanted to “be”:

Developed and understanding ---Humanist ...

Founded County High School in 1956 later called Republic Cooperative High School.

Serving the common good---All peoples ...

Skilled in Politics, a Pacifist, a leader, a hero,  
Eluding armies, the police and defying court orders by going  
underground to Heighten awareness of the People’s concerns,  
Emerging when the stage was set ---rallying support and awareness ...  
He was involved in National and International Forums ---National  
politics ...

Embraced a political ideology –Communism which resulted in his detention  
and house arrest in the 50’s.

Through his activism he once considered martyrdom – (a martyr) ...

Not only a philosopher with an ideology but principled ...

Understood slavery – freedom

Church classics – sacred music ... Negro spirituals

Indentureship, ... migration

Labor ---skilled/unskilled

Traditional African Religions

Classificational schemes ---shema—shemata

Man---the common good

Guyanese or Caribbean folk music, Calypso, Shanto, Music of the Coastal  
Amerindians,

Traditional African Ritual Music, Drums...the steel band ...

Criticism ---eccentricity ...

As he embraced constant transformation some may have been alienated, but  
many revered him as he critiqued his peers and adversaries ---Because his  
logic was flawless---He mastered every subject area ... critically ... .

He assimilated cross culturally and when the time came to cast off his suit,  
collar and tie and show case an African Perspective through dress, the  
formation of the dance troupe Tutashinda and the cultural organization  
ASCRIA (African Society for Cultural Relations with Independent Africa), and  
later “locking up” he was concordance --- in one by example with dynamics  
and fortitude.

He understood his limitations –Knew when to quit-----“If the people we  
serve are weary then the just end cannot be accomplished” ...

Youth dynamism ---ignorance to some ...

Legislation---legislators ... .

Law -----lawlessness....

Rape...Atrocities...

Justice ...corrupted (corruption)

Reference --- The gun ...

Drug culture ...subversion... (subversive ...)

Summary Justice---Systemic

Eusi Kwayana vegetarian, educator, philosopher, politician, member of parliament for the Working People’s Alliance, teacher, the mystical elder, a mentor to many but a shaman to “be” in perspective ...

He penned, compiled, drafted, lectured, platformed, tailored, tabled, vocalized truths---

To share a few compilations

More than Survival : A view of the Indo-Guyanese Contribution to Social Change.

More than Survival : Afro-Guyanese and the Nation

Constant Star –Paul Robeson (tribute by Eusi Kwayana)

Groovy grammar

The Bauxite Strike and the old Politics

Scars of Bondage

Day Clean/Watch Post/Year by year renewal

Buxton/Friendship in print and Memory

Guyana No Guilty Race

Next Witness – An appeal to World Opinion

Plays –Gang gang, Souvenir or Proclamation, Court in Custody, Prodigal Daughter/PROMISE Land, Rodney Inquest February 4, 1988

Press releases/Personal Statements

In 1984 I wrote this piece topically in tribute to him. It has been selected from the Book *In Being: The Name of the Game*, which contains an introduction by him.

## TIME

In time  
I learn  
How fortunate we are  
To have you.  
You have taught us  
By way of discipline  
True principle  
By way of culture  
True living  
By way of fighting  
True strength  
By respect  
True endurance  
By dignity  
True love  
Some of us adhered  
Some just don't care  
    But  
The test is endurance  
Some call you the “sage”  
The youths “tall one”  
Not to your face though  
    But  
Times have changed  
The elderly, Sydney, Eusi,  
And to most, in thought  
“mentor.”  
Babies magnify the rays  
Red, violet or blue  
    And  
With diligence you beckoned  
While the youths chant  
“We are ready! We are ready!”  
and  
the elderly stumble

“Freedom of Bondage”

Bureaucrats

Scramble airports or sea

And

The disgruntled, many in uniform

Run to-and-fro

While

The workers and supporters

Marched on the land

And

The emitted energy

Comes from the sun

As your eyes glitter

We reflect

Trees swayed negating

The mood of the day

The bell tolls

Igniting the heavens

Stars radiate

The moon gloss

As the spirits

Above and beneath

Unite the flesh

Singing the celestial song

And “you” are in one

With all

In time ...

His audience is neither captive nor passive---they are free to move ...

In placing a full stop ... a period

I would like to draw from and reference what Mr. Fred Parris stated in the introduction for *Guyana: No Guilty Race* by Eusi Kwayana.

“Guyana is privileged at this time to have a faithful dedicated, fearless, indomitable son of its soil around to tell the truth. He knows the truth ...and is never afraid to speak the truth and nothing but the truth.”

Period---Full stop ... .