

Passion's Pride:

Return to the Dawning

(PROPHECY)

A Novel

by

Cathie Wright-Lewis



I am cursed. That's what Mecca Freeman thinks. And she can blame no one but herself. Desperate to find her captured P.O.W. husband, Wisdom Divine, she releases her spirit into the universe late one night, with orders not to return without him. Now, willful energies extemporaneously possess her abandoned soul. Sounds conjure three-dimensional images seen by no one but her. Ancient ancestors manifest through her at the most inopportune times. But Mecca's life changes forever once she becomes obsessed by the desecrated African spirits uncovered in Lower Manhattan's African Burial Ground.

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Author of the 2001 novel **Maurya's Seed**, which dramatizes the spiritual resonances and supernatural ties between African-Americans torn by urban upheaval in early-1960s New York and their courageous ancestors who endured generations in slavery, writer-educator Cathie Wright-Lewis now brings us a fascinating magical-realist sequel in her latest work of fiction, **Passion's Pride**.

“Crevices project quaking broken bones of African captives, shattering and spilling in their dark invaded graves. Buried alive, I watch from further below. Breaking ground slowly bleeds light and cracks their worn wooden coffins open, seconds before it begins to rain new bones. Fully exposed, I am ripped from my grave by the aftermath of the massive plummeting debris. Silently I scream and watch the crumbling towers crash around me.”

“This prophetic nightmare jarred me out of my sleep around 2 a.m. the autumn of 1993, two years after I learned of the African Burial Ground in lower Manhattan and eight years before planes hit The Twin Towers on 9/11. The infinitude of shock that consumed me as I watched the towers fall with my students from my classroom window in Clinton Hill on September 11, 2001, is the impetus of me writing *Passion's Pride*.” – Cathie Wright-Lewis



Cathie Wright-Lewis is a lover of linguistics, Ancient History, Education and Metaphysics. Simultaneously quenching her thirst for a daily dose of discourse with classic authors and molding young minds, she recently concluded 30 years of service in the New York City public school system as a high school English teacher.

A native of the Brownsville section of Brooklyn and a participant in the busing program to achieve racial integration during the 1960s, she was exposed early in life to diverse cultures and dialects of the English Language. Consequently, her first novel, *Maurya's Seed - Why Hope Lives Behind Project Walls* in 2001, depicts Brooklyn's explosive chapter of the Civil Rights Era and its impact on education and the challenged people of inner city communities.

In 1993, Cathie wrote a poem titled, “Terror at the Towers,” eight years before the horrific 9/11 terror attacks. Serving as the basis for *Passion's Pride*, the poem literally describes the towers crumbling, but not because of the Taliban; avenging the desecration of their graves are the very African captives who initially built the Wall Street community. Their bones are found beneath the buildings in the Wall Street area.

Although people of African descent have fought and won the right to memorialize some of the bones and construct The African Burial Ground Memorial, Ms. Wright-Lewis believes many more bones of Africans slaves and victims of 9/11 still exist at Ground Zero, and that constructing anything but a memorial at that site would be a sacrilege. As proof, journalist Jen Quraishi reveals in her August 25, 2010, article in *Mother Jones Magazine* that “[a]bout 100 boxes of artifacts from African graves were stored at 6 WTC, which was crushed by the North Tower on 9/11, but thankfully archivists were able to recover them.”