

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Iconic Photographer Chester Higgins Publishes a New Book**

In a photographic masterpiece, 50 years in the making, celebrated photographer Chester Higgins uncovers Africa's ancient spiritual roots of Western religion in his new book [\*Sacred Nile\*](#).

"In *Sacred Nile*, I tell the story of our collective spiritual imagination and practice, illustrating through photographs the march of faith up and down the River Nile from Ethiopia to Egypt," Higgins stated. "Vestiges of those ancient practices influence today's worship."

*Sacred Nile* is slated for release on **October 1, 2021**. The 232-page hardcover book has already drawn acclaim for the photographs and the knowledge it imparts.

#### **Praise for Sacred Nile**

*"In this collection of breathtaking photographs, Chester Higgins takes us to the African source of the West's spiritual heritage. These images transport us to a different time and place. These are the stories of our religious roots."* — **Ari Goldman**, director of Columbia University's Scripps Howard Program in Religion, Journalism and the Spiritual Life.

*"This knowledge is still rejected by many mainstream Egyptologists, but as they become more familiar with other African cultures, religious traditions, and languages, the connections described in this book will be confirmed in academia."* — **Solange Ashby**, UCLA Egyptologist

*"In startling detail, Chester Higgins portrays a world that appears both of this world and otherworldly. His images are portals to another time — a glimpse into traditions centuries old — but they are deeply resonant because the world is simultaneously ours in the here and now."* — **Makeda Best**, Curator Harvard Art Museum

*"How beautiful and stunning visually while at the same time eye-opening, intellectually stimulating, and to me providing a feeling of peace, serenity, beauty and harmony."* — **Sylviane Diouf Kamara**, Historian Brown University

*"This book is about a river and how the ancient people who lived along its banks were the first to worship God. Spirituality is so important to us, fellowship is so important to us, our culture is so important to us. Our churches should be culture bearers. We have to tell the truth about who*

*we are. This book captures so beautifully and so well the walk of monotheism by African people.” — Rev Calvin Butts, Abyssinian Baptist Church, Harlem*

*“Through this mesmerizing book, Chester Higgins defines the very existence of a human civilization which includes all of us whoever we are. These stories and pictures touch on every detail, our very origins and multiple heritages. It’s a comfortable feeling to set aside all critical and skeptical consideration and just let yourself be penetrated by Chester’s gaze and journey.”  
— Raoul Peck, filmmaker*

**Higgins made his first trip to Egypt and Ethiopia was in 1973.** “Half of the work was shooting, the other half was thinking it through, studying, and researching,” Higgins said. “It took decades to work through the images as they hit me emotionally and to work through the knowledge.”

**What Higgins learned** is that “the ancient agency of sacredness originated with the African people living along the River Nile and that the Abrahamic faiths rest on the foundation of this prior world, the world before Genesis.”

Here are links to the **Sacred Nile book Website**, [sacrednile.com](http://sacrednile.com), and a video that tells the backstory, [vimeo.com/580701409](https://vimeo.com/580701409).

Media contact is Nigel Roberts to make Chester Higgins is available for interviews

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