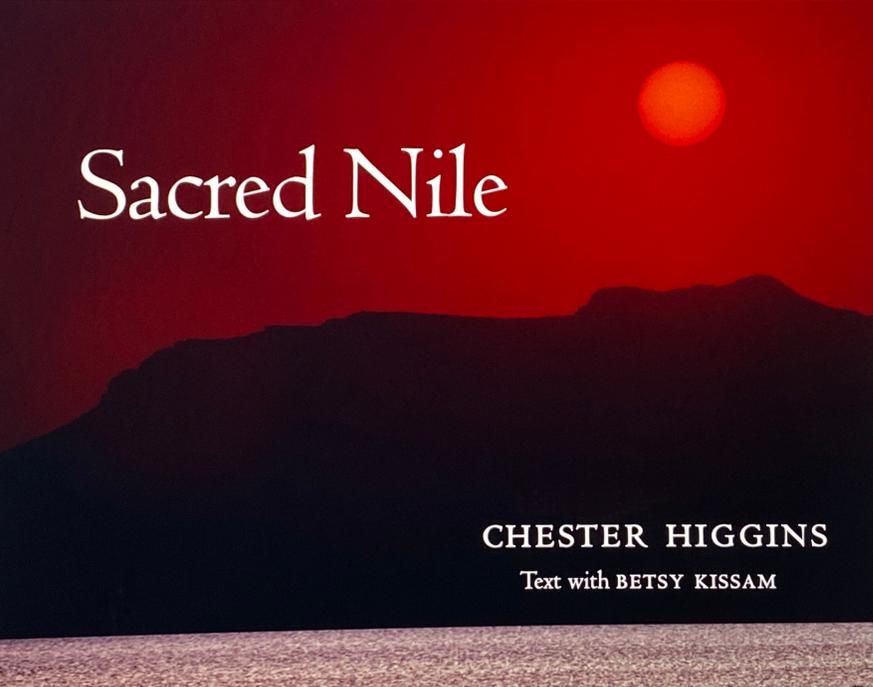


# SACRED NILE

*Chester Higgins*

*Text with Betsy Kissam*



Sacred Nile

CHESTER HIGGINS

Text with BETSY KISSAM

This visual portrayal of faith reexamines our spiritual beginnings.

Sacred Nile is the story of our collective spiritual imagination and practice. In photographs, Chester Higgins illustrates how faith migrated up and down the River Nile from Ethiopia to Egypt, leaving vestiges of ancient practice in today's worship.

Your understanding of history and the role of African people in faith-making will be changed.

*WEBSITE RELEASE AVAILABLE*

SacredNile.com

October 1, 2021  
232 pages, Hardcover

Amazon.com

## REACTIONS

## PRAISE FOR SACRED NILE

Columbia University Director of Scripps Howard Program in Religion, Journalism and the Spiritual Life **Ari Goldman**:

"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."

UCLA Egyptologist **Solange Ashby**:

"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."

# BIOGRAPHY

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**Chester Higgins Jr.** is an alumnus of the historic Tuskegee University. His talent emerged early in his career when he began making photographs for magazines and newspapers. Higgins landed a photojournalist job with *The York Times* in 1975, becoming one of just a handful of Black photographers working in mainstream media. His work at the *Times* spanned four decades, where he became a celebrated photographer of African American life. His photography has appeared in numerous publications, including *LIFE*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Fortune*, *Ebony*, *Essence*, and *Black Enterprise* magazines.

Higgins' work has been the subject of many international exhibitions and is held in notable collections, such as The Museum of Modern Art.

“Wrestling with issues of memory, place and identity, I see my life as a narrative and my photography as its expression. My art gives visual voice to my personal and collective memories. It is inside ordinary moments where I find windows into larger meaning. Light, perspective, and points in time are the pivotal elements I use to reveal an interior presence within my subjects as I search for what I identify as the Signature of the Spirit.”

**Recent *New Yorker* profile:**

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/photo-booth/chester-higginss-life-in-pictures>

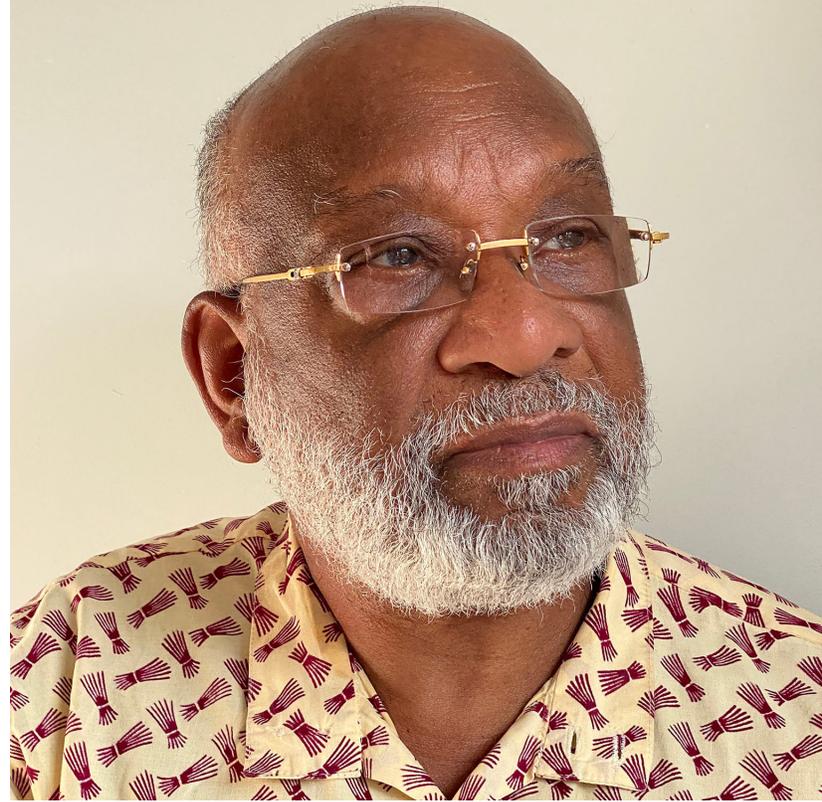


Photo Credit: Betsy Kissam

## SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

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- Q: How long did it take to compile the photographs in *Sacred Nile*?
- Q: What inspired you to write this book?
- Q: How did ancient African spirituality influence Western religions?
- Q: Describe how this five-decade journey and exploration impacted you personally?
- Q: What do you hope readers take away from this book?

*Contact*

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ARRANGE AN  
INTERVIEW

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