

# The TALO Leadership Oath (circa 2009)

*(Also known as “Obama’s Other Oath by Orlando.”) Although Acknowledged Africans (black people) during the Maafa periods, as Arab and western prisoners of war, did not likely take an identical oath, what was identical were the African beliefs in one Supreme Being, in a distinction between good and evil, in spiritual powers, and in creation and liberation as achievements of God. During those periods, as today, the Acknowledged African experience was about leadership and followship, praise and thanksgiving, pain and joy, and sin and hope. Below is one suggested leadership oath drafted by this theorist\* that can be read or recited in its entirety or excerpted from before or as a part of a cultural event or activity (or even for the official swearing in of an official, including head of state). This oath, similar in purpose as “Lift every voice and sing,” reflects much of the African leadership tradition worldwide, not just in the Americas. This oath is also a guide that is open to revisions; however its African-centered essence must remain central in order for it to be true to the eight identified dominant leadership profiles:*

There is only one race, the African race,  
which is the human race.

Where I am at this moment, at this second,  
is where I am suppose to be as a leader.

Leadership, like all of God’s humanity,  
is firmly rooted in my experience, therefore,  
I pledge myself to the betterment of humanity,  
and to the fruitfulness of the  
TALO leadership principles.

*\* Created and written by Keith Orlando Hilton, Ph.D. (KOH), it was first publicly recited on Friday, June 27, 2008 at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual HHEW Leaders Conference & Retreat in Las Vegas, Nevada. It was introduced by KOH and led by Peter Barrett of Tracy, California. INVR/HHEW is currently making and recording history, therefore, we wish to document whenever the oath is cited. **Please use this oath freely. We only ask that you contact us whenever you recite it so that we may document its usage within leadership circles.***

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