



AUTHOR POET



JAIYA JOHN
PROFESSIONAL SPEAKER

Jaiya John is the founder of Soul Water Rising, a global human relations mission based in Silver Spring, Maryland. He serves as a professional speaker; poet; author; and youth mentor and advocate. Jaiya has addressed hundreds of thousands of youth and adults nationally and internationally, always with the intent of stirring the soul to remember itself. This work is truly his mission, ministry, and life. Jaiya is a doctor of psychology, and previously was a professor of social psychology at Howard University from 1995 to 1998, and associate director for the National Center on Permanency for African American Children from 1999 to 2001.

Through the Young Life Drumbeat program, Jaiya offers youth mentoring, leadership, and heritage projects; along with creative literacy contests and projects. Jaiya's work with youth centers on positive, productive identity as a root for life success and achieving purpose. Globally, Jaiya is invested in healing and treating our human spirit for its fundamental ailment: failure to recognize our inescapable oneness in the web of life. This same web offers our way out of suffering. From work on global and local social disparities; to conflict and trauma between and within groups; to the fragile life arc from childhood through adulthood, Jaiya reaches for our personal and collective giftedness to release human beauty from its self-imposed cage of misunderstanding.

Jaiya was born into foster care in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He attended Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and earned his doctorate from the University of California, Santa Cruz in social psychology, focusing on identity development and intergroup relations. In 1988 he lived in the Himalayan nation of Nepal, where his study of Tibetan medicine gave him insight into holistic concepts of physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Being of not only African (including Balanta, Mende, and Kru) but also Blackfeet and Cherokee descent; and having grown up immersed in New Mexico's American Indian and Latino cultures, Jaiya has a deep appreciation for the spiritual and communal passions that spring from these worlds. This spirit he ingrains in his messages about our social world.

JAIYA HAS SPOKEN TO OVER 200,000 WORLDWIDE ON HUMAN RELATIONS:

- cultural heritage
- spirituality
- leadership
- mentoring
- intergroup relations
- social disparities
- prejudice
- identity
- creative self-expression
- child welfare
- education
- literacy
- juvenile justice
- motivation & achievement
- social change & civil rights
- youth violence
- youth development
- community develop.
- family development
- teambuilding

SOUL WATER RISING *Revealing the Divine in Human Relations*

PO Box 1790, Silver Spring, MD 20915 | 301.328.7109 | jaiya@soulwater.org | soulwater.org | facebook.com/JaiyaJohn