

Why I Wrote this Book

When I was a child, I was always curious about people: Why do some people have short, curly hair and others have long, straight hair? Why do some have wide noses, and others have slender noses? Why do some have dark skin, and others have light skin? Are there good reasons for these occurrences, or are they the result of some accident? As I grew older, I kept looking for answers, and fortunately, I became a scientist and began to understand more. I learned that human beings come in different colors, shapes, and sizes, and that this phenomenon is not by accident; it is by design. I also learned that oftentimes, there are no simple answers to our questions; we just have to use the best ideas to explain what we see—and that is what I have set out to accomplish in this book. This is especially important since human beings are very different even in the same country, town, or village. These differences—called ***variations*** in science—mean that some of my ideas expressed in this book will have exceptions, and that is fine; it is all a part of science.

In this book, I will share with you some of my answers to the questions that I asked when I was a child. You will also discover some new words that come with learning about people. I thought it would be appropriate to create a word that explains what this book is all about: ***geo-topic anthropology***, which is the study of where different kinds of people are found on the Earth. Let me explain to you how I came up with this word: geo = Earth, topic = place, anthropo = humans, and logy = the study of (something). From this word, can you guess what *geology*, *anthropology*, and *topology* are all about?

This book is written for children or those who are naturally curious. As you keep reading, you will come across several questions, and I encourage you to take the time to answer them, because they will help you to think deeper about the topics on

hand. If you have extra time, you may also go the index (at the end of the book) where the most interesting words are compiled for you to study.

Many ideas are discussed in this little book. They are meant to help you not only to understand why you are who you are, but also to help you see how all of this is connected. I hope that as you read this book, it will encourage you to begin asking questions, just like scientists do: Why are things what they are? How do they work? What happens when they stop working well, and how can they be fixed? Can things work better, and if so, how? How can I use my ideas to serve my community and the human family?

There are many things going on in the world and in the human family. This means that you have many opportunities to begin asking some important questions, such as: What is going on in my community or in the world? How come? Are there some things that are not working well? How can I help? How do I start helping? Who can help me—parents, teachers, siblings, or friends?

Finally, as you read this book, you will see brothers and sisters who look very different from each other, but are in the same family. On the other hand, you will see total strangers who may resemble people in your own family. That is the way it is in the human family. My most important hope is that this book will help you to understand that even though humans appear to be different in some ways, they are similar in more ways, because all humans are actually related to each other; they have the same original ancestors.