



Sankofa Archives

Did You Know? Tidbits # 3

Miracles Accredited to the Black Madonnas of Europe

Here are some interesting tidbits about the Black Madonnas of Europe.

There are hundreds of Black Madonnas across Europe, and “to most of these Black Madonnas are attributed thousands of miracles and the veneration and worship accorded them is ancient.” Following are some of the miracles accredited to these Madonnas:

- The Black Virgin of Chartres, France, terrified Edouard III, the Englishman who sought the French crown and brought about the complete conquest of that country in 1346 [p.141].
- St. Joan of Arc prayed to the Black Virgin of Orleans prior to each of her famous battlefield victories.
- René Descartes (1596-1650), the French philosopher and mathematician, attributed his inspiration to the Black Virgin, Notre Dame de Lorette. [p.141].
- The Black Virgin of Dijon is credited with driving off 50,000 Swiss and German invaders in 1513. [p.141].
- The Black Virgin of Mezures is said to have ridiculed France’s enemies. [p.141].

Interesting little tidbit: In Marchess, Italy, the Black Virgin of Loreto was once repainted white, but it mysteriously turned fully black again [p.141].

To read more see below:

[“Black Madonnas: Hundreds of Artists Depicted Mary as a Dark Woman,” *Ebony Magazine*, Vol. XV, No.2, Dec 1959, pgs.140-148](#)