The Renaissance Woman

Maya Angelou is one of the most renowned and influential voices of the 21st century. Renowned as the global Renaissance woman, Angelou is a celebrated poet, novelist, educator, producer, actress, filmmaker and civil rights activist. We remember this great personality on her sudden departure from this world on 28th May, 2014.



Maya Angelou

- Born on April 4th 1928, Maya Angelou was born in Missouri, USA as Marguerite Annie Johnson
- As a child of traditional African-American culture, she experienced the brutality of racial discrimination during her early life
- Angelou went to study dance and drama at San Francisco's Labor School but later dropped out
- During her eventful life Angelou took the profession of sex worker, cook, opera performer, journalist, actress and producer of several popular film and TV programmes



- Angelou met Malcom X in Ghana and helped him to build X's Organization of African American Unity
- In 1996 she directed her first feature film "Down in the Delta"
- Angelou's Georgia, Georgia, produced by a Swedish film company, was the first screenplay written by a black woman
- Angelou wrote a total of seven autobiographies featuring her life and experience in the African-American community, and racism

- In 1954 and 1955 Angelou toured Europe with her opera Porgy and Bess
- She danced with Alvin Ailey in television shows and launched her debut music album in 1957 named Calypso Lady
- In 1960 Angelou moved to Cairo, Egypt and served as editor of the English Language Weekly the Arab Observer
- In the next year Angelou went to Ghana and taught Music and drama at the University of Ghana

- Angelou wrote five collections of essays, which writer Hilton Als called her "wisdom books" and "homilies strung together with autobiographical texts"
- Hailed as the Black Woman's Poet Laureate; her volume *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diiie* (1971) was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize
- she was invited by President Bill Clinton to recite her poem "On the Pulse of Morning" during his inauguration in 1993
- Angelou has received 50 honourary degrees for her versatile contributions in art and literature
- Maya Angelou, one of the greatest personalities of our time, died on 28th May, 2014 due to old age complications

– MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN