Kwanzaa Celebration

Pouring libation (Tambiko) from the Unity Cup is an integral part of the Kwanzaa celebration. Here's how the ceremony is performed.

You will need Kwanzaa Supplies [Kinara, Candles, Unity Cup and Mat], Water and a Kwanzaa Guide book if these instructions aren't adequate.

Step One Choose a special unity cup (Kikombe cha Umoja) that represents African culture to use in your Kwanzaa celebration. Use a cup that has been in your family or buy one at an African store. Cups, along with other Kwanzaa supplies, may also be purchased online.

Step Two Arrange the cup with the other Kwanzaa supplies on the Mkeka (straw mat).

Step Three Fill the unity cup with water, grape juice or wine, prior to each nightly ceremony. This is your Tambiko (libation)

Step Four Pour small amounts of the Tambiko onto the floor in the four corners of the room, representing the four cardinal points of the globe. This is done to honor ancestors.

Step Five Take a sip from the unity cup then raise it and say, "Harambee," which means, "Let's all pull together."

Step Six Pass the unity cup around to other celebrants so they may do the same, as a sign of solidarity.

Step Seven Salute ancestors as the libation is being poured or as the cup is being passed.

Step Eight Discussion of the principle of the day

- The libation is performed each night during Kwanzaa, immediately following the lighting of the candles.
- This ceremony is usually performed by an elder.
- Children are encouraged to be involved in all aspects of Kwanzaa. Allow them to drink from the cup and salute their ancestors.

Kwanzaa Principles

Day One	**Umoja** (unity) to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.
Day Two	**Kujichagulia** (self-determination) to define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.
Day Three	**Ujima** (collective work and responsibility) to build and maintain our community together and make our sister's and brother's problems our problems and to solve them together.
Day Four	**Ujamaa** (cooperative economics) to build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses together.
Day Five	**Nia** (purpose) to make our collective vocation the building of our community to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
Day Six	**Kuumba** (creativity) to do as much as we can to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
Day Seven	**Imani** (faith) to believe with our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.