

The Nonsense We've Been Taught

The name that you respond to determines the amount of your self worth. Similarly, the way a group of people collectively respond to a name can have devastating effects on their lives, particularly if they did not choose the name. Asians come from Asia and have pride in the Asian race' Europeans come from Europe and have pride in Europe accomplishments. Negroes, I am to assume, come from negroland-a mythical country with an uncertain past and an even more uncertain future. Since negroland is a myth, where did the myth of the negro originate? The key to understanding what a negro is, is to understand the definition of that word and its origin.

The word negro is Spanish for black. The Spanish language comes from Latin, which has its origins in Classical Greek. The word negro, in Greek, is derived from the root word necro, meaning dead. What was once referred to as a physical condition is now regarded as an appropriate state of mind for millions of Africans.

Historically when the Greeks first traveled to Africa 2,500 years ago, the Egyptian civilization was already ancient. The Great Pyramid was over 3,000 years old and the sphinx was even older. Writing, science, medicine and religion were already a part of the civilization and had reached their zenith. The Greeks came to Africa as students to sit at the feet of the masters, and to discover what Africans already knew. Less than 300 years after the first Greeks came to Egypt as students, their descendants returned as conquerors. They destroyed the cities, temples and libraries of the Egyptians and claimed African knowledge as their own. Not only was the African legacy stolen, but also the wholesale theft of African people soon followed. With the birth of the slave trade, it became necessary to dehumanize Africans and devalue their historical worth as a people in order to ensure their value as slaves.

In Africa slave trade was initiated and given impetus by colonialism and Christian missionaries. The early Christian missionaries saw African culture and religion as a deadly adversary and must be eliminated. In 1876, a 27-year-old missionary named Mary Slessor emigrated from Scotland to spend the rest of her life in Nigeria. For her efforts in trying to convert the people of Nigeria, Mary Slessor's photograph appears on Scotland's ten pound note, and her name can be found on schools, hospitals and roads in Nigeria. Mary Slessor came to Africa on a mission to indoctrinate African's with Christian theology. She told Africans they worshipped an inferior God and that they belonged to an inferior race. She worked to expel what she described as "savagism" from African culture and heritage and to encourage European "civilization" to take root in Africa. Africans accepted the mission schools which were established to enlighten them, without questioning the unforeseen costs of their so-called education.

The mission schools plundered the African children's self-esteem by teaching them, as Africans they were inherently "bad people." African children grew up not wanting to be citizens of Africa. Instead, their education fostered the colonial ideal they would be better off becoming citizens of the colonizing nations. Missionary school teachers insisted they drop their native names because it was a "heathen" name. This denial of their past is the

very antithesis of a good education. Names represent not only their heritage, but connect them to their parents, past and culture. As parents, the names we choose for our children reflect our dreams for their future and our perceptions of the treasures they represent to us. Even history has degraded our African roots. We come to the United States and learn a history filtered through the eyes of white historians. And we learn history filtered through the eyes of Hollywood movie producers.

It's unfortunate that an entire generation of African children is growing up brainwashed by Hollywood's interpretation and promotion of American heroes. Our children are growing up idolizing American heroes with whom they cannot personally identify. We need to decolonize our thinking and examine the underlying truths.

African science stories including the the true Israelites of the bible were retold by European historians; they were re-centered around Europe. The earliest pioneers of science lived in Africa, but European historians relocated them to Greece. Science and technology are gifts ancient Africa gave to our modern world. Yet, African history and science textbooks , medicine and the designer of the ancient pyramids have been ignored.

Analyzing all the variables, it was not hard to draw a simple conclusion. Racism was the culprit: the belief that white skin was superior to all others; resulting in their conviction that they should rule, dominate, are more intelligent, and accomplished all the great things in the world. When that attitude turned into behavior, people of African descent felt the brunt of the ensuing negative affects.

Attempting to find the genesis of this belief, one would have to investigate available ancient writings. The oldest known document found referring to Black people in a racial, subservient and negative manner is The Babylonian Talmud, a collection of Jewish oral traditions in the sixth century A.D. In it, they wrote Noah allegedly speaking to his son Ham, about his son Canaan and his descendents. "And since you have disabled me...doing ugly things in the blackness of night, Canaan's children shall be born ugly and black! Moreover, because you twisted your head around to see my nakedness, your grandchildren's hair shall be twisted into kinks, and their eyes red; again because your lips jested at my misfortune, theirs shall swell; and because you neglected my nakedness, they shall go naked, and their male members shall be shamefully elongated! Men of this race are called Negroes."

The Christian church stepped heavily into this discussion, solidifying the belief that Africans were cursed. The Noah, Ham, Canaan curse story in the Bible, with the Biblical passage referring to Ham's descendents, "A servant of servants shall he be," had been publicly mis-interpreted by theologians to mean that Ham's descendents were turned black because they were cursed and destined as servants. "That Negroes are doomed to serve men of lighter color was a view gratefully borrowed by Christians in the Middle Ages; a severe shortage of cheap manual labor caused by the plague made the reinstatement of slavery attractive."

According to CNN, African Australians were not recognized as human beings prior to 1967. They “were governed under flora and fauna laws.” African Australians were, in essence, governed by plant and animal laws. For many years, African Australians were described as the “invisible people.” In fact, the first whites to settle in Australia named it the “land empty of people.”

"In the United states constitution, Negroes were considered to be three fifth of a human being".

So there you have it, the negro - a race of dead people with a dead history and no hope for resurrection as long as they remained ignorant of their past. This was a triple death - the death of the mind, body, and spirit of the African people.

As a people, we have a responsibility to educate ourselves and rediscover our Identities. Knowledge of self is the key to unlocking the door to the future. Truth hurts, but it shall set the people who really believe, free!

Shalom

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