



Introspection- by the Conscious One

For too long African Americans have been trying to be the best white people they can be without taking full stock of the beauty of themselves and their culture. We as African Americans will never achieve universal acceptance as long as there is contempt and condemnation of the African American culture and way of life. Dr. Kenneth B. Clarke said to us in his studies that African American children disapprove of the way they look and often prefer to look white. Madame C.J. Walker told African American women that their hair wasn't acceptable and needed to be straightened to look attractive. She also said that a black woman's skin was too dark and sold skin lightening products to treat this "problem". Self hate such as this has existed for centuries in our community and still thrives today. We can destroy these habits by loving ourselves - *sista*, *I love your skin and your hair naturally*- you do not need to destroy yourself for the white man's approval- you are beautiful in your natural state.

This nation has been telling us that our culture and pigmentation is synonymous with evil. Our response to this Euro-centric mentality has been to engulf their ideas of white supremacy and believe that we are the "White man's burden". The DuBois concept of Dual Consciousness (looking at one's soul through the eyes of others and measuring it by the tape of a world that looks at him with pity and contempt) is something we have used for decades, but it is time that we rid ourselves of this in favor of Black Consciousness. We are one of few groups in America that doesn't practice our own cultural traditions. We have gone from having a strong cultural identity (whether African American or African) to cultural confusion. Cultural Surrendering is too high of a price to pay for the oppressed in a oppressive society. We are losing everything that has seen us through thus far. If it weren't for our strong African values and traditions, we never would have made it out of the 19th century. We are a strong people and we cannot allow the interference of European culture in our own to hinder our progress in this society. We have chosen and requested psychological imprisonment which has forced most of us to live in voluntary servitude.

So what is we gonna do? We can start by educating ourselves about our culture and history outside of this alien, European society. We (the conscious) can only depend on ourselves. Inequalities in terms of access to knowledge and opportunities will continue to exist because policies and administrations haven't provided effective resources for us to learn about ourselves through their institutions. Therefore, it is on us to find the knowledge for ourselves. Do we love ourselves enough to do so?

WHITE MANS' BURDEN by the Militant- Wise One

Race is a cultural construct invented by Europeans to justify expansionism and greed. It is a "cosmological ordering system that divides the worlds peoples into biologically discrete and exclusive groups" which are "by nature unequal and can be ranked along a gradient of superiority- inferiority". The Europeans of North America developed one of the most rigid and exclusionist forms of race ideology.

It is important to note that the people conquered and colonized during the age of European expansion did not take part in the invention of race or "the compilation of racial classifications imposed upon them...". Europeans based the inception and implementation of racial categorization on the "culturally specific and thus limited knowledge systems" of European society. According to Europeans, world civilizations were arranged "in a neat hierarchy with Western Europe at the top and Africa at the bottom". Europeans then asserted that race and culture could only be organized along the same hierarchy: from top to bottom, from white to black.

Europe was, therefore, the pinnacle of civilized humanity. Civility, as defined by Europeans, was also thought to be the original state of human kind. But the progeny of Noah, "having been dispersed after the flood", had lost their awareness of God and "degenerated into an uncivil state". This degeneration was then linked to the curse of Ham, the founder of the darker skinned peoples. The curse (cont. p.2)

Word is Bond- by the Righteous One

How strong is a man's word nowadays? Is it our bond? Can we trust one another? Women, can you trust men? I want to address these questions in this short writing.

Fellas, we aren't fulfilling our role as men. We have a responsibility to protect and love our women, and to be honest and truthful with them. Yet we lie and use, hurt, and abuse our women. So we must ask ourselves; have we put our own temptations of sex, lust and greed before the wellbeing of our women? Our women do not trust us not only because of our own weaknesses, but the capitalist society in which we live. It promotes competition and distrust between us. Therefore, we are in competition instead of harmony with one another. We are willing to lie to our women to get into another woman's love. Let me repeat this another way: we hurt our women to fulfill our lustful temptations. Is it really worth it? Don't answer that now; because if you feel that it is, all I can say is that one day it'll all make sense and you'll see it wasn't. We will lie to our so called brothers for a chance to get ahead. We have become victims of this greedy, American system.

Brothers, I don't want to become a victim of this society. But to avoid this, I need your help. We must work together so that you and I can trust each other. I want to know that when the revolution comes (and it has been so long in coming) that I can watch my front because you got my back, and vice versa. We also need for our women to trust us. Without their support, we will never be able to find the strength to fight against this oppressive society.

Sisters, I want to trust you too. I want to know that as my wife or woman, when I leave you home alone, another (cont. p.2)