

Just Being White Does Not Make A Man Superior

FROM A WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW

By NANNIE H. BURROUGHS

(For the Associated Negro Press)

On Saturday night, October 12, between seven and eight o'clock station WMAI broadcast a program of music. In his introductory of a pianist who was going to play a Negro jazz number, the announcer said that "the next selection will show the ideals and spirit of the old and of the new Negro—the spirit of the plantation, the new and the Harlem highbrow—but no matter what he is, the Negro is still a Negro." What on earth did that man mean? "THE NEGRO IS STILL A NEGRO." Of course, he is, and so is the Anglo-Saxon, the Indian, and the Chinese. The Negro would be a monstrosity if he were born a Negro and turned Chinese or Anglo-Saxon. He can't be anything else, physically, because he is born of flesh and "that which is born of flesh is flesh"—remains the same kind of flesh. But then do not win this world on flesh. Flesh is incidental—spirit is all. That's why Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." As soon as any man of any race is born again—born of the spirit, he rises from the common level and becomes superior to all who live in the flesh.

Physical Change Availeth Nothing

The Negro wouldn't gain anything moral or spiritual by merely physical change. He can make as much of himself, physically or mentally, as any other being if he works at it as long and as hard as any other human being works. Physically—in the flesh—he will be as good-looking as any other human being when he has the money, the education, and the time to work on himself or be worked on by others, as long as some other races have been worked on by others, and by themselves. When he has been out of slavery over a thousand years—as long as the Anglo-Saxon has been out—he will have, at least, as much of the VENEER of civilization and power to CONFORM to certain standards of the ethics and culture of the period in which he lives, as the Anglo-Saxon now has.

A man hasn't done anything for himself by simply coming into the world white and the only way he can prove his superiority is by becoming something mentally, morally, and spiritually.

In spite of the veneer, the Anglo-Saxon is still an Anglo-Saxon, and in spite of the veneer the Indian will always be an Indian, the Chinaman, a Chinaman, and the Negro, a Negro, and they will not try to be anything else, physically, but millions of them can be equals morally, mentally, and spiritually, and with those three powers they will build great governments and promote great institutions.

The Anglo-Saxon And The Color Complex

The Anglo-Saxon is the only race on earth that keeps up a complaint against man's color and penalizes them for being what God made them. The Anglo-Saxon is the only race that is trying to make white, and not right, the passport into the great world of unlimited opportunity. Men want opportunity; they don't give a damn about their color because, after all, color is only a matter of taste.

The Anglo-Saxon is the only race on the planet that is trying to prove that just being white makes a human being superior. What's the big idea when there is no truth in it?

The inference in the statement "no matter what he is, the Negro is still a Negro," is that it matters not how richly endowed, how well educated, cultured, and useful to human society the Negro may become, he is still inferior to the Anglo-Saxon because he didn't "choose" to be born white. He infers that a white horse is superior to a black horse, regardless of the fact that the black horse won the race. Just being white makes even a white idiot superior to a black Solomon. Isn't that mischievous "bunk" to send over the air? Thank God no sensible white person subscribes to it.

Dumb, Dirty, Devilish—But White

The fallacious doctrine of the innate superiority of the Anglo-Saxon causes millions of ignorant whites to remain ignorant and not try to be anything better, or do anything but look down on inferior colored Negroes. They stay dumb, dirty, and devilish and glory in being just WHITE. Millions of whites have never even heard that there is a higher level of life than race and color. They have never even heard of that higher plane of power and service to which men of all races and colors have climbed upward, by slow and difficult ways, through ignorance, prejudice, and injustice, until they saw clearly the relationship and interdependence of man to man, and race to race. It is only in this new spiritual and moral relationship and realm that men can become the power of God, in the transformation of human society, and God's instrument for the promotion of good-will among men.

To the ignorant white skin is all; sense and service are nothing. To them the richness, beauty, and power of the inner life are unknown and undesired; race is first. No matter what he is, the Anglo-Saxon who thinks that way is still an Anglo-Saxon, who will have to be born again before he can get sense enough to be of any lasting service to his race or to the world.

Color Has Nothing To Do With Superiority

Publish this fact everywhere, even in the palaces of Ashdod and in the land of Egypt, that no matter what he is, the Negro is still a Negro, the Anglo-Saxon is still an Anglo-Saxon, the Chinaman is still a Chinaman, the Indian is still an Indian, but when he is born again he becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus and gets sense enough to know that God is no respecter of persons and biologically the human race is the same. Until men get that much sense it is dangerous and wrong to give them a chance to advertise their own ignorance, broadcast insults and spread, insidiously, the doctrine of innate inferiority or superiority of races on the mere score of color. Men are not superior by the mere incident of having been born white. Broadcast that fact, in the name of Truth. In this country of race prejudice and injustice they do have a superior chance, and it is, therefore, easier for white men to arrive, but life is not all chance. There is nothing so changeable as change and prejudice and injustice will be out of style a hundred years from now, and so will the white race if it insists on trying to repudiate the fact of the oneness of the human race, or continues to try to thwart God's plan to reunite the human race in the spiritual and moral bonds of brotherhood.

No matter what our color, we are all children of God. No children of the same father are innately superior. Since we are all children of God, then all races are heirs of God and no one race is going to hog the earth and get away with it.