

# New Negro In City Is Impudent and Jealous, But Not Hopeless—*Dubois*

Exposed and explained in the light of the social phenomena that is peculiar to the southern Negro who is being urbanized in the north, "The Negro in Chicago" was found last Friday night by Dr. W. E. B. Dubois, editor of the Crisis, to be impudent, jealous, and distrustful of his leadership.

The speech was made at the Michigan Avenue Congregational church under the auspices of the Saturday Evening Discussion club, Miss Marjorie Kemp, leader.

Although the words of the scholarly New Yorker were harsh, they were relieved of some of their sting when he indicated that such faults as there are within the group are only the social defects that are true of all races and groups under similar conditions and that they were more a sign of progress than of retrogression.

If the Negroes in Chicago, he pointed out, suffused with local pride, pattern their development after the model of the white Chicagoan, they may find themselves out of the stream of what is culturally best in civilization because of the chances that white Chicago itself does not become civilized. But "The Negro in Chicago" can take care of his own future if he is successful in not being blinded by what is around him and can set his eye upon what is best and highest in world progress.

"The Negro in Chicago" today, asserted Dr. Dubois, is just a fresh increment of those waves of Negroes who have been coming north from the south since early in the last century, overwhelming with their numbers and different standards the Negro already settled in the north. These migrant Negroes, seeking emancipation from the social, industrial and economic strictures of the south, fancy a sort of independence in the north. The sign among them of this newly-felt independence is a sort of impudence, a touchiness that is unpleasant and often ludicrous, but no more so in the Negro than in the Irish or other races

that have felt themselves getting loose.

Some of this "impudence" among Negroes is reflected in what sociologists refer to as the problem of the second generation, where the authority of untrained parents is put to the test by children who have the benefit of education. Within the family there is revolution and a developing disdain for many of the things that the old folk have held to be inviolate. Young Jews from the colleges poke fun at the rabbis, and young Negroes laugh at the church. Sometimes this "movement of youth" has national consequences as in Germany.

Jealousy such as is shown by the Negro is the sign of his admission that he fears he will be left behind. Progress among whites is taken for granted by colored men and women, but they become apprehensive as soon as one of their own is observed getting out in front. This feeling of envy though not pleasant, results in a change for the better, a lifting up all around, and should therefore be viewed philosophically by persons who might otherwise become the victims of an unhealthy pessimism.

Tell the truth about yourself, Dr. Dubois urged. See things as they are. Don't belong to the group that thinks the Negro can do no harm, or the other that thinks he can do no good, but seek for an honest appraisal of your own self and of your neighbors.



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