

THE OMAHA STAR

OMAHA'S MOST PROGRESSIVE WEEKLY

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EDITORIAL

THE NEGRO — AND DEMOCRACY

By the Observer

DEMOCRACY is a MIGHTY word, so mighty that the mention of it causes the entire world to tremble — and wonder!

It is a dream, an astonishing elusive objective, the aim of mankind; fantastic, I dare to say, but still a reality.

It has been a main topic of conversation since the beginning of this civilization, as we know it, during which time each and every nationality has been discussed FAVORABLY — except one — the NEGRO. There is no place for him, anywhere, or at any time. He will do — as a laborer on a farm; as a worker in a factory, or as a soldier in a time of battle, but, he is not deserving of the "fruits" of wonderful living, such as "economic, political and social" equality have to offer. What then — must the Negro assume? ? ?

Through the course of time — since the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1861 — the Negro has made gallant, amazing strides. He has ascended from almost complete illiteracy, to about 82% literacy in 85 years, — faster progress than any other race in our known history. He has fought discrimination and segregation, and taken the most wicked insults hurled at any race of people ever. Today, he feels that because he has contributed much to the advancement of civilization, lived and adhered to all civil rules and reached a satisfactory educational stage — he IS ready for equality, ECONOMICALLY, SOCIALLY and POLITICALLY.

THIS, the world still denies him — but the Negro might DEMAND it one day — who knows!

There are great changes being made. Race supremacy is fast becoming a thing of the past. Oppression HAS caused a people to make drastic moves!

There is a NEW Negro on the horizon — interested in that MIGHTY little word — DEMOCRACY! All he asks is a fair break, but, he insists on it.

He has gained a "pride" in his race — just as people of other races. He has learned the proof that God created us all alike, — a body made of dust and a similar blood in all mankind, regardless of race, creed and color. So, there really is no difference, — after all!

"Democracy is freedom. I want freedom — certainly, it is worth fighting for!" THAT is the story of the NEW Negro.



Gleanings by Hines

A. K. Hines
Pa. D.

WHAT THE NEGRO SOLDIER THINKS

By Grant Reynolds

This explanation, however plausible, cannot be accepted as justification for mob action. Moreover, the Negro who has been traditionally the American victim of such brutality can ill-afford to embrace it as a means of assuaging his bitterness. America would do well, however, to interpret this deplorable situation in the light of what it portends for the future. Negro soldiers are reaching a state of desperation. They will hardly accept their former status of second class citizenship when they are returned to civilian life.

The case involving the refusal of Negro sailors to the insulting categories of menial service there is a specific reason in this case which becomes understandable to those who have a trace of human sympathy and understanding. Many of these men had been among the survivors of the Port Chicago tragedy during which more than two hundred of their comrades had been blown to bits in an explosion. They had gathered up the fragments of the mutilated bodies of their former buddies. The psychological strain produced thereby, aggravated by the general resentment they have built up against the Navy for the way they have been treated, must be considered in passing judgment upon such men. To expect this is to expect the inconceivable. The American military establishment has long since demonstrated that it is total lacking in both decency and conscience where the Negro service man is concerned. The traditional beast of burden has no right to complain. When he does the whip and the lash are applied, and the white military mind finds justification for its application.

United States Navy policy, in spite of the spasmodic commissioning of a handful of Negro ensigns is far more vicious than that of the army, if that is possible. The navy has never established a Negro civilian aide to whom Negroes could carry their grievances. (There are many Negroes who think that they suffer no loss if the establishment of such a position would be as innocuous as that of

the civilian aide to the Secretary of War.)

This does serve to convince Negro mothers and fathers that the Navy gives not a timer's dam about the just grievances of their sons in uniform. These men have been rendered psychologically unfit to give their best service to their country. When the immortal Shakespeare wrote: "The fault, Dear Brutus, is not in our stars that we are underlings, but in ourselves," he most certainly did not contemplate the application of the same to Negro sailors. The gods of justice might better be served if those responsible for the miserable plight of the Mare Island mutineers were tried in mass court martial instead of the innocent victims of their despicable policies.

At Camp Gordon Johnston, Florida, where Negro soldiers refused to obey military orders, they were faced with conditions that must shock the sensibilities of the most callous. White soldiers' training on this primitive reservation, which was without modern facilities for waste disposal it is said, could not be induced to work the "sugar detail" in spite of the added remuneration of three (\$3) dollars per day in addition to their regular monthly pay. On the same post, it was reported, there was resident large numbers of war prisoners. There is no way of knowing whether these former killers of American soldiers were ordered to work the famous "sugar detail" or not. Negro soldiers, however, many of whom were casualties (men declared physically and mentally unfit for regular military duty) were ordered to work the aforementioned detail as a matter of routine. Because they expressed resentment for such a filthy assignment they were brought to face with the dire consequences inherent in disobedience to military orders. For the enlightenment of the uninitiated the term "sugar detail" refers to the assignment of soldiers to dispose of ten (10) gallon cans of human body waste.

I must repeat again, in order to free myself of any charge of encouraging poor discipline among Negro soldiers still in the army, that this does not imply any attitude on my part to condone or encourage any actual or contemplated refusal on the part of Negro service men to obey given military commands. However, Almighty God himself must look with pity upon American soldiers receiving such treatment from the nation they stand ready to defend with their lives. God, if He is just, must also look with wrathful indignation upon the perpetrators of such indecencies who visit their beastly debasement upon His children simply because in His wisdom He chose to give them dark skins. That American soldiers, many of who are paying with their lives for the fundamental concepts of humanity.

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THE MOTHER STORY

by

Thomas C. Hughes

Thomas I. C. Hughes

SKIP: So that's how the oceans and seas and rivers came about, huh Daddy?

DADDY: Not the rivers yet; just the oceans and seas.

FAITH: When did the rivers come?

DADDY: After the land was formed, the rivers came. After all, the earth isn't made yet, only the Day, the Night, the Sky, and the Waters above and below the Sky. Rivers don't run through the ocean, though scientists tell us there is a river in the ocean called the "Gulf Stream." This river has a regular channel in the ocean just as a regular land river has. Of course, it really isn't a river as we know rivers to be. It's just part of the ocean that runs in a certain manner, and this appears to the scientist what a river appears to us. So there is a river in the ocean; but our interest right now is, the rivers didn't come the second day, for there was no land. And rivers run on land through forests, open plains, through jungles, villages, cities, between mountains and hills. Yes, they run on land everywhere, though quite often empty themselves into other rivers, lakes, or eventually enter the oceans and seas.

But now you can readily see when the water came together in one place, then the land appeared also in another place. The VOICE called the land, earth. The seas and the earth looked mighty good at that time.

FAITH: Do you think so, Daddy?

DADDY: They look mighty fine to me even now after all the wars and earthquakes and destruction of all sorts. You know they must have looked gorgeous then. And they were good, so says the story.

FAITH: Were there flowers and plants and things on the earth then, Daddy?

DADDY: No, just the land, nothing on it. All these other things came later. But first, you would think the waters coming before the land, that the seas would be filled with fishes first, wouldn't you?

FAITH: Well, weren't they?

DADDY: No, they weren't. The VOICE thought to make the earth have everything first for He said:

"Let the earth put forth grass, herbs yielding seed, and fruit trees, bearing fruit after their kind, wherein is the seed thereof, upon the earth, and it was so."

And do you know immediately the earth brought forth grass, herbs yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit wherein is the seed thereof, after their kind; and the VOICE said that it was good, for it was good. And when the DARKNESS came around again the third time after the Light had gone down, this was the third day.

FAITH: You know, Daddy, the VOICE IS WONDERFUL, isn't He?

DADDY: I should say He is. The VOICE is wonderful for He made all things:

"Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings, He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings;

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful The Lord God made them all. FAITH: Every day something new?

DADDY: Yes, every day something new. That's really what we call creation. But let's go on with our story.

Up until now, the Light that was shining was of one bright dazzling glory. Pure brilliance that Light was, the very presence of brilliance of the VOICE. But this was too bright. Too much; so the VOICE said:

"I want the Light to divide itself into lesser bodies of Light. And out of the Light, let there come the Sun, the Moon, and the Stars, yea, even the Northern Lights: the Aurora Borealis, and the Light of the Fire Fly. In fact, all forms of Light must come of this Pure Brilliance, and these Lights, the Sun, Moon and Stars shall be for the different times. The Sun is to rule the day, the Moon and Stars and the Light of the Aurora Borealis and the Light of the Fire Fly, these shall rule the Night, for these are lesser in brilliance than the Sun, so that there'll be light always, both day and night. And these lights shall be for signs and for seasons, for days, and for years, for they shall give light both day and night upon the earth." And all this was so. Then when the fourth evening came, that was the end of the fourth day.

FAITH: That must have been very beautiful to see all these lights made. You know, Daddy, I wish I could have been there to see it. It must have been a pretty sight like a pretty moving picture, and more beautiful.

DADDY: Yes, Faith, prettier than a picture, and more moving and beautiful in grandeur than a movie.

SKIP: A super-duper movie, eh Daddy?

DADDY: More than that, Son, for that creation story is still a real thing with us. It's still going on every day, all this creation is new today, just as when the VOICE first started them. So that today, everything is new and fresh as on the day of their first making. Springtime is like creation all over again.

FAITH: Oh, Daddy, there is a song in our Church hymn book which says

"New every morning is thy love, Our wakening and uprising prove,

The rest of it I can't remember, but Daddy, I just caught on to what you are telling us. You are telling us the story about God, now aren't you Daddy?

DADDY: Why surely, that's just what I am talking about. That all I've been telling you and Skip ever since you were born. You are now beginning to understand. But at least I am glad you are understanding.

FAITH: And Daddy, the VOICE is God, isn't He?

DADDY: Yes, my daughter, the VOICE IS THE VOICE OF GOD. That is why I told you we should call the VOICE "HE" and not "it" for if we call man "he," then God is greater than man will ever be, must be called by the same pronoun only with a capital "H." That's fair, isn't it?

FAITH: I think so. And you know, Daddy, if you had said "Children, I'll tell you a story from the Bible," we would not have wanted to listen. But by telling us about the VOICE and all the things He did, you fooled us, now didn't you?

DADDY: I didn't mean to fool you. I merely wanted to make you more interested in what I was saying in the story. That's why I said the VOICE said thus and so. But since you know I am talking about God maybe

you don't want to hear any more of this beautiful story.

FAITH and SKIP: Why sure we do.

FAITH: It's more interesting this way, isn't it, Skip?

SKIP: Uh huh.

DADDY: Then it's all right for me to use the word "God" in the place of the VOICE?

FAITH and SKIP: Uh huh. We want to know how God made everything else.

DADDY: Very well then, we shall continue.

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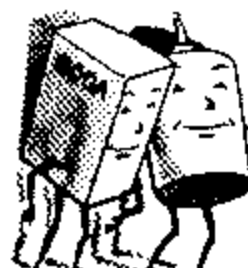
BUTTER-NUT Bread-Time Stories

KITCHEN TRICK

HERE'S ANOTHER tip on how to add an extra star to your reputation as a cook. When boiling fish, add a bouillon cube to the water. Adding a little vinegar to the water will also help keep the flesh firm.



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ARMENIAN BEANS

- | | |
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| 1 lb. string beans | 3 onions |
| 1 small eggplant | 3 tsp. olive oil |
| 1 large can tomatoes | Salt and pepper to taste |

Slice onions and fry in olive oil. Add string beans and eggplant cut in half-inch cubes. Mix in tomatoes and simmer 1 hour over low flame then add seasoning. Delicious with any lamb dish.

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