Hopep (peace) and Akwaaba (welcome) to the third issue, volume 3 of Alkebu-Lan (Afrika) Express. We hope you enjoy reading Alkebu-Lan Express


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Your Afrikan Name

“Your name is what establishes your presence on earth. Your name is the evidence of your existence. When a name is attached to you, certain specific forces of conscious intelligence are stimulated...Without our true names we had no connection to our true identity.” (Source: www.swagga.com)

The Afrikan names for this edition are:

Female: Farisa (pron. Fah-ree-sah: “To make happy”)
Male: Fela (pron. Fel-la: “Warrior/Warlike”)

The Global Hierarchy of Race

As the only racial group that never suffers systemic racism, Whites are in denial about its impact. Colour is something White people never have to think about because for them it is never a handicap, never a source of prejudice or discrimination, but rather the opposite, a source of privilege.

It was not until my wife and I went to live in Hong Kong that my view of the world, and the place that race occupies within it, was to be utterly transformed. Rather than seeing race through the prism of my own society, I learned to see it globally. As a White person, I found myself treated with respect and deference; my wife (who is Malaysian), notwithstanding her knowledge of the language and her intimacy with Chinese culture, was the object of an in-your-face racism.

In our 14 months in Hong Kong, I learned some brutal lessons about racism. First, it is not the preserve of Whites. Every race displays racial prejudice, is capable of racism, carries assumptions about its own virtue and superiority. Each racism, furthermore, is subtly different, reflecting the specificity of its own culture and history.

Second, there is a global racial hierarchy that helps to shape the power and the prejudices of each race. At the top of this hierarchy are Whites. The reasons are deep-rooted and profound. White societies have been the global top dogs for half a millennium. With global hegemony, first with Europe and then the US, Whites have long commanded respect, as well as arousing fear and resentment, among other races. Being White confers a privilege, a special kind of deference, throughout the world, be it Kingston, Hong Kong, Delhi, Lagos - or even, despite the way it is portrayed in Britain, Harare. Whites are the only race that never suffers any kind of systemic racism anywhere in the world. And the impact of White racism has been far more profound and baneful than any other: it remains the only racism with global reach.

Being top of the pile means that Whites are peculiarly and uniquely insensitive to race and racism, and the power relations this involves. We are invariably the beneficiaries, never the victims. Even when well-meaning, we remain strangely ignorant. The clout enjoyed by Whites does not reside simply in an abstraction - western societies - but in the skin of each and every one of us. Whether we like it or not, in every corner of the planet we enjoy an extraordinary personal power bestowed by our colour (“White”).

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It is something we (White People) are largely oblivious of, and consequently take for granted, irrespective of whether we are liberal or reactionary, backpackers, tourists or expatriate businessmen.

The existence of a de facto global racial hierarchy helps to shape the nature of racial prejudice exhibited by other races. Whites are universally respected, even when that respect is combined with strong resentment. At the bottom of the pile, virtually everywhere it would seem are those of African descent, the only exception in certain cases being the indigenous peoples.

This highlights the centrality of colour to the global hierarchy. Other factors serve to define and reinforce a race’s position in the hierarchy - levels of development, civilisation values, history, religion, physical characteristics and dress - but the most insistent and widespread is colour. The reason is that colour is instantly recognisable; it defines difference at the glance of an eye. It also happens to have another effect. It makes the global hierarchy seem like the natural order of things: you are born with your colour, it is something nobody can do anything about, it is neither cultural nor social but physical in origin. In the era of globalisation, with mass migration and globalised cultural industries, colour has become the universal calling card of difference. In interwar Europe, the dominant forms of racism were anti-Semitism and racialised nationalism; today it is colour: at a football match, it is Blacks not Jews that get jeered, even in Eastern Europe.

Liberals like to think that racism is a product of ignorance, of a lack of contact, and that as human mobility increases, so racism will decline. This might be described as the Benetton view of the world. And it does contain a modicum of truth. Intermixing can foster greater understanding, but not necessarily, as Burnley, Sri Lanka and Israel, in their very different ways, all testify.

We can only understand - and tackle racism - if we are honest about it. And when it comes to race - more than any other issue - honesty is in desperately short supply. You may remember that, after the riots in Burnley in the summer of 2001, Tony Blair declared that they were not a true reflection of the state of race relations in Britain: of course, they were, even if the picture is less discouraging in other aspects.

Racism everywhere remains largely invisible and hugely under-estimated, the issue that barely speaks its name. How can the Economist produce a 15,000-word survey on migration, as it did last year and hardly mention the word racism? Why does virtually no one talk about the racism suffered by the Williams sisters on the tennis circuit even though the evidence is legion? Why are the deeply racist western attitudes towards Arabs barely mentioned in the context of the occupation of Iraq, carefully hidden behind talk of religion and civilisation values?

Only when challenged by those on the receiving end is racism outed, and attitudes begin to change. The reason why British society is less nakedly racist than it used to be is that Whites have been forced by people of colour to question age-old racist assumptions. Nations are never honest about themselves: they are all in varying degrees of denial.

This is clearly fundamental to understanding the way in which racism is underplayed as a national and global issue. But there is another reason, which is a specifically White problem. Because Whites remain the overwhelmingly dominant global race, perched in splendid isolation on top of the pile even though they only represent 17% of the world's population, they are overwhelmingly responsible for setting the global agenda, for determining what is discussed and what is not. And the fact that Whites have no experience of racism, except as perpetrators, means that racism is constantly underplayed by western institutions - by governments, by the media, by corporations. Moreover, because Whites have reigned globally supreme for half a millennium, they, more than any other race, have left their mark on the rest of humanity: they have a vested interest in denying the extent and baneful effects of racism.

It was only two years ago, you may remember, that the first-ever United Nations conference on racism was held - against the fierce resistance of the US (and that in the Clinton era). Nothing more eloquently testifies to the unwillingness of western governments to engage in a global dialogue about the problem of racism.

It is rare to hear a political leader speaking the discourse of colour. Robert Mugabe is one, but he is tainted and discredited (by the Western media). The Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamed, is articulate on the subject of White privilege and the global hierarchy. The most striking example by a huge margin, though, is Nelson Mandela. When it comes to colour, his sacrifice is beyond compare and his authority unimpeachable. And his message is always universal - not confined to the interests of one race. It is he who has suggested that western support for Israel has something to do with race. It is he who has hinted that it is no
Melanin Top 10

1. Melanin is your body’s best protection against the aids virus, unless you have used poisonous products to remove or damage it, e.g. skin lightening creams.

2. melanin - “a dark brown to black pigment occurring in the hair, skin & iris of the eye, that is responsible for the tanning of the skin when exposed to sunlight” (from Greek, meaning black) oxford concise dictionary.

3. Melanin is heat resistant unless it has been poisoned - were you hot last summer? Taking vitamin b-complex will help clean up your melanin. Also eating beans, grains and mushrooms. Bananas, blackcurrants, grapes and oranges are medicinal fruits which help the body to make melanin (note - a medicine is not usually something you take everyday unless you are ill; fruits are medicinal).

4. Substances which poison the melanin in your body include marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, psychotic hallucinogens, neuroleptics, e.g. tranquilizers, agent orange, tetracycline, etc.

5. Animal fats and proteins will block your melanin circuitry which will result in shortened life-span due to conditions such as hardening of the arteries, cataracts, Parkinson’s disease & memory loss - melanin gives increased memory capacity when it is not toxic. animal fats and proteins include dairy products: 80-85% of the African world population is lactose (milk sugar) intolerant (so milk products will block your melanin functioning).

6. chemical water pollution absorbed by scavenger fish, shellfish & fatty fish (salmon, trout, tuna, etc) is absorbed by the melanin molecule, which is located in 12 different parts of the brain (the eyeball is brain tissue).

7. Melanin will also absorb poisons from:
   - soap & deodorants containing aluminium & other chemicals
   - synthetic foods (including frozen & powdered food)
   - pharmaceutical drugs - remember, most clinical tests are performed on white laboratory rats or other albino “guinea pigs” which lack melanin.

8. Melanin is present in the urine of Nubians (Afrikan). Because the melanin molecule has a similar structure to crack, cocaine & marijuana - this increases the possibility of you testing positive for drug abuse in European drug tests, even if you have not taken any drugs!

9. melanin is a natural super-conductor (battery) - it absorbs, charges up and stores energy from the entire electromagnetic spectrum, e.g. from sound waves, radar waves, radio & TV waves, microwaves, thermo-radiant heat, the visible light spectrum, x-rays, cosmic rays, ultraviolet light, and the earth’s magnetic energy. Therefore, prolonged or frequent exposure to harmful rays, like x-rays, can lead to cancer in Nubians. Modern music & mobile phones use microwave frequencies, which will literally “cook” your brain cells.

10. People who lack melanin (i.e. Europeans) cannot experience the entire electromagnetic spectrum - so they will create a society which is not beneficial to those who have melanin, e.g. they will create products which are beneficial to them, but harmful or poisonous to you.

Based on an original article by: The Holy Seed Baptist Synagogue Inc. under the auspices of The Egyptian Church of Karast “Christ” Inc.

Afrikan History Month Diary

October 3rd @ Kwesi (Malaika House), Birmingham: The launch of Paul Grant’s Book, “Niggers, Negros, Black People and Afrikans”. Afrikans arts, crafts and books on sale. 7pm-11pm. Info: 07977 495425

Wayne Chandler (Afrikan Historian and author) lecture and seminar tour @ various cities in the UK. Contact A.C.S.H.O/PACM 0121 554 2747 or email acsho@hotmail.com

Friday 17th Oct: The life and work of Marcus Garvey at the Vince Hines Foundation Springside House, 84 North End Road London W14. For further information on these events, please contact the Vince Hines Foundation on 0207 603 9974

Final Thoughts

“African History Month should be every month. We need to learn about all the African people of the world, including those who live in Asia and the islands of the Pacific” – Ancestor Dr. John Henrik Clarke

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