

THE

BLACK



EYE

#3306

MBA MBULU, EDITOR

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Black Nationalism is the only practical answer for Black People in the United States of America.

Let's Get Busy!

A WORD OR TWO

Greetings

One of the persons earning an online Degree from Aset U sent me an email recently. He asked me about the term nigger. This is the essence of my response.

TO NIGGER OR NOT TO NIGGER...

...that is NOT the question.

Statements that individuals make about terms like "nigger" can be strong and weak at the same time. Remember, human beings determine the value of words. Since all humans are equal, what person (or group) number one thinks about a word is just as legitimate or illegitimate as what person (or group) number two thinks about it. Only when person (or group) number one has been convinced that he/it is not equal to person (or group) number two, does what person (or group) number two thinks take on more legitimacy than what person (or group) number one thinks.

Terms like nigger are just like any other words. Are We going to let what white people do with a word determine what We think about that word? If so, it's probably because We think there is something superior about them or their ability to define terms. Just because they used a term to de-humanize Us does not mean We should rate that term based on their usage. Suppose We wipe the term nigger out of Our vocabulary and then, at some point in the future, discover that nigger was one of the most highly esteemed terms used in ancient African societies? We would have, in effect, let white impressions separate Us from something positive that We didn't remember but was deeply embedded in Our subconscious.

What if I suggested that We hate the term nigger for the same reason We put so much

emphasis on talking "right." Suppose nigger is an integral part of Our Black language, in the same way "dis" "dat" "you be" and over "yonda", etc., might be. Are We going to alienate Ourselves from Our language in order to be proper according to somebody else's standards, or do We stand up for Our own legitimacy, Our right to talk true to Ourselves and use terms that are true to what is deep inside of Us? I think We stand true to what is essential to Our being.

I don't see the term nigger as a necessarily negative term. What I do see are people who have allowed someone to seduce them into taking a position that people who have been made inferior tend to take; consequently they are overly concerned about addressing symptoms (terms, for example) rather than diseases (powerlessness, for example). What I see are people who are so far estranged from themselves that they fight entrenched battles over petty issues that deserve almost no time or energy, and put almost no time and energy fighting the battles that need to get most of Our time and energy. Almost any term, used in a certain context, can be positive, and almost any term, used in a certain context, can be negative. People who are convinced of their power, people who appreciate who they are, don't make a positive or negative determination based on what outsiders do or think.

I have always ignored what certain Negroes and whites say about the term nigger. Nigger has been a term some of my close friends and I frequently use to refer to each other. To us, it has always been a term of friendship, mutual respect and recognition, devotion to a new Black reality and opposition to white power and the

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white mythology. Individuals throughout the world can come to whatever conclusions they want to about the term, but their definitions carry no weight when it comes to the language I use. That is the case with all individuals and people who are convinced of their equality.

The smoke about the term nigger only serves to maintain white power and Black powerlessness. More than being about Blacks using terms that are degrading to Blacks, it is about Us being sidetracked away from the issues We need to be addressing. I agree, white people are insane when it comes to Black People, but We should not allow an insane group of people to disproportionately affect how We communicate with each other within the Black community. What a nigger is to a strong Black person is what We make it (a nigger could be an angel or a brave freedom fighter). What a nigger is to a weak Black person is what someone else tells the weak Black person it is (once an angel or a freedom fighter, now a good for nothin so and so).

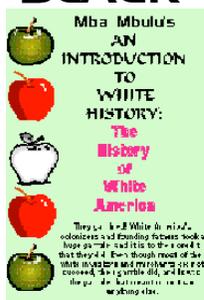
Those Negroes who are responsible for getting Us embroiled in this non issue are the same idlers, shuckers and jivers who have refused to fight a meaningful Black Power battle for more than 40 years. They aren't going to do anything that threatens white power, and if We get caught up in the issues they prefer to put on the table, then We are not going to do anything that can neutralize Black powerlessness and help develop a Black Power reality. We need to understand that THE issue goes well beyond the words that are used. At the root, the issue is about feeling or failing to feel one's power. Those who fail to FEEL their power will continue to spin their wheels in mud holes dug specifically for Blacks who tend to not accomplish anything worthwhile. Those who FEEL their power will not give skimpy issues like that a second thought because they have fundamental, substantive, issues to address. They have something worthwhile to do with their time, energy, intelligence and resources.

Power Quote

“Black individuals should intuitively and deliberately devalidate any law or perspective that is not consistent with the interests of the Black masses.”

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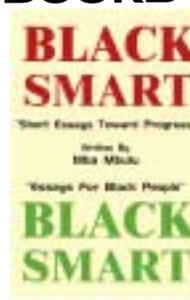
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