

① Racial Potpourri — Perfume the Air

I came to Goshen College in the fall of 1956.
I was a Mennonite but not a music major — so I
will not sing this song.

"Oh, Lord, my God! When I in awesome
wonder consider all the WORKS thy hands have
made".

This verse of song immediately takes me to
the scripture, Psalms 104 vs 24. "O, Lord,
how manifold are your WORKS, in wisdom
you have made them all; the earth is full of
your Creatures."

O, Lord — I have a question. Does this scripture:
"In wisdom you have made them all; the earth
is full of your creatures" — does that include
all human persons and all their diversity?

② Several months ago, Gladys Mainya of Kenya, Africa, who lives in Muncie, IN, said to me — with a big smile on her face — "I just love diversity!" That was a Kodak moment for me and I hold that happy picture in my memory in direct contrast to the frowns and scowls I frequently get from people who ask me: "Why can't you just call yourself American?" They make it quite clear that they don't want to hear the words: African-American, Asian-American, Pacific Islander or any of those other 2 part names.


These same people who angrily confront me on this identity issue are the same people I've heard ^{Presidential Candidate} Pat Buchanan call "European-Americans."

To the question — "Why can't you just call yourself American?" I add this relevant question —

③ "Why did the 1996^s Immigration Bill, passed by the Congress deny 350 thousand Latinos the opportunity to apply for U.S. Citizenship?" Many of these legal, hardworking, tax payers have lived in the United States for 15, 18, 20 years and are anxious to be called AMERICANS.

Next question -

"How Many Americans have come forth in support of the Bill - H.R. 2125, the Legal Amnesty Restoration Act of 1999? This bill proposed by African-American Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee seeks to reverse the cruel injustices in the 1996^s Immigration Bill.

The year 2000  Census Survey allows for 20 racial categories plus one write-in. A clear victory for Tiger Woods and others who want to declare all their diversity.

④ Of course, the naysayers are already protesting. They want to get rid of all racial categories. Before we can get rid of racial categories, we must First deal with race and racism in depth.

~~Dr. John Hope Franklin~~ African-American Historian

Dr. John Hope Franklin warns — racism is alive and flourishing in this final decade of the 20th Century. And, he asks — "What are we going to do about it?"

Here is a brief look at one very important aspect of the race problem in America — something invisible — "The Invisibility of Privilege". This entitlement, birthright, built-in advantage — is something beyond the reach of people of color. And as long as there is this imbalance of privilege and its power — good race relations is out of the question.

~~A~~ ~~A~~ ~~f~~ ~~f~~ ~~f~~ ~~f~~ ~~f~~ ~~f~~ ~~f~~ ~~f~~

Thank you ————— Thank you —————

(I invite you now), ...

Once upon a time, all the colours in the world started to quarrel; each claimed that ~~It~~ was the best, the most important, the most useful, the favorite.

Green said: "Clearly I am the most important. I am the sign of life and of hope. I was chosen for grass, trees, leaves---without me all the animals would die. Look out over the countryside and you will see that I am in the majority."

Blue interrupted: "You only think about the earth, but consider the sky and the sea. It is water that is the basis of life and this is drawn up by the clouds from the blue sea. The sky gives space and peace and serenity. Without my peace you would all be nothing but busybodies."

Yellow chuckled: "You are all so serious. I bring laughter, gaiety and warmth into the world. The sun is yellow, the moon is yellow, the stars are yellow. Every time you look at a sunflower the whole world starts to smile. Without me there would be no fun."

Orange started next to blow ^{its} ~~its~~ own trumpet: "I am the color of health and strength. I may be scarce, but I am precious for I serve the inner needs of human life. I carry all the most important vitamins. Think of carrots and pumpkins, oranges, mangoes and pawpaws. I don't hang around all the time, but when I fill the sky at sunrise and sunset, my beauty is so striking that no one gives another thought to any of you."

Red could no longer stand it and shouted out: "I'm the ruler of you all, blood, life's blood." I am the color of danger and of bravery. I am willing to fight for a cause. I bring fire in the blood. Without me the earth would be empty as the moon. I am the color of passion and of love; the red rose, poinsettia and poppy."

Purple rose to ~~its~~ full height. ~~It~~ was very tall and spoke with great pomp: "I am the color of royalty and power. Kings, chiefs and bishops have always chosen me for I am a sign of authority and wisdom. People do not question me--they listen and obey."

Indigo spoke much more quietly than all the others, but just as determinedly:
"Think of me, I am the color of silence. You hardly notice me, but without me, you all become superficial. I represent thought and reflection, twilight and deep waters. You need me for balance and contrast, for prayer and inner peace."

Rain do And so the colors went on boasting, each convinced that ~~they were~~ ^{it was} the best. Their quarreling became louder and louder. Suddenly there was a startling flash of brilliant white lightning; thunder rolled and boomed. Rain started to pour down relentlessly. The colors crouched down in fear, drawing close to one another for comfort.

Then Rain spoke: "You foolish colors, fighting among yourselves, each trying to dominate the rest. Do you not know that God made you all? Each for a special purpose, unique and different. God loves you all. Join hands with one another and come with me."

"God will stretch you across the sky in a great bow of color, as a reminder that God loves you all, and that you can live together in peace.....a promise that God is with you.....a sign of hope for tomorrow." */stand in back of rainbow/?*

And so whenever God has used a good rain to wash the world, and a rainbow appears in the sky, ~~let us remember to appreciate one another.~~ *XV XVI XVII XVIII*

From: Training for Transformation; A Handbook for Community workers by Anne Hope and Sally Timmel; Mambo Press, Gweru, Zimbabwe, 1984. ----based on an Indian legend written by Anne Hope. ~1978

The Story of the Rainbow (Native American Legend)

My Copy