

Making a Slave  
by  
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In previous articles, we have discussed words that were deceptive in that they gave a subliminal or subconscious picture that was not necessarily always associated with the word. One of these words was "slave" and the definition used was "a person who is excessively dependent or controlled by something or someone". When hearing that word, many people automatically think of a powerless Black person who is a pitiful wretch, even though the word originally referred to white eastern European people. As a result of that subliminal message, I don't refer to my Ancestors in America as slaves, I refer to them as enslaved because they usually retained and maintained their humanity despite the many attempts to take it.

This is not to say that there were not any enslaved persons in America that actually lived up to that definition. Some of the enslaved Afrikans were actually broken by the dehumanizing inhuman treatment that they received from the white "Christian" Americans. There was a level of mental enslavement, however and all were not completely "lost".

The question arises, how do you make/create a slave? There are several conditions that had to be made.

The first condition was that constant, perpetual fear had to be created. This fear took several forms. There was a fear of being beaten, castrated, tortured or even killed. There was a fear of being sold or having your loved ones sold away from you. There was a male fear that his wife, daughter, mother or sister could be raped right in front of him and there was nothing that he could do under the threat of torture or death. There was a female fear that her husband, son, father or brother would catch the eye of a lustful white female (or male). This was almost always a no-win situation and death was frequently the final "reward".

Fear still exists in today's world but takes different forms. There is a fear that one's actions could cause you to lose your job or be passed over

for a promotion. There is a fear of being criminalized. We know that AUSA (Afrikans from the United States of America) are arrested, convicted and imprisoned more frequently and given more prison time than whites who commit the same crimes. This is not even considering the AUSA who are in prison for crimes that they did not commit. The result of this fear today takes many forms including self-doubt, undereducation, poverty and can result in "self-checked" and weak men and women.

The second condition for making a slave was that self-hatred had to be created. One of the main expressions of this self-hatred was violence against others who look like us. The other expression was hating our appearance. We were led to believe that the Creator had made a mistake when we were created. We were taught that the standard of real beauty was a white or white-adjacent appearance. So, we fried, bleached and/or barbecued our hair (men and women) so that it wouldn't be "nappy" or "kinky" because we wanted straight hair, like most white people. We were made to accept that short, nappy and kinky hair was "bad hair". So, if my hair is "bad" what is "good hair"? In today's world, however, it's easy to purchase the desired hair, rather than fry/barbeque hair...in a weave or a wig. Skin bleaching creams are used today, perhaps even more than in past years. These skin lightening creams are so prevalent in Afrika that many Afrikan governments have restricted or made illegal their sale (South Africa, Ivory Coast, Uganda, Ghana and Rwanda). Although Nigeria leads in the use of these creams, they are used all over the world. Sammy Sosa, the baseball player from the Dominican Republic has completely changed his appearance using skin bleaching cream.

Many Afrikans and AUSA, usually more affluent, have even resorted to plastic surgery. Perhaps the best-known people in this category are the Jackson family, Michael being the "poster child". We also cannot forget the use of light-colored contact lenses.

The irony of this self-hatred is striking because non-Black people have been trying to look like us. Skin tanning chemically or with tanning salons has been popular for many years, despite the danger of skin cancer.

How often has a white person placed their arm next to a Black person's arm and said, "I'm as dark as you are"?

Steatopygia is a condition in which the buttocks are fat and round. It is a common characteristic of people of Afrikan origin. Millions (if not billions) of dollars are spent yearly with plastic surgeons by people (primarily women) to have procedures to create round buttocks. We also should not forget that people also spend lots of money to inject substances into thin lips to make them thicker.

So, it seems that the standard of beauty that so many of us are chasing is chasing us.

The third condition for making a slave is the creation of loyalty. In some cases, this operationalizes "divide and conquer". In many cases this is related to the creation of self-hatred, which was the second condition in making a slave.

A bit of historical perspective might be helpful here. The enslaver or members of his family frequently raped the enslaved Afrikan women and impregnated them. As a result, there arose a group of enslaved people who were half-Black and half-white, but were still enslaved. Yes, these "Christian" Americans not only committed rape (frequently underaged children) but also enslaved their own children (in some cases, they even raped their children). According to the laws of "the land of the free and the home of the brave", the "one-drop rule" was in effect. That meant that if a person had one drop of "black blood", they were Black, regardless of how they looked. There are pictures of the "tragic mulatto" with blonde hair and blue eyes who were enslaved. Occasionally, however, these individuals were given special privileges, so some of them pledged allegiance to the enslaver. It should be mentioned here that there were also non-mixed people, with pronounced Afrikan features who were also given special privileges. These "privileged people have been given many names over the years such as Uncle Tom, coon, handkerchief head, oreo, sell-out, and race-traitor. The cartoon, *The Boondocks*, lampoons this person perfectly with the character, Uncle Ruckus. The bottom line is that the privileges that they desired and/or were given bought their loyalty to the enslaver.

Malcolm X simplified (some may say over-simplified) this in an interview in which he compared the house slave and the field slave, stating that if the enslavers house caught on fire, the house slave prayed for rain and the field slave prayed for wind. We now know that this description was not 100% accurate because the “house slaves” were often the eyes and ears of the “field slaves” and not only helped plan rebellions but also occasionally poisoned the enslaver. The “field slaves” were often more loyal to the enslaver than the “house slaves”. This has been well documented in the film, *Sankofa* which is available on Netflix now (and I recommend it highly) and in the book *Born a Child of Freedom and Yet a Slave* by Dr. Norece Jones (who incidentally has South Carolina roots). As the late eminent historian, Dr. John Henrik Clarke often said, there were light skinned people who were loyal to their Afrikan roots and there were dark skinned people who were traitors to their race.

This situation continues to exist today, in all areas. We all know individuals who have sold their souls for favor and would do or say anything to maintain their favor with our oppressors. What is both sad and infuriating is that many of these individuals actually believe in the actions that they are taking.

The fourth condition required for the creation of a slave is the elimination of history and culture. I probably don't need to say much about this because this has been a recurring theme in my writing and lectures for the past forty years. Dr. Clarke also said frequently that a consciously historic culture could not be enslaved. So, as a result, the only education that the kidnapped and enslaved Afrikans received (and still receive, I might add) was a false history that glorified the enslavers (or colonizers in places outside the United States). That history also either completely ignored Afrikan and AUSA history, falsified it or actually stole it and took credit for things that Afrikans had accomplished.

Afrikans all over the world, including AUSA are still suffering from this ignorance of self. Because of this ignorance, it is extremely difficult to know what our Ancestors accomplished and who we truly are. We know so little that we don't realize how much we don't know. It has been

repeatedly demonstrated that knowledge of self and of the positive accomplishments of one's people can not only boost self-esteem but can do wonders in terms of positive accomplishments.

The power and efficacy of history and culture can be seen in the past (and present) efforts to suppress the accurate and truthful history of Afrikan people. The money, time and energy spent to suppress our history and culture, to me, shouts volumes. What do our enemies know that we don't know?

There is a psychological mechanism called projection, which is a defense mechanism in which people displace their feelings (usually negative) onto other people. In people who have narcissistic projection, these people deny their flaws and blame others for their own problems (mistakes, misfortunes, shortcomings). The current claims that our history is racist and teaches white children to hate themselves is a perfect example. There is absolutely no concern for the effect of the false or excluded history on AUSA children. These people extol the superiority of their history while suppressing the history of other people. I am convinced that there is a major element of fear involved.

The elimination, distortion and claiming of our history is actually a military tactic. As my teacher, Dr. Marimba Ani said, "We are at war, but only the enemy knows it."

Food for thought.