

WHAT IS IT?

GHETTO!

What is it? A word. A condition. A curse? By the time the Negro became accustomed to being poor, underprivileged, immoral, incapable, lazy, poor risks, and a variety of other assorted things, along came some bright individual who tagged them with a single word which was equivalent to all of these.

It was determined he lived in an area commonly called, now universally known, "The Ghetto".

For thousands of years the Jews had been at home in the land around Jerusalem. Long before the destruction of their homeland in 70 A.D. by the Roman Emperor Titus. A great dispersion began with that event. They began to filter into strange and hostile lands. By massing together it was felt they could better defend themselves and help each other.

For nearly 1000 years the Jews enjoyed occasional peace but found themselves sometimes molested. During the Middle Ages, however, a bitter feeling against the Jewish race began to spread among the gentiles. Oppressive laws were passed inflicting greater hardships. One of the most disgraceful of these was a law compelling these people to live in restricted quarters of town set aside for them. Districts of this kind (usually located in the worst parts of town) came to be known as Ghettos.

Large numbers of Jews migrated, in recent years, to the United States, seeking the peace denied them in Europe. Persecution and economic boycott was instituted by the Nazis in Germany. Early immigrants settled in Chicago and New York which areas were also called Ghettos.

Today, just being a Negro marks you as being a poor, uneducated, shiftless, doomed person. It is not only unfair but the cruelest type of segregated tag of identification. Just being a helpless people is not enough--you are branded as being hopeless.

Conceivably, this printed thought will be insufficient to solve this problem, but--it could cause you to think, and ask yourself. Is Ghetto just a descriptive word. Is it an inescapable condition. Or is it a curse to be a Ghetto-dweller.

What are your thoughts?

A FIVE LETTER WORD

On occasion pride has been known to generate great strength in men.

You really don't have to be black to be proud. You don't have to belong to a sect, or a movement to have it. You don't have to commit it to memory to become possessed. It is a personal possession that an individual can own at anytime he or she wants to.

It is "lofty self-respect"; "a reasonable delight in one's position, achievements, or possessions". It can, however, develop into conceit which is overwhelming pride or self-esteem.

A woman can have pride in her ability to repair or sew her own clothes. A man can have pride in his ability to erect a fence, no matter how meager, around his modest home. A youngster can have pride in his ability to make and/or fly a kite. A little girl can be prideful in a doll she received on her seventh birthday.

Neighbors can be proud of the folks who live next door. A minister can have pride in his congregation, a singer in his choir, or one of his members. A foreman is often proud of his crew. Pride exists with a coach when one of his pet theories comes off like he dreamed it. A politician is full of pride to win an election. Children have pride in a teacher in whose class they are members.

It is only possession... exposure... knowledge or ownership which generates this feeling. If you don't have it, you are missing something. If you try to hide it, you are denying yourself something. If you don't want it, you are not getting a full measure of your life.

White folks can, and often do have an abundance of pride. Negroes, or black folks are entitled to the same amount of pride. But - being one or the other doesn't entitle you to it - unless you earn it.

THEIR'S WAS "LEARN BABY LEARN"



"THE BLACK 1969 GRADUATES PROBLEM, IF YOU CALL IT THAT, IS TRYING TO DECIDE WHICH OFFER TO ACCEPT."

THE OBSERVER

THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

AN "NPI" FEATURE

- June 12, 1948 The American Nurses Association breaks custom by electing a Negro nurse to its national board of directors.
- June 13, 1967 Thurgood Marshall becomes first Black man to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court bench.
- June 14, 1811 Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, a book that spurred the abolitionist movement, was born in Litchfield, Conn.
- June 15, 1881 Booker T. Washington, following his graduation from Hampton Institute, Va., arrived in Tuskegee, Ala., to take charge of the small school which he later developed into the world-famous Tuskegee Institute.
- June 16, 1866 The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving former slaves the right of citizenship, was proposed in Congress.
- June 17, 1775 The Battle of Bunker Hill, in which many Negroes saw action and died, took place.



Mrs. Lubertha M. Johnson hands out certificates to miniature graduates Michael Lee and Delores Williams Sunday, at the "Operation Independence - Head Start" 1969 Graduating exercises. The program was held at C.V.T. Gilbert Elementary School. There were fifty-two graduating students.

La Mont Walton led the Pledge of Allegiance and Albert Deal Powell delivered the welcome. Both were graduates. Mrs. Johnson is the Project Director.

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