

"Call It Black Male"

by ROOSEVELT FITZGERALD



SLAVERY IN ANTIQUITY

Usually, after the first year in the White House, the President is asked how he would sum up those three-hundred and sixty-five days. Invariably the answer which is given is something on the order of "It has been a learning experience." This answer would be appropriate in describing how Gordon Childe has painted the entire presence of man on this planet: a learning experience.

Man the loner, the family member, the member of the clan, the tribe, the village--in each and every instance new data was being learned. Man probably could not have evolved or survived without tools. Unlike other animals who generally carry around, as part of their person, all of the equipment they need for survival man has had to develop tools in order to survive. These tools are extracorporeal and are discarded when their usefulness ends. These tools, which included weapons, enabled man to expand his horizons. With these he became a more proficient hunter. Animals he had been unable to approach before now began to succumb to him. These developments had their beginning during Paleolithic times and range from tools on the order of the hand ax were developed. Technology has grown from such humble beginnings to the more complex innovations of modern science as laser beams.

Mesolithic people could not control their food supply. So long as they relied on foraging, hunting, fishing and trapping, they were dependent on the natural food supply in a given area to keep from starving. It was during this period that people, in the middle east, began to make the transition to food production. Remains dated at between 8000 and 6000 B.C. in the area of present day Jericho in Jordan suggest, to some, that cultivation had its beginning here. Others believe that it was at sites in Iraq. It is thought that the ancestors of wheat and barley originated in the highlands. These small groups learned to domesticate animals and herd them rather than pursue them. By the time the Neolithic period was underway man was making tools, herding animals, making pottery--important for transporting and keeping water and storing other materials, making clothing, baskets and rectangular timbered houses just to name a few of the innovations which man had managed to develop.

People became gradually more and more sedentary. Clans became larger and small villages began to appear. A clan is a group of individuals within a community who believe that they have a common ancestor. A clan is patrilineal if its members trace their relationship through the male line, and matrilineal if through the female. When several clans inhabited the same area, spoke a distinctive dialect and had a common cultural heritage a tribe would be formed. From these tribes there developed cultures and from these came the ancient civilizations.

On the surface this might seem as though the process of development for the human person was proceeding in a safe, sane and secure manner. Not always. People had learned to make tools, domesticate animals and all of the rest but there were certain things in nature which could not be controlled. The location of water was just one of these. The number of places where the presence of water was limited. A competition developed for these sites. It was not easy, even when found, to accomplish the tasks which had to be performed in order to establish a permanent site of habitation. Do not believe that one needs only find a herd of wild animals, pick out the ones desired, and domesticate them over night. Any farmer will tell you that "bringing in a crop" from scratch is no easy task. Discovering how each of these momentous discoveries related to the other took considerable reflection. 8000 years ago we were dealing with things which had never before taken place. Hand pulled hoes gave way to those pulled by rope, to those pulled by cattle. Plows drawn by yoked, harnessed animals were used in the fields of

western Asia and Egypt by 3000 B.C. They were not used by everyone. Some had not yet learned of these things.

In an earlier chapter reference was made to the philosophy of Arnold J. Toynbee. Toynbee believed that the future of man, even from the very beginning, was determined by the responses made to the numerous challenges which had to be dealt with. In some instances, where man sought to alter his life style he learned to domesticate animals and cultivate crops. Other groups might not have learned to do this. They in turn would be more disposed, as necessity prompted, to raid those places where such had taken place. In order to gain access to these developments often times meant warfare--a fight to the death. For some cultures the whole meaning of life was death to others. Attila described it best during the fourth century when he said that "the greatest thing that a man can do is attack his enemies, kill all of the men, rape all of the women, enslave all of the children, capture all of the asses and ride all of the horses." He did not originate this kind of thinking. In ancient times the only difference might have been that no slaves would be taken. There was no real food surplus. A farming family could raise what they needed for themselves and little else. When tribes went to war few prisoners were taken. Those who were usually were sacrificed. It was not to the best advantage of the victors to keep them because their presence would cause an undue strain of the food supply.

When farming and herding had gone beyond this early stage, an agricultural people could produce far more than they needed, and this made the taking of prisoners practical. Instead of killing a defeated enemy, the victor enslaved them. The loser kept his life and, in return, was made to work. There are a number of historians who consider slavery as a step forward in the development of civilization. They feel this to be so because the invention of slavery put an end to the losers of wars being killed. This might be so in some circumstances. Being permitted to stay alive is not always better than being dead. In some cultures where slavery existed there were laws which protected the slave and which defined the basic rights of human beings as remaining a part of the person. In other cultures the basic human qualities of the person were removed. They ceased to be people and became merely pieces of property. They were not protected by any laws and their treatment was at the whim of their owners.

There were slaves in the ancient civilizations of the Old World in Europe, Asia and Africa. Color had nothing to do with slavery. The slave was the survivor of the village, town or city-state which was defeated in war. The duration of the period of slavery was not established. It could be for a short period or a long period of time depending upon the circumstances surrounding the place where enslavement took place. Escape, manumission, war, ransom, death--through a number of ways a slave might cease being a slave.

Happiness Through Health

by Otto McClarrin

FREEZE OR COOK PORK PROPERLY...
OR BECOME A POSSIBLE VICTIM OF
TRICHINOSIS

Although its incidence in the United States has declined in the past generation, trichinosis is still regarded by the Government's Communicable Disease Center as a troublesome problem, particularly in the Northeast.

The disease, caused by parasites and sometimes fatal, is commonly associated with pork, a staple of hearty winter dishes. In fact it has also been transmitted by a variety of carnivorous animals eaten by man, including bears, wild boar, walrus and even horses, which are not usually numbered among the carnivores.

The prevention of trichinosis is easily accomplished cooking the meat at temperatures sufficiently high or freezing high or freezing it at temperatures sufficiently low will kill the parasitic worms.

"As far as what we get reported to us in human cases," said Dennis Juranek, deputy director of the parasitic diseases division of the Communicable

Disease Center in Atlanta, "it's between 100 and 150 cases a year. That, we figure, is the tip of the iceberg. Like most reportable diseases, we only hear about those a physician thinks to report or those severe enough to warrant special attention."

Dr. Juranek said the severity of the disease depends on the amount of the infected meat ingested. Inasmuch as some of its symptoms resemble those of flu, many victims who suffer mild cases and recover spontaneously are unaware that they have actually had trichinosis. In the initial stage of the disease, cramps and diarrhea are the primary symptoms, occurring within the first week. The hallmark of the disease is muscle pain and fever. What enables a physician to distinguish these symptoms from flu are puffiness of the eyelids and high incidence of one type of white blood cell.

Forty years ago, trichinosis was common in New York City, arising from New Jersey pigs raised on a diet of infested garbage from New York restaurants before they were slaughtered and returned to those same restaurants as food.

But Dr. John Marr, the chief epidemiologist for the city of New York, said recently of the disease, "We don't consider it an important health problem because of the paucity of reported cases each year."

According to Dr. Juranek, there were 142 cases in the United States and no deaths in 1977, the latest year for which national statistics are available. New Jersey led the nation with 50 cases, and a rate per million of population of 6.8.

NEW CAUSE FOR HEART ATTACKS FOUND

Italian researchers have found that heart attacks may sometimes be caused by sudden spasms of coronary blood vessels, a discovery that specialists say could lead to new ways to prevent the United State's No. 1 killer.

Until now, doctors have usually attributed heart attacks to hardening of the heart arteries -- fatty buildups that cut down blood flow to the heart. In about one in four cases, they believe a blood clot plugs the narrowed artery and starves the heart of blood.

The Italian researchers conclude that heart spasms may be responsible for heart attacks and clots, whether or not the victims have clogged arteries.

In discussing this research work, Dr. Eugene Braunwald of Harvard Medical School, said this research may lead physicians to prescribe nitroglycerin and aspirin to prevent heart attacks by reducing the likelihood of spasms.

The researchers closely examined the hearts of 76 people who suffered angina heart pain. They found that in every case, the attacks began with spasms identical to those that caused angina. The doctors believe that the flow of blood to the heart, already slowed in some people by cholesterol buildup, may be temporarily blocked off completely by the spasms.

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