

Just Think-In

I just finished reading Willie Lynch's speech, and find myself just think-in about the concept of negative mental legacies of slavery.

Might the conditions of slavery, which were designed to break and remake human beings into passive slaves, first and foremost, have been about mental conditioning? Might physical control and terror have been a means to the end of mental control?

Might African Americans have finally achieved the end of overt terror, captivity, and the legal institutions of our oppression...only to presently be faced with the additional task of removing the mental conditioning?

Heaven knows that a historically oppressed people have an obligation to come together, to work together, to mitigate their own oppression. Can this be why we find it so difficult to come together and act in our own selfish best interest?

Might this be why some African Americans today often exhibit behaviors and attitudes that are confusingly self-destructive? Not having explicitly examined, dissected, and exorcised these mental demons (the negative mental legacies of slavery), might we be unconsciously passing them on from generation to generation?

Lynch was an astute manipulator of human psychology, as were others who shaped the system of slavery. He fully understood that the manipulation of human fears, wants, and needs could be used for purposes of social control and exploitation.



This think-in thing ain't easy. It's really a lot easier to just not do it and instead simply go with the flow. Still, I'm committed to this think-in.

While Lynch perfected this divide and conquer thing; someone else was perfecting the use of physical control, torture, and the public display of brutal punishment as another way of controlling/conditioning slaves; and someone else perfected the exploitation of the fact that Africa, as a continent (not as a country), was made up of many different cultures and languages. By separating the slaves, so as to mix the many different cultures of Africa, the cultural bonds that strengthened the slaves and fostered resistance were broken. This was especially effective since using any African language, practicing any African religion, or demonstrating any behavior not desired by the slave master was punishable by brutal public floggings or death.

Our African American forefathers had to contend with a triple jeopardy: their enslavement; their own human, linguistic, and national differences; and the effects of Lynch's divide and conquer methodology. And remember, Lynch guaranteed that if his method of using "...fear, distrust, and envy for control..." was used correctly it would "control the slaves for at least 300 years." Further, he stated that, "...the good thing about this plan is that if used intensely for one year, the slaves themselves would remain perpetually.

Yet children accept the customs of the culture they were born into, without question. So, the acceptance (internalization) of the negative mental legacies of slavery was both natural and normal. Not having carefully examined the negative mental legacies of slavery, might they have been unconsciously passed on to future generations? Also, America's educational system still refuses to carefully examine the institution of slavery (as I am attempting to do right now) and present it with intellectual honesty. Rather, the schools our children attend today teach that: slavery is not paying someone for their work; the ridiculous concept of the good slave owner, as opposed to the bad slave owner; and that slavery (and any lasting effecting it might have had) was eliminated a long time ago.



I don't know how long I can hang in here with this think-in. It's just too painful! Yet, it makes perfect sense.

And since generations have passed, might today's white people be unaware of this legacy and its effect on them as well? After all they had to justify slavery to themselves, using even the Bible to justify their inhumane treatment of other human beings. They also somehow had to maintain their sanity!

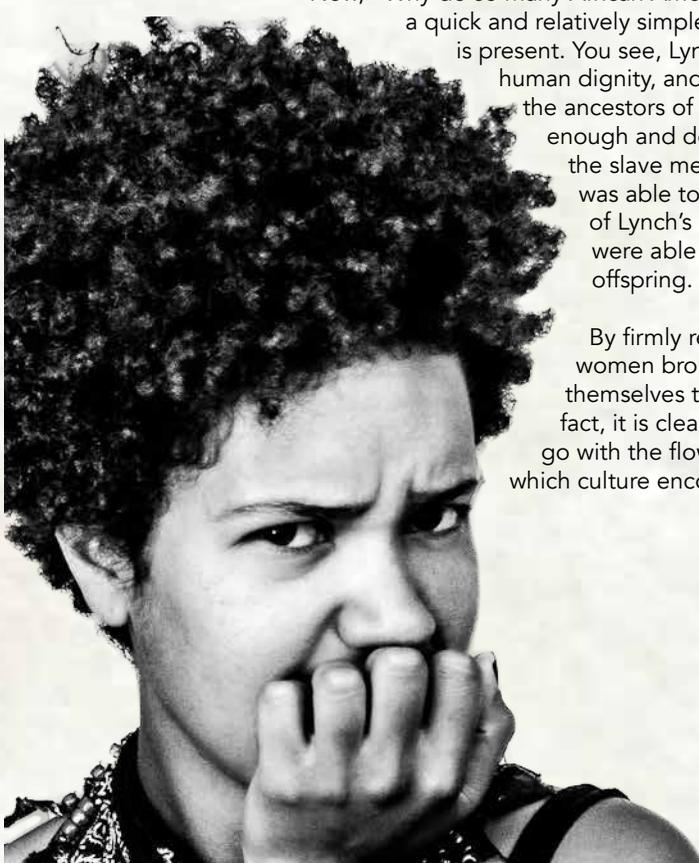
Perhaps this is what the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders meant in 1968, when they reported that: "What white Americans have never fully understood—but what the Negro can never forget—is white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."

For my sanity I must now begin bringing this think-in to a close.

So again, why do so many African Americans dog each other out? Perhaps it is because this particular group of African Americans is still suffering from Lynch's disease. They have been culturally conditioned to be distrustful and unsupportive of one another—while being trusting, respectful, and deferential of whites. And because it has been a part of the culture for hundreds of years, they are not even aware of it. They simply are acting out Lynch's negative mental legacies of slavery and will pass this legacy on to their own descendants, generation after generation—without active intervention.

Now, "Why do so many African Americans not dog each other out?" Luckily a quick and relatively simple, but powerful, answer to this question is present. You see, Lynch's legacy destroys human compassion, human dignity, and the development of high character. Perhaps the ancestors of these African Americans were both strong enough and determined enough to not have absorbed the slave mentality; or perhaps or most likely, someone was able to examine and firmly reject the irrationality of Lynch's legacy. And, firmly rejecting Lynch's legacy, were able to give the gift of clear think-in to their offspring.

By firmly rejecting Lynch's legacy, these men and women broke the shackles of slavery and freed themselves to be men and women of high character. In fact, it is clear that it takes character for anyone not to just go with the flow of things that they know are wrong, but which culture encourages.



So, perhaps the reason so many African Americans do not dog each other out has to do with this thing called *character*. It is not so easy to explain what the term character means, but I think Herbert Armstrong did a good job of defining

it. Armstrong was an evangelical minister who, while speaking to his flock about holiness, explained that only God was holy in a pure sense. We strive toward a more holy state through the development of our character. And if we work hard enough, we can achieve a state of being that he called *holy perfect spiritual character*. He then said to them: "Holy perfect spiritual character is the ability of a separately created entity, of free mind and moral agency, to come to a knowledge of the right as opposed to the wrong; to will and do right, even against desires and pulls toward the wrong; until doing the right becomes fixed in nature." Perhaps those African Americans who do not dog each other out have achieved this state and have, thus, cast aside the negative mental legacies of slavery.



Whew! I just can't believe what heavy stuff this think-in is! I'm mentally exhausted! I'm out of here, cause I need rest and then time to think about this character stuff and these negative mental legacies of slavery some more, myself.

But, what do you think about it for your own self?