

1)

"The New Jim Crow"
AN ESSAY By: "Nasir Wali Mubsin"!

That time of the year has come and gone again... (February)!... We heard Martin Luther King's speeches in 10 second clips... Those same clips that get recycled on the annual basis nowadays → those radical proclamations that have "literally" been reduced over the years to mere platitudes. His booming voice declares that he's been to the mountain top and has glimpsed the promised land. He had a dream he says and his voice soars!

During this year's Black History month, like last, we were treated to the celebrations of "Obama's presidency" → the ultimate "symbol", we are told, of America's triumph over its ugly history of discrimination, exclusion and racial casting... "This" a time to rejoice, it is said, although we (still) have a (long) way to go!

Sadly that is the dominant racial narrative today among those who claim to care about racial justice... They say: "Look how far we've come but (yes we (still) have a (long) way to go)"!

2)

HERE ARE A FEW FACTS THAT RUN COUNTER TO THAT RACIAL NARRATIVE:

1). THERE ARE MORE "AFRICAN AMERICANS" UNDER "CORRECTIONAL CONTROL" TODAY VIA PRISON, JAILS, ^{AND} ON PROBATION OR PAROLE THAN WERE ENSLAVED IN 1850 WHICH IS A DECADES BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR BEGAN.....

2). AS OF 2004, MORE AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN WERE DISENFRANCHISED → (DUE TO FELON DISENFRANCHISEMENT LAWS) THAN IN 1870, THE YEAR THAT THE 15TH AMENDMENT WAS RATIFIED, PROHIBITING LAWS THAT EXPLICITLY DENY THE RIGHT TO VOTE ON THE BASIS OF RACE... SO IN OTHER WORDS, DUE TO BEING A "FELON" YOU'RE (NOT) ABLE TO (VOTE)!... GUESS HOW MANY "AFRICAN AMERICAN" ARE FELONS!!

3) IF YOU TAKE INTO ACCOUNT "PRISONERS", A LARGE MAJORITY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN IN SOME URBAN AREAS, LIKE MILWAUKEE, CHICAGO OR DETROIT HAVE BEEN LABELED FELONS FOR (LIFE)..... THESE MEN, LIKE (MYSELF) ARE A PART OF A GROWING "UNDER CASTE" (NOT) "CLASS" WE ARE CONSIDERED SUCH DUE TO BEING A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE PERMANENTLY RELEGATED BY LAW, TO AN INFERIOR SECOND CLASS STATUS... WE CAN BE DENIED THE RIGHT TO VOTE, AUTOMATICALLY EXCLUDED FROM JURIES, AND LEGALLY DISCRIMINATED

3)

AGAINST IN EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND PUBLIC BENEFITS MUCH AS OUR GRANDPARENTS AND GREAT GRANDPARENTS ONCE WERE DURING THE JIM CROW ERA...

THERE (IS) A "COLORBLIND" EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS CALLED: "CRIME RATES". BUT CRIME RATES DON'T EXPLAIN THE SUDDEN AND DRASTIC MASS "INCARCERATION" OF (AFRICAN AMERICANS) DURING THE PAST 30 YEARS... "CRIME RATES" HAVE FLUCTUATED OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES AND ARE CURRENTLY AT AN HISTORICAL LOW (BUT) "IMPRISONMENT RATES" HAVE SOARED BEYOND MEASURE, THEY'VE LITERALLY "QUINTUPLED" AND THE VAST MAJORITY OF THAT INCREASE IS DUE TO THE (SO-CALLED) "WAR ON DRUGS", A WAR ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY HELD IN POOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR EVEN THOUGH STUDIES CONSISTENTLY SHOW THAT PEOPLE OF (ALL) COLORS USE AND SELL ILLEGAL DRUGS AT REMARKABLY SIMILAR RATES... IN FACT, SOME STUDIES INDICATE THAT "WHITE YOUTH" ARE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN ILLEGAL DRUG DEALING THAN BLACK YOUTH...

THIS IS NOT WHAT YOU WOULD THINK WHEN WALKING THROUGH OUR NATION'S PRISONS AND JAILS WHICH ARE OVERFLOWING WITH BLACK AND BROWN DRUG OFFENDERS.

4)

— THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT IN AMERICA
— THE CLOCK HAS BEEN TURNED BACK WITH REGARDS TO
— THE SO-CALLED "RACIAL PROGRESS" ALTHOUGH IT SADLY
AND SCARCELY SEEMS TO BE GOING ON WITHOUT NOTICE...
ALL EYES ARE FIXED ON PEOPLE LIKE BARACK OBAMA
AND OPRAH WINFREY WHO HAVE DEFIED THE ODDS AND
ACHIEVED GREAT POWER, WEALTH AND FAME...

— THIS IS (NOT) MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S DREAM
AND AS DICTATED IN MICHELLE ALEXANDER'S: "THE NEW JIM
CROW" (MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLOR-
BLINDNESS) THE CYCLICAL REBIRTH OF (CASTE) IN
AMERICA IS A RECURRING RACIAL NIGHTMARE.....

— I AM: "NASIR WALI MUHSIN", CAUGHT IN THE
CASTE OF AMERICAS ~~—————~~ → "WRITE OFF'S"!!

**** IF YOU HAVE (ANY) INPUT, Q'S, COMMENTS OR
CONCERNS ABOUT THIS ESSAY PLEASE FEEL FREE TO POST
THEM ON MY BLOG OR SEND THEM TO ME AT:

→ CESO SPREWELL NASIR WALI MUHSIN! #25-9325
POST OFFICE BOX - 9900/W.S.G.P
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**** AND PLEASE READ MICHELLE ALEXANDER'S: "THE NEW
JIM CROW".....