



## RACISM IN TODAY'S WORLD

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We all share the same templates for our physical, physiological and body systems. Although there have been a number of other people who have an extra digit or irregular characteristics apart from what is regularly seen in their "normal" counterparts, the fact remains that we have been born into this planet with hardly anything to make us breeds apart from others. We should not ever consider certain aspects such as color, race or creed as significant factors to say which people have superiority over others. The world was not meant to be that way.

We might have heard stories during our childhood on how we were created to be of different color or races. In my country, the story goes like so: Supreme God decided to fashion beings out of clay and cook the images in an oven. The first batch of beings was left too long in the oven because the Creator forgot about them. They became the black race. The next batch of clay images were taken out too early and they turned out to become the white race. The last batch of beings to be put into the oven was the brown race, where my people belong. We were taken out of the oven at the right time. In the story that was always part of our native literature books in elementary school, apparently the author of that very story had wanted to be creative and came up with such an account of how we were created. The yellow race might have been described in other stories somewhere, but as far as I can recall, the version that was told to us in our books during those days only had those three races: black, white and brown.

It doesn't matter how the story of the creation of the human race is described to us in books and verbal accounts. We should never take those stories to mean that there are races that are created far above others just because they are black, white, brown or yellow. God may even have created other color beings we are not aware of. Goodness, we even have "blue" babies, but that's just because of a cyanotic heart defect. Or we ourselves might elect to do self-tanning or skin whitening just to become more beautiful. But that doesn't mean we need to look down on others when they are not of the same color as us, or whatever color we pretend to be.

The trend has shifted to black hair being dyed blond and red and whatever color of the rainbow there is. I find this funny sometimes because my race was born with naturally black or dark brown hair. Blond hair looks atrocious with dark skin like ours, which is why the attempts by many to look Caucasian or American are deplorable, at most. Be proud of the race you were born into, for it is the race you will eventually die into.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How has racism become part of culture?
2. Do you think stories of creation like the one told in the essay contribute to racism? How?
3. What is the effect of racism on the race being discriminated against? Be as specific as needed.
4. How have people in your own country tried to adopt a different race? Be as specific as you can.
5. What are the effects of racism on society, as a whole? Elaborate on your answer.

One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings. ~Franklin Thomas