

NO NIGGA

by
Brian Dickerson

to be a 'Nigga'?

In an ideal world, such degrading classifications as “nigger” would have no place in our society, but since our world is far from being perfect, we need to carefully analyze why exactly this word and others like it are still being used. Many condemn the word “nigger” and many others use it as a term of endearment. Some say it takes us back in time to where we were dehumanized because of our ethnicity. We tend to believe that we have come so far over time, and further use of this horrible word will do nothing but bring us down again. I think there is a bigger picture that a lot of people tend to overlook.

The bigger picture encompasses our perception of where we stand as a people and the actual status that we hold in this nation. Considering both sides, I have to look at a society where a large percentage of African-American males inhabit prison, our children are raised by single parents and forced to live in drug-infested slums and our women are constantly disrespected. Observing all of this, I think it's time, black people, for us to stop focusing on petty things and focus our energies on what our real problems are.

The word “nigga” actually makes me feel good. I bet you're wondering how in the hell I came up with this notion. It's very simple; it makes me feel good to know that people feel the need go to such lengths just to keep me from the heights I am destined to ascend. I know that no matter how much they throw in our paths, they cannot stop us from achieving. Greeting a friend with “What's up my nigga?” acts as a reminder of my unstopability.

We are so deadlocked on achieving success for ourselves, we forgot what exactly got us to the level we are on now. We survived all of those turmoil-filled years by sticking together. Now we try to separate ourselves into classes of “niggas” and “African-Americans.” We love pointing our fingers at people instead of offering our help to educate them. It seems that the only negative effects that this “n” word has is that it is just another thing that keeps us separated.

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