

Ebony Soul

# What is Expected of Me?

In an era when the Black man is vehemently demanding his liberation on many fronts, we find that the airwaves are filled with ideas which sometimes appear to conflict.

On one hand we hear the cry of "Nation Time!" While on another hand we hear the call for a "Revolutionary Overthrow". From another corner comes the concept of building our own "Alternative Institutions". And finally, to top it all off our ears ring with the vibrations of "Black Unity."

As a Black who is seriously concerned about the status of people of African descent in this country, I am perplexed by the implications of such slogans.

Can all these concepts be working toward the same goal? Do we have to constantly "put" another Brother "down" in order to gain for ourselves that hallowed stage center? Can we afford self depreciation at this time in our Struggle? Maybe you, too, have wondered about this enigma.

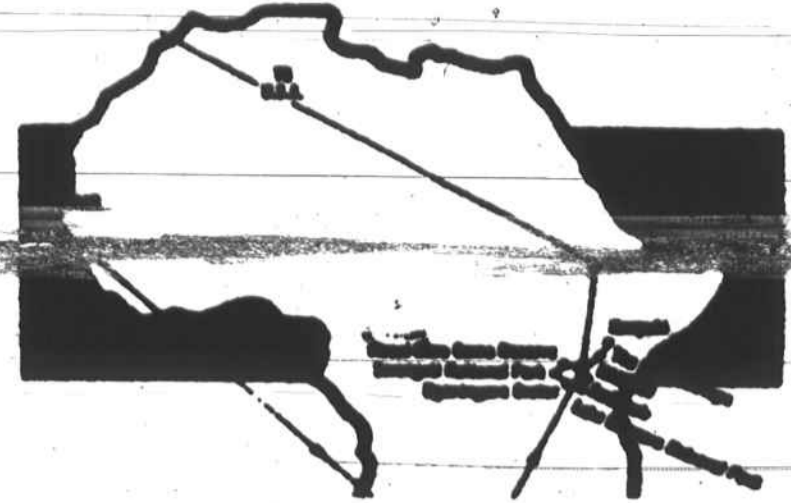
Historically, this is similar to the type of conflict that the field nigger and the house nigger got into on the man's plantation.

Both were niggers, mind you, but since one group had been favored to be close to the master, this group thought that they were better than the other group. And naturally, under this racist thinking or slave mentality, the favored group's ideas would be much better than those of the unfavored.

Today, however, we don't have the master in the same sense. But in some circles, some Blacks act as though they have gotten their ideas from some Divine Master or Authority. Perhaps this is a carry-over from former times. Their ideas, methods, and strategies, if you will, must survive regardless; even at the psychological and emotional destruction of fellow Blacks. This is self defeating for Blacks in general. And we are the losers in the end.

"What's expected of me?" you ask. Well, I believe it is to do whatever I can to help liberate Black people. This involves: keeping abreast of the current situation in the Movement (via newspapers, books, magazines, television, radio, lectures, and personal involvement); contributing financial support to specific Black groups; politically educating myself and my family; developing and perfecting my aptitudes, abilities, and skills in a chosen profession for specific use in the Black Struggle in a way that I can best contribute to the liberation of Black people at home, if we can call America 'home', and abroad.  
**UNHURU!**

# African Spotlight



## South Africa: Politics of Repression

A white youth from the African country of South Africa on a recent visit bought four African type shirts to wear here. He wished he could take them back with him to South Africa. But he knew he could not. The repressive racist laws in South Africa will not allow him, a white person, to wear African type shirts. His buying pattern while overseas illustrates the racist repressive nature of South African laws.

South Africa has about 3 1/2 million whites, some people say that the actual figure is much lower, 19 million black and about 2 million people of Assian decent. There are also a concentration of what in South Africa, is called 'colored' people. The so called colored are light skin blacks who represent a manifestation that the sex laws in South Africa which forbids sex between blacks and whites is not working.

Presently, the turn of events in South African countries is forcing white people in South Africa to begin to think of modifying their repressive rules. Blacks in South Africa do not have the vote, live in enclaves outside the cities where whites live so as to provide cheap labor, do not ride the public buses unless the ones marked out for them, cannot own their own homes, even if they have the money to buy the home, are paid 20 times less than whites for the same job and must carry a pass to go into the city during the day and must leave the city before 5 p.m.

There is a story about a white South African preacher who was asked by a white girl to explain for her the portion of the Bible which says that God made man in his own image. The preacher gladly offered his thought extending it to the fact that we are all children of God. "What of black people?" Asked the girl. "They are equal to their kind," replied the preacher. "And we are equal to our own kind."

It is said that religion is becoming a victim of the racist repression by whites in South Africa. Having used religion for so long to justify their sick behavior, they are coming to a roadblock where they can no longer find justification for the repression against blacks.

What is life like in South Africa? Terrible stated a recent visitor. It is terrible for all. The whites are not free to choose their own friends because of the activities of the secret police who watch everybody's move for signs of contact between the races. This longing is expressed by thousands of white people who travel to Botswana every weekend to find freedom of movement and of being. Botswana is an African country next door to South Africa. Botswana offers white women a chance to date black men and white men a chance to date black women. In South Africa this is against the law.

Change is coming in South Africa. The blacks, numbering over 19 million represent a huge market that white South African businessmen cannot afford to ignore. They are also a big labor force whose skills have barely been tapped. South Africa is not really as isolated as she once was. And the force of public opinion is beginning to force her to ask herself a question. There are those who say that the condition in South Africa does not represent white man's civilization and that white everywhere must put pressure on South Africa to change her ways.

Black South Africans are not doing anything to change the situation in their own country. Millions of them are in jail for protesting the repressive nature of white man's rule in South Africa. Black students in South Africa are daily protesting the conditions under which they live. How long it will be before the awaited change comes to South Africa, no one can tell. What everyone can tell, however, is that change is coming.

Ndubisi Egemonye

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