



## Why Do Black People Call Themselves Greek?

By Chris Bracey  
Contributor

Gather around! Come one, come all! Hear me criticize and demean a subject that I know absolutely nothing about! Listen to me drop some science on the Greeks. Hear me call them out, asking them why they, as African-Americans, call themselves Greek! Yeah, that's it! "Nigger Psi Phi!" "Phi Beta Nigger!" You guys must be lost, adopting the white man's Eurocentric ideals! Let the "teacher" educate you!

Please do not insult my intelligence with your misguided, uneducated and ill-conceived notions and assumptions about Greek life and why African-Americans choose to call themselves Greek. Kris Parker, better known as KRS-1 of Boogie Down Productions, has captivated audiences on his lecture circuit with his unique form of "education." He has acquired a great deal of knowledge, some of it from historical text, some from the streets. He has channeled this knowledge into the black community in hopes of uplifting black America. This is indeed a noble cause, but it must be undertaken with the utmost care.

Parker's success and self-proclaimed title as "teacher" seem to have distorted his view about his own intellectual limitations. Kris has made the same mistake

many others have made when trying to promulgate their own ideology within a certain group of society. He has spoken out against something that he knows nothing about in a weak attempt to showcase the extent of his "knowledge." Yet, by speaking out in ignorance, he has simultaneously upset some individuals and made himself look like a fool on an ego trip.

First, let me make it abundantly clear that I am not writing this over "sour grapes." Yes, I am Greek, but I am more concerned about the lack of information on the topic than one man's personal opinion. Nor am I saying that KRS-1 is stupid and should shut the hell up. Rather, the "teacher" needs to sit down for once and let himself be educated in order to avoid future embarrassment. However, he is not here to be educated, and the explanation would have been far too lengthy to espouse at the forum. Hence, the best I can do is straighten out the mess he has made in the hope that it will never happen again. Therefore, I will take this time to educate you all on why blacks call themselves Greeks.

Greece, contrary to popular Eurocentric belief, was a society of tremendous ethnic diversity, a true cultural melting pot. Yet unlike the American version, the citizens of Greece were primarily dark-skinned, black and brown in skin tone. Yes, most Greeks looked much like you and me.

Around 4000 B.C., the Garamantes came to colonize what is now understood to be Greece. The Garamantes were originally from the western region of the Sahara. Moreover, much of the Greek population were decedents of the Pelasgian nation. The Pelasgian nation migrated to Greece from the Sahara region of Africa, Egypt and old Palestine. If you read any Greek history texts, you will find Greeks referring to themselves as Carians, Danaans, Achaeans, Cadmeans, Leleges and Garamantes. What am I getting at, you ask? Well, all of these tribes were members of the Pelasgian nation. They were also all black.

The Kurgan tribe became the undisputed rulers of the Greek world in 600 B.C. This period became later known as the Aryan-Greek period, or the period of white rule. Now if whites did not come to power in Greece until 600 B.C., then who was running the Greek administration for the previous 3400 years? You guessed right. Black people ruled ancient Greece!

But we need not dig so deep to find evidence of the "real story." Greek mythology is loaded with numerous allusions to blacks and black history. From the Amazons, the symbol of black matriarchal societies, to Homer, a Carian, who wrote the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* with Achaean and Danaan (you can substitute black) heroes such as Ulysses, Achilles and even the

great Hercules. The renowned Greek poet Euclid was also black. George James, in *Stolen Legacy*, presents evidence that Greek philosophy was indeed the fruit of ancient Egyptian wisdom. Socrates was later persecuted by the Kurgan-Aryan regime for spreading his teachings, which led many to believe that he was also a Pelasgian.

But these things are kept hidden from us. Instead of supporting each other, we laugh, demean, criticize or ask silly, uneducated, rhetorical questions of Kris Parker. Because of the Eurocentric, quasi-factual knowledge received from stubborn white teachers and "whitewashed" history texts, many of us stand in ignorance. Instead of being enlightened and educated, we stand in a cloak of darkness, shouting the words of a miseducated people. Black Greeks are not simply a "colored-in" version of the white Greeks, nor are they some cultural amalgamation making a vain attempt to fall in line with the

American goal of assimilation. No, black Greeks are a manifest truth. Greeks were black — there is no contradiction of terms. If you are looking for a contradiction, look to our caucasian counterparts. The question ought to be, "Why do whites call themselves Greek?"

I am, therefore, proud to call myself a black Greek, and justifiably so. I am not confused by the term, and neither should you be. Yes, Kris Parker had it right when he said education is essential. We must be knowledgeable if we are going to survive as a people. If he thinks himself to be a "teacher," so be it. He has many good things to say to African-American youth today. However, he must also realize that he does not know everything and that everything he does know may not always be correct. For all we know, sometimes even the teacher can be wrong.

### Appreciate Education continued from p. 11

ton wrote in the Feb. 11 issue of *Black Ink*, "Yeah, they will change things, all right: back to an all-white UNC, if they could get away with it." This is a universal truth. The white person, particularly the white male, has enjoyed much status in America, in Europe, in South Africa and other African countries — all over — and to believe that whites will relinquish power willingly is foolish. In South Africa, although President F.W. de Klerk is making reforms, many whites, who are very happy with the status quo, do not want to forfeit any of their superior conditions, nor even share, as most black South Africans would be content with. Without any examples from me, you can think of countless similar examples here on this campus and in this country. Few whites will address racial issues voluntarily and not enough African-Americans are in power to ensure these concerns will not be ignored.

Concerning race relations, I don't believe anyone knows it all. Whites created a very complex problem that has no simple analysis, and most whites aren't willing to make sure the problem is solved. Last semester, I heard the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan speak. Within a month, I finally got around to (and finished) *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. By the end of last semester, my perspective had been broadened and my views had been changed more than in the previous four years. It is important, I believe, that everyone constantly search for the answers to race relations. Share your answers. It is important also that you listen to other's answers. Always be open to enlightenment about your present views. (As a bumper sticker read, "If you can't change your mind, are you sure you have one?")

Mathabane himself has many "answers" to offer. I agree with several. Those answers I don't accept, I at least respect. To broaden your own perspective, I suggest reading both of his books. An African perspective about race is offered, and it is beneficial to compare and contrast the cultures and the practices of our two countries. South Africa has farther to go than America, but as Americans, we can't be encouraged by that knowledge because the distance that remains ahead of us is very great too. Perhaps if apartheid is indeed abolished, South Africa's strides to create positive race relations can be smoother than our own. — Seymour Hardy Floyd