



AFRICA-FRIDAY REFLECTIONS

"AFROCENTRIC THOUGHT"



REFLECTIONS OF A FREE BLACK YOUTH?

BY AFRICA THABA.

As I sit here, trying to find a way of making my words to do more than just communicate but rather to inspire, I realize what a privilege it is to be able to freely express whatever it is, I wish to talk about. So, today I want to take an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be Black, Male and Youth all in one lifetime.

The current social and psychological conditioning sees the Black youth masked and plagued with materialistic pressures that invoke internal turmoil.

We have reached a point in society where success has become materialised and placed before us as a benchmark of joy. The danger in associating success and joy while equally defining success thus creates a box, a trap, a cell: a place of confinement where those who do not comply are immediately disbanded and cancelled by organs of media in the global spectrum. In essence we have been given an ultimatum, comply or survive.

We can't be completely ignorant to the reality that the masses of Black South Africans remains in a poverty-stricken majority, a poverty so gruesome, coupled with expectations of existence that sees many of these African brothers and sisters turning to substances as a means of escape, a means of feeling connected and yet so divided.

Everywhere you step in, there is consistent competition, the pursuit of economic emancipation through the advancement of neo-colonization. A concept that has been evolving over the last few years with the mass contribution of accessibility to technology. This information overload has not only created a new generation of Black intellectuals but equally a new age of compliant systematic "sheep". We are dictated as to what to wear, when to wear it, how to eat, what to eat, what to drive, what to think, to the extent that we have surrendered our so called freedom to our devices. The very same devices that dictate our existence.

"We deserve better, we are worthy, the bare minimum is an insult in the face of our excellence, and we are not recipients of scraps but rather the diners of the finest fruit Mother Nature has to offer."

So, as I was sitting, reflecting and attempting to leave the dark abyss I had thought myself into, I decided to redirect my perspective. At this point I began to see the variety of potential, wisdom and talent the modern African youth have in their possession. We are armed with more than what any of our ancestors had in their time on the battlefield with the system. We have been given various platforms to plainly put out our love for what we have been blessed with, however I came to realise that this was not the case amongst our own. Why? Why you might ask and yet the answers remains right in front of us.

With our freedom we seek to emancipate ourselves externally while the real change begins within. What do I mean by this? If an individual values themselves and sees themselves in high regard, they will ensure that at all times, they produce and reap only what is best for them. The pursuit of personal greatness when driven from within will be evident in the collective success. Once we as the current leaders realise that the dark skin we have been graced with is not at any point a weakness but it is what defines your greatness. Once we understand that through our pursuit of individual excellence we will inspire and assist many of our own with realizing their truest potential. We need to do away with this overwhelming fear of success. We deserve better, we are worthy, the bare minimum is an insult in the face of our excellence, and we are not recipients of scraps but rather the diners of the finest fruit Mother Nature has to offer.

We were not placed at this moment in history to exhibit weakness and timidity. We are a moment in time, wherein history will dictate the relentless finesse and excellence that was encapsulated by the Black youth. The leaders of a generation plagued with disease on all factors of existence, a decay in the very fabric of humility. Ubuntu may be dying but we as Batho are only beginning to awaken. As we wrap up this month of Freedom I would like to leave us all with a quote from Nelson Mandela which reads thus:

“The truth is that we are not yet free; we have merely achieved the freedom to be free, the right not to be oppressed. We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road. For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. The true test of our devotion to freedom is just beginning.” A profound statement indeed, one with which I holistically share sentiment. We must listen to these words not just with understanding but with love. With love for one another and most importantly love for one's self. Once you see the power that lies within you, you will understand that everybody shares this black power with you and that we must unite to ward off those who seek to destroy what they do not understand.

Redefine your love for self, your dry curly hair is beautiful, your dark curvy lips speak magic into the universe,

the exaggerated size of your voice is that of giants, one that can never be tamed. Tap into your freedom, free yourself from the chains that have been put on your mind and soul, uplift and love yourself so that you naturally emit what you are. You are power, you are beauty, you are genius and you are still so young.

The world deserves your presence and you have all the freedom in the world to exist as your soul wishes. Fear not my brother, worry not my sister, this painful road you walk is not exclusive to you, we are all walking this journey with you, many have walked it before you, they guide you. Many will walk after you, you will guide them, until you return to continue the struggle. Aluta continua remains prevalent namanje. We are together in this movement, do not wish to destroy those who walk with you, walk with us, love with us, and achieve greatness through us.

Free your soul from the ways of the oppressed and you will see what power lies unexplored inside of you. You are Free, You are Power, You are Black, choose it today, choose it tomorrow, and never stop choosing Freedom.



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