

Money – A Substitute for Black Power

“Power is the ability to cause or prevent change.”

Rollo May (Power and Innocence, New York: Norton 1977)

“Power is the Ability to define Reality and have other people respond to your definition as if it were their own.”

Wade Nobles

Afrikan people need Power. In order to get power we need to understand what it is. The two definitions above are a good starting point. Power is about making things happen or stopping them from happening. Power is also about controlling the way people see the world.

Crucial Understanding – Afrikan men have been conquered worldwide by Caucasian men, therefore Afrikan people have been conquered by Caucasian people.

This may be a bitter pill for Afrikan men and boys to swallow, however swallow it we must. Why do I frame this statement in terms of men? Am I being sexist? No. Put quite simply, we live in a patriarchal (male dominated) world. In every country on Earth men are in a generally dominant position over women, regardless of whether there are women in high status jobs or elected to high office. Men generally have more muscle mass and are more aggressive than women. The world is out of balance. Europeans have always been fearful of their women and suppressed them (e.g. Persecution and murder of millions of women as witches in Europe in the Middle Ages). Afrikan men are not and have never been perfect but we did once do a lot better than we are doing now in terms of how we treat sisters. Afrikan women in many parts of the continent, be it the Igbo women in what is now Nigeria, the Ashanti women in what is now Ghana, or back as far as the women of ancient Kemet (Egypt), had real power and created and maintained social institutions e.g. women's societies to ensure fair and balanced relations between women and men.

As we lost our culture and took on other people's patriarchal religions so that changed.

Therefore to get back to the original point **in a world dominated by men; Black men will have to take back power from White men – and any other group of men who wish to oppress us – and only then will it be possible for both Afrikan men and women to be free.**

Learn this, the meek shall inherit the Earth when the strong decide they are tired of having Power, which will be never. Or, put another way:

“The most dangerous of all dependencies is to depend on your powerful oppressor to free you and share power with you, because powerful people never train powerless people to take their power away from them.”

John Henrik Clarke

Afrikan people will never be respected until there is a powerful Afrikan country that can stand toe to toe, eyeball to eyeball with the most powerful Caucasian and Asian countries and demand and enforce justice. It does not matter how clever you are as an individual, how much money you have, how nice you are, how handsome you are, you will still be part of a disrespected race. As Malcolm X said:

“What is a Negro with a PhD? Answer, Still a Negro.”

For Sons - Your individual achievement only makes sense if it is helping to uplift Afrikan people.

We need to change the way we think, speak and act. I still hear Afrikan men referring to Caucasian men collectively as *'The Man'*. Well, if Caucasians are the men what are we? Logic dictates that we must be either Women, Girls, Boys or Babies. This perhaps explains why increasing numbers of Afrikan men are acting like pseudo-women and also why Caucasian men have historically (since they conquered and enslaved us) referred to Afrikan men as *'Boy'*.

Many Afrikan people pretend that Black people in 'big jobs' given to them by Caucasians = Black Power. This is neo (new) slave thinking. Kofi Annan (Head of the United Nations) has no independent power (and a Blonde wife of course). Condeleeza Rice (US Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), who we are told is the most powerful woman in the world, has no independent power. They were both given their positions by Caucasian men, they both report to Caucasian men and they are both **willing** instruments of White Power.

Many Afrikans in 'the West' are little more than neo-slaves in suits working on bureaucratic plantations. If you want to know how much independent power we have; count the number of Afrikans you know who can and will speak out openly against White Supremacy. Very few, I think you will find. This is because we are nearly all employed by White people and we know that if we do anything to attack their system of White Power they will attack us and one of the best ways to do that is to take away someone's job. 68-70% of Afrikans in the US work for some branch of the government and over 50% of Afrikan graduates in the US work for the government. Only 2% of Afrikans in the US work for or own a Black business. The situation is very similar in the UK. This is a dangerous dependency. Remember the saying:

'Don't bite the (White) hand that feeds you.'

Black Power requires Black people to organise as Black People first and everything else second, as Walter Rodney indicated in the quote at the beginning of this chapter. Marcus Garvey called this 'Race First'. Oh, and don't let any Negroes or White liberals tell you that this is racism in reverse. This is what all other people on Earth who have sense do. They use their race/ethnicity/culture as the basis for pooling their resources and gaining power. Claude Anderson in his book 'Powernomics' calls this '*ethno-aggregation*' (Anderson 2001).

The Colour of Money

Money is not power, it is a tool used by people with power and loaned to people without power. Money is not real, it is a system created to simplify the exchange of goods and services i.e. it was easier to buy and sell goods using money than to exchange goods and services by bartering. When you give someone money you are making a promise that if they give someone else that note they can get some goods or services in exchange for it. That is why notes are called '*promisary notes*'.

On a global level people who control the value of money (currency exchange rates) control economies. At the moment it is mainly Caucasian men working for Caucasian institutions who carry out this role. On a local level people who freely give their money to other groups of people will suffer and be poor. This is what Afrikans do more than any other people, hence we are poor.

Note – Think Black, Buy Black, to get us Black on Track

Bling, Ice and dem kinda ting

Why do so many Afrikans waste so much money on expensive crap, trying to look as if we have money when comparatively few of us have any real wealth?

Anyone can buy a thick gold chain dug out of the earth by poor Afrikans on the motherland who are exploited by White owned corporations.

Anyone can buy diamond encrusted chops dug out of the earth in war-torn Afrikan countries by poor Afrikans exploited by White corporations. They call these conflict-gems and most diamonds are conflict-gems.

White marketing experts call this behaviour '**conspicuous consumerism**'. The tendency of some people to buy highly visible (conspicuous) goods. Target Marketing, a US based company providing marketing information for corporations around the world, have noted the tendency of Afrikans in the US to spend money far in excess of their population, income or wealth on items such as Cars, Wide Screen/Plasma TVs, MP3 Players, DVDs, mobile phones, jewellery, alcohol, cigarettes, Cinema tickets. That is to say we spend a greater proportion of our money on consumable (things you use once such as alcohol and cigarettes) and depreciating (things that lose value such as cars) items than all other people in the US, even though we are one of the poorest groups in the US.

Just so you know, Afrikans in the US:

- Are **12%** of the population
- Earn **7%** of the total US income
- Own less than **3%** of the wealth in the US
- But provide more than **30%** of cigarette, alcohol, cosmetics, cinema and Cadillac sales

The last bullet point above represents the behaviour of a conquered people trying to forget the fact that they are oppressed and depressed; by consuming legal (and illegal) drugs or buying expensive toys.

Unfortunately it is more difficult to get this type of data for Afrikans in the UK, however I can guarantee you that the patterns of expenditure are very similar.

What is Wealth?

Many people in general, and many Afrikans in particular, are confused about the difference between **Income** and **Wealth**.

Income is the money you have coming into your household each week or month. This could come from a salary, pension, interest from savings, dividends from shares, benefits/welfare, rental income from another house you own etc.

Wealth is the total value of all your assets minus the total value of all your debts or liabilities.

Assets include the value of your house, car, furniture, jewellery, stocks and shares, cash, savings etc.

Liabilities include your mortgage, overdraft, credit card debts, loans, hire purchase etc.

Most Afrikans, even in rich countries such as the US and UK, have very little wealth even though they may have quite high incomes. We produce very little, but are the greatest consumers in the world which is why any new immigrant group arriving in the US or UK heads straight for the 'Black areas' to set up their shops.

Son – Your task as an adult will be to work with other Afrikans to create wealth for yourself and our people. This wealth must be created without hurting other people or the environment.

Power to Some of the People

Sons - Let us look at some of the people with power that you will have to deal with in your life:

Parents – Your parents are a source of *legitimate authority* in your life. They are your guardians and have a responsibility to guide you responsibly through childhood and onto an independent adulthood. You will never be *size* with them even if you live to be 100 years of age. Your job is to listen, obey and question respectfully so that you can learn the lessons of life. Unfortunately, too many parents and too many sons have forgotten their roles and we have adults dressing and acting like teenagers and teenagers taking on adult behaviours

without responsibility. Children should not have adult rights because children should not have adult responsibilities. For example children get shorter sentences for criminal behaviour because of their age and in the UK if a child is aged below 10 they cannot be held criminally responsible. This is not the same as saying that children should not be protected or respected. If you want to get more information on Parenting see my book '*Blue Skies for Afrikans*' (Grant 2005).

Teachers – Are supposed to carry out their role in accord with the principle '*loco parentis*' which literally means local parent. Now you may well be thinking that your teachers don't act like your parents and that you don't want them to. Well, something has broken down badly. Ask an elder schooled in Afrika or the Caribbean about their relationship with their teachers and you will see the level of trust both parent and child had in their teachers. This trust was there because teachers were respected members of the local community, just behind the pastor, and because these Afrikan teachers genuinely loved and cared about the children in their care.

We have run into a problem in the so-called 'West' and as Afrikans all over the world have become Westernised (White thinking). My parents' generation learned the hard way that most Caucasian teachers had very little love or understanding for their Black students. My generation had bad experiences with Caucasian teachers in this country and transmitted this lack of trust and respect to your generation. Your generation, raised in a culture where children are encouraged to openly defy adult authority, does not hide these feelings and sometimes expresses them in inappropriate ways. Caucasian teachers do not understand this history, these feelings and their own subconscious racism and many say your generation is unteachable. Of course there were, are and always will be White teachers who genuinely care about and are committed to Afrikan pupils, however like in all other walks of life there never were, never are, or never will be; enough. Never Enough.

The real answer is Afrikan-centred schools, however in the short-term you are going to have to do what I and many other Afrikans did, which is to:

- Learn and accept that Teachers have more power than pupils,
- Seek fair treatment but don't expect it,
- Speak to your parents about any concerns you have in school,
- Keep out of bad company,
- Keep your head down and your eyes open
- Pass their exams.

Police – The Police, Babylon, Feds, Pigs, call them what you will, have power. They have serious power. The power of life or death. Don't ramp with the Police. They have the power to kill you or leave you to die (see later chapter on Afrikan males and the Police) and the chances are they will not even lose their jobs, let alone go to prison.

Jean Charles de Menezes was shot seven times in the head on the London Underground for looking a bit 'Middle Eastern'. Remember, several of the people convicted and/or accused of being suicide bombers were Afrikans. **You could be in the firing line soon so be careful.** When dealing with the Police remember:

- They have the Power of the State behind them and can enforce it with, guns, batons, CS Gas, Tazar (electric shock device), dogs, handcuffs, leg restraints, water cannon, plastic bullets, the courts etc.
- They have a bigger gang than you will ever have,
- Stay calm and do not respond to provocation
- Note officers' numbers (usually on the shoulder or chest of their uniform)
- Do not raise your voice or gesticulate with your arms too much
- Know your rights if stopped in the street. Ask them politely to explain their actions

Employers – Sons of Afrika, understand this. Most employers are looking to employ people whom they consider to be likeminded. That is to say they are looking to employ people who think and act like them and share the same values. Most of them have a picture of their ideal employee deep in their subconscious mind and this person does not normally look like you. Now, some Caucasian employers are able to overcome their racial programming to some extent and deal with the fact that you do not look like them, however they still want you to **think** like them. Job interviews are processes where behind the obvious question of can you do the job, the real \$64,000 questions the interviewers are asking are:

- Are you enough like me (in terms of value system)?
- And
- Do I feel comfortable with you?

However because most of us have spent most of our lives in situations where White people have power over us we have learned to flex like a chameleon and change mental colours, depending upon the situation. The famous Afrikan-American intellectual WEB DuBois called this '**Double Consciousness**', two souls, two ways of thinking, one Afrikan, the other European, battling for dominance within the same body. In order to get on in the White workplace they demand that your European consciousness – the way you walk, talk, gesticulate, think, deal with people, how you eat etc. - comes to the fore.

It is very difficult for a conscious brother or sister to 'get on' in the European workplace without losing some of their integrity (being true to what you believe in), or losing their job. These are the compromises and hard decisions that a conquered people are forced to make.

LESSONS FOR AFRIKAN LIFE

1. You need to understand what power is and who wields it in society.
2. How do you (Son) feel about the fact that you belong to a conquered race? How can we get back on top? How did other people rise after being conquered e.g. Chinese.
3. You need to understand the difference between income and wealth and know how wealth is created/accumulated. Clue – Two ways are by creating a scarcity (lack) of something or meeting/creating a need for a product or service.
4. Do you have an idea of the career you wish to follow and how much you are likely to earn from this type of work?
5. Remember, Oprah Winfrey who is a billionaire and perhaps the richest Black woman in the world was refused entrance to an exclusive shop on Madison Avenue in New York and again to another expensive shop in Paris. On both occasions the explanation was that the staff in the shop did not recognise her. This means that her fame and wealth makes her 'human' and worthy of being treated like rich White people, but without these she would be just another N****r to the shop staff. Similarly, some of the most famous rappers make 'out of hours' appointments with these same designer shops to ensure they are guaranteed entrance and no doubt to save the shop the embarrassment of being seen to sell to 'those kind of people'.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. As a family discuss the issue of power and look back in history at times when we exercised real Black Power.
2. Watch the news and discuss its content.
3. Listen to Afrikan-centred internet radio stations e.g. www.libradio.com www.gap-radio.com www.innerlightradio.com www.blakeradio.com for our point of view on world affairs.
4. Parents. If you don't already have one, make a family budget and discuss it with your son so he understands the family finances.
5. Sit down with your son and calculate your household's wealth.

6. Make sure your son has a savings account and saves money regularly. This is good discipline for adult life.
7. Go shopping with a list. 70% of purchases are made on impulse. A list helps to curb your impulses!

RECOMMENDED READING:

Black Economics – Jawanza Kunjufu
Blueprint for Black Power – Amos N. Wilson
Niggers, Negroes, Black People and Afrikans – Paul Grant
Rich Dad, Poor Dad – Robert Kiyosaki and Sharon Lechter
The Road to Power – Keidi Obi Awaidu