

Black Liberation

Many of the Black ancestors that went through slavery, that helped Black people to be free from slavery, did not get to see or feel what physical liberation was like for Black people after slavery ended. After slavery was ended many Black people were afraid of the repercussions and backlash from the white American society. Liberation is being able to feel free of any form of hostage or being mistreated. It's a feeling of being comfortable living in your own skin without any guilt or fear towards you as a person of color. Even though the United States is known as the land of freedom, most Black people do not feel the freedom, which is the right they should feel regardless of their color, what they look like, or the history they have from a century ago. Dr. Freeman defined Black liberation as being “free from forms of spiritual, psychological, and physical oppression, and captivity.” Being able to be free and liberated doesn't come easy or natural to many Black people. For some people, it may seem like they don't have the right to be free to express themselves to others.

That feeling may be natural due to what the great Black ancestors went through in order to feel liberated in this country. “The current dilemma is about *shaping our future, our images of what it means to be Black in America*. It's about creating enough social cohesion and building a movement to amass the power necessary to change the system. We need to frame a positive image and a new Black ethos to change our current circumstances” (Ananda, et. al.). Many white folks have a negative image of what a Black person looks like. These images have been embedded by their ancestors. In many cases, as in professional settings, a Black person has to work twice as hard as a white person to prove that they are worth their work and that they deserve and have earned their seat in that position. Black people have to work twice as hard to stand out among other people due to their color and where they come from.

Every person who's Black has their own ideas and experiences regarding what it's like to be Black in America. For some people, it may mean that this is a country of freedom of speech, and religion, a country to pursue liberty and the pursuit of happiness. For other people, it is a country that took advantage of their ancestors, a country where their brothers and sisters were sold as a product to do labor, and a country where they have been separated from their families or loved ones. Black liberation is very important to Black folks, who are underrepresented in this country.

One form of Black liberation is the capability of being a upwardly mobile Black person, which is becoming more common in this country, and many Black folks are striving to support and encourage those who are doing an outstanding job. “In the first two-thirds of the 20th century, Putnam and Garrett, “Gains on the part of Black Americans...were due almost entirely to their fleeing the South by the millions during the Great Migration.” The ability of Black Americans to move to industrial jobs enabled many to escape poverty, even in the face of unceasing white resistance to Black gains. But in the past 50 years, they add, white backlash to civil rights laws provoked a “shift away from shared responsibilities" that has led to today’s extreme economic inequality and has “slowed, stopped, and even reversed” movement toward racial equity” (Ananda et al.). Poverty rates for Black people are high compared to many other races in this country and they continue to rise despite all the available resources.

It is important that Black people are being heard and know that their voices and opinions matter because a component of being Black and liberated is being free of physical, spiritual, or physiological captivity. This also plays a role in higher education because it is a very competitive and secretive community. Therefore, not feeling safe or comfortable can take away many of the resources that are available to a person whether they are students or educators. “At one time, I believed in the rational argument that if we compiled enough data on African Americans’ social

and economic plight, we could win the day. If we could harness enough data, white people would wake up and realize that their ill-gotten privileges created a rigged system. Then, they would relent and change the system to help equalize the playing field in America” (Ananda et al.). There might be a time that will come where there will be equality across the board and Black people will express their liberation without the feeling of guilt or fear to express their true authentic selves. It will show that people who are free of spirit, physiological, or physical captivity will most likely succeed in higher education due to feeling free and being liberated. But will likely only happen if Black people advocate for themselves.

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Works Cited

Ananda, Kitana et al. "Strengthening Our Identity: Rethinking the Path to Black Liberation - Non Profit News: Nonprofit Quarterly." *Non Profit News | Nonprofit Quarterly*, 21 Jan. 2021, <https://nonprofitquarterly.org/strengthening-our-identity-rethinking-the-path-to-black-liberation/>.