

I Wonder if White Folks Know

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Do white folks know:

That you can have gold fronts and be an *intellectual*?

That it's possible to play spades, sing a hymn, and quote Gramsci
like a backwoods reverend?

Do white folks know?

That it's possible for "the nigras" to love and read literature
and turn pages with a tattooed hand?

That we can listen to Johnny "Guitar" Watson & Retha Franklin
and teach white students a basic college course that won't be bland?

I wonder if white folks know

That just because they see a "nigra" veteran

it doesn't mean that he or she is "one of the good ones."

Rather, unfortunately, it means that they can detect *illiteracy*

Meaning: all it takes is for *three* cornbread-fed Stonewall Jacksons
to get rid of *thee*.

Do white folks know?

That we laugh at them when they say: "Make America Great Again"

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HA! Because after—or perhaps if—they win the upcoming election they’ll be using coupons to secure another can of *Raid*, *AGAIN*, for them same goddamn roaches.

Lord have mercy, I wonder if white folks know

That they votin’ for another base in peripheral Africa,
or maybe for the construction of another drone.
At the least, I know for a fact that that patriotic vote
won’t give them the *tiniest-piece-of-meat* off their *own-fetched-bone*.

Do white folks know?

That the “nigra” can’t just “up-and-go back to Africa”
because the *metonymical* “white” man lives there too?
His first name is colonial—but my kinfolk call him [N]eo.
You can tell that the white folks who state that are definitely
Leo’s—in *the third house*.

I wonder if white folks know

About their problem with the forthcoming eviction—and that
same mouse.

In Black homes, we call ’em Ben—on special occasion, we call ’em
“Tom.”

Perhaps white folks call ’em Jerry?

Regardless, after they vote in the *primaries*—at the *library*:

that same mouse gon’ be in that same house;

waitin' for the crumbs off that nationalistic pie that's *cherry*.

Do white folks know?

Comrades, whether they know or not is not the issue.

For what we are dealing with is the metastasization of *illiteracy* which will cause them to act *belligerently*—over a demagogue, who blows *whistles* at human-beings—whom he or she views as less than *dogs*.

*And since there's a chance that these white folks won't know,
let me leave here and lock my damn do'.*

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