They Call Me Names

Amanuel M. Wolde

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They Call Me Names

they call me Names
(on the color line...)

they call me nigger;
they call me black;
and/or colored.

they call me minority;
they call me alien;
and/or foreigner.

they call me immigrant;
they call me legal;
and/or illegal.

they call me uncivilized;
they call me uneducated;
they categorize me "other"

they call me names;
I hate them all,
with total hatred.

Hate. Why hate?
Hatred begets hatred.
regardless,

I hate'em all.
because
they're all derogatory.

the names they call me,
the terms they use
to describe me.

do not define me
as person complete
with dignity and right.

they do not reflect
my humanity.
instead, they refer
to the color of my
skin, or to
how I look externally
to the size of my lips,
to the tone of my darkness,
and/or to my talent.

to how I speak
the white man's language,
and to my "accent"
to how I dress,
to how I walk,
and carry myself.

to what I deserve,
to what I don't,
the list's endless.

but, hey!
I'm not just color
or appearance
or talent
or language
or cloth.

I'm not just a person
with basic needs;
I am HUMAN too.
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I'm not just a person
with basic needs;
I am HUMAN too.
HUMAN: with dignity, intelligence, and reason.

I may be immigrant of African descent. So what?

I didn't choose to be; I was stolen.

Yes! my ancestors have been reduced to slaves.

however, should these factors make me less human:

with less respect
with less right
with less will

with less education
with less skill, and low status.

Hmm! I wonder! resentment and cheap talk about white folks won't do me any good either; I want to heal.

I need to heal my psychological wounds to be able to "integrate" in the so called "white culture" without really losing mine. I HOPE...

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Hmm! I wonder! Resentment and cheap talk about white folks won't do me any good either; I want to heal.

I need to recover from all emotional hurts inflicted on me.

I need to heal my psychological wounds to be able to "integrate"

in the so called "white culture" without really losing mine. I HOPE...

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