

The Golden Rule: Treat Others How You Want to be Treated

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They say white people are lucky because black people want equality and not revenge. But wouldn't revenge be nice?

James Baldwin said: "To be black and conscious in America is to be in a constant state of rage." Or, in layman's terms: woke black people are always pissed all the way off. This anger does not just show up when unarmed black men get shot by police or when the government keeps screwing poor people. The anger lives in us. It reminds us that this nation is against us and keeps us on our toes. This "constant state of rage" is what keeps our voices loud and our faith in each other strong.

Where this rage comes from, you ask? It comes from the centuries of oppression those who came before me endured. It comes from seeing the bs that is "All Lives Matter" and "Blue Lives Matter." It comes from seeing black people fill prisons to the brim. It comes from watching a dark-skinned person holding ten grams of crack getting the same jail time as a light-skinned person with a kilo of coke. But here is where I make it personal and tangible: the hatred and rage comes from seeing yuppies taking over my city. It comes from seeing chopped cheeses on sale in Whole Foods for \$8. It comes from white people thinking they are cool for spelling "blood" with their hands. It comes from seeing the hairstyles, clothes, and jewelry my sisters get called "ghetto" and "ratchet" for, become "new" and "hip" when a white woman wears it. It comes from seeing a white girl with long straight hair wearing a Du-Rag. It comes from white liberals thinking they are safe because they aren't "bad racists." A sin is a sin. Mostly, it comes from knowing I will deal with unfair treatment because God blessed me with gravity defying hair and skin that absorbs sunlight.

I was always taught to treat others the way I wanted to be treated. What if we treated white people the way they treated us? What if we made them feel our constant rage? What if we captured Europeans and brought them to Africa to work "harder and longer for less" while stripping them of their culture, language, religion, dignity, and basic human rights? Then, proceed to free them, only to make it impossible for them to live on their own and throw in some communal lynchings just for kicks. Then when we can't do that because it's not "correct," lock them up in prison. If we can't arrest them, we kill them and say they acted illegally. Then, when they make something we like, we condemn them for it but take it for ourselves. The constant rage I live in makes revenge sound amazing. But the morals in me say not to stoop to that level. However, on days when I am too angered to function, I dream of revenge.