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“Indian Blood”

by

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I want to share a little bit about my heritage with you nice folks out there if you will allow me. Something, hopefully, that will give you an insight as to who I am and where I came from... also, to put some other things into perspective for these turbulent times.

My great-great-grandmother was a full-blooded Cherokee American Indian from the hills of North Carolina... my great-great-grandfather was 100% Caucasian American. That means my great-grandmother was 50% (1/2) Cherokee American Indian and 50% (1/2) Caucasian American; hence, my grandmother was 25% (1/4) Cherokee American Indian and 75% (3/4) Caucasian American; which made my father 12.5% (1/8) Cherokee American Indian and 87.5% (7/8) Caucasian American; which means I am 6.25% (1/16) Cherokee American Indian, and 93.75% (15/16) Caucasian American.

Now you ask, what in God's green earth does that have to do with anything? I'm glad you asked. There are states in these United States that give stipends of various kinds and amounts to those who can prove that they are of American Indian blood and if I wanted to avail myself of those stipends I would have to legally qualify as an American Indian. Also, many colleges award scholarships or other grants to "minority" students of various ethnic origins. One Maryland couple that had adopted a set of twins, with natural tan skin tones, had DNA tests done on the kids to ascertain "blood quorum" and origin, for college scholarship potential.

In my research I found on a Cherokee Indian web site that "many Indian tribes include their own (blood) quantum restrictions. The Eastern Band of the Cherokees requires that you be 1/16 or higher to join, and the Keetowah band requires a blood quantum of 1/4 or higher. The Cherokee Nation, on the other hand, has no quantum restrictions. The majority of the Cherokee Nation has 1/4 or less Indian blood." Many tribal leaders of all American Indian tribes discourage inter-marriage with whites to prevent their children and/or grandchildren from becoming ineligible for government entitlements in the future. In America, the national "blood quorum" percentage necessary to claim government status as a legitimate minority is 12.5%.

Which begs the all-important question again, for what reason would someone want to claim a minority status? The answer is clear... to reap some form of benefit, be it monetary gain, ethnic pride, or higher community standing. Nazi Germany also had its strict measurement for determining if one was "Aryan" enough. Just the slightest hint of Jewish blood in a person's veins was a guaranteed one-way ticket to one of their horrible extermination camps.

Throughout this nation, especially after the Civil War, many blacks tried to pass themselves off as white in order to have a better life. It was not career enhancing or very security conscious to claim a black heritage. Many claim it hasn't improved all that much to this day, and being black is still a stigma that shackles, persecutes and professionally stymies a person.

There is much hoopla and excitement currently concerning Sen. Barack Obama's meteoric rise from obscure Chicago community organizer, to Illinois State Senator, to United States Senator, to Democratic Nominee for President of the United States. "America's first African-American Presidential nominee," "The new leader of the African-American community," "America's African-American Standard Bearer"... these phrases have all been used to lift Barack Obama to the highest pedestal in the world... potential President of the United States... the most powerful man, politically speaking, in the world.

But, what if that claim is not true? Oh, the claim to be the first black Presidential nominee would still be valid, because Obama's skin is black. What if Mr. Obama, indeed, is not legally, by government standards, African-American. Some might say, "Tom, black is black, regardless of a person's origin." If you really think about it, that would be true concerning skin color but not a person's ethnic origin. A black Egyptian-American cannot claim to be African-American and wouldn't want to claim it. He or she would be proud of their Egyptian heritage.

According to the New York Times and Washington Post, two papers which are historically liberal and left leaning in their reporting, Mr. Obama is indeed not African-American but Arab-American due to Mr. Obama's mother marrying an Arab-African. Do the math folks, if this info is true, Mr. Obama's "blood quorum" 50% Caucasian from his mom and 43.75% Arabic and 6.25% African Negro from *his* father's side, then he is more white than either of the other two mixes.

People ask why does he have an Arabic name? The answer is very simple... because his father and everyone in his past was an Arab with Arab names, with the exception of his maternal great-great-grandmother. Mr. Obama, for some reason, has latched onto the idea of being African-American but he isn't. And without that distinction he is, according to Mr. Arthur Lamb, a writer for the NY Times, "just another mixed-race Caucasian Arab, with an African influence that plays on his skin's pigmentation."

Now, what does this information really mean in the grand scheme of things? Not a lot really, if one is okay with the skin color thing... which I am, by the way. However, if I'm concerned about the integrity of those running for President and if I feel I'm being manipulated in any way by them, then it concerns me that here is another item on Mr. Obama's list of "inconvenient truths" he has manufactured concerning himself, his former pastor, his father's occupation and his stance on some very important issues.

Again the question... why would someone do so much to make people believe he is a minority, when he's not? Could it be that being a Caucasian American or Arab American, in his eyes, is just not as politically expedient or rewarding for him at this time? I know one thing; he's no more African-American than I am a Cherokee American Indian.

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