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Rabbi Aryeh Spero

by
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The whiners and opportunists are at it again with a vengeance. The nation's self appointed black "leaders" are roaming the streets of New Orleans and Houston taking advantage of as many photo ops and talking points as possible building themselves up in the eyes of those who have been duped into looking to them for their direction in life. They are now attempting to bilk the American public and United States Government by getting a fund set up for the New Orleans residents, like the one set up for the 9/11 disaster victims. It would be suggested, of course, that Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, or the likes of them, would be appointed to oversee the distribution of such funds. Hopefully, political correctness will not rule here and the powers that be in will not give in to the liberal pressure and instead ignore such a ridiculous suggestion.

Normally I limit the use of verbiage in this column to just my opinions, but I just read a take on the New Orleans situation that I think you should be allowed to read. The writer is a Jewish Rabbi from New York who looks at the situation on the Gulf Coast from a perspective likened to mine, but he says it far more eloquently than I so please allow me to insert a segment of Rabbi Aryeh Spero's recent article addressing the cries of Racism by the government toward the victims of Katrina.

"In New Orleans, beginning Tuesday morning, August 30, I saw men in helicopters risking their lives to save stranded flood victims from rooftops. The rescuers were White, the stranded Black. I saw Caucasians navigating their small, private boats in violent, swirling, toxic floodwaters to find fellow citizens trapped in their houses. Those they saved were Black. I saw Brotherhood. New York Congressman Charlie Rangel saw Racism.

Yes, there are Two Americas. One is the real America, where virtually every White person I know sends money, food or clothes to those in need -- now and in other crises -- regardless of color. This America is colorblind. The other is the America fantasized and manufactured by Charlie Rangel, Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, who constantly cry "racism!" even in situations where it does not exist, even when undeniable images illustrate love, compassion and concern. These three men, together with today's NAACP, want to continue the notion of Racist America. It is their Mantra, their calling card. Their power, money, and continued media appearances depend on it.

Often, people caught up in accusing others of sin neglect to undergo their own personal introspection. They begin to think they alone inhabit the moral high ground. It is high time these men peered into their own hearts at the dark chamber that causes this unceasing labeling of their fellow Americans as "racist." They may find in that chamber their own racism -- against Whites.

There is only one real America. In Houston, thousands of regular citizens poured into the Astrodome offering water, food, clean clothes, personal items, baby diapers and toys, love and even their homes to the evacuees who had been bused in from New Orleans. Most of the givers were White; most of those being helped were Black. But there was Jesse Jackson, busy on TV, accusing the country of not putting Blacks -- i.e., him -- on some type of Commission he is demanding. Where was he early in the week? Not sweating with others from around the country that had scraped their last dollar to come help. With Jesse, it's always about Jesse.

After decades of hearing accusations from Jesse, Al, Charlie, the NAACP and certain elitists about how racist America is, it would have been refreshing to hear them for once give thanks to those they for years have been maligning.

These self-anointed spokesmen for the Black community lead only when it comes to foisting guilt and condemnation, and not when it comes to acknowledging the good in those they have made a career in castigating.

As a Rabbi I have a message I wish to offer to my fellow members of the cloth, Reverends Jackson and Sharpton: It is time to do some soul searching. Your continued effort to tear this country apart, especially in light of the monumental goodness shown by your White brothers, is a sin.

There are no churches in the world like the American churches. And there are no better parishioners and members of churches anywhere in the world. These churches are saving the day. Their members -- infused by the special and singular teachings of our unique American Judeo-Christian understanding of the Bible -- are, at this moment, writing an historic chapter in giving, initiative, and selflessness. They are opening their homes to strangers. They are doing what government is incapable of doing. America works because of its faith-based institutions. It always has. That is what makes it America.

So next time the ACLU tries to diminish and marginalize the churches, saying there is no role for religion in American public life, and that an impenetrable wall must be erected separating the citizens from their faith, cry out "Katrina." Next time the ACLU goes to court asking that U.S. soldiers not be allowed to say Grace in the Mess Hall and that communities be forbidden from setting up a nativity scene ask yourself, without the motivation of Goodness sourced in Faith, would people offer such sacrifice? Where else does this Brotherhood come from but the Bible which teaches "Thou Shall Love Thy Neighbor as Yourself."

Similar elitists here in the northeast and on the west coast have over the years expressed their view of the South as "unsophisticated" and Texans as "cowboys." Well, the South has come through, especially Houston and other parts of Texas, whereas, as I write this on Labor Day, the limousine moralizers are lying on east and west coast beaches thinking they're doing their part by reading Times' editorials and calling George Bush "racist." How sanctimonious life becomes when proving you are not a racist depends not on living in a truly integrated neighborhood, but by simply calling others racist."

Well said Rabbi Spero... hopefully those on the left reading this will take what you say to heart and seek a new direction in their life and, hopefully, those who look to the Jacksons, Sharptons and Rangels of this world to be their mentors and leaders will wake up before its too late and look to themselves to escape from their prison of "victimology" and rise to the level of which they are capable.

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