

De Bite in the Rainbow

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Claims that this is a rainbow country suggests that there is harmony adwelling with the many races that have settled here over centuries, which ought to be derivative of a fraternal atmosphere of justice, but that is mere gimmick.

Soon enough though, when we would have gone under the cosmetic it provides for tourist dollars and the lure for foreign investment, we should discover the grand lie that needs to be fed constantly with mamaguy in order to keep us ignorant of our reality and with it our true possibilities in the world arena.

A recent report by Dr. Ramesh Deosaran and his team of experts on criminal activity among our youth, with a view of an analytics for reform, intervention and rehabilitation, brings indications that are not aglow with fantasy and poetic verses of sky but rather, the rainbow of our seldom-thinking minds with bristling teeth.

All indices of socio-economic activity seem to relay a set design to frustrate particular

areas of our so-called national development.

For this moment only, were we to look back on this century which will include colonial rule, post-colonial anxieties and, in more recent times, a paranoiac period of grappling with independence, we will agree that a candid history demonstrates a virtual system of oppression that has made the Afro-Trinidadian community a model of its success.

Increases in investigations and inquiries on national social conduct, though biasedly structured, are unable to stifle the fact that the Afro-Trinidadians' efforts to progress as a group among groups with similar aspirations, was met relentlessly with overwhelming injustice and contempt.

It occurs to me that there is not only a conscious conspiracy on the part of all other groups, but a subconscious one as well to hold Afro-Trinidadians captive in a neurosis of self doubt, the dogma of a redoubling labyrinth of yet, in wait of self-focus and determination.

That we are a stigma even unto ourselves is a critical indictment and no mean psychological burden to bear. That was the production of centuries of diligence on all fronts of humanity to make of the African and his descendants that which is less than human, the raw scourge, at best the willing

accommodation to everyone's whim and fancy while denying himself.

The wide public is never open to discussion on the living hazard of such a crippling space, never tolerant with the evidence of voice of some undaunted and authentic spirit that rises up with challenge and self-announcement. But with mutation upon mutation there concludes the grand disenfranchisement of self. One becomes ever so thankful to the master tyrant for the favour of existence granted him for his shambled house...his word!

The results are too many to list here, that seem to have acceded to a new level of psychological defeat - that coined by Dr. J. D. Elder from my Douendom - Douenophilia, as in growth arrest. Douenophilia, where the Afro-Trinidadian community has fallen vagrant and adrift on self-disgust. One of the reasons why tragic satire and mamaguy is king; why we pay huge sums to go crowding in order to laugh at brutality laid on brutality on our psyche...and, how we vote without self-reasoning!

The Afro-Trinidadian community, plagued as it is without self-possession, is aware, in a surface, general sort of a way of the disturbing digits of disrepute that describe its crisis which is approaching tragic proportions, but is not meditatively poised

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in the intelligence it will take to unravel this labyrinth.

This tiny hand of an island will not be able to take the tension that now has it in grip for much longer. Well-intentioned and sustained efforts must be put in place to cause the rise of a new understanding of responsibility for our space and the essential needs of its inhabitants.

The present situation of our land is no plaything, no casual drink-up for politicians and career speechifiers, no, not for headlines that profit publishers, no, no, no, it is a critical situation. Get serious, call to the fore with whatever inkling of insight and integrity we have left, those who we instinctively know are more capable. This position is not only a political one, trust me, it is phenomenal.

LeRoy Clarke
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