

Unearned Privilege: Racial Ambiguity

By Mara Oso



Chapter One: Race as a Noun

If you think long enough about race, the less it makes sense. Differences of someone's face determines their character as much as chanting at an alter affects the moons orbit.

What is race? Is it connected to one's culture; is it a determining factor of one's personality; or is it simply a grouping of Phenotypes attributed to an ethnic group as being the sole proprietor of that trait? Who knows? Well... I know. The third meaning is correct. However, even if it is simply phenotypes that could fit on any version of human, some people have attributed more to it.

Some even went as far as to attribute race to intelligence, aggression and emotional connectivity. By doing this they have given power to shapes and colours.

Racial Categories do not exist unless someone believes that it does. Just like Religion, it has no power unless someone takes that belief and acts like it is real. Race had its uses in the past to justify atrocities. Race had its uses to justify education separation. Race had its uses to justify national division, movie roles, politicians, ambassadors and the list goes on and on. I am not going to continue to talk about how woefully idiotic it is that racial categories exist. The fact is, that it does, on every inch of this planet that is connected to the internet. Race, today, has very real consequences for very real people. Simply acting as if it doesn't exist is not a solution, its blissful ignorance. To truly get rid of race, we must address it, tear it apart, get rid of everything that came about because of it, and let it become yet another thing Humans in the past did.

Chapter Two: Race is not Culture.

Throughout Human History we have had interactions with groups of other humans. With the advent of Race, we gave these groups different names such as African, Asian, European, and Native American. Within these groups we have ethnicities such as Sub Saharan African, East and South East Asian, Oceania, Anglo-Saxon, and the list goes on. Then within even these we have cultures such as Mali Culture, Chinese Culture, Thai Culture, British, French, and so on. Which over time became nation states surrounding these peoples linked with similar cultures and histories.

This is where the problem begins. There is an imaginary link between Race and Culture. Due to this imaginary link many links their culture as being part of their race. In the United States of America (US) this issue is exceptionally present because those who were born "Pure Raced" in the US, with the caveat of being adopted or not being raised with such culture from their parents, feels the need to "reconnect" with "their" culture as if their race made it so.

Given the scenario of a Pure European Raced person, being born in China to a family whom have been in China since the Qing Dynasty. This Child of course would have Chinese culture because that is where he was born, that is where his parents were born and so on. It would be needlessly unfounded to say that this child needed to "be" European because of his race. His race and his culture has no connection, and by making the connection of race and culture, you not only forced this child to identify with people he has never even been around, but you are also making this child go through a crisis in his own identity. Due to his race not matching his culture.

Bringing me to the main topic of this book, Mixed People.

Chapter Three: Mixed People

Mixed People, Multiracial, Multiethnic, and the varying other creative names Pure Races people have come up for them. Mixed Race people are what creates the idea of race into nonsense. If

race were categories rather than simply a gradient of phenotypes (Even with this I have issues with), then mixed race people would not exist. Because categories are one or the other. A number can't be odd and even, a shape can't be both a rectangle and a triangle, and if race were actual categories like these then a person can't be both European and African.

Given this Scenario if race was an actual category then like if we somehow could have a rectangle and a triangle reproduce, their offspring would have to be either a rectangle or a triangle. That is because these are actual categories, there are no over lapping. However, this is not the case in Humans. When two "Racial Categories" mix together you end up with a mixed child, someone somewhere in the middle of the spectrum. Due to this "Racial Categories" are much less categories than they are of descriptors, and very poor ones at that.

A mixed individual calling themselves all their "pieces" ignores the fact that these pieces are not able to interact and still be their original pieces. Going back to the prior example of Rectangles and Triangles, an Object cannot be both of these items, it is either one or the other or neither not both. This is of course a touchier subject when it comes to Humans, especially those of mixed race who feel that recognizing themselves as being pieces of a race is a part of who they are. However, going back to race being just a crude descriptor of phenotypes, hence trying to keep those descriptors does nothing more than add confusion to a person who should've been described as neither, rather than pieces in the first place.

Some multiracial individuals try to ignore this obvious error in judgement by saying that Race categories are in itself a gradient rather than sets of categories. Sure, we can say that. Though that brings up a complete new set of issues. Such as what is the gradient based on? Is it multiple gradients based on skin colour, hair curliness, hair colour, eye colour, nose length and width, when would this gradient no longer require more gradient wheels. Even if they were all figured out, when on this gradient you pass the threshold of being able to be called Asian, when two people next to each other on this gradient are called by two different races aren't we stating that the similarity between those two, who are right next to each other on the gradient, as being more dissimilar to one another than they are to someone on the other end of the category threshold.

Given this scenario to help illustrate the gradient error. We have a colour wheel of the colours on the visible spectrum. We observe one section the area between Yellow and Blue. In the area between we have the gradients of green. Within this green we select two colours that have a one degree of separation from one another. Now because of their location on this gradient one would be called Blue and the other would be called yellow, despite the two selected colours are closer to one another than they are to either Yellow or Blue. When applying this to Humans we have an issue where mixed people would be the colours of green rather than either of their two proponents. Making them not anything new put instead more related to someone within that range rather than to the thresholds that are being applied.

The main point of all of this is to drive home the fact that mixed people calling themselves by their parts, or by calling themselves completely one or the other ignored the fact that race doesn't work like that. Race doesn't really work at all to be honest, but given its current rules mixed people cannot without making a mess of this faulty word, justify being called by both of their races. Mixed people are just that, mixed. Allowing yourself to choose one or the other, or both, or neither is a privilege that only mixed people have. And it's a privilege because it is

unearned, they didn't do anything to allow such racial fluid decisions, and allowing this fluidity brings up situation of pure raced people being able to do the same, especially if we are arguing that race doesn't exist, or wanting to get rid of it. Therefore, if humans are capable of doing it, then all humans should be given the opportunity to do the same.

Chapter Four: Mixed People and Culture

On a lighter note, because of how the current state of the world is right now, mixed people can assimilate more easily into multiple cultures than that of pure raced individuals. This of course if they learn the languages associated with said cultures. Because of this Mixed people are able to provide insight within multiple groups and avoid being an outsider among insiders as would those who were not in the same "racial category" would be. Mixed people in this aspect can seemingly be fluid with cultures and gather knowledge through personal experience rather than through second hand interactions.

Of course, with every good thing I must say the problem with this. The problem comes from that to perform these cultural practices in their authentic manner the mixed individual would have to ignore an entire family line of themselves as to avoid manipulating the culture to fit their racial needs. Mixed people, just by their very existence, creates compromises within cultures, slowly changing them until they are almost unrecognizable. Transformation and progression are good things; however, it is not good when the goal is to pass down traditions.

To avoid this alteration of cultures mixed people seemingly must adopt a new culture of being a middle person between the two races. Or, as I am a supporting of, getting rid of it in its entirety and focus on Science and World History Interactions and to let Pure Raced people be responsible of passing down those values and traditions. This is of course if people want to continue to associate culture with race. If you do, then this is what mixed people need to do to keep things non-counterintuitive. If you don't associate culture with race, then mixed people just like everyone else has the equal opportunity to have the culture that they desire.

Chapter Five: Mixed People to each other

It should not matter if someone is mixed with African and White, Asian and Native American, Black and Asian and so on, mixed people in this current world where race is a determining factor of interaction experience very similar situations.

Mixed Peoples have the unearned privilege of being asked what they are, unlike the pure raced peoples whom would never get this opportunity because strangers look at them and automatically put them into a category with no say.

Mixed People feel they need to make a choice to be the race of their father, or the race of their mother, as a sort of selecting your culture kind of test. Or could opt out of the selection process. Due to this being part of life race becomes much less of a concrete thing and more of something that is just a feeling.

Mixed People have the privilege to speak for entire races of people that they themselves have a very loose connection to. The privilege to receive the benefits of being a certain race, as well as the benefit of opting out of the struggle of being that race, this is of course if you are a Grade A Garbage Person. But this ability still is an option open for mixed people to do.

Mixed People however, have no escape countries if the world does decide to perform a massive genocide on the minorities of their countries. Every mixed person is a minority in their country, even if they have the blood of a majority. Though if some South American Nations such as

Brazil would accept Mixed Races of all kind, and allow that to stay how the majority of the population is, then that is a potential haven. But back to the point, in the case of “race wars” mixed people would be without a side to join.

Mixed People to another mixed person relieves the need to answer questions about their ancestry of heritage because there would be an understanding that they just feel mixed, not the races that they are mixed with. Of course, as I brought up before, culture can be very different among mixed people so that can always be a conversation starter.

The list can go on and on about the privileges that mixed people have that other races would not, all due to the fact of living “in between”. However, plenty of videos have been made on the “feeling”. The only thing I can add to it is that Mixed People are not victims, in many cases they are the object of obsession.

Chapter Six: Human Trophies

Pure Races suffer what I like to call extremism, which is when traits among a group of people just become more and more prominent over generations. Examples of this is like the flat faces found in some Asian people, or the Tiny Lips of Europeans or the Dark Skin in Africans. These features have their beauty among peoples in the group and those who have a fetish based on it. However, to the groups outside these traits are seen in not so good of a light.

Therefore, when mixed children are seen they serve as a sort of reminder that Human could be customized.