BLACK MEANS ???

An Interdisciplinary Analysis of

Martin Heidegger’s Theory on

Language

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LANGUAGE IS THE HOUSE OF BEING

- There is no *being* without an appropriated *word*
MEANING OF BLACK: THE ROOT OF SEGREGATION
ETYMOLOGY OF BLACK

- Latin *flagrare* = to blaze, to glow, to burn

- Old English *bhel* pale, bright, shining, glittering
Evil, sinister, criminal were attested to the word black in the 1540s
ETYMOLGY OF BLACK

- Black was not associated with skin color until the 1620s
DECONSTRUCTION OF THE NEGATIVE RECONSTRUCTION WITH THE POSITIVE
COAL
BY
AUDRE LORDE
AS A GUIDE TO
TRANSFORMATION
LORDE AND HEIDEGGER

Lorde

I
Is the total black, being spoken
From the earth's inside.
There are many kinds of open.
How a diamond comes into a knot of flame
How a sound comes into a word, coloured
By who pays what for speaking.

Heidegger

- Humans have inherited the creativity ability of the Earth
- That ability is enacted through speaking
LORDE AND HEIDEGGER

Lorde

Love is a word another kind of open—
As a diamond comes into a knot of flame
I am black because I come from the earth's inside
Take my word for jewel in your open light.
-- Audre Lorde

Heidegger

To Say:
- Exposes
- Hides
- Frees
STEPS TO INTEGRATION

- Own the total black
- Deconstruct the negative meaning of black internally
- Reconstruct a positive meaning of black internally
- Be the agent of change within the African-American community
RESULTS OF THE “NEW” BLACK

- Less Black Flight
- Increased Income in Black Communities
- Better Housing Markets within Black Communities
- More Income for Schools in Black Communities
- Black Neighborhoods that are Beautiful, Successful and Powerful
- Black Communities that are INVITING
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