

The Origin of This Idea

I've always believed that this world would be a better place for all people to live in if we would all treat each other with respect. But my experience, has taught me that many people just don't buy that premise. Some people are taught as children that they are better than others, while others are taught not to expect too much because they don't deserve as much as others do. We are even taught in school (by default) that some "races" are more intelligent and have made superior contributions to mankind, while other "races" are shameful savages who have contributed little, and are therefore worthless. Daily, especially during war times, the news media sensationalizes the death of some people while never mentioning the genocide of thousands of others. Their message is clear to all: some lives are more valuable than others. Fire and storm damage are reported in dollars, while the death of a poor child may get no mention.

This type of degrading is used to justify oppression, injustice and genocide. It has got to stop! Our basic human rights: to live in peace with enough food to eat, clean water to drink, adequate shelter and a meaningful livelihood, are being denied because of these erroneous beliefs: that there are different "races" of man and some are superior to others.

In college, I was fortunate enough to read books by many scholars, some of whom were African-American, like for example Ivan Van Sertima. Grateful for that experience, I wondered when this information would be available to all students.

I became a schoolteacher. In 1995, I was reading a Nichiren Buddhist magazine and inside was an article entitled The Myth of Race, by Marlea Wealton, an anthropology student. Once again, I was inspired that this information was getting out, although I didn't know how I could use it. But, this year someone was reading a t-shirt I was wearing and it came to me that I might try putting some valuable information on a t-shirt, and someone would read it! I contacted Mrs. Wealton to thank her for writing the article and to get approval for my idea.

This t-shirt is my educational venture created with the hope that when people wear The Myth of Race T-Shirt, they will be educating those who read it. It is my hope that even if some don't agree, the idea will still be implanted and perhaps in the future they will discover more evidence to validate it. I will be happy if people research the writers of this information and investigate more on their own. I hope you are someone who understands this cause and will help support it.

MY CAUSE - Human Rights

“Human rights begin close to home.”

“Without human rights, there can be no peace. Nor will there be justice or happiness.”

Daisaku Ikeda

For years, I have been drawing inspiration and knowledge for self growth from watching *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. I learned about Women for Women International while watching Zainab Salbi, the President and CEO of the organization on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* in 2000. I wanted to help women, because I believe when you help women you help children, the family and eventually the society. Who suffers more than women, especially during times of war? I struggle to survive in the U.S., but it is nothing like the suffering women are experiencing in Africa and the Middle East. I wanted to help and began sponsoring a woman in Africa from 2002 to 2004. I had to stop when I moved and was unable to find work. (I am still seeking a career). I believe that understanding that we are all one human species and not different “races” is a big, first step in understanding that we are all connected and deserve to be treated with respect: that is the lesson of my T-shirt.

I’ve decided to donate \$1.00 from every Myth of Race T-shirt toward the sponsorship of another woman in Africa. Prices range from \$16.50 to \$18.00 (which includes tax). I have printed fifty-two (52) t-shirts. They will become a limited edition item.

I invite anyone reading this to become a sponsor and help a woman today. For a small amount you can help a woman reconstruct her life, and give her and her family hope. I appreciate all of you who will take part.

Please read the attached ***Women for Women International*** outreach pamphlet. Also contact the Sponsorship Department with questions at (202) 737-7705 or Sponsorship @ womenforwomen.org.