

TO: DAD

25-1-78

FROM: LORETTA ROOMER

BEING WITH YOU FOR AS MANY YEARS AS I HAVE BEEN WITH YOU, I SHOULD HAVE A LOT MORE CONSCIENTIOUSNESS AND GUILT THAN I DO HAVE. MANY TIMES I HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT THE BLACK PEOPLE IN OUR CONGREGATION WHO HAVE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH, SUFFERED SO MUCH INJUSTICE AS A RESULT OF BEING BLACK, AND YET SOMEHOW MANAGED TO AVOID THE ISSUE. OH! YES! I HAVE FELT GUILTY FOR BEING THE SAME COLOR OF SKIN AS THEIR OPPRESSORS AND HAVE CRIED ABOUT IT BECAUSE I'M SURE I HAVE REMINDED SOME BEAUTIFUL BLACK PERSON OF SOMEONE THEY HATED. I HAVE LIVED WITH THAT EVER SINCE I'VE KNOWN YOU. SO MUCH SO THAT IT USED TO IRRITATE ME (AND STILL DOES) WHEN I SEE SOME OF OUR LIGHTER-SKINNED PEOPLE CONTINUOUSLY SITTING TOGETHER OR MORE THAN 2 OR 3 SITTING TOGETHER WITH THE ROOM FULL OF BLACK PEOPLE. YOU HAVE MADE ME THAT OBSERVANT.

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I OFTEN FEEL BAD BECAUSE I HAVE TO SCOLD OR BE FORCEFUL WITH BLACK SENIORS A LOT

IN THE FOOD SERVING LINE, BUT ALSO REALIZE  
THEY TOO HAVE BEEN CONDITIONED AND SOMETIMES  
RESPOND ONLY TO "WHITE" AUTHORITY - AND THAT MAKES  
ME VERY ANGRY. THE BLACK SISTERS SERVING CAN  
TELL SOME PEOPLE SOMETHING AND THAT PERSON  
GETS MAD. THEN I'LL SAY THE SAME THING AND  
THEY ARE VERY NICE AND ACCEPT IT AND GO ON  
THEIR WAY. THIS HAPPENS 2 OR 3 TIMES A DAY  
AND IT CAUSES SOME HOSTILITY FROM THE  
OTHER SERVERS.