



Segregation:

A Social Construct Of Reality

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What is reality? Is it already established, or can we shape and transform it into our deepest desires? There is no objective answer, however, I firmly believe that reality can be molded into what a group of individuals makes it to be. This can have a good outcome because religions, ideas, or behaviors can positively affect the lives of millions, thus forming a better environment. However, society is not always mandated by good will, take for instance, racism.

On paper, racism is just a belief, yet, when a large group of people come together and induce social norms that follow that idea, reality shifts. Meanwhile, minds who weren't convinced by this ideology start developing a different mindset, being forced to choose between what they believe is right and what's meant to be right.

A way to demonstrate this is by analyzing Jim Crow's Laws in Mississippi: Black maids were the ones who took care of White children, however, carrying on a conversation with a maid was not seen as appropriate and, as a result, it became prohibited. This just goes to show the dualism and hypocrisy of society: how come you are not raising your own children, yet you do not allow the person raising them to use your bathroom, give them a lift home, or have their children attend the same school as yours?

Furthermore, if this notion of equality—or might I say, inequality—persists for a long time, a generation of people will be born into this predetermined system and will know no other way of living. They will be prone to never question if it's right.

Nonetheless, if we analyze once more what happened in Mississippi, the social construction of reality manifests once again. This is because the new generation, raised by Black maids, formed bonds with them and grew up with an open mind, ready to accept and include all races. Subsequently, they began to question whether this way of separating everybody was right. This led to changes such as the abolition of segregation and the emergence of a new social reality.

To conclude, the previous points show that racism, or any change in the ideas we considered preestablished, happens because certain groups of people can convince the rest that something is either right or wrong. Then, actions are taken and society changes, molding itself into this new point of view. However, just like them, we are also responsible for transformations to happen, as well as making good, rational and empathetic decisions to help generations to come, along with those already living in this place we call Home.