Race is Not Biology

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What if it was said that race is a flawed belief, not just for obvious reasons, but because in reality, it is just the deception of the eyes. Throughout history, there has been a deep divide between individuals due to this construct, but there is very little explanation for it. Race has guided the sword of many wars, been the infrastructure of numerous civilizations, and caused a rift between individuals that is unprecedented. One may question how could something so minuscule, cause such a life-changing divide? When simplified, race is an adjective simply used to describe someone of a group that acts or looks the same; however, it should never be used to define someone. If biology is the study of life and living things, where exactly does "race" fit in? Race is not biology; it does not determine individuality. According to Thomas King's lecture "You're Not The Indian I had In Mind" he brings forth the point that race is "a construction" and "an illusion", which does not exist in theology nor biology. Overall, race is not biology, it does not determine the traits or characteristics of any individual and should be separated from the conversation of the study of life.

The world can be classified into four major races, Caucasian, Mongoloid, Negroid, and Australoid. These four classifications help individuals all over the world be characterized and organized into groups. In biology, the classification of races has no impact on the study of life itself. Often, "People in tropical areas tend to be darker, while northern and southern populations tend to be lighter"(Geonomics, 2020). This is the direct effect of natural selection; as generations are exposed to different levels of ultraviolet light it causes different variations of skin complexion. Biology plays a role when it comes to the internal system which evolves around genes and many other organisms, but the color of the skin of an individual is encouraged over

time by the environment. Many individuals believe race and biology are one and the same, but they are two completely different things.

Race is real, but it doesn't come from a genetic standpoint. Race is simply people being placed in groups based on the color of their skin that society created. It's natural for people to automatically assume that race is considered biology because that is how it is perceived in today's world. Researchers tend to look for genetic correlations to race. They often tend to think that it is geographic ancestry; which is defined as the population variation found in a different geographic region that does include genetics and can relate to race but it does not. Humans do have different genetic traits like down's syndrome or sickle cell anemia but that has nothing to do with the color of your skin, there is no genetic mark that defines race (California Newsreel, 2010). Racial groups in the USA have better outcomes than others. Each racial group differs in how they are treated, and some have better opportunities and privileges than others. For example, in Thomas King's lecture 2 "You're Not the Indian I Had in Mind", Thomas and Karen, the girl that he wanted to take to the dance, were opposite. Thomas was a poor person of color while Karen was white, rich and was privileged; because of this, her father didn't want them together. That is not from genetics, just systematic differences. In 1972, Richard Lewontin, a biologist, did a study on how genetic variations affected race. He gathered data from around the world and calculated the variation races. He found out that only about 6 percent of genetic variation in humans is categorized by race ((California Newsreel, 2014). This study showed people that genetics has very little to do with race.

The idea of race started off as geographical, using it in any other light comprises the integrity of the term. Beneath all of the race categorization there lies the truth that people tend to forget about. That one truth is that all humans are the same. Yes, their genetics differ from one

another, but they have set them apart. However, going back and evaluating the classification of living organisms, no race has its own category. In this case, all humans fall under the species category. A species is a group of living organisms that "shares a genetic heritage, are able to interbreed, and to create offspring that are also fertile"(Editor, 2020). Humans of all races are considered *homo sapiens*. *Homo sapiens* originated in Eastern Africa about 200,000 years ago. About 70,000 years ago, they left Africa and spreaded all over the world (Geonomics, 2020). Having said that, every human in this world can be pronounced as descendants of Africa, making us all the same. Race is considered the cultural aspect of who people are, whereas "species" is the scientific approach of it.

Race is not biology, it is a powerful, flawed social and political construct that is implied in everyday life. Alan Goodman says "To understand why the idea of race is a biological myth requires… an absolute paradigm shift, a shift in perspective" (California Newsreel, 2014). Race is a deeply rooted concept about the behavior and physique of groups of people and to change the narrative would take a major psychological change amongst the world.

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