



Coming Black to Asia!

*Tales of Black Privilege in China (and Beyond) plus
Walt's primer on "Traveling While Black"*

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*Coming Black to Asia? Brother, You Have NO idea! A curious and observant nomad dispels some myths, allays some fears and corrects some misperceptions of what "traveling while Black" in Asia really means.*

(An "Adults Only" teaser chapter from the book, *Harlem to Hainan: Observations of a Jamaican in China* by Walt F.J. Goodridge)

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 If you are receiving this in an email or as a pdf file, please note that you can find the most recently updated version at: <http://www.jamaicaninchina.com/black> (This version: 8-31-2011) (Links are clickable in Adobe Reader® but not in Mac Preview™)

It's time someone spoke out.

This is a secret that has been kept for much too long.

I'm going to speak in a frank and open way about a subject that many are afraid to discuss; a topic about which many are misguided, and of which many are simply unaware for many reasons including bias, ignorance or misinformation.

Yes, this chapter will share what I know about traveling while Black in Asia.

This chapter is for the enlightenment of all who are curious, but is specifically for the benefit of my Black brothers, fathers, sons, uncles and friends—particularly those living in the US—who have thought about traveling to other lands for fun, freedom, finances, fantasy or to chase a personal dream of one sort or another.

By sharing a few things I've experienced firsthand, seen happen to others, or been told about by women and men overseas, I hope to open a new vista, encourage new understanding and mold a new self-perception, and at the very least, offer what I find is a fascinating topic of conversation. Feel free to share this with everyone you know.

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DON'T HAVE TIME TO READ EVERYTHING? MAIN POINTS:  
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1. *When it comes to travel guides, make sure you know who's talking!*

Much of the information that exists about traveling abroad is not written by or for Blacks. Before you take anything you read or watch as universal truth, remember that travel writers, particularly if they are American, will be seeing the world through a limited lens.

2. *The world is not as negatively hung up about race as is the US.*

Those of us steeped in the U.S. brand of white racism, believe it is a universal affliction of all whites. It is not. Even European whites have commented how caught up on race people in the U.S. seem. Beyond "The Great Wall of America," free from the brainwashing of US media, many people have at least a neutral impression of Blacks. At the same time, Black athletes, celebrities, singers, rappers and political figures have created a *positive* mystique around Blackness that has affected the world. Thank Muhammad Ali, Tiger Woods, Usain Bolt, Malcolm X, Michael Jordan, Michael Jackson, and most NBA/NFL players, etc. for paving the way for you!

2. *Women and culture abroad are vastly different.*

Gender roles, femininity, masculinity, dating, and the availability and demand for men differ vastly. Unlike in the states, gender roles are not adversarial. Women and men are comfortable acknowledging the innate differences between the sexes.

4. *You are perceived as the epitome of masculinity.*

Masculinity, virility, prowess, and cool have historically been defined by Blackness. Women respond instinctively to this. There's a tall, dark and handsome man in most women's fantasies. Will that man be you? When it comes to sex, the physical differences between Black men and "others" is known in every corner of the world. Whether you embody the myth or not, the curiosity is there!

5. *Don't perpetuate the stereotype.*

As long as you don't confirm or perpetuate the stereotype that many people have of Americans, you can write your own ticket and create a unique experience unencumbered by the biases you leave behind.

6. *Come Black to Asia with a better understanding.*

If you're coming Black to Asia, there are a few things you might want to be aware of.

WHY I WROTE THIS CHAPTER

I was born in Jamaica, West Indies, spent most of my life in the US—specifically New York City. I lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for a few years, and visited a few states (Texas, Massachusetts, California, Florida, Minnesota, Georgia, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, Connecticut and Ohio). I've also visited Canada and Mexico.

I finally "escaped" to live on the Pacific island of Saipan, from where I now travel to various parts of Asia. I've learned a lot in my few short years of "nomadpreneurship" (a term I use to describe my personal lifestyle strategy for creating income, prosperity, freedom and mobility). Much of my "research" for this chapter has been culled from several years living on Saipan, visits to Guam, several trips and months living in China, as well as jaunts to Laos, Singapore and The Philippines, as well as a whole lot of observations and conversations everywhere I go! The more I traveled, the more I listened, the more I heard, the more I learned, the more I realized life abroad was decidedly and markedly different from what I had been accustomed to. Specifically, I met other Black men who had been living a very different, and enviable lifestyle.

The fact is, my own accounts, based on my limited experiences, aren't unique. In fact, by comparison to those of other, more seasoned travelers, they're really quite tame. *Their* experiences and exploits would make *mine* look like walks through a park—Disneyland. However, it seems those seasoned travelers are too busy living their dreams to stop, sit and write about them. So, that's where I come in!

The idea for sharing my (and other Black men's) experiences has been brewing for quite some time. Every now and then, I would read or hear a statement that would add more fuel to the fire under that brewing pot of an idea, prompting me to write. The more I read, the more I realized that general public's perceptions and beliefs about what it's like to be Black in Asia were a bit limited, to say the least. Let me give you a few examples.

1. Shortly after I started living in the Pacific region and as I started to see more of Asia, a friend asked me over the phone, "*How's the racism there?*"

That's such a telling, and sad question, when you think about it, isn't it? He didn't ask "*Is there racism?*" He didn't ask "*What's it like being Black there?*" He asked, "*How's the racism?*" implying that it was a foregone conclusion it was something he would have to contend with if he, too, were to travel abroad.

With expectations like that, I can understand why some of my Black friends are reluctant to travel as they wouldn't want to experience a brand of racism they are not accustomed to. "*Heck, if I'm going to be discriminated against, at least I can understand white American racism better than Asian racism. Maybe I'll just stay here.*"

2. At other times, I would read forum posts by white males with the same limited perspective, who would offer their opinions on what the dating scene for Blacks might be in a country they were visiting, and I would think to myself, "*You, sir, are completely misguided. I hope no one Black is reading this and taking your views as truth.*"

As my own experience grew, I became more convinced that if more Black men knew what actually awaited them once they escaped from America, then surely the lines at the airport would extend out the building for miles! *I needed to write about this.*

3. Even more recently, I visited a site called HappierAbroad.com. Great site! The posts on the forum echoed practically every conversation I've ever had with expatriates (Black and white) who left their lives in the states to find their (dating) happiness abroad. I realized, though, that there was a unique perspective that was missing. *Man, I need to write about this!*

4. Actually, now that I think about it, my awareness of the void in public awareness of the Black traveling experience abroad started way before I actually left New York for Saipan. It started when I was searching in a bookstore in New York for information on what life would be like in the Pacific region. The books on Micronesia—where Saipan is located—were few, and the authors were primarily white males and females. Had it not been for a Black male friend who had been to this region--and who had a fabulous experience--I would have had a very biased account of how things would be. In fact, when he first told me about Saipan, my friend's exact words were "It's a Black man's heaven!"

And by the way, the “heaven” he spoke of is not just about dating. There's a reception, a friendliness, a welcome that Black men and women experience—particularly in Micronesia, and in China from my experience—that extends to day to day activities like shopping, dining, paying bills, even dealing with the Department of Motor Vehicles (imagine that!) driving or just strolling down the street that gives a sense of privilege and will put to shame what we've accepted as the norm--particularly if you live in New York as I did.

In fact, shortly after settling overseas, I returned to New York for a visit and was "inspired" to write an article entitled “New York. The Good, the Bad, the Unnecessary Roughness” which was published in the Saipan Tribune.

<http://www.saipantribune.com/newsstory.aspx?cat=3&newsID=76547>

Yes, the omissions, misconceptions and the stark contrast between life “here” and life “there,” were piling up and increased my motivation to share what I knew.

Finally, I could ignore the call no more.

So, I wrote this, therefore, in the hopes that by the time you finish reading, you'll have a quite different, compelling and motivating understanding of what exists beyond life in the states.

I wrote this to confront and correct misinformation, to dispel some myths about racism abroad, to fill in the blanks with a perspective that's not often chronicled, to speak to a demographic that is underrepresented, and to empower those in that demographic to live outside of any perceived limitations and have some fun at the same time, by sharing with you the truth, my brothers, that traveling while Black is far from a disadvantage in many parts of the world, and particularly in parts of Asia in which I've traveled.

WHY I WAITED SO LONG

Here's why it took me this long to share.

1. I have a dear friend who has three daughters.

During my most recent six-month stay in China, I would often write private emails to my friends in the states letting them know everything (and more) that I'm sharing with you in this chapter. I once joked that I should write a book about dating overseas for Black men. One of my friends asked me not to as she wanted the pool of available Black men to be there for her daughters

when they reach dating and marrying age. She didn't want me diminishing the pool by telling men what they could be experiencing overseas. (Seriously. I'm not kidding.) So, while I haven't forsaken my friend's daughters, I'm sure she'll understand that in the words of the great philosopher, Mr. Spock, "the needs of the many, outweigh the needs of the few."

2. *This may offend some.*

Yes, a sense of political correctness and politeness prevented me from revealing this until now. But again, *the needs of the many.*

3. *I have a reputation to think about!*

Another reason has to do with my brand identity. You see, I've spent the last few years crafting a brand identity for my *Turn Your Passion Into Profit* Formula. I've always felt that branching out into talking about dating would compromise that brand.

However, the fact is, I'm also an advocate of "Living True to My Self" and what I've come to understand over the years is that I am here to live my life as an example for others. Consequently, I've learned that the more I incorporate the totality of who I am into what I do and what I write, the more people can relate, the more people I affect, the more people respond, and the better life gets.

Well, it just so happens, in addition to having written 20 books and hundreds of articles, in addition to coaching people on business ideas and marketing, and doing workshops, etc., I am also Black. I chose this identity and physical form as part of the totality of my incarnation on the planet (If you have no idea what I mean by that last sentence, check out *Living True To Your Self* to discover my belief system. I believe, therefore, that it is part of my mission to use this physical form to learn, to grow and to share what I know.

5. *The Secret Oath to the Brotherhood!*

The other reason I waited was so I wouldn't betray my "oath" to "The Brotherhood." You see, when I first landed on the island of Saipan, there was an overwhelming ratio of women to men. That's because there were a few dozen garment factories employing thousands of women from China, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. Once I was accepted into The Brotherhood, there was an unspoken (no, spoken) agreement to keep the secret safe. After all, who would want to spoil a good thing by telling everybody!?

However, things have changed. The garment factories have closed. The tourism-based economy has been declining a bit, and so the ratio of women to man (note plural to singular) has changed. Saipan is still a great place to live, but from a dating perspective it's not like it was a few years ago. However, there are still many locations around the world where the women to man ratio is what Saipan once was, and where The Brotherhood does quite well.

However, to honor the oath, I won't share those destinations here. You'll have to travel and make friends with a member of The Brotherhood in order to get the memos. I'm sure you understand.

6. *I'm a modest sort of guy.*

It's true. Believe me.

"So, why now?" you may ask. Well, as I said, the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few. What's life without a little bit of controversy? Time to start upsetting the apple cart.

CAVEATS

Before we get started, however, I'd like to suggest a few attitudinal adjustments for getting the most out of this discussion.

[] *This is primarily for Black males living on the US mainland.*

Why? Having lived in America for most of my life (technically, I'm still in America), I have a much better idea of the experiences in the US, as well as how those experiences contrast with the reality in certain parts of Asia.

However, rest assured, the ability to experience what I and others have experienced being Black in Asia is not limited to any one demographic. Whether Black or white, your experiences will have more to do with your expectations, energy, personality and willingness to see things differently.

[] *I don't take any of this too seriously!*

I don't know about you, but I've got a sense of humor about all this. I consider myself an ambassador of sorts. When I travel, I am not at all offended if people ask me "Can you break dance?" or if people walk up to me to touch my skin or take a photo with me. I can laugh about the stereotypes I encounter (all Jamaicans run fast), and take it all in stride (pun intended).

Okay, I'll admit that it's a bit uncomfortable when people gather outside on the sidewalk to stare at me while I'm eating in a

restaurant in China, but that's my own fault for sitting near the window. I know better now.

My point is, you'd be wise not to take any of this stuff too seriously, either. It is what it is. Don't get angry. Don't get offended. You'll be wasting YOUR time.

[] *Your agreement is not required.*

The reason you really shouldn't get too bent out of shape about all of this is because your agreement is not required. Your unwillingness to believe or accept what you read here won't change that fact of its existence. I'll say that again: Whether or not you choose to believe the reality I describe is completely and utterly irrelevant. Girls will continue to approach me and other Black men in China, Thailand, Bali, Russia, etc., whether you like it or not. As I posted on HappierAbroad.com about my nomadpreneur formula: *"I'm not here to convince, justify, defend or apologize for my beliefs, choices or lifestyle. I'm not here for validation, vindication, approval or to respond to your personal attacks. I'm here to share a philosophy & formula that work! And in a world of 6 billion, if ONE person can do it, it MUST be possible for at least ONE other!"*

[] *Everyone's experience will be different.*

Your vibe, your demeanor, your expectations and your magnetism will attract the experiences that will resonate with you. I'm sure there is some Black male right this very minute who is planning to write a book about what a terrible experience he's had traveling in China. It happens. Everyone's experience may differ.

I've always had an affinity for Asian women (from a previous life, I'm sure). So when I walk down the streets of Beijing, I'm sure I give off a different energy (think: kid in a candy store) that makes me more approachable. The ironic thing is, I don't consider myself a particularly outgoing person. I'm a private person. I like my own company. I don't enjoy crowds. In fact, when I lived in New York, people told me that when they would see me walking down the street, I looked "intense" and unapproachable. Women have even called me "intimidating" on more than one occasion.

However, even with this introverted personality, my experiences in Asia have been great! A Chinese woman in Beijing told me that the reason I have good experiences with Chinese people is because they can look into my eyes and see I have a good heart. Take that for what it's worth! Your mileage may vary.

[] *Some will seek to create offense.*

One cannot write a book that's "pro" women, without alienating a few men. One cannot write a book that tells workers to unite, without pissing off a few bosses. Similarly, one cannot have a discussion about the positives of being a Black man in Asia without offending a few others who aren't Black men—especially when such discussions are perceived as empowering, threatening, even a betrayal of sorts, and may be purposely framed as divisive—pitting one group against another—when presented by others so as to stir up controversy and sell newspapers.

From what I've observed, white males can (and have) written books about how great things are for them in the Philippines. Everyone's got a niche. None of this is meant to detract in any way from the reality and perfection of YOUR experiences, whoever you are. This is not a contest to see who is more desirable.

So this is my advice to you if you are NOT a Black male who is reading this: do not fall into that trap that others will attempt to set for you. Tell the rabble-rousers that the world is big enough for everyone to have their paradise. Live and let live!

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 THE TRUTH: a few anecdotes  
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For the record, the overriding premise of my message is:
Your dating prospects as a Black male in Asia are absolutely, positively NOT at a disadvantage. In fact, it's quite the opposite—you are at a distinct advantage as a result of coming Black to Asia!

Unlike many men I meet, strangers I've heard about, and even some of my friends, I'm not "social butterfly" (read: man whore). I've been told I'm very picky, and don't spread myself thinly by indulging all comers or chasing all runners.

However, during my limited dating experiences abroad, and in my travels through Asia, I've dated Chinese, Russian, Korean and Thai ladies, and have seen and experienced enough to develop some theories, engage in some experimenting, and come to some conclusions about what is going on.

When guys get together—especially guys who have lived in the states, and who now make their homes in the Pacific or in Asia—the conversation invariably turns to women. The anecdotes of how drastically the women and the dating scene abroad differ from back in the US mainland are legion and legendary.

Quite simply, there is a fascination with things Black (music, sports, and of course, men) that makes the stories even more intriguing and fascinating. The curious observer in me asks why?

IMAGINE

Well, imagine for a moment, that you are a Chinese girl living in a remote area of China, a Laotian lady in the hills of Laos, or a Pacific Islander on a small island with limited exposure to the outside world. There are no Blacks in your neighborhood, so where do you get your impression of what they're really like? Rumors? Hearsay? Rare visitors to your town? Friends and family who have had the luxury to travel? Perhaps.

Most likely, however, it will be from a combination of all of these sources, in addition to and fueled by your limited exposure to television, movies, or the internet. As a result, your impression of Blacks may be a bit distorted, a bit stereotypical, and perhaps a bit biased as a result of media portrayals, but one thing is for sure, it will be fascinating! Yes, television, the Internet, magazines, sports broadcasts, exported as "made in the USA" entertainment and consumerism, has helped make the image of Blacks (men *and* women) a fascination to the outside world. Some anecdotes:

>>>>*A feeling I can't explain.*

I had a shy Chinese girl tell me, she doesn't know quite why, but when she watches movies, she gets inexplicably more excited when she sees the Black actors on the screen.

>>>>*Just what I've always wanted!*

A friend told me that months after they started dating, he found "Black Guy/Asian Girl" porn on his girlfriend's computer. She shyly admitted that she's always wanted a Black guy.

>>>>*Can I be your friend?*

While walking down the street in Jinghong city, I greeted a young lady who was on break from her job. She smiled broadly and said, "Can I be your friend?" (She turned out to be crazy, but it's the thought that counts.)

>>>>*Can I touch your hair?*

Variations include "Can I touch your skin?" "Can I touch your eyelashes?" Within a few minutes of our first meeting in a Xishuangbanna bus station, as we struggled to communicate with my limited Mandarin, and her limited English, "Suzy" couldn't

resist rubbing her fingers on my cheek and telling me “Fěicháng xìngǎn” (translation: “Very sexy”) in reference to my skin color.

>>>*Verdict on Sanya beach: “We same same.”*

As I’m walking on the beach in Sanya, Hainan, People’s Republic of China, a Chinese man shifts his gait and heads towards me. (In New York, I might start preparing for a confrontation.) He smiles, lifts his sun-baked arm, puts it up next to mine to show that we are almost the same complexion, and then gives me a thumbs up. All this with not a word being spoken between us.

>>>*Quick! Turn on the game!*

I had a Thai girl tell me that her friend really wants to have a Black boyfriend. She watches basketball, and is really hot for the guys she sees on television.

>>>*Me? Really?*

My Black male friend told me that he was his Filipina girlfriend’s first Black boyfriend. She had always wanted a Black boyfriend but had resigned herself to the fact that she didn’t have the physical “assets” that she had heard that Black guys prefer.

>>>*EEEEEE! Wow!*

I’ve had women gasp and others scream when I cycled past them in Laos (And no, she wasn’t screaming while running *away*, she was screaming in fascination while running towards me!

>>>*They treat me like crap!*

My well traveled, army friend tells the story of his travels with his white military friends. They go to bars, clubs and restaurants together, and after a while, his friend states, “Hey, how come they treat YOU like a king, and treat ME like crap??”

>>>*I ‘ve never met you, but....*

One day, while living on the island of Hainan, I returned to my hotel room, and opened up my QQ* account to read this: 你好！我也没见过你，但我同事说你经常来超市买东西，她说你很有意思！可能我们的时差很大现在你们那可能是晚上吧？
TRANSLATION: “Hello! I have not seen you, but my colleagues said, you often come to the supermarket to buy things, she said you are very interesting! Now we have a great time difference may be that you might be at right?” (translation by google)

**QQ is a chat program popular in China.

>>> *Black American famous in Japan*

And I'm not the only one, and it's not just in China. Check out this story of what Black American actor, Dante Carver, experiences in Japan: <http://mediatakeout.com/external/45436/>

NOTE: After reading the postings on many travel forums, I slowly started to realize that when many guys ask "how are the girls, there?" they're referring to ladies whose company can be purchased (i.e. "bar girls") who make a living selling their time and talents.

It's a fact of life. Travelers with limited time in search of warm bodies, who don't care to start relationships in every town seek an easy solution. So, let me say for the record that in all the previous anecdotes, I was NOT talking about purchased companionship. There are far too many regular "girls next door" who want boyfriends or new experiences for a man to have to pay for companionship. (My friends who know me know I'm way too cheap for that!) However, if you're traveling while Black, and bar girls are YOUR cup of tea, check this out:

>>> *We've become the show!*

My friend and I went to Angeles City in Manila. It was our first time. All his friends had told him about it, and he wanted to do the only thing one does in Angeles City—visit all the girlie bars.

Well, in just about every bar we entered, the dancing girls, stopped, stared, then started hooting and hollering and clapping, and many came off the stage and rushed over to where we were, leaving the "other" guys alone (I did feel sort of bad for them), and spent an inordinate amount of time with us, chatting and um, groping.

>>> *Look out! Manila girl ambush!*

At another club we visited, the minute we walked in, a girl literally jumped on my friend's back to claim him for herself. She wouldn't let him out of her sight or clutches for the entire night.

All for money, you say? I would have thought so, too, but my friend ended up being propositioned by her, they spent the night together... no charge, even becoming Facebook™ friends to boot!

I could go on and on, but modesty, humility and political correctness prevent me from sharing every single anecdote of what it's like being Black in Asia. My goal is not to make anyone else feel bad about who they are, but to increase the rolls of those who feel GOOD about who they are and who are not discouraged from traveling because of ingrained fears of rejection based on racism.

THE WHY AND WHEREFORE

So, why are all these cool things happening to me and my Black friends? Why is dating so easy? Why are the girls so friendly and inviting? Let's explore a few possibilities, shall we?

[] "IT'S A FOREIGN THING, NOT A BLACK THING!"

That's certainly true in many instances. Especially in China, there is a mad rush to learn English and to have English-speaking foreign friends.

I walked into a restaurant in Xishuangbanna with a date. The minute we walked in, all heads turned, and after a few moments, a girl, who happened to be a friend of the girl I was with, emerged from the crowd and approached her. I was some feet away, and since I couldn't understand Mandarin as well as I'd like to, she told me afterwards that her friend was very impressed that she had a foreign friend. (*"Wow! You have a foreign friend? I didn't know YOU spoke English!"*)

Her stock value increased because she had a foreign friend which implied she knew how to speak English—a skill and ability that is evidently in high demand and held in high regard.

In Sanya, Hainan, I walked down the street with a young lady I met in a supermarket. We passed some of her friends who had wide open mouths, and gave her double-takes as we passed by. She kept telling me how special she felt just being seen with me.

By the same token, *MY* stock value increases when I walk with a Chinese girl, because, as is the case in any country, when a man is seen with a woman, he becomes more desirable. In this case, when a foreigner is seen with a Chinese person he becomes more approachable. Whenever I'm with a Chinese person, complete strangers will stop and join in the conversation. Yes, it's pretty odd, given how that would be received if you tried that in New York!

So, yep, it may be a foreign thing, but, like I say...

"Even if it's not happening BECAUSE I'm Black, it certainly is happening, so that means being Black is not STOPPING it from happening."

In other words, don't ever feel as if you'll be deprived of any great experiences because you're Black in Asia. In fact, once you get over the fears and expectations that you've become accustomed to

by living in the states; once you open up your eyes and recognize what's really going on, and notice how you're *really* being perceived and treated, you'll realize that you are in fact, being treated with more respect, more interest, more curiosity and more desire than you may be ready for. You're a hot commodity!

I had a hard time convincing my travel buddy of that. He seemed to think that the girls in the clubs were extra nice just to get money. He seemed to believe that what we were experiencing happened to everybody. That is, until I pointed out to him what *wasn't* happening with the other guys in the club. We hung out together and would sit and observe the goings on. I alerted him to certain looks, certain glances, certain smiles, and certain treatment other people weren't receiving, and that he himself wasn't noticing.

Being observant helps a great deal. One day, we were standing outside together, and as it was obvious to me, I spotted a girl sort of loitering around. I saw it in her eyes. So, I told my buddy, "Don't look right now, but that girl over to your left is going to talk to you in a few minutes."

Sure enough, she edged closer and closer trying to appear nonchalant, and soon struck up a conversation with him. Seeing the interest in ladies' eyes is something quite obvious to me. We were just two Black guys standing on a sidewalk shooting the breeze.

Being observant. After I'd been in Beijing for a while, I would see a couple approaching up ahead, I started to notice how the Chinese guys held their women's hands or pulled them closer, or repositioned themselves to be between me and their girl once they saw me approaching. Feeling threatened, perhaps? Made me smile.

[] *That's just YOUR experience, Walt*

No, it's not just me! Because of my friend's attraction for Filipinas, he gives off a different vibe (again, think: kid in a candy store) and got much more attention than I did in Manila, whereas the roles would likely be reversed if he and I were together in China!

[] *The girls are different*

Yes, the girls in Asia are different. If you're not aware of this fact, I encourage you to visit a site called HappierAbroad.com. Site owner, Winston Wu, has done a great job of compiling information and creating a place for guys to share their take on just what those differences are. Here's a brief excerpt from his executive summary:

Happier Abroad is a movement started by Winston Wu and his Team in 2007 to bring exposure to the nationwide epidemic of loneliness and poor mental health in America that has made it one of the worst cultures for Dating, Social Life and Mental Health, and to offer a Proven Overseas Solution based on the Dating, Social and Mental Health benefits overseas.

The truth is, relationships, social connection and mental health in America have eroded to the point of being dysfunctional, hostile, fake, apathetic and inauthentic. There is a vast silent epidemic of loneliness, isolation, social dysfunction, sexual frustration and poor mental health that has made America a lonely miserable hell for many men, but is taboo to even mention. In short, the following patterns dominate in America:

- *The lifestyle and environment are devoid of human connection.*
- *Dating and relationships are a no-win nightmare for many men.*
- *The cultural environment tears down self-esteem & mental health.*

Whereas overseas:

- *Human and social connection flow more freely.*
- *Dating and relationships are more natural and fulfilling.*
- *You feel more accepted, whole and authentic.*

[For more, see www.HappierAbroad.com]

The bottom line for Black men dating in Asia is that women who aren't forced by a culture of fear to fall in line, will act out their natural desire for masculine energy in more overt ways than those who fear cultural repercussions of what others will say or think.

Yes, I know this is a volatile topic.

In a perfect world, where we are all God's children it shouldn't matter who we date, should it? I mean, ask yourself "Who would Jesus date? Would Jesus only date "his own kind?" However, because of the sick, divisive, repressive and oppressive way that western society has developed, we consider this to be a taboo subject. We call it interracial dating. In the US, Black women feel ostracized. White men feel threatened. Black men feel guilty. It's all quite sick, and causes such self-destructive behavior.

A Black male friend once told me that if he were in a black nightclub, and he saw a pretty Asian girl in the club, that he would be afraid to approach her, even if he found her attractive. He would be afraid because he feared the Black women in the club, upon

seeing him approach her, would no longer be receptive to his advances towards *them*, and would freeze him out. In other words, he would deny his own happiness and desires because of what other people thought about him, and an irrational fear of being ostracized.

Similarly, in the states, there are non-black women who are afraid of dating “outside of their race” because of how the society (family, other men, women, etc.) might respond.

Culturally, in Asia, the women are different. In addition, in the states, there's more of a stigma attached, more backward-thinking (and acting) as well as a societal structure that keeps people in line and afraid to act on their desires. That's why western women go to the Caribbean, Africa or South America and willingly pay to live out their fantasies and indulge their desire for Black men before returning to their “acceptable” lives in the US.

[] *The media attacks don't exist*

Remember, unlike in the states, people in other countries aren't being inundated with daily newspaper stories and nightly six o'clock news reports of the contrived image of the “dangerous black male.” So, people overseas are left to their actual encounters, and natural wiring to determine their impressions of Black men. Women find them sexy. They love the skin color, and there's something about the masculinity that appeals to their basic feminine wiring. You can create your own first impression without being pre-judged by the impression created by a fear-mongering media.

[] *People see through the deception*

Speaking of media, another reason these cool things are happening is that people aren't being fooled by the “whitewashing” of maleness. I had a Pacific-Islander friend tell me that it's pretty obvious to everybody he knows what's going on. As he told me, you only have to look at who the heavyweight boxing champion is, who the best golfer is, who the best basketball players are to realize that what can only be ACTED by some is actually LIVED by others. In other words, there is only one place on the planet where a non-black person is heavyweight boxing champion of the world, and that is in a movie theatre! This sort of obvious stuff is taboo to say in the states, but people all over the world see it clearly. Therefore, when given the opportunity, women abroad go for the real thing, not the “reasonable facsimile thereof.” (My apologies if anything I say is offensive to some, but I'm not obligated to share delusional thinking just to be polite.)

[] *The Obama Factor (Also known as “The Usain Bolt Factor” if you’re Jamaican in China)*

I can’t tell you how many times I heard the world “Obama!” shouted playfully to me as I walked the streets of China. However, once people discovered I was Jamaican, they would start gesturing or running in place to indicate they also knew of my countryman’s lightning bolt world record status!

[] *The breeding factor*

As a function of natural selection, women do the choosing and are wired to choose the strong male who can protect, and who has the genes to complement her own and produce viable offspring. (*Diversity = adaptability and survival.*)

Remember, for many of these girls, they’ve lived their entire lives having ONLY men of the same ethnic gene pool to choose from. What a thrill to have some diversity!

I had one lady on a small pacific island tell me that whenever she meets a potential boyfriend, she has to tell her family just to make sure she’s not related to him! Imagine how exciting to have a guy land on your island who is obviously NOT of the same gene pool, and who looks like the hot athletes and singers you’ve only seen in magazines, on television and on websites!

Thought to myself: You know, as a Jamaican, if I had dreadlocks, it would be an entirely different (as in better) ballgame....but I digress.

Dating tip: don’t afraid to be a man; Make the first move

At least in China, from what I’ve seen and what I’ve been told, men don’t typically walk up to women, introduce themselves, strike up conversations and do the “pick up” thing. People meet their girlfriends and boyfriends through introductions and family arrangements. However, foreigners are not expected to play by these same rules. Women absolutely love being approached by a tall dark foreigner. Trust me. Here’s a post from my *Jamaican in China* blog:



How to Meet Girls in Beijing, China (Jamaican in China Blog)

From: walt@jamaicaninchina.com

Date: September 14, 2010 5:17:06 PM GMT+08:00

So, here's the scenario: You're a man. You're not Chinese. You don't look Chinese, and you're planning a trip China! Great! Congratulations!

"So," you ask, "how are the women there?" (Yes, guys ask that question)

Good news:

The thing is, as a foreign (Jamaican) guy, Beijing is probably one of the friendliest places I've ever experienced! If your experience is anything like mine, you'll enjoy being here.

Here's what you've got going for you. Here in China, there's widespread curiosity about foreigners. People are advertising rooms for rent and "roommate wanted" situations with a preference for foreigners. Most everyone wants to learn English, and people are naturally friendly.

Bad news:

But, even so, there may be some challenges to maximizing your dating prospects. First of all, you'll be a stranger in a strange land. It's a different culture. There are different gender roles. You may or may not speak the language, and most people are probably going to assume that you don't.

But, there are also a few other challenges to meeting girls. This is an unofficial survey, but I've already heard it many times from the girls here in Beijing that "I'm afraid to talk because my English is not good," or

"...many times we see a handsome foreigner, but we don't know what to say."

You see, I've also learned that a prevalent perception of foreigners that Chinese have (among many) is that there are certain things that Chinese shouldn't talk about with foreigners lest you offend them.

So think what a challenge it must be for the foreign-curious girl on the street who's culturally shy, extremely self-conscious about how good her spoken English is, doesn't know how to initiate a conversation, AND afraid she might offend you by saying the wrong thing?

So, what's a girl-seeking foreign man to do????

[end]

You'll have to check out my blog to see my unique solution. My point for including it in this essay is simply to share the interest in meeting foreign men that was communicated to me by my Chinese female friends.

For even more fun, I invite you to check out one of the most favored posts on my blog entitled “*I Want to Date A Jamaican in China*” inspired by my discovery that someone in China found my blog by typing in “*I want to date a Jamaican in china*” into the Google search engine.

<http://blogs.jamaicans.com/jamaicaninchina/2011/06/20/i-want-to-date-a-jamaican-in-china/>

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THE BOTTOM LINE

The bottom line is: there’s a whole different world of acceptance and desire out there. And for those who read this and wish to offer a contradictory take on the reality I present here, or for those of you who are still in a state of doubt, skepticism and disbelief about all the benefits of being Black in Asia, I’ll say it again:

"Sure, it may not be happening BECAUSE I'm Black, but it sure as heck IS happening. So, being Black is certainly not STOPPING it from happening!"

~~~~~  
WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD ABOUT THIS BEFORE NOW??  
~~~~~

"So, Walt, if things are so great, how come I've never heard about any of this until now?" Well, as I've mentioned before, travel guides and articles are typically not written by and for Blacks. That's just the way it is. These publications may *believe* they are offering one-size-fits-all information, but I'm here to tell you that it makes a world of difference who is talking.

[] *The Right Clique*

Unless you have a circle of Black friends who travel outside of the US, (military, merchant marines, nomads, etc.) you simply won't know what's been going on, nor how well you are received as a member of "The Brotherhood."

[] *Newspapers? Magazines? Television? I don't think so.*

Except in rare instances, you're simply never going to hear the colonizer sing the praises of the colonized, nor the oppressor of the oppressed. It just doesn't make for good historical reading to write *"we felt them superior and ourselves inferior, so that is why we resorted to guile and physical force and weapons to enslave them to work"*...but that's a whole other tangent about which others have written more extensively and eloquently. Similarly, for reasons of ego, no self-respecting non-black writer is going to write that he would be treated better if he were Black. First, he wouldn't notice, and, however he is, in fact treated abroad, would simply believe that his experience is universal.

[] *The Brotherhood Oath of Secrecy*

Of course, as I've said, a lot of guys simply wish to keep it to themselves. They're too busy living the reality to write about it.

But all of that doesn't matter! It doesn't matter *why* you hadn't heard before. Perhaps you weren't ready. (When the student is ready, the teacher appears). The good news is that now you DO know about it! It's real. It's out there. And, what's more, you can experience it! But, wait, before you start packing....

THE DOWN SIDE

I would be remiss if I didn't prepare you for the downside to this love fest.

Bad Reputations

Being Black in Asia is not always all peaches and cream. When I was in Singapore, a hostel manager told me that a few guys from a country in Africa made a bad name for themselves by getting into illegal activity. She told me that most Singaporeans can't tell the difference between a Black American, African or West Indian, and so everyone gets lumped together. So, while she was still a gracious host, she felt it was incumbent on *me* to overcompensate for the bad image that some Singaporeans have of blacks.

Keep in mind, however, that this sort of stereotyping happens to just about everyone of every nationality everywhere. A Polynesian fellow told me that in Japan, people often gave *him* the evil eye because he resembled Brazilians who had made a bad reputation for themselves there in Japan.

A Chinese man in China told me that he doesn't like to rent to whites because they destroy his property.

Whites have told me that they're often embarrassed and ashamed as a result of the loud, disrespectful, entitled way their "race mates" conduct themselves in foreign countries.

That's just the way it is on every continent. Sane, rational intelligent people can assess an individual's merit as a human being on a case-by-case basis. However, most of us don't take the time. It's easier to use stereotypes. I do it, too.

As we say in Jamaica: *the good will suffer for the bad.*

However, even on the down side, there's still a cordiality and graciousness that's extended to foreigners until you prove you don't deserve it. At least that's what I've found.

Always on Display

Being Black in Asia is not for everyone. If you don't like being the center of attention when you walk into a store; if you get nervous being followed around the streets by ogling families; if you are offended by people coming up to you and asking to touch your skin or your hair; if you would prefer that girls *not* approach you and ask to be your friend or lover, then this is not for you. The boundaries of personal space as westerners define it are often not

recognized in China as an example. If, when you travel, you simply want to disappear into the anonymous crowd, you'll have quite a difficult time being Black in Asia. It's almost like being a celebrity. There's always someone watching. It can get overwhelming.

My own opinion, however, is that it's something everyone should experience at least once in a lifetime! Hey, you never can tell, you might like it, and actually get used to it!

Well, there you have it! I hope you enjoyed my little *Traveling While Black Primer* from your favorite nomad in Asia. A world of great experiences awaits you! The girls love chocolate men! The men think you're cool. Everyone wants to hang out with you. You're the answer to the fantasy of at least 50% of the women in the room. And the other fifty percent? You'll probably never meet them! You'll be too busy wading through the bevy of beauties who want to be your friend. You can experience the interest, the curiosity, the fascination, the thrills, the excitement, the adoration, the camaraderie, the cuddling, and whatever else goes along with *Coming Black to Asia!* Okay, now you can start packing! Have fun! And tell everyone that Walt sent you!

How about a few travel tips?

TIPS FOR TRAVELING WHILE BLACK IN ASIA

By now you know my message. Despite what's going on *behind* The Great Wall of America, there's an inviting reality that exists for Black males on the outside. In order to experience that reality, you need to travel with a clean slate and an open mind.

Of course, like a lot of people, the first time you travel, you might actually attract negative experiences. Why? Perhaps, like my friend who asked "how's the racism?" it might be because you expect and look for those experiences, and in life, you often get what you expect. You get what you believe.

The other reason is that you may be acting "American!" Here's what I mean. There's a sense of entitlement that's the default setting for most everyone who grows up in America. There's a feeling that the world owes you something. There's a feeling that everyone else outside the great wall is inferior. These "American" attitudes can end up attracting to you the very racism and mistreatment that you left behind. I've seen it happen. You've got to become a humble, respectful citizen of the world, not just of America.

Don't perpetuate the stereotype

When most people see you (and they can tell by your demeanor, clothing, hair, etc.), they'll automatically think "American." Do not perpetuate the stereotypes of what people have come to associate with the word "American." (FYI: the stereotype is loud, obnoxious, rude and other negatives that turn people off)

A Chinese girl in Beijing told me I didn't act like the other Americans she'd met. I didn't immediately remind her that I'm not American, I'm Jamaican, but I asked her what she meant, and she mentioned that most Americans are loud and talk all the time. In fact, she said, I had Chinese ways about me. She felt very comfortable with me. Take that for what it's worth.

In other words, you should be soft spoken (do your best, even if it's not your usual personality), respectful, gracious, mannerly, and, if at all possible, do your best to learn a few words in whatever language is spoken in the places you travel. Dress appropriately. Say please and thank you. Be the first one to smile, and generally strive to act like a guest in a stranger's house.

Travel and grow

The more you travel, the more you will grow.

With the experience of travel comes the ability to step outside of one's self and to see one's self the way others see you.

With the experience of travel comes the ability to actually SEE that what others see may not be what you THINK they see.

With the experience of travel comes the ability to change and DEFINE how the world sees you separate and apart from how others seek, or have historically sought to define you.

With the experience of travel comes the increasing awareness that when the world sees you, these words often come to mind: Fascination. Curiosity. Interest. Desire. Fantasy.

What happens next is entirely up to you!

ENJOY THE JOURNEY!

Your friend,
Walt

Oh! One more thing: before you embark on your travels, let me share this:

~~~~~  
COMING BLACK TO ASIA?  
~~~~~

Always Black In Asia

True students of history will find nothing remarkable about this fascination, about this acceptance, about this respect and adoration of things Black throughout Asia. True students of history know that Blacks out of Africa were the first travelers and explorers and nomads. Negroid people were the first settlers in many parts of Asia including the Philippines, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia, and in China [The first two dynasties of China were founded by people from Africa. These Black people spoke Dravidian and African languages. The first civilizations were called Xia and Shang. They were ruled by emperors called Xuan Di "Black Emperors".] At one time a belt of Black populations covered much of Asia, and left their DNA far and wide everywhere across the region. Today, their descendants are found in the "Negritos" (little black men) of the Philippines, Southern Thailand, Taiwan, and other countries.[See Chapter Appendix and/or search online for "negritos" "Blacks in China" etc.]

Perhaps, my friend, being Black in Asia is not such a unique thing after all. Perhaps there is such a thing as racial memory. Perhaps the desire to touch and feel and mate is nothing more than the desire for a reconnection of sorts. Perhaps it is nothing more than a recognition of a shared humanity, and common ancestry; the desire to access and reunite with a distant yet hauntingly familiar DNA that stills runs through the blood despite being separated by years of history and ethnic mixing. Perhaps being Black in Asia is nothing more than a pleasant reunion with your brothers and sisters from whom we've been separated for so long. Perhaps, the whole point of this chapter is not to incite, not to enflame, not to divide, not to anger, nor to alienate, but to continue the education that under the skin, we are all the same.

Coming Black to Asia? Get ready for the time of your life. Brother, you have no idea!

~~~~~  
 P.S. AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT  
 ~~~~~

A friend of mine currently living in the states recently met a young lady from China. Since I've spent a lot of time in China, he sought my advice as to how he should proceed, this being his first time developing a dating experience with a Chinese woman.

He wrote:

Honestly, this is the first time that a Chinese woman has ever paid any attention to me at all, so I could really use your input.

I replied:

You had her at hello.

You're already leaps and bounds ahead of what she's used to. Just continue to calmly talk in a deep voice :-)) and show interest.

Continue being masculine.

Continue being Black.

It sells itself.

~~~~~  
SO THERE YOU HAVE IT! LET'S RECAP THE MAIN POINTS:  
~~~~~

1. *When it comes to travel guides, make sure you know who's talking!*

Much of the information that exists about traveling abroad is not written by or for Blacks. Before you take anything you read or watch as universal truth, remember that travel writers, particularly if they are American, will be seeing the world through a limited lens.

2. *The world is not as negatively hung up about race as is the US.*

Those of us steeped in the U.S. brand of white racism, believe it is a universal affliction of all whites. It is not. Even European whites have commented how caught up on race people in the U.S. seem. Beyond the Great Wall of America, free from the brainwashing of US media, many people have at least a neutral impression of Blacks. At the same time, Black athletes, celebrities, singers, rappers and even political figures have created a mystique around Blackness that has affected many around the world. Thank Muhammad Ali, Tiger Woods, Usain Bolt, Malcolm X, Michael Jordan, Michael Jackson, and most NBA/NFL players, etc. for paving the way for you!

2. *Women and culture abroad are vastly different.*

Gender roles, femininity, masculinity, dating, and the availability and demand for men differ vastly. Unlike in the states, gender roles are not adversarial. Women and men are comfortable acknowledging the innate differences between the sexes.

4. *You are perceived as the epitome of masculinity.*

Masculinity, virility, prowess, and cool have historically been defined by Blackness. Women respond instinctively to this. There's a tall, dark and handsome man in most women's fantasies. Will that man be you? When it comes to sex, the physical differences between Black men and "others" is known in every corner of the world. Whether you embody the myth or not, the curiosity is there!

5. *Don't perpetuate the stereotype.*

As long as you don't confirm or perpetuate the stereotype that many people have of Americans, you can write your own ticket and create a unique experience unencumbered by the biases you leave behind.

6. *Come Black to Asia with a deeper understanding.*

If you're coming Black to Asia, trust me, there are a few historical facts you might want to be aware of.

CHAPTER APPENDIX

1. A PRIMER ON WHITE SUPREMACY IN AMERICA

Here's an email I shared with a Chinese male friend to explain a little about racism in America. Our email conversation was about race relations in general, but included references to dating, so I share it with you here. This email includes some anecdotes and observations I've already included in this chapter.

Hey "A,"

Every time I hear you mention something about the perception of Blacks, I have to hold back sharing some things that I think you may be unaware of. I had a friend on Saipan who said something similar once, but, because I never want to say things to make a person feel less positive about themselves, I refrained from sharing. However, since you're not the direct subject of what I'm about to share, I'm going to let you in on a little secret. :-)

I'm going to share something with you that typically you'd only hear if you were Black, hanging out with other Blacks, and specifically those who travel outside of the US.

Not having lived my formative years in America, I've been fortunate not to be burdened with the self-hatred, and low self-esteem that comes with growing up in a racist, society--specifically growing up Black in white-supremacist America. What that means is, it offers me a different perspective of myself in relation to others. But even so, what I'm going to share is something that most any Black (American or not) person who travels outside of America will have the opportunity to experience first hand.

First, let me say that those of us who are aware of the history of Africa, the power of the earliest African civilizations, their influence on world culture, religion, art, music, science, astronomy, etc., have a slightly different perspective on the world and about ourselves.

Books have been written on the theft of Black culture--everything from religion to rap--by whites. (I can give you lists of books if you like). Books have been written (many by whites, themselves) analyzing the obvious pathology of white racism as well as its genetic and cultural origins. These books are not mainstream for obvious reasons.

Those of us who are aware of history are aware of: the whitewash of the earliest images of Christ by the Roman Catholic Church which depicted Christ as Black; the lynching and castration of Blacks by whites during slavery (and today); the African influence on Greek and Roman civilization and on an on...

My point is this: If you are coming into an understanding of yourself as Black, or an appreciation of your history as a member of the African Diaspora, while living in America, you will be poorly served by how Blacks are depicted and perceived in America.

Did you ever wonder WHY whites despise Blacks so much?

The answer is that there is an underlying fear of annihilation that whites feel when confronted with the physical, as well as perceived genetic superiority of Blacks. Whiteness is a recessive gene. In other words, any coupling of a white person with a Black person, or any person who has melanin in their skin, results in offspring that is no longer white. If you do some research on the white supremacist groups that exist in America, you'll discover that THEY are VERY aware of this and this is what permeates much of their literature. Whites oppress and fear Blacks and other people of color for the simple reason that to allow "integration" on any level results in the destruction of the white race. It has nothing to do with the "inferiority" of Blacks, and everything to do with the actual inferiority of whites.

Here are three good books to read on the subject:

1. *The Iceman Inheritance: Prehistoric Sources of Western Man's Racism, Sexism and Aggression.* It was written by Michael Bradley, a white Canadian. One of the opening lines of the book is "The problem with the world is white men."

Here's a review from the Amazon.com site: *Michael Bradley, as a member of the Caucasian race, has bravely stepped forward with a valuable contribution to the analysis of Caucasian group behavior, or should I say misbehavior, toward people of color. No matter what your political affiliation or race, anyone who engages in a discussion of race relations is in reality examining why people who call themselves white have such a seemingly inherent animosity to people classified as non-white. Mr. Bradley also asks why Caucasian culture has an adversarial relationship to the planet Earth. It is a rare white person who will even admit the existence of the global system of white supremacy, let alone one who will*

acknowledge that the group mentality of his race is indeed the source of the racism, pollution, and resource depletion that plague the world.

http://www.amazon.com/Iceman-Inheritance-Prehistoric-Sources-Aggression/dp/1879831007/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1288126948&sr=8-1

2. *The Isis Papers* by Frances Cress Welsing

I would say that this book literally saved my mind! I was able to see things clearly about life in America in ways that saved me from being swept up in the delusion and the white-supremacist brainwashing.

<http://www.amazon.com/Isis-Papers-Keys-Colors/product-reviews/0883781042>

3. *Post Traumatic Slavery Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing* by Joy Leary (to understand the psychological effects slavery and white supremacy have on the minds of its victims)

<http://www.joydegruy.com/ptss/index.html>

There is a historical fear of Black male superiority that comes across and acted out in police brutality, lynching, enslavement, castration, emasculation, character assassinations, etc.

Now, I don't make this stuff up, nor am I alone in my awareness. I simply comment on what countless others more educated than I am say and write. Here's something I found while I was looking for the Tim Wise site. It's a review and commentary by "TRUTH Minista" Paul Scott of a song entitled "Why U Hate?" by the rap artist, Piles (named Algernod Washington at birth).

from the article entitled: "*Why They Really Hate You*"

[begin:] The question that Piles has posed is complex and can be answered on many different levels. However, to get to the root of white hate you must go back thousands of years. According to Canadian writer Michael Bradley, in his book *The Ice Man Inheritance: Prehistoric Sources of Western Man's Aggression*, the problem stems from the hyper-aggressive nature that the European developed as a survival technique for coping with a frigid climate. This led to their need to conquer the whole planet.

Also during the Transatlantic slave trade the Europeans used the myth of racial inferiority to justify slavery. After the Civil War, according to WEB DuBois in his book, "Black Reconstruction," Northern industrialists and members of the Southern aristocracy (the planters) manipulated poor whites into hating the newly freed "slaves" in order to exploit them.

It must be noted that much of the hatin' on black people is based on fear. Dr. Frances Cress Welsing author of "The Isis Papers" has suggested that Caucasians have a fear of genetic annihilation; believing that eventually, through the amalgamation of the races, the white race will cease to exist.

Also there is the fear of "the big pay back" where African Americans will seek revenge on whites for the atrocities committed against them. Over 200 years ago, as Bradford Chambers writes in "Chronicles of Black Protest," Thomas Jefferson predicted that the "deep rooted prejudices of whites" and the "10 thousand recollections by the blacks of the injuries they have sustained" would produce a division that "would probably never end but in the extermination of one or the other race."

Also, black psychiatrists William Grier and Price Cobbs wrote in their 1968 book "Black Rage," "long after slavery, many whites are haunted by a vision of being oppressed, exposed to the whims of a powerful cruel black man."

It must also be noted that this fear also influenced public policy, as during the Civil Rights/Black Power Era, FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, set up COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program) to prevent the rise of a "black messiah" that could electrify the youth. Which leads us to why "they" hate political Hip Hop, since it has the potential to convert rap fans into revolutionaries.

However, white America does not really hate "gangsta" rappers like Piles; she (America) created them. What they fear most is Algernod Washington, the business man who is rumored to have been valedictorian of his high school class and a former college student; the proverbial "fear of an educated black man." The Piles of the world are just thugged -out versions of Frankenstein's monster who have been programmed to never turn on their masters.

[end of song review/commentary]

You've heard the phrase "Once you go Black, you never go back" yes? That refers to the sexual prowess of Black men that many non-Black women experience and who then become hooked on something that they realize they weren't getting before. I have a friend whose cousin dates white women exclusively--and regardless of how crassly he treats them, they keep coming back for more--for this reason.

So, here's my point. Once a Black person--particularly one who has not been self-defined by US culture--travels outside of the American borders, a hidden world opens up. I've experienced this in Manila, Micronesia, and now here in China. There is a fascination that many women have with Black men that you will not know about unless you are the Black male recipient of this fascination.

Of course, I'm aware that at least half of any sampling will reveal those who have been brainwashed by white depictions of Blackness (movies, news, etc.) to fear and reject Blacks.

However, there are those who have NOT been. I would say, the majority depending on where you travel. (The more westernized, the more brainwashed).

When my friend, [name], and I went to the girlie bars in Manila, the girls would stop, stare, gasp, applaud, and ignore their white clients and make us the center of attention. They would run towards us, gather 5,6,7 at a time while the other clients (white males were left alone)

Girls here in China (strangers) will wave vigorously at me, and smile and giggle and come right up and talk.

My friends who've been to the Czech Republic, Germany, and many other parts of Europe will tell me they never have to lift a finger, buy a dinner, or anything because the women so want a Black man that they will basically "keep" him living lavishly.

My African friend on Saipan, who first told me about China, would tell me about many African men who are kept in suits and cell phones (seeming to be business men hustling about the city), but are simply being provided for by girls who want to be with them.

I've had white female friends who share with me their dissatisfaction with their men, and even their shame at being white given what to them are the obvious reasons their men in America fight against Black men and attempt to keep them down. To quote one woman I heard, "It's all about the [phallus]!"

Were you to meet the merchant marines, the military men, and the nomads I've met (and whose ranks I have joined) on my travels, you'd have a completely different view of what it is to be Black outside of the American experience. Again, you won't read about this in any travel guide (usually written by whites), or in any news report. If you are a white male, you won't hear about it from your white women. (You may experience it second hand, though, as did a white male friend who hung out with one of my Black male army friends stated: "How come when we go out, they treat YOU like a king, and they treat me like crap?") This might have been in Manila or some other country in Asia. I don't recall.)

There's a fascination, an attraction, an obsession, if you will, that women have with "going Black.: It comes from the physical prowess (Who has been the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion since Blacks entered the sport? Who dominates Basketball in the states?)

Now, if you're a white male, of course you won't hear it from any Chinese girl you're dating, because she perhaps belongs to the 50% of the sampling who may prefer whites, or who doesn't make any distinction*. And, of course, it's the ONLY thing I hear, over and over again, because the girls who end up in my bed are the other 50% of the sampling! :-)

(At the same time, I should add, again, that I've found that many girls don't even make a distinction in their minds between color, but more so nationality. An American is an American, Black or white)

So, like I said, it's not something anyone else will tell you or know unless you're part of the affected group.

So my point, again, is this. Every time you mention something about the perception of Blacks by Chinese, I keep thinking "he's been living in America too long." The other thing I think is that

there's another side of the coin that you'd never hear about for a few reasons, because

1. the girls aren't going to tell their Chinese boyfriends, lovers or husbands this,
2. Unless you move in certain circles, you're not going to hear it
3. The mainstream perception is going to include it.

Similarly, I realize that I'M not going to hear the other side of the coin, because the girls who are with me, are the ones who like Blacks! So, my experience is completely different! :-)

There's so much more to this topic, but I don't want to make this email TOO long! Just wanted to share this. (I didn't go back and edit this, so it may be a bit disjointed in parts).

There's another good book entitled "*How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*"

So, the point is essentially this: "people who can think critically, and who understand what's happening and what happened don't talk about Black inferiority, because that whole idea is a myth created to cover up a quite obvious recognition of superiority, and can be likened to what psychologists refer to as "projection" where one's own attributes are "projected" onto another (i.e. whites project THEIR OWN feelings of inferiority, and violent tendencies onto non-whites). However, people DO talk about "white hate" and "white pathology," because THOSE are real issues.

People the world over see what those in America are unable to see clearly: The issue of race, of racism and inferiority and the low regard people in America have towards Blacks is not a Black problem, it's a white pathology that extends to other non-white groups as well. It is a construct that whites have erected to further a particular agenda. The civil rights struggle is NOT about Blacks achieving anything to make them more equal, it is about Blacks being the moral compass for a white society that has been too damaged by a tradition of racism to "play nice" with other groups. As I said once in a radio interview on Saipan about Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, "whites have come a long way in their ability to live harmoniously with other groups." I did that to stress the point that people should look clearly at what the whole struggle is all about. Whether it's Ghandi, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, non-whites have always been the moral compass for white society. It is non-

whites who have forced whites to look objectively at themselves and address their pathology in the interest of peace and harmony. The civil rights "struggle" is not about Blacks overcoming. It's about Blacks forcing whites to overcome.

Throughout my life, I've had Koreans and Chinese as well as other groups express their distrust and animosity towards America in particular and whites in general. They tell me that they see how whites treat Blacks and ask me why. I had one Chinese girl here (in China) express her inner happiness at the 9/11 attack because it represented a much-deserved retaliation for what white America is doing all over the world. Sad, but true.

MORE

1. I was going to put together a reading list for you, but Tim Wise (who is white) and who lectures to whites about their race's pathology has already done it. Check out his blog for some eye-opening articles, and his reading list just to get a sense of the ongoing discussion.

<http://www.timwise.org/>

<http://www.timwise.org/reading-list/>

All this is important to understand the paradigm within which Blacks in America are living, but more importantly to begin to isolate what's really going on when you talk about perceptions of Black and white in that country.

[END OF EMAIL to my Chinese friend, "A"]

2. EPILOGUE

Hi "Jay,"

Just thought I'd drop you an email to share a thought with you.

I'm in China right now. As I travel more and more, I realize that the impression that many people have of African-Americans (and Blacks in general) is pretty positive for two reasons:

1. They have direct contact with Blacks and have formed their own opinions based on personal experience.
2. While they have a fascination with the Black experience in America based on videos, sports and music, they have not been brainwashed by 6'0'clock news distortions.

However, as more countries get pulled into the paradigm of corporate capitalism and consumerism, and as more corporations get a foot-hold in countries like China, it will be vitally important to control our own images.

Thanks to Usain Bolt, practically everyone here now knows of Jamaica...:-)

A simple blog like JamaicaninChina.com, that shows positive interactions of Chinese with a Jamaican can go a long way to maintaining the positive image that people have, not just of Jamaicans but Blacks in general.

Talk to you soon!
Your friend, Walt

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3. LINKS FOR FURTHER READING  
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BLOG: Jamaican in China.com

BOOK: The Filipinos of Yesterdays, by Pedro A. Gagelonia

BOOK: The African Presence in Early Asia, edited by Runoko Rashidi

The Global African Presence: Articles by Runoko Rashidi:
<http://www.cwo.com/~lucumi/runoko.html>

Blacks in China: <http://clyde.winters.tripod.com/junezine/id1.html>

The First Chinese: <http://www.africaresource.com/rasta/sesostris-the-great-the-egyptian-hercules/the-black-african-foundation-of-china-the-first-chinese/>

The First Chinese Were Black:
<http://www.edofolks.com/html/pub95.htm>

World's First Civilization:
<http://members.fortunecity.com/jrmoore1959/africapart16.html>

SITE: www.HappierAbroad.com

SITE: www.Timwise.org

[end of preview chapter]

WHAT YOU CAN DO NEXT, BASED ON YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS CHAPTER:

IF YOU HAD

RESPONSE #1: *"Wow! I can't wait to BUY the book! This guy, Walt Goodridge, is the most insightful, informed, intelligent, inspiring writer to come along in years. I MUST order the full book, Harlem to Hainan: Observations by the Jamaican in China!"*

THEN TAKE THIS ACTION: Visit www.JamaicaninChina.com where you can order the book and also visit the award-nominated blog

IF YOU HAD

RESPONSE #2: *"Wow, I want to SHARE this chapter with everyone I know. This guy, Walt Goodridge, is the most insightful, informed, intelligent, inspiring writer to come along in years!"*

THEN TAKE THIS ACTION: Direct all your facebook and email friends to www.jamaicaninchina.com/black or forward this pdf or email .

IF YOU HAD

RESPONSE #3: *"Wow, I want to be just like Walt! I want to know how he thinks, and learn more about his Turn Your Passion into Profit Formula and his Living True to Your Self Belief System. This guy, Walt Goodridge, really is the most insightful, informed, intelligent, inspiring writer to come along in years!"*

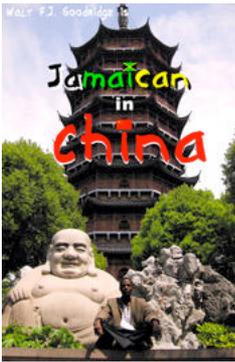
THEN TAKE THIS ACTION: Visit www.passionprofit.com

Please share your thoughts on my blog post for this preview chap: <http://blogs.jamaicans.com/jamaicaninchina/2011/08/30/coming-black-to-asia-brother-you-have-no-idea-2/>



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**ABOUT WALT**  
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Author of 20 books, founder of dozens of websites, coach, nomadpreneur, traveler, columnist and blogger, Walt F.J. Goodridge (*The Passion Prophet, aka The Jamaican in China!*), presents a network of sites, books and products to help you live true to your self....all while enjoying his own freedom on a tropical island in the pacific!



LIKE THE CHAPTER? GET THE WHOLE BOOK!

- Order your paperback copy of the book from which this preview comes, *Jamaican in China: From Harlem to Hainan*, or simply get more dating advice from the Jamaican in China blog at www.JamaicaninChina.com



- Check out Walt's "Living True to Your Self" Belief System and his "Turn Your Passion Into Profit" Formula at www.passionprofit.com