

UN 3rd Session PFPAD

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Speaker: Hunter Adams

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My name is Hunter Adams, III, and here I stand, remembering all our Ancestors, and Paul Robeson.

Greetings to The Chair, The Secretariat, Dignitaries, Delegates, Civil Society Members, and all participants, who aim to design, develop, and deploy a flourishing future for people of African Descent and all human beings.

I am here to address, briefly, Ancestor Psychiatrists Dr. Franz Fanon, and Patricia Ann Newton's Challenge: how do we reimagine a new humanity?

First thing, as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said the night before he joined the ancestral continuum, 'I come here tonight to get the language straight.' In that spirit, I ask you, starting right here, right now to STOP referring to those uncountable number of souls, extracted from the sacred soil that gave birth to human life, as 'SLAVES.' That is someone else's idea of someone else's world model. The word Slave derives from Slav, the name of oppressed Eastern European Slavs; their ethnic name the humiliating brand for bondage Slave.

In 2009, in Lagos, Portugal, a sink-hole was discovered, filled with 400 years of trash, and remains of over 200 "First Generation African 'ransom captives'—not slaves.

With a 15th century Vatican executive order, the Vatican and the king of Portugal deemed these Africans (and Muslims) 'enemies of Christ,' under the "just war" scheme. Their deal, and the Doctrine of Discovery kick-started the Age of plunder.

In March of 1857, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Roger Taney, in the majority opinion of the US vs. Dred Scott, who sued for his freedom and lost, declared, 'Africans are beings of an inferior order.'

Paraphrasing what Minister Malcolm X said in his 'Ballot or the Bullet speech, 'You've been, hoodwinked, bamboozled, and led astray.'

Esteemed participants, words matter. In medicine, you know placebos, a sham substance, drug, or treatment given to a patient believing it helps them. Less well known the is the 'nocebo' – words that harm, this is hate speech or invisible violence.

The word slave is a nocebo slave: it denies, diminishes, and denigrates the humanity of African people. I can never forget when decades ago, a white boy in Sunday school blurted out, you are a slave, like Hebrews in ancient Egypt. That's not true!

The word slave is like a magician's trick, but no rabbit is pulled out of a hat, just minds put in a vat of inferior – superior self-model ideas than the Greek philosopher Aristotle conceived 2300 years ago that divided the people, the evolved into a science of inequality.

In conclusion, to fulfill all the aims of the Permanent Forum, from working at the intersection of cultural neuroscience and epistemic justice, that is system of knowledge production and propagation and value, I offer for consideration three recommendations:

- (1) In the hallway, before you enter this room, there is a small statue of a Kemetic (Ancient Egyptian) netjer of the goddess, called Ma'at; over 6000 years before the present, she represented quintessential ideas of justice including social, economic, environmental medical, and political, before Western ideas. These Africans had a sustainable society, obliged to speak Ma'at, do Ma'at, and live Ma'at. This is what we now must take to a higher level.
- (2) I recommend an epistemic justice tract be added. I argue for reframing the language: a) we should declare dignity for those Africans who were de-ancestralized, cut off from their cultural continuum by stop referring to them as slaves, when they were captives of a sociopathic system; and b) cease using the term 'slave' trade, this was a global human extraction and trafficking enterprise, which continues today.
- (3) I recommend that member African states collaborate and establish The African Brain Initiative, as the United States, Europe, China, and Japan have committed Billions to such brain projects. Any sustainable development and health and well-being program should include brain research to heal the ledger of 24 harms.
- (4) Lastly, following the Humanity Summit group, visit to the scene of subjection in Lagos, Portugal, I call for the establishment of that sacred space of 1444 First Generation of African Captives as a United Nations African Heritage Site.

Thank you.

Hunter Adams