

Who's Your Daddy?

Written by Jeffrey L. Boney

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The phrase “Who’s your daddy?” is a slang expression that, in one use, takes the form of a rhetorical question. It is commonly used as a boastful claim of dominance over the intended listener

In the 2004 American League Championship Series it was used as a sarcastic chant by New York Yankees fans against, then, Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martínez after he made the statement, “They beat me. They’re that good right now. They’re that hot. I just tip my hat and call the Yankees my daddy.”

If you know baseball, you know that the rivalry between the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox is as fierce and competitive as it gets in all of professional sports. By Pedro Martinez uttering those words, it gave unprecedented power to their rival Yankees and to the fans that support the Yankees.

So much so, that in the 2009 World Series, Pedro Martinez found himself hearing the “Who’s your daddy” chants once again from the Yankees fans. This time, however, he was no longer with the Boston Red Sox, he was a starting pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies in Games 2 and 6 of the World Series vs the New York Yankees.

He changed uniforms, changed teammates, changed cities, but could not escape the memory of his past, although things looked different. The Yankees prevailed against him, as they were victorious in both games he pitched, including the Game 6 series clinching game.

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Same thing, different day.

When it comes to the black community, especially after the unjust execution of a possibly innocent man, I ask the question, "Who's your daddy?"

Yeah, we are competitive in sports and entertainment, but are we winning in the areas of education, health, politics, governance, employment, entrepreneurship, wealth, finances and the justice system?

We must take control of our lives and our future and we must start from within.

We must educate our people, that want to be educated, on the impact of their decisions or their apathy.

We must teach people about local, state and federal laws and how they impact them.

We must take a micro-approach to macro-problems, by taking issues on one at a time and supporting organizations that are advocating for and addressing those issues.

We are in the game of life, struggling to have shared economic and social equality, and it seems as if many have pretty much given up and given in to the notion that others are better than us, superior than us and will beat us at everything.

I have literally heard black people ask the question, "Is the NAACP still relevant" and when they encounter injustice, they seek out the NAACP or someone to assist them. (SMH)

How much of a mental hindrance must it be when you think to yourself that being black is inferior, less than or bad? Better yet, how much of a mental hurdle must it be when you are told

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that by other blacks and hear it continuously?

We must take control of our personal lives and get back to a community approach to our problems. We cannot run away from our issues, and yes I said OUR issues, thinking that going to the suburbs is going to stop you from being black in America. Being black is a blessing, because God created you to be black. If God wanted you to be White, Asian or Hispanic, He would have done it. He made you to be a beautiful black person with tons of ability, skills and intelligence. There is hardly anything that has been done in this country from a progressive standpoint, that can't be attributed to or influenced by a black person.

In order to get our house in order, we must first acknowledge that our house is messy and in disarray.

KNOW THYSELF BLACK PEOPLE!

You are black whether you:

- Get a high school diploma or a Ph.D
- Become the CEO of a Fortune 500 company or work minimum wage
- Own a billion dollar company or a small mom and pop establishment
- Drive a Bentley or a Hyundai
- Fly in first class or coach
- Want to accept it or NOT

I wonder if some of these high-profiled celebrities, politicians and entertainers now realize they are still black, after their encounters.

Now, I am not saying that black people should alienate themselves because they are black, but they shouldn't shun and run away from their blackness either. I'm just saying that you shouldn't be like Sarah Jane in the 1959 movie "Imitation of Life," who disowned her black mother, only to find herself crying and realizing that she couldn't run from her blackness, no matter how hard she tried to disown it.

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YOU ARE BLACK AND YOU BETTER GET USED TO IT, BECAUSE YOU WILL BE BLACK FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE AND THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE!

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