

By Harriett Muhammad

DEAR HARRIETT,

There is something on my mind. I would like to know the causes or motives for so many suicides among the Asiatic black people in America. A student friend of mine met an aboriginal black virgin last year. She caught him going into a hotel with a white prostitute. That evening she took her life.

When he learned of the tragic death, he was later found in his car with a bullet in his brain. Granted, he took her most prized possession — her virginity. Yet how could love and kindness and devotion become so distorted?

At one time, it was mostly the so-called whites who committed suicide. To speak frankly, I'm anxious for my people because they have to breathe the degenerate religious atmosphere which is partly caused by so-called Christians who lean toward Humanism and deny the supernatural. I've lost my best friends in a disillusioned and weary world.

Have the aboriginal black people in America become the victims of a mental or moral astigmatism? Is there an answer to this highly complex phenomena, suicide, regarding the black people in America? How can one deal with human idiosyncrasies? Is history the fortuitous play of individual caprice?

MR. J. C.
SEATTLE, WASH.

DEAR MR. J. C.

You have lost two good friends by suicide, and this has turned your attention to the subject. True, suicide rates among Negroes have increased slightly, but they are not at all out of propor-

tion when compared to other peoples, and especially when one considers the life that the so-called Negro is forced to lead in the United States.

Concerning your friends, this girl took her life within hours after having experienced what must have been a very painful discovery. If she was in love, she probably felt that she had been used and betrayed. Most women can only love one man at a time and when they love, it engulfs their whole emotional being.

Their first true heartbreak is always a terrible ordeal. This girl may have been more affected than most, or less able to stand trials, and took her life in an emotional moment when her life seemed unbearable to live.

His suicide was probably the result of self criticism and feelings of guilt for having been the cause of her death. Love, one of the most supreme feelings a person can possess can react in many surprising and violent ways. Deaths and suicides stemming from love or the loss of love have always been with us and will continue so. If you have never loved and lost, it will be hard for you to completely understand what happened to your friends.

Concerning your other

for whatever reason, can have a deleterious effect on the user, a report made here to the American Medical Association warned.

A team of three physicians said aspirin in big doses can make a person drunk; can cause confusion, bizarre behavior, movement disorders and swollen eyes.

They pointed out that the "aspirin-eater" often is unable to give a clear account of what he has ingested until the toxic effect has worn off.

Dr. Kendall B. Corbin of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., told of several cases of aspirin overdose. There was the man, 59, with a nerve pain who had to be hospitalized because of confusion and agitation that deepened into a coma. After the toxic effect had worn off, he said he had taken about 700 five-grain tablets in 15 days.

questions concerning the so-called Negro and the causes of suicide:

One cause for the increase of suicide among Negroes is due to the search for identity. Many Negroes don't know who they are or what they are doing. They are afflicted with a crushing sense of "nobodiness."

The marks and damages of more than three hundred years of white oppression—of being subject to a system designed to destroy ambition, erode intelligence, and prevent independence have left the so-called Negro masses in a state of apathy.



BRIGHT-EYED Par Evans, who recently won in New York City the title of Miss American Model for 1964-65, fortunately possesses brains as well as beauty. Miss Evans won her title because she was one of the most photographed black models in 50 states. Future plans, an ideal homemaker. Miss Evans is deeply interested in the expansion of educational opportunities for Negro girls in America.

Whats even more painful — the majority aren't aware of their apathetic conditions.

Many suicides among Negroes occur when they have tried to identify with the white man and his culture and have been rejected. They find that a black man

can never be a white man in a black skin.

TO BE CONTINUED:
Something on your mind? Write and tell me about it.
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THE HONORABLE ELIJAH