

StirFry Seminars

July 2008

DEAR SENATOR BARACK OBAMA,

I AM WRITING YOU THIS PUBLIC LETTER BECAUSE YOUR ELECTION AS PRESIDENT COULD CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY IN THIS COUNTRY. FOR THE PAST FIVE HUNDRED YEARS WE HAVE BEEN PRACTICING A "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" POLICY WHEN IT COMES TO TALKING ABOUT RACE ISSUES. YOUR RECENT LETTER ABOUT RACE ENCOURAGES SO MANY OF US WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING SINCE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO, ONCE AGAIN, HAVE SUCH A CONVERSATION ON A NATIONAL SCALE.

THERE ARE MANY IN THIS COUNTRY WHO WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT BRINGING UP SUCH DELICATE ISSUES AS RACE AND RACISM WILL ONLY FURTHER INFLAME THE FRAGILE RELATIONSHIP WE ALREADY HAVE OR THAT RACE IS NO LONGER AN ISSUE. STILL OTHERS WOULD PERSUADE US THAT TO TALK ABOUT THIS ISSUE IS TANTAMOUNT TO EITHER BEING UNPATRIOTIC OR PRACTICING REVERSE RACISM. I WOULD PROPOSE THAT NONE OF THESE SENTIMENTS ARE TRUE.

WHAT WE HAVE NOW IS A "MIRAGE" WHEN IT COMES TO INCLUSION. WE HAVE COME TO THINK THAT INCLUSION CAN BE SATISFIED BY SIMPLY CELEBRATING OR ACKNOWLEDGING DIVERSITY; THAT HAVING ETHNIC FOODS AND CULTURAL DANCES WILL LULL US INTO THINKING THAT WE HAVE DONE ENOUGH TO BRING ABOUT MEANINGFUL INCLUSION. THIS TYPE OF "SOCIAL INCLUSION" HAS NOR TO END DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES PROMOTES THE NOTION THAT SIMPLY WORKSHOP ON RACE A YEAR FULFILLS I KNOW, SENATOR, THAT YOU ARE AWARE ANGUISH AND THE HOPELESSNESS THAT

HOWEVER, THERE IS A SOLUTION. THE EXPOSED AND RESPONDED TO IS TO HAVE EACH ENTITLED, "WALKING EACH OTHER HAVE AS THEIR GOAL CONVERSATIONS AND AUTHENTIC EXCHANGES THAT AND UNDERSTANDING. LET US DECLARE CHURCHES AND SYNAGOGUES, IN OUR



NEITHER THE POWER TO CREATE CHANGE AND PRACTICES. RATHER, IT IS ONE THAT BEING "AWARE" IS ENOUGH OR THAT ONE THE QUOTA FOR "DIVERSITY EDUCATION". OF WHAT I AM ALLUDING TO AND THE SUCH PRESUMPTIONS INCITE.

ONLY WAY SUCH NOTIONS CAN BE NATIONAL TOWN HALL CONVERSATIONS, HOME." THESE DIALOGUES COULD ABOUT RACE BASED UPON HONEST ENCOURAGE CURIOSITY, COMPASSION THESE NATIONAL CONVERSATIONS IN OUR SCHOOLS AND IN OUR WORKPLACES!

LET US BEGIN BY OUR WILLINGNESS TO HEAR EACH OTHER'S STORIES AND EXPERIENCES, NOT AS A COMPETITION TO DETERMINE WHO IS RIGHT OR WRONG, BUT FOR THE OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH OF US TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER. FROM THERE, PERHAPS WE CAN FINALLY LIVE UP TO OUR CONSTITUTION'S BOLD PROMISES AND FULFILL "THE DREAM" THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SPOKE OF. SENATOR OBAMA, THIS IS THE TYPE OF CHANGE I CAN BELIEVE IN. THIS IS THE TYPE OF CHANGE WE CAN ALL BENEFIT FROM— FOR OUR CHILDREN AND FOR OUR ANCESTORS WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES SO WE COULD ALL LIVE BETTER LIVES...ONE WHERE EACH PERSON'S COMMONALITIES AND DIFFERENCES ARE EQUALLY VALUED AND HONORED.

Senator Obama, perhaps we can begin by walking each other home.

LEE MUN WAH
MASTER DIVERSITY TRAINER & FILMMAKER

JULY WORLDWIDE CELEBRATIONS

JULY 11 - WORLD POPULATION DAY • JULY 16 - WORLD SNAKE DAY • JULY 18 - NELSON MANDELA'S BIRTHDAY
JULY 25 - YALONG CULTURAL FESTIVAL (TIBET) • JULY 27 - CUBAN REVOLUTION DAY • JULY 31 - IMBOLC