

## ***From The Publisher***

Both John A. Williams and John O. Killens observed that when powerful White institutions anoint a Black writer, even sections of the Black intelligentsia accept the token, uncritically. The same is true of theater, film, and other arts. This rule not only applies to Black Americans, but Latinx, Asian-Americans, and Native-Americans. It's probably only natural that ethnic groups are cheered when the Colonial office selects one of their own, a practice used by the Puritans who promoted those whom they called "Praying Indians," those whose highest ambition was to enter, "The Englishman's Heaven." Any member of the community who objects to the choice coming down from high is dismissed as disgruntled, or "jealous cause they didn't choose you."

Now we have the inaugural poem from Amanda Gorman. Here again, the poet was chosen by Jill Biden who played Gloria Steinem's role and predictably many Blacks, including Black intellectuals, who fell all over themselves applauding the poem. One poet, who knows better called her, "Our Whitman."

Some backed off from jumping on me after my comments were less than enthusiastic about the poem. This happened after the Inaugural poet spoke of her admiration for "Hamilton." She said that she listened to "Hamilton" while writing the poem and refers to "Hamilton" in the poem. This child doesn't know that Alexander Hamilton was a slave trader and advocated the extermination of Native Americans. If they wanted a Black woman, why not Nikki Giovanni or Sonia Sanchez, seasoned well-known names in Black households? Moreover, were these supporters aware that the United States has a Poet Laureate, Joy Harjo? This great Native American poet was snubbed by Jill Biden. The same thing happened to Al Young when he was California Poet Laureate. He prepared a poem for Arnold Schwarzenegger's inauguration only to be told that California's First Lady had chosen someone. When he asked for an explanation, he was told to reintroduce himself to the Gov. He'd already met Gov. Schwarzenegger who even quoted from Al's great poem, "Conjugal Visit." I think that Jill Biden exercised this choice out of naivete. We endorse Genny Lim and Robert Hass's comments about the poem. Genny Lim got some heat from those who believe that any choices that come down from the Big House must be right.

The patriarchal media owners, like the men who use surrogates to malign Black men, have different motives. They see the Black Bogeyman thing as profitable. Though corporate feminists work in places where powerful

misogynists dwell--their bosses--both see launching Black Bogeyman stereotypes as profitable. No matter what one thinks of Bill Cosby, facts show that he was ambushed by the criminal justice system and the media. An ambitious politician whose platform was that he would get Cosby: a partial judge and his feminist wife; prosecutors who turned away Black jurors. Camille Cosby is not only a philanthropist but an author. We're publishing her remarks about Hate. I figure plenty of it has been hurled at her and her family. In her article, she endorses the recommendation that racism gains an entry in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. The media featured a story that Bill Cosby raped an underage child at the *Playboy* mansion. The judge threw it out because she lied. The media did no follow-up. Dr. Cosby writes:

“Those particular white people delusively and dementedly felt and believed that their male and female whiteness gave them lifelong entitlements and supremacy. Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint's profound and timeless article, ‘They Hate. They Kill. Are They Insane?’, was originally printed as an opinion piece in The New York Times on August 26, 1999. Dr. Poussaint was not then supported by his peers in the profession of psychiatry; probably because legions of psychiatrists have professional and personal histories of racism.”

When the new psychiatrists of Racism select their first cases, might some of those whom Chavisa Woods writes about in our guest editorial volunteer for treatment? One of the sources of the epidemic of White racism in our country is fundamentalist Christianity. The Haitian poet Boadiba expresses alarm at the threat to traditional Haitian religion posed by American missionaries. Whenever the American Association of Psychologists does hold a meeting on whether Racism should be defined as a mental illness, Amina Baraka should be called upon to testify. She and her husband, the late Amiri Baraka, faced a crude and ugly form of racism in Newark when the police shot Black rebels. We are honored to include John Edgar Wideman, whose fiction is always fresh and original. Legendary, and veteran poet Quincy Troupe leads a strong Poetry section that includes writers who are published for the first time. Andre Pierre proves that the painters of Haiti are among the most talented in the Hemisphere.

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