

Zaid Chughtai  
Human-120-4421  
Sharare Sharoki  
July 11, 2022

### Think Straight yet outside the box

There are many things in this world that exist which are irrational, and you wonder how they even exist; one of them is racism. To find an answer to this question is hard; it's hard to determine why one race became "superior" over another and how we can reverse this. There is no real "logical" answer, and you must be creative to solve an unsolvable problem. A great example of this would be World Hunger; the solution seems very easy, give everyone food that needs food, and we solve world hunger. Yet, World Hunger hasn't been solved, and it's not about a "logical" solution but rather a creative one, where you think outside the box. Today, the world faces a lot of crises, which can be avoided and solved because they have a simple solution, Global warming: where you would simply need to lessen the carbon emissions and plant more trees. Even though they are simple, they aren't acted on, and even when they are acted on, they seem to have no effect. America faces an obesity crisis that could be solved by eating less and exercising, yet it's still prevalent problem in today's time. Similarly, there is a big problem with Racial Justice, where inequality exists. In the essay "White Supremacy & Social Justice" by Charles W Mill, he defines what racial justice is: "A straightforward answer is that it would be a society in which people's life chances would be independent of race, that nobody would be unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged because of race" (195). Racism didn't happen over a year or a decade but rather generations and centuries. To be able to solve something like Racial Justice, you can't look for a "straightforward answer," but rather a creative one that is unorthodox yet will bring justice to racial equality.

One problem in the world is that people only think in one direction; for example, if you ask someone what the first thing they imagine when they hear the word "middle east." Most, like the answer, would be a desert, a camel, or someone in a turban:

however, this is far from the truth; most middle eastern people haven't even seen a camel in their lives. The reason why most people think this way is because of the information that was fed to them through children's books or even media. People have a notion of an object and automatically associate/correlate stereotypes with that object. In Ted: "The danger of a single story," Chimamanda Ngozi talks about the importance of perspective and the danger of this one direction of thinking. Ngozi shares a story about her childhood, where she was influenced by the books she read. She had a passion for writing; when she would often write her books, her characters were white and would be eating apples on a snow day. If you look at her story, nothing seems out of the ordinary, but she had lived in Africa, where she hadn't seen snow, where they were mangos and no white people. She understood that there was more than one way of writing a story, so she started writing characters in the way she saw the people around her. Even though Ngozi understood this idea of not associating places or people with stereotypes, she makes the same mistake when she visits Mexico, assuming it is a bunch of drug cartels and people facing immigration problems.

Ngozi's story shows the effects perspective can have on a person. When it comes to Racial Justice, people have a single notion of what it is and how to stop it. People worldwide have consumed enough media and information that people have "negative" thoughts about Racial Justice and misunderstand it. In the essay "White Supremacy & Social Justice" by Charles W Mill, he talks about the importance of history and who is telling the story. He brings up the point that most people that write about Racial Justice are white philosophers who are under an anomaly viewpoint (202). The importance of who tells the story can impact how people perceive an idea or the subject. For example, when a kid gets in trouble at school, he thinks he never did anything wrong but was racially profiled by the teacher. The teacher says the kid is a trouble maker; everyone would believe the teacher rather than the kid because a "kid" has no merit; where his opinion matters, he will be in trouble. When it comes to Racial Justice, most information is provided through media, written by some white philosopher who isn't right. People who read these white philosophers' work are heavily influenced and don't think Racial Justice is even a thing, just like some people believe the Earth is flat or Global warming isn't real.

Telling a story is one part of it; the other is to tell the story in a manner everyone understands from a wider lens. In the Ted talk, "How can we make racism a solvable problem – and improve policing, " Philip Atiba Goff shares how to solve racism by improving policy. Atiba Goff brings up the homeless problem, where there was high brutality toward homeless people, and how they were able to lower the brutality and help the people. The "straightforward" answer to brutality toward homeless people would be simply to stop being brutal to them. However, Goff and his team had a different approach to the solution where they looked for the cause of brutality toward the homeless people. Homeless people have a lot of distress, mental problems, and nowhere to go, and most cruelty comes from people calling the police to get rid of the homeless person in front of their yard. Through his team effort, they learned that they needed to provide mental support for the homeless, which helped lower the brutality. Similarly, Racial Justice requires different thinking. Otherwise, there wouldn't be racial injustice in today's time. When giving the example of homeless brutality, people start to realize that, its not the police that are the problem but rather the people that call the police to take care of the homeless people. The police people don't know the exact reason on why they were called but besides, the reason that have to move the homeless person somewhere else, but the homeless person doesn't have anywhere to go. In a similar fashion, we can see that racial profiling is a thing that is prevelant in todays time, where people are targeted and suspected of a crime based on how they look or dress. Its hard to explain Racial Justice, and its solution, when the story is only looked through one lens, but if it were to be looked through a wider one, people will be able to relate towards it.

When the United States were formed, in its delectartian of independence, it stated," that all men are created equal". The delectaration of independence, wants to say that everyone is equal but at the same time they say "men", and nothing about the "women". In 1920, was when women could legal vote, and they earned their right to vote, but the problem is: it was only the white women. For black women, they earned their right to vote by 1965. In the Ted talk, "An interview with the founder of black lives Matter," Alicia Garza, Patrice Cullors, and Opal Tometi, discuss the importance of asking the right question, and fighting for equality on all fronts(everyone). They give an

example of the wage gap; when it is discussed, it primarily refers to White women only, not the other women. The wage currently is where Hispanic women full-time earn 58 cents, black women earn 63 cents and white women earn 80 cents compared to men. This example solidifies how thinking should be done, where you have to ask the right questions, to find the right solution. If the gender pay gap is solved, it would only be solved for white women, and not for others, because every time the gender pay gap is mentioned, they mention the 78 to 100 ratio not the other ratio of Hispanic or black women. To be able to solve Racial Justice, one would have to look at every aspect, whether its Black, White, Muslim, Christian or what not, everyone should be treated equally. Bringing a straightforward solution doesn't always work when it comes to people that differ in ideologies but if you bring an idea which makes everyone support the cause, we maybe able to fight racial justice and solve it.