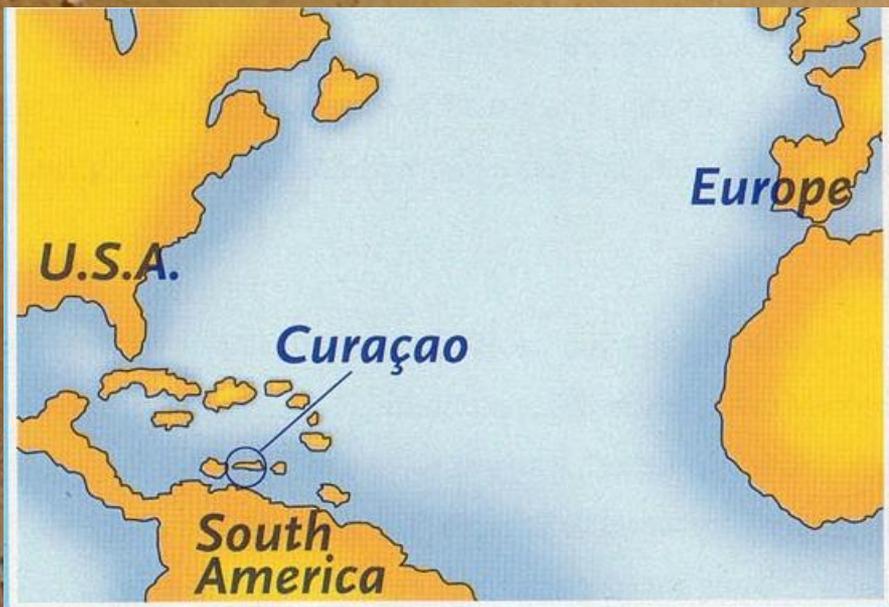


“The Disjunction between National
Identity Formation
and
the Lived Experience of Racism in
the Postcolonial Dutch Caribbean”

Angela E. Roe, M.A.

Florida International University, Miami

Dec 2009



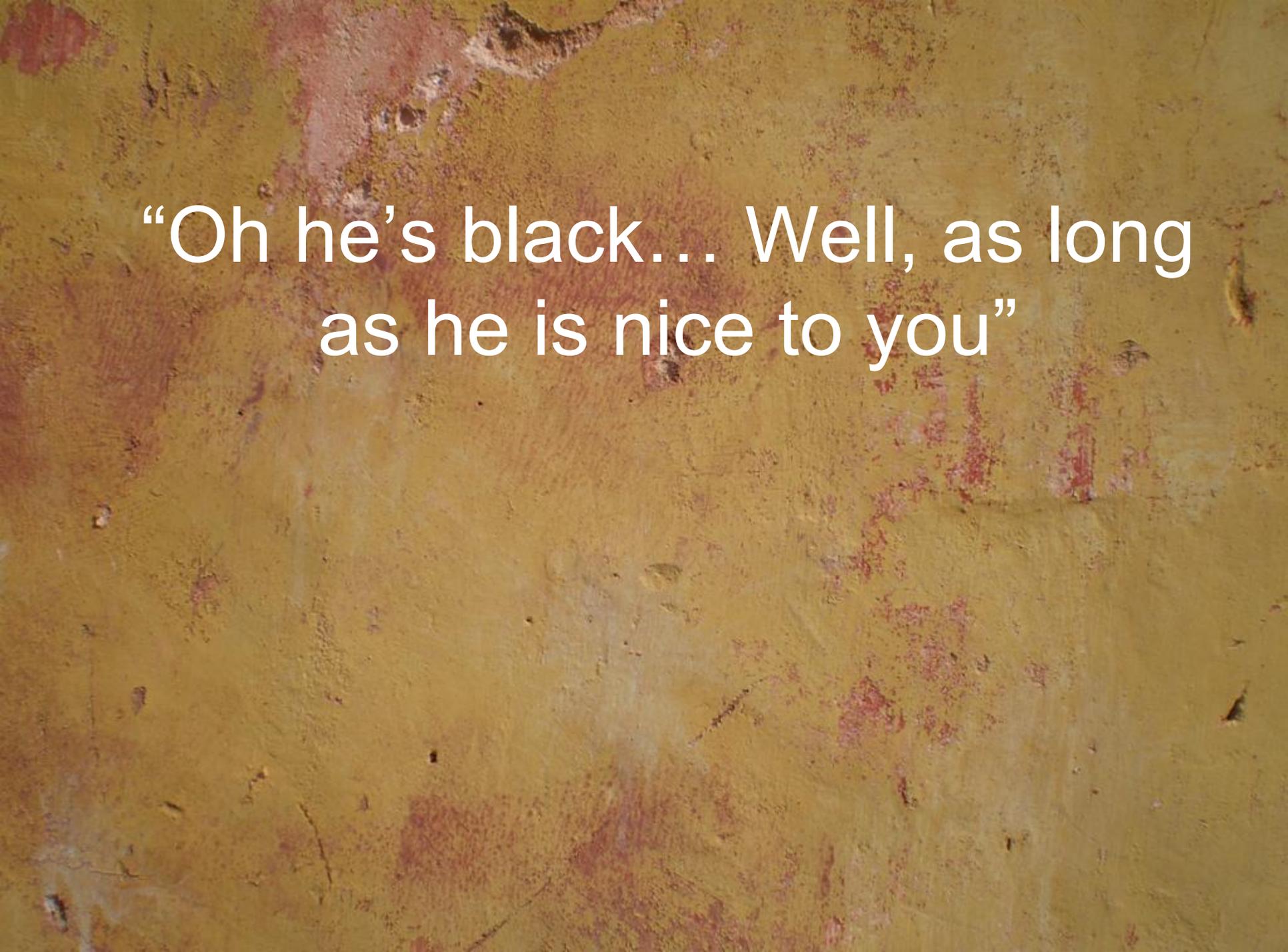
Colonial Society 1634 -1916

Upper Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dutch Protestants• Sephardic Jews	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ruling class, plantation owners• Trade, agriculture
Middle Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dutch Protestants• Sephardic Jews• Middle Easterners • Asians• “Mulattos”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Artisans, workmen in construction & harbor, sailors• Trade, agriculture• Trade • Trade• Trade, administration
Lower Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freed blacks • Slaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Artisans, workmen in construction & harbor, sailors, agriculture • Slave labor on plantations & salt pans, house slaves, artisans, workmen, sailors

Drecha rasa = “fixing the race”

(Papiamentu, Curacao’s creole language)

“You can do whatever you like,
I just don’t want you
to come home
with a black man”



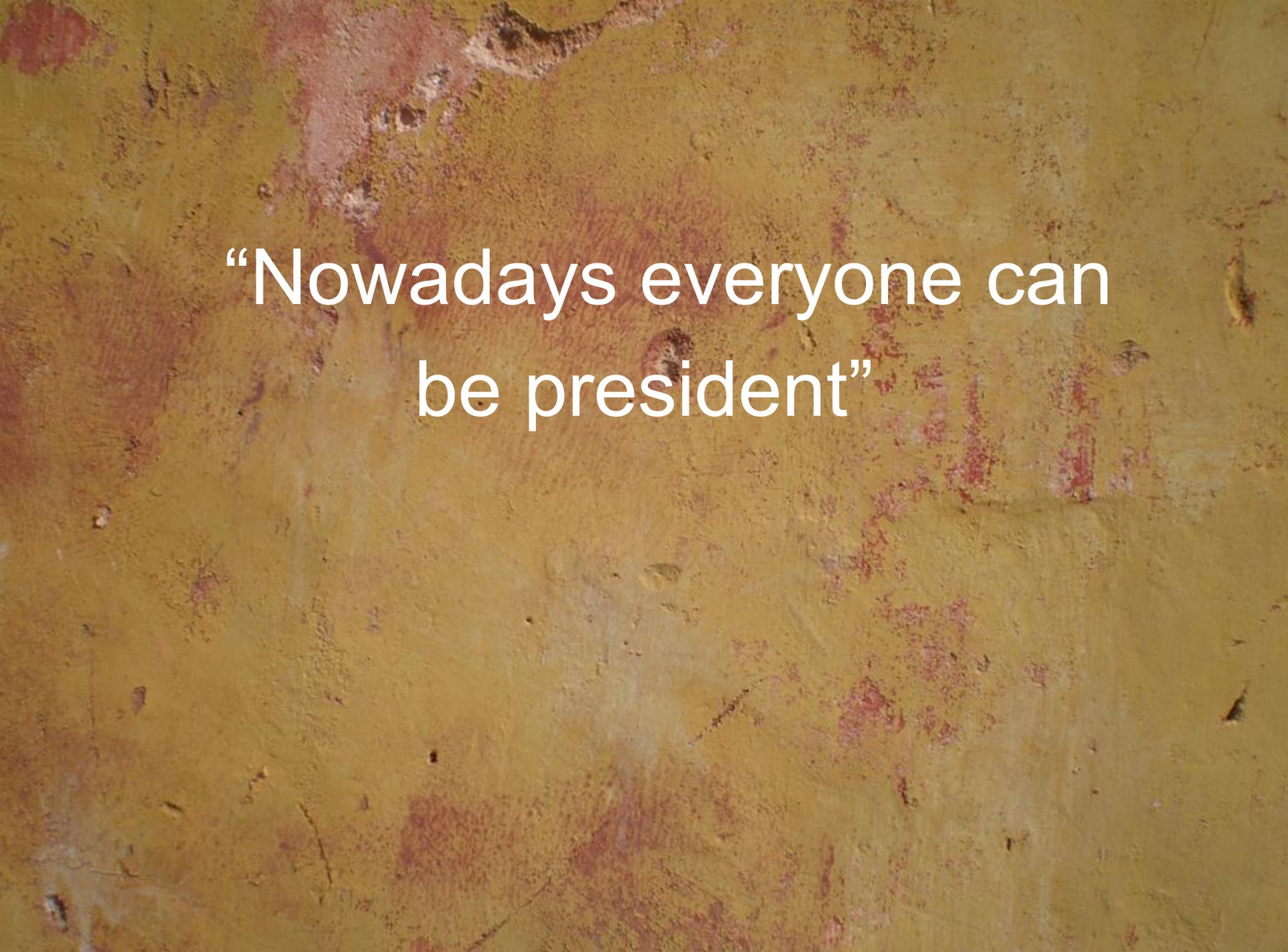
“Oh he’s black... Well, as long
as he is nice to you”

“What kind of black is he,
Obama or Shaka Zulu?”

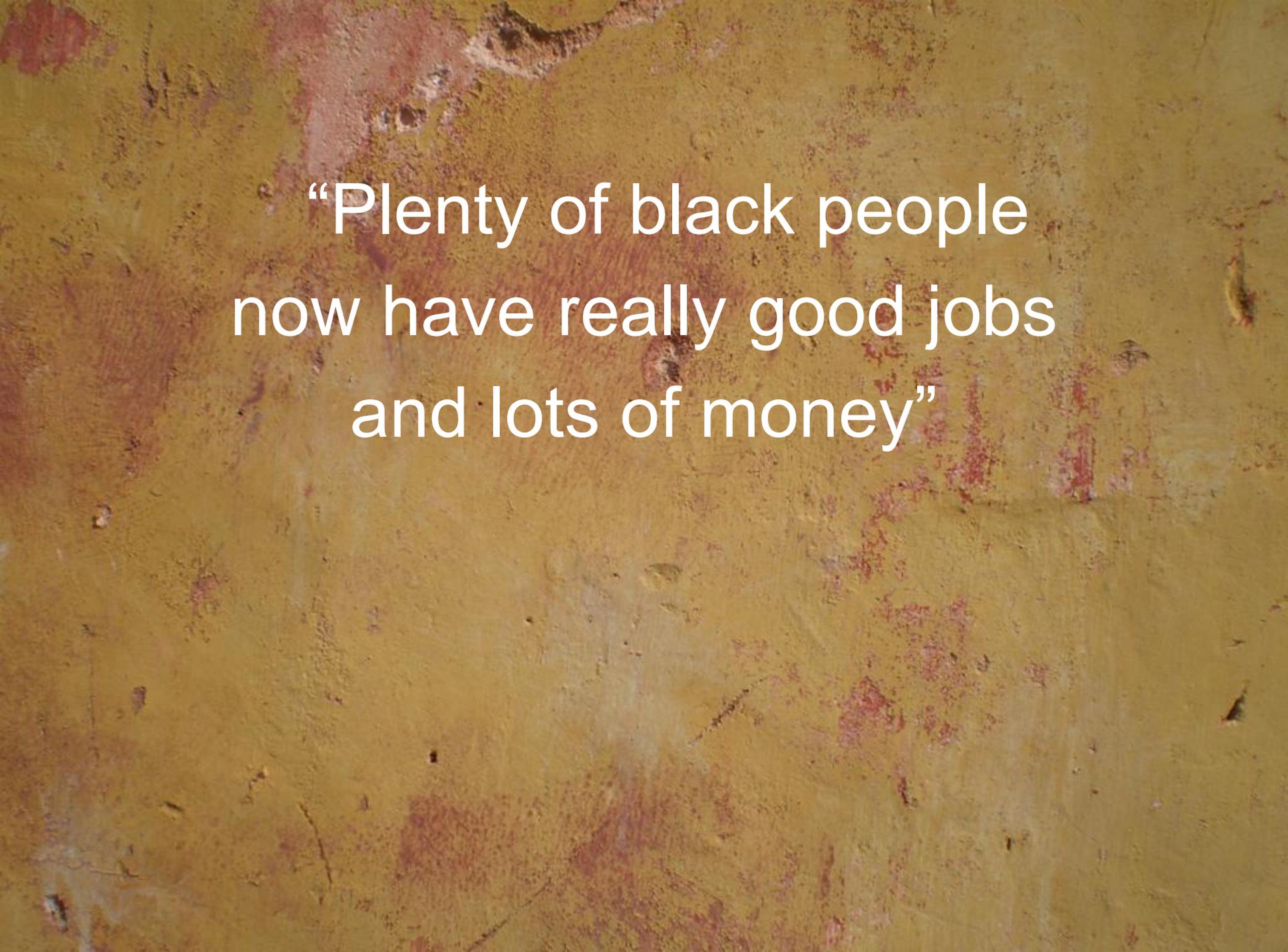
“Racism?”

No, that’s something from the past, from the days of slavery.

But that has been over for quite a while now.”



“Nowadays everyone can
be president”



“Plenty of black people
now have really good jobs
and lots of money”

“Everyone can achieve the same things, you just gotta work for it.

But Curacaoans are lazy.

They want everything for free.

So if they don't do well, it's their own fault”.

“Hidden” or “Color-Blind” Racism

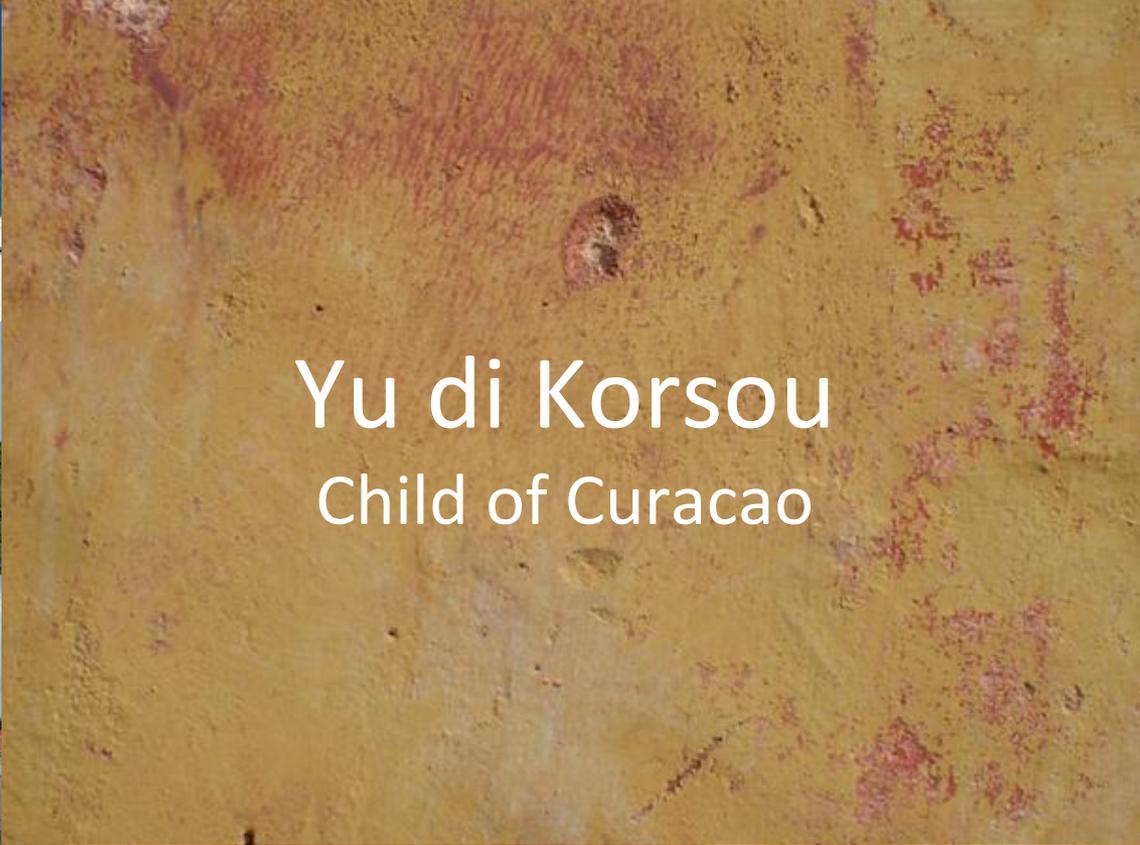
Racism without Racists

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva 2006

“Color-Blind” Racism

Leslie Carr 1997

“We have no racism here,
because we are all
Curacaoans,
regardless of race, ancestry,
color or class”.



Yu di Korsou

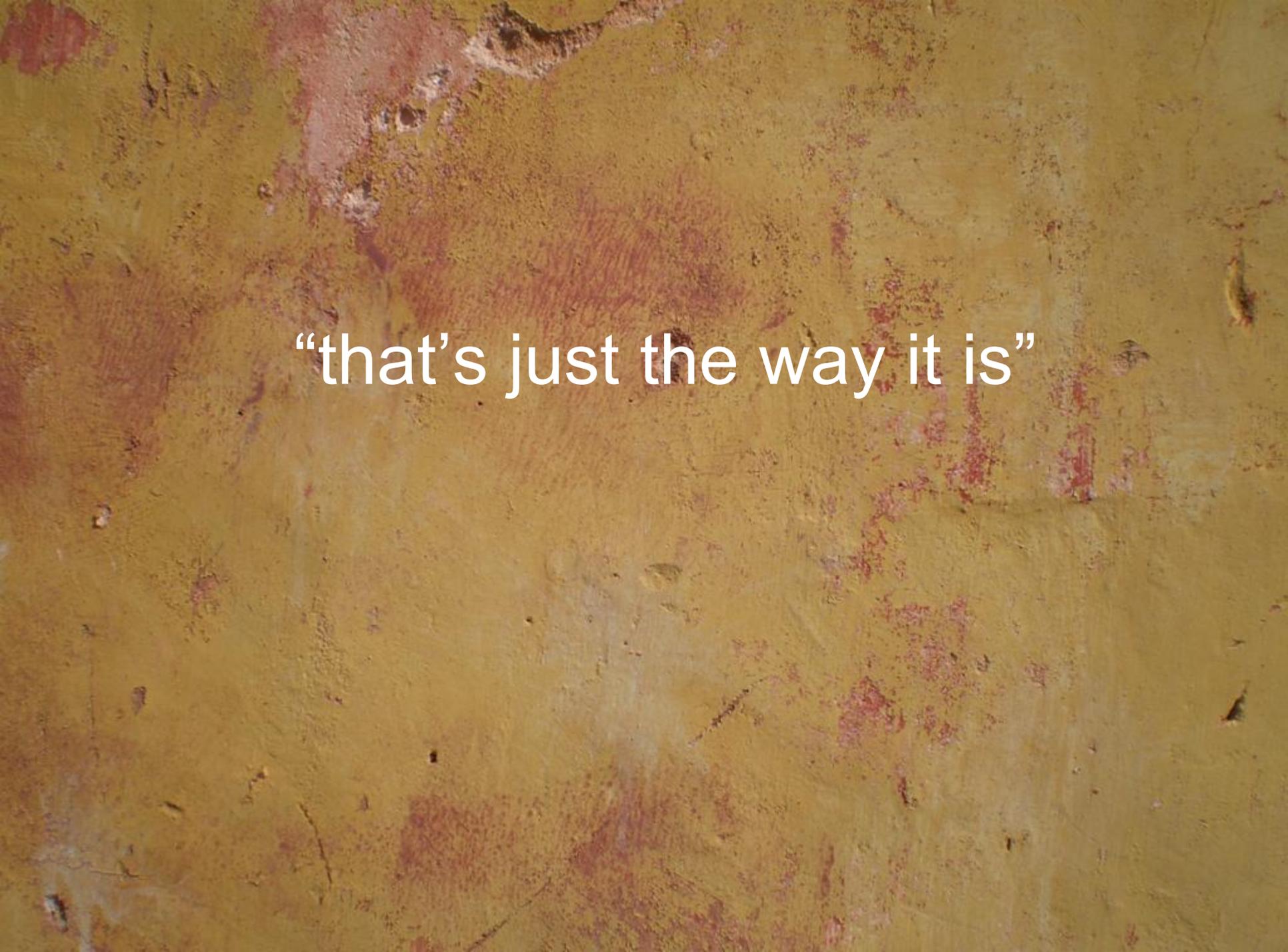
Child of Curacao

Curacao's red soil...



National Identity Formation

- History
- Territory / soil
- Language – Papiamentu
- Enemy or opponent – colonizer and patriarch the Netherlands.
- Love for the island
- Sense of profound belonging
- Contributes to Curacao's well-being
- Know the culture



“that’s just the way it is”

The Yu'i Korsou identity places
the equality that Curacaoans seek
forever out of reach,
because by rendering racism
invisible, racial inequality
continues.

Undisturbed.