

The Oppression Olympics

*[And the new acceptable
politics of exclusion]*

“Is it any wonder that as a straight white male,
I don't like the Oppression Olympics?”

Because as a straight white male,
I'm not allowed to play.”

[Straight white male approaches the crowd...]

“Hello, I'm here for the Oppression Olympics”

“Go away”

“Can't I play?”

“No”

“Oh, I'm being excluded, am I?”

“You don't count. You're not excluded from anything. You're a straight white male”

“Well, seems like I'm being excluded from this”

“No you're not. It's just not your place”

“Oh, is that right? And that's just how it is?”

“Yes, that's just how it is. Your fault for being a straight white male. Go away”

“Now you're ganging up on me”

“Yes”

“Which makes me the most excluded and oppressed out of all of us in this exchange, doesn't it? I'm not allowed to play! I have no place in this model!”

“This is our model now, not yours. Shut up, you don't have a voice”

“That's what I mean! I can speak but you can't hear me. It's like you're invalidating who I am without even knowing me. Seeing right through me and seeing only an image of your own convenient imagining! You just don't see me as an individual, do you?”

“Oh, we know your type. You're a straight white male”

“But there's more to me than that. I'm not a group. I'm a person”

“You've had your day, whitey!”

“What?! Isn't that racist?”

“You can't be racist to white people, stupid. All the historical oppression you've caused. The systemic abuse...”

“Me? I work for a charity”

“Yeah, I bet. To appease your straight white guilt!”

“No. Because I want to make the world a better place”

“Well that didn't work out so well, did it? Look at the world you've created! A world created by straight white men. And you're one of them!”

“Are you mad? I'm just me. I can't win, can I? It's like you're putting all the world's ills upon me, just because I'm a straight white male”

“That's right”

“Really?”

“Yes”

“So in your fight against racism, sexism, and discrimination based on sexuality, you are actually employing all of the things you rail against?”

“What are you talking about now? We're all for liberty, diversity, acceptance, freedom of expression...”

“Well, you say that... and that all sounds well and good... but it doesn't feel like it. It's as though you're seeing me through an adopted and assumed ideological lens. Like you've created a new bogeyman, and I happen to fit the bill...”

“Go on... but don't mansplain now...”

“Well, it's like you're seeing me with an implanted view you've been given. An implanted view you've taken as right, and identified with. And now you've got to protect that view like you would protect yourself, rather than looking at the truth of the matter as it is, here and now, individually, in this specific case, without filters. Your very identity depends on not seeing clearly”

“Hate crime!”

“No, not on my part. 'Straight,' 'white' and 'male'... these are categories based on sexuality, race, and sex. And you're judging me solely by these categories”

“Yep”

“Well isn't that discrimination based on sexual preference, racism and sexism?”

“No”

“Why not?”

“Because it doesn't work that way! You can't punch down, you can only punch up! And since you're at the top, you have nowhere to go. You have no say in this!”

“What makes you think I'm at the top? You know nothing about my personal experiences, life and circumstances. What if I were to tell you I'm pretty much on the poverty line?”

“Oh, don't be a dick. Poor white boy!”

“Add an unwarranted insult into the mix, why don't you?”

“You're a Nazi. A bigot!”

“And another. And another... I'm getting this now...”

“No you're not! You don't get anything! You don't understand! You'll never understand the suffering! You're a bigoted bastard and your discrimination is beginning to make me feel unsafe...”

“Funny that. Feels like I'm the one being attacked, dehumanised and delegitimised”

“Make it all about you, why don't you! Think the world revolves around you! Well it does. You're a straight white male!”

“So?”

“So every door is open to you! There's nothing you can't do! You don't have to lift a finger! Everything falls in your lap, lands on your plate, automatically, without you even trying! You're just so normal, and you're welcome everywhere without question...”

“Great, so can I join your Oppression Olympics now?”

“No! Fuck off!”

“I didn't want to play anyway. Your game looks pretty shit.”

~Nathan Godolphin

07/03/20.