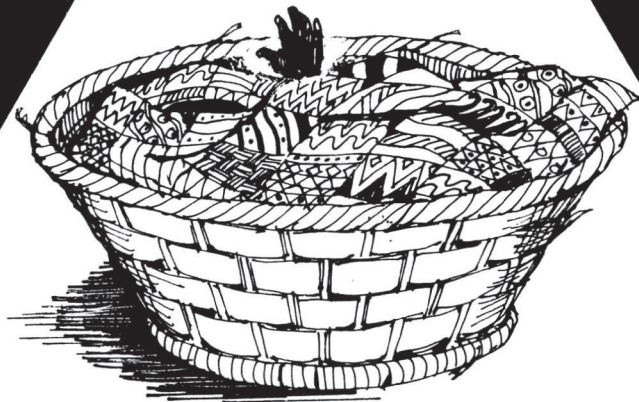


There are 519 million, 870 thousand Black Women on the planet Earth, give or take a dozen. There's a Black Woman on each of the seven continents, in almost every country and in the space program. So no matter where you go, she's already been there. She travels with forces greater than herself. Her presence is everywhere.

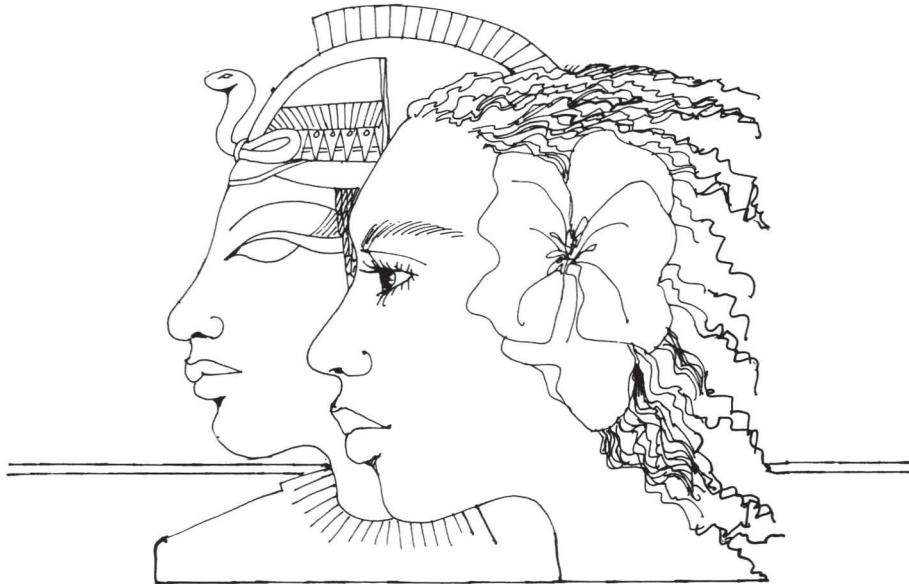
The BW* is the African Diaspora in its highest feminine form.

Spotlight, please —



She is so bodacious that, here at the head of the 21st Century,
other folks are now claiming to **be** her.

So from the git-go:
Black is not just other than White.
Black is more than the experience of Oppression.
Black is exactly that.



And while we accept the recognition of
Others as a compliment, we think the Black
Woman has earned her own space, that
space is sacred, and we dare to claim that
space for her.

With all due respect, and with the understanding that there is no
monolithic Black Woman, we're going to use these abbreviated I.D.'s
as our shorthand:

BW = Black Woman **BWn** = Black Women

BWs = Black Woman's or Women's (possessive)

WHERE DID SHE COME FROM?

(AND THEN, WHERE
DID SHE GO???)

We thought you'd never ask!

The BW comes from Africa, which holds (to date) the only evidence of humans living more than a million years ago. Her most famous known ancestor is "Lucy" ...



... whose skeleton was at least 3 million years old when they tripped over it in an Ethiopian desert back in 1974. What a surprise! However, Lucy hadn't finished evolving into a "Human" as we know them today. That took another 2 million, 800 hundred thousand (or so) years.

Which brings us to the first known diva,
SISTUH EVE— our “Mitochondrial Mother,”
or cell mother.



Sistuh Eve

Through modern technology, scientists have isolated the DNA in our gene cells, and determined that a Sistuh (whom they nicknamed "Eve") lived some 200,000 years ago, (roughly 6 million years post chimpanzee), claimed Africa as her hometown, and liked to travel. Which is to say, scientifically, that everybody came from one woman, and she was Black.

Black!!
black
b-l-a-c-k

Of course, not everyone is thrilled about this:



Still, Sistuh Eve represents the beginning of **modern** homo sapiens, modern "**humans**" — folks who walk, eat, and reason like you do, and that's what's important. She is the original "First Lady."



No, this
Mohenjo-Daro
bronze image
dates back to
the Harappan
people of
2500 B.C.

WHERE DID SHE GO?

Sistuh Eve and her children went all over the place, via migration, war, commerce, assimilation, enslavement, marriage, procreation. They took their melanin (the genetic stuff that keeps them bbbBlack) with them.



In ancient times Africa and Asia were connected by land, so Sistuh Eve sent some of her children out to play—in what we know today as Asia, India, Europe and the Americas.

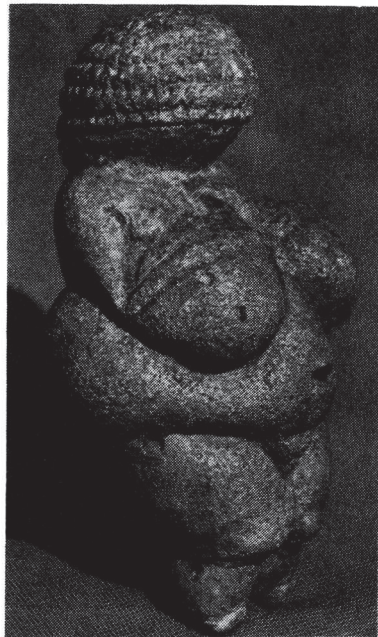


Around 5000 years ago some families moved from Africa to Sumer (in Southwest Asia, later known as Mesopotamia). A few hundred years later the DRAVIDIANS went to check out the Indus Valley (India), stayed, and ruled it for a thousand years. Today India has the largest number of Blacks in Asia.



A modern Dravidian woman, early 1900's.

Another Black prehistoric group, the GRIMALDIS, made it to Europe some 30,000 to 40,000 years ago, and are considered its first modern population. (If they'd known about the Ice Age they would have stayed home.) Their icons have been discovered in Italy and Australia.

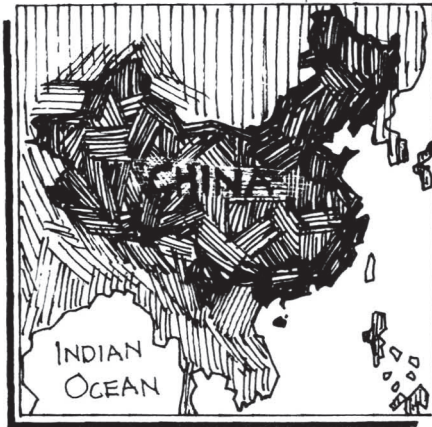


A 4½" clay piece by the Grimaldis, one of the earliest depictions of the female form. Found in Austria, dubbed (strangely) "The Venus of Willendorf."

The Anu (Ani) people from Southern Europe and Nubia settled in China, India and Persia (now Iran), and Blacks were visible in China's Shang Dynasty from 1766 - 1043 B.C.

“Negritos whom the Chinese call ‘Black Dwarfs’ are reported in the mountainous districts south of Yangtze ... Some emigrated, but others remained and were assimilated by the dominant southern Mongolian stock, as witness to kinky hair and swarthy skin noticeable among a few southern Chinese.”

L. Carrington Goodrich
A Short History Of The Chinese People, (USA)



As documented by Herodotus and others, Blacks (Colchians) have been in Russia for at least 3000 years, near the Black Sea in the Caucaucus Mountains. In the late 17th Century, Blacks were imported by Peter the Great as servants and court amusements.

Around 1000 B.C. sailors from Africa's southwest coast (Guinea) made boats and followed the ocean currents to the Americas. Their self-portraits--stone heads averaging 7' tall, weighing 20 tons--have been found throughout Mexico and Central America.



A 20 ton artifact should
make you wonder how anyone
could celebrate Chris
Columbus' "discovery!"



The Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci was headed toward the Americas in 1500 when (according to his letters) he spotted Black men on the Caribbean island that is now Curaçao. He later witnessed African sailors on the Atlantic **returning** to Africa.



In other words, the BW's
presence outside Africa
began, not as a slave,
but free!