



The Green Book

by Lady Karen J. Minor-Turner

Day 40
April 8, 2023

Scriptures for Mediation

Read Joshua 1:8

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

Critical Race Facts:

Public spectacle lynchings drew large crowds of white people, often numbering in the thousands, to witness pre-planned, heinous killings that featured prolonged torture, mutilation, dismemberment, and/or burning of the victim.

In 1940, Jesse Thornton was lynched in Luverne, Alabama, for referring to a white police officer by his name without the title of “mister.”

White men lynched Jeff Brown in 1916 in Cedarbluff, Mississippi, for accidentally bumping into a white girl as he ran to catch a train.

Prayer for Today:

Lord, Thank You for those who through creativity, character and consistency found ways to allow us to experience life and its abundance that You came to give us. In Jesus Name, **amen.**

The Green Book, or The Negro Traveller’s Green Book was named after its Publisher Victor Green, and was considered by many the African American Traveller’s Bible during the Jim Crow era.

Jim Crow and racial discrimination along with the rise of the black middle class, gave African Americans the opportunity to purchase cars. Fed up with discrimination in public transportation, the more well to do blacks found relief in owning their own cars. As Southern African American migrated from southern farms to northern factories, they also transitioned from subsistence to sustainability and surplus which afforded the opportunity to enjoy more of life’s leisure including the leisure of travel.

There was still one problem however, hotels restaurants, gas and service stations were still segregate and off limits to African Americans in most states throughout the country.

Additionally, African American who owned their own cars were often seen as uppity and incurred racial profiling, driving while Black, harassed and often found themselves in very dangerous situations. Travelling in Sundown and A.N.N.A.H. Towns (Ain’t No Niggers Here), African Americans had to be out of town by sundown or face dangerous and deadly consequences. African Americans learned how to adjust in their challenging situations. African Americans traveled with meals in their cars. They made fried chicken and other foods that could be eaten during the drive on the side of the road. They carried buckets in their car to relieve themselves of their bodily waste because they weren’t allowed to use many of the public restrooms. To help moderate this most challenging and difficult situation, Victor Green filled a great need with his annually publication of the Green Book. It provided African Americans travelers a guide to safe travel by highlighting the towns where African Americans could find hotels, or private homes that would provide lodging, meals and entertainment for African American Travelers.

After the 1964 Civil Rights Acts which the Green Book became obsolete, but its subsequent obscurity can never dim its importance in African American History, African American Entrepreneurialism, and the road to African American empowerment.

