

“The Eight Semantics of Oppression”

by William Brennan
Dehumanizing the Vulnerable

	DEFICIENT HUMAN	NON HUMAN	ANIMAL	PARASITE	DISEASE	INANIMATE OBJECT	WASTE PRODUCT	NONPERSON
NATIVE AMERICANS	<p>“INDIANS [ARE]...INFERIOR TO THE ANGLO-SAXON.” (HENRY CLAY, SEC. OF STATE, 1825)</p>	<p>“THE LIFE OF THESE [ABORIGINES] IS...NOT HUMAN.” (ARTHUR HUGH BRACKENRIDGE, 1779)</p>	<p>“THE INDIAN...IS AN UNTAMABLE, CARNIVOROUS ANIMAL.” (DR. JOSIAH NOTT, 1847)</p>	<p>“CLEAR THE COUNTRY OF THAT VERMIN [INDIANS].” (COLONEL HENRY BOUQUET, 1763)</p>	<p>“THE IROQUOIS HAD PROVED MORE DEADLY...THAN THE PESTILENCE.” (HISTORIAN FRANCIS PARKMAN, 1902)</p>	<p>“[INDIANS ARE] ANTHROPOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.” (AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE, 1904)</p>	<p>“[INDIANS ARE] THE VERY DREGS, GARBAGE...OF EARTH.” (POET CRISTOPHER BROOKE, 1622)</p>	<p>“AN INDIAN IS NOT A PERSON WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE CONSTITUTION.” (GEORGE CANFIELD, AM. LAW REV., 1881)</p>
AFRICAN AMERICANS	<p>“A SUBORDINATE AND INFERIOR CLASS OF BEINGS.” (U.S. SUPREME COURT, 1857)</p>	<p>“THE NEGRO IS NOT A HUMAN PERSON.” (BUCKNER PAYNE, PUBLISHER, 1867)</p>	<p>“THE NEGRO IS ONE OF THE LOWER ANIMALS.” (PROFESSOR CHARLES CARROLL, 1900)</p>	<p>“THEY [NEGROES] ARE PARASITES.” (DR. E.T. BRADY, 1909)</p>	<p>“FREE BLACKS IN OUR COUNTRY ARE...A CONTAGION.” (AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOC., 1815-30)</p>	<p>“A NEGRO OF THE AFRICAN RACE WAS REGARDED...AS AN ARTICLE OF PROPERTY.” (U.S. SUPREME COURT, 1857)</p>	<p>“THE NEGRO RACE IS...A HERITAGE OF ORGANIC AND PSYCHIC DEBRIS.” (DR. WILLIAM ENGLISH, 1903)</p>	<p>“IN THE EYES OF THE LAW...THE SLAVE IS NOT A PERSON.” (VIRGINIA SUPREME COURT, 1858)</p>
SOVIET ENEMIES	<p>“THE UNCIVILIZED, STUPID, TURGID PEOPLE IN THE RUSSIAN VILLAGES.” (AUTHOR MAXIM GORKY, 1922)</p>	<p>“KULAKS ARE NOT HUMAN BEINGS.” (LENIN AND STALIN, 1918-34)</p>	<p>“[PEASANTS ARE] BEASTS OF BURDEN.” (GEORGE PLEKHANOV, 1823)</p>	<p>“THE KULAK, THE PARASITE.” (LENIN, 1918)</p>	<p>“EVERY RELIGIOUS IDEA [IS] ‘CONTAGION’ OF THE MOST ABOMINABLE KIND.” (LENIN, 1913)</p>	<p>“[GULAG SLAVE LABORERS ARE] RAW MATERIAL.” (AUTHOR MAXIM GORKY, 1934)</p>	<p>“A FOUL-SMELLING HEAP OF HUMAN GARBAGE [PURGE TRIAL DEFENDANTS].” (PROSECUTOR ANREI VYSHINSKY, 1938)</p>	<p>“UNPERSONS WHO HAD NEVER EXISTED.” [DESIGNATION FOR PEOPLE PURGED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT]</p>
EUROPEAN JEWS	<p>“THE INFERIOR JEWISH RACE.” (DR. RUDOLPH RAMM, 1943)</p>	<p>“JEWS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY A RACE, BUT NOT HUMAN.” (ADOLF HITLER, 1923)</p>	<p>“THE PRISONERS HERE ARE ANIMALS.” (NAZI ANATOMY PROF. DR. AUGUST HIRT, 1942)</p>	<p>“THE JEW IS A PARASITE.” (NAZI PROPAGANDA BOOKLET, 1944)</p>	<p>“SOME DAY EUROPE WILL PERISH OF THE JEWISH DISEASE.” (JOSEPH GOEBBELS, 1939)</p>	<p>“TRANSIT MATERIAL.” (PORTRAYAL OF JEWS DISPATCHED TO NAZI DEATH CAMPS, 1942-44)</p>	<p>“WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THIS GARBAGE [JEWS]?” (CHRISTIAN WIRTH, EXTERMINATION EXPERT, 1942)</p>	<p>“THE REICHSGERICHT ITSELF REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE JEWS...AS ‘PERSONS’ IN THE LEGAL SENSE.” (GERMAN SUPREME COURT, 1936)</p>
WOMEN	<p>“THEY [WOMEN] FORM... THE SECOND SEX, INFERIOR IN EVERY RESPECT TO THE FIRST.” (A. SCHOPENHAUER, 1851)</p>	<p>“WOMEN ARE NOT SEEN AS HUMAN.” (REPORT BY WOMEN’S GROUP ON PORNOGRAPHIC IMAGES, 1980)</p>	<p>“WOMEN ARE DOMESTIC ANIMALS.” (19TH-CENTURY POET CHARLES BAUDELAIRE)</p>	<p>“WOMEN’S SEXUAL PARASITISM IS INNATE.” (PHILOSOPHER RENE GUYON)</p>	<p>“THE WORST PLAGUE ZEUS MADE--WOMEN.” (ANCIENT GREEK POET SEMONIDES)</p>	<p>“I CONSIDERED MY WIFE...MY PROPERTY.” (FORMER WIFE ABUSER, 1989)</p>	<p>“EMPTYING REFUSE INTO A SEWER [THE WOMAN’S BODY].” (AUTHOR HENRY MILLER, 1965)</p>	<p>“THE STATUTORY WORD ‘PERSON’ DID NOT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES INCLUDE WOMEN.” (BRITISH VOTING RIGHTS CASE, 1909)</p>
UNWANTED UNBORN	<p>“THE FETUS, AT MOST, REPRESENTS ONLY THE POTENTIALITY OF LIFE.” (U.S. SUPREME COURT, 1973)</p>	<p>“A FETUS IS NOT A HUMAN BEING.” (RABBI WOLFE KELMAN, 1984)</p>	<p>“LIKE...A PRIMITIVE ANIMAL THAT’S POKED WITH A STICK.” (DR. HART PETERSON ON FETAL MOVEMENT, 1985)</p>	<p>“THE FETUS IS A PARASITE.” (PROF. ROSALIND POLLACK PETCHESKY)</p>	<p>“PREGNANCY WHEN NOT WANTED IS A DISEASE...IN FACT, A VENEREAL DISEASE.” (PROF. JOSEPH FLETCHER, 1979)</p>	<p>“PEOPLE’S BODY PARTS [EMBRYOS] ARE THEIR PERSONAL PROPERTY.” (ATTORNEY LORI ANDREWS, 1986)</p>	<p>“AN ABORTED BABY IS JUST GARBAGE...JUST REFUSE.” (DR. MARTTI KEKOMAKI, 1980)</p>	<p>“THE WORD ‘PERSON’ AS USED IN THE 14TH AMENDMENT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE UNBORN.” (U.S. SUPREME COURT, 1973)</p>
DEPENDENT DISCARDS	<p>“A LIFE...DEVOID OF THOSE QUALITIES WHICH GIVE IT HUMAN DIGNITY.” (DR. HARRY HARTZELL, 1978)</p>	<p>“NO NEWBORN INFANT SHOULD BE DECLARED HUMAN UNTIL IT HAS PASSED CERTAIN TESTS.” (DR. FRANCIS CRICK, 1978)</p>	<p>“UNTIL A LIVING BEING CAN TAKE CONSCIOUS MANAGEMENT OF LIFE...IT REMAINS AN ANIMAL.” (PROF. GEORGE BALL, 1981)</p>	<p>“THAT’S A REAL PARASITE.” (MEDICAL STAFF CHARACTERIZATION OF A DEBILITATED PATIENT, 1989)</p>	<p>“THOSE ‘SICKLERS.’” (DOCTORS’ PORTRAYAL OF PATIENTS WITH SICKLE CELL ANEMIA, 1986)</p>	<p>“I CAME TO SEE THE PATIENTS AS WORK OBJECTS.” (NURSING HOME STAFF MEMBER, 1977)</p>	<p>“THERE’S A LOT OF RUBBISH [PATIENTS] THIS MORNING.” (ER DOCTOR, 1979)</p>	<p>“NEW-BORN HUMANS ARE NEITHER PERSONS NOR EVEN QUASI-PERSONS.” (PHILOSOPHER MICHAEL TOOLEY, 1983)</p>