

No sooner, therefore, as we may suppose, was the news of the birth of this third son carried to Noah, than, being anxious to embrace him, saw with amazement, that it was diverse from the other two, and from all mankind; having not the least affinity of complexion with any of the human race; and being in an ecstasy, at the sight of so fair and ruddy an infant, beautifully white and transparent of complexion, cried out, while under the influence of his joy and surprise, JAPHETH! which word became his name; to this, however, he added afterwards, God shall greatly enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem and Canaan, that is Ham shall be his servant; so that, in a political sense he was higher than the other two.

But if our opinion on this subject is esteemed not well supported, we would add one other circumstance, which would seem to amount to demonstration, in proving Ham and his posterity to have been black at the outset.

The circumstance is as follows: At two particular times, it appears from Genesis, that Noah declared Ham with his posterity should serve or become servants to both the posterity of Shem and Japheth. If one were to inquire whether this has been fulfilled or not, what would be the universal answer? It would be—it has been fulfilled. But in what way? Who are the people? The universal answer is, The African race are the people. But how is this proved, unless we allow them to be the descendants of Ham.

If, then, they are his descendants, they have been such in every age, from the very beginning; and the same criterion, which is their colour, has distinguished them. This proves their progenitor, Ham, to have been black; or otherwise it had been impossible to distinguish them from the posterity of the other two, Shem and Japheth, and whether the denunciation of Noah has been fulfilled or not, would be unknown. But as it is known, the subject is clear; the distinguishing trait by which Ham's posterity were known at *first*, must of necessity have been, as it is now, black.

We have dwelt thus far upon the subject of human complexions, because there are those who imagine the variety now found among men, to have originated *purely* from climate, food, and manner of living; while others suppose a *plurality* of fathers to have been the cause, in contradiction of the account in Genesis, where *one* man is said to have been the father of all mankind. But on this curious