

MINORITIES

by Gwendalle Cooper

Interesting word, "minority". I looked up the definition in various locations and found that the concept of "less than" took on different meanings. Numerically, it implies a lesser, or lower, number that is less than what is the above number, or less than; fewer than, etc.

I found an interesting description. The example was 8 pennies and 2 dimes. If one is thinking in total numbers, then 2 dimes would be less than 8 pennies, and therefore a minority of coins. If one thinks in terms of the amount of money, then 8 pennies would be a smaller amount than 20 cents, those would be the minority amount of 8 cents, which leads to a point of how one views a term and the implications thereof.

In terms of people, the term "minority" implies various concepts. If a group of people is less in number than another group of people, the lesser group is considered the minority, and the larger group -- the majority. That is reasonable when we are thinking only in terms of numbers. But things get a bit foggy when the terms are applied in other areas. The idea of 'less than' is fine in numerical terms. The fog thickens when the concept of "less than", is applied to people, regarding other concepts as faiths (religions), and race is applied. The term then seems to expand into negativity, and divisive concepts. Attitudes then engage into demeaning concepts where "less than" becomes "not good enough", "not equal to", sometimes a whole other description including a species, methinks. Here, enter color concepts; what is/was considered the majority just because of a color of people. Every other color of people became the "minority", regardless of numbers. How, in helping a child with mathematical concepts and terms would you explain the differences?

Using the concept of 2 dimes and 8 pennies, the dimes are white and the pennies are copper colored (or brown?). Yes, the dimes are white, but there are only two of them. Does that make them superior in number or just amount? Or color? There are certainly more pennies. In amount of coins, that should make them the majority, but somewhere in the viewing, they become "less than",

and thus inferior; "less than", regardless of the number. Somehow, I find this interesting when looking at our world of people.

The truth be known: Do people not know that the smallest number of human inhabitants of this earth are 'white'. The rest are various shades of black and brown, and that is a huge number. I have never seen a really yellow person, who was not jaundiced, but the ones referred to in that category are actually, I think, the largest in numbers.

Maybe we should leave mathematics out of this and start viewing peoples as the creations of the Almighty, who accepts all His Creations (human) and judges only as to the way they live their lives; how they think; how they treat each other, and how they apply the universal concepts of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Endurance to each day they live. Does one look within to find the source of all that happens to one, or is one looking outwardly to blame someone else for their difficulties.... and sometimes using numbers in their so-called justifications! I would love for the majority to be those who follow the Universal Law; and the minority?....only those who have not yet realized the difference and will eventually enlighten to the Truth