

Words from the WELL



Book Discussion - I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown



What we heard at the well! Wise words from Black Women - LISTEN!

- ♥ "I'm still here because I have a little brown girl to raise up and be an example for."
- ♥ "I'm not here to educate my white co-workers: Google is Free!"
- ♥ It is overwhelming being a black woman at times."
- ♥ "I love being dignified, unafraid to speak my mind."
- ♥ "Everything/everyone comes from a Black woman!!!"
- ♥ "We can build community anywhere"
- ♥ "Ain't no friends in here, who wants a T-shirt?"
- ♥ "I am still here because of a praying mother and a WHOLE lot of second chances."
- ♥ "The 'angry black woman' trope is sometimes why I hesitate to speak up at meetings--really want to work on using my voice more and expressing when something is uncomfortable or not right."

We Wear the Mask by Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872 - 1906)

We wear the mask that grins and lies,
It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes,—
This debt we pay to human guile;
With torn and bleeding hearts we smile
And mouth with myriad subtleties,

Why should the world be over-wise,
In counting all our tears and sighs?
Nay, let them only see us, while
We wear the mask.

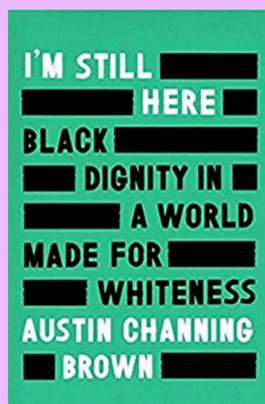
We smile, but, O great Christ, our cries
To thee from tortured souls arise.
We sing, but oh the clay is vile
Beneath our feet, and long the mile,
But let the world dream otherwise,
We wear the mask!



Austin Channing Brown

"**White supremacy** is a tradition that must be named and a religion that must be **renounced**... those who live in Whiteness become oppressive, whether intentional or not." (p. 23)

- [Learn More about Austin Channing Brown and her work.](#)
- [Get access to the book discussion guide.](#)



What's up next from TWC

6/3 @ 4pm EST- "I'm Still Here"- Book talk part two

6/3 @ 5pm EST- Wellcome to the WELL: Black Women as Re(Sisters)

6/17 @ 4pm EST- Teaching, Loving, & Believing in Black Girls