IV. Five Principal Varieties of Mankind, One Species

... all mankind, as far as it is at present known to us ... may best ... be divided into the five following varieties ... Caucasian, Mongolian, Ethiopian, American, and Malay. I have allotted the first place to the Caucasian ... which make me esteem it the primeval one. This diverges in both directions into two, most remote and very different from each other; on the one side, namely, into the Ethiopian, and on the other into the Mongolian. The remaining two occupy the intermediate positions between that primeval one and these two extreme varieties; that is, the American between the Caucasian and Mongolian; the Malay between the same Caucasian and Ethiopian.

Caucasian variety. Colour white, cheeks rosy; hair brown or chestnut-coloured ... face oval, straight, its parts moderately defined ... To this first variety belong the inhabitants of Europe ... and those of Eastern Asia, as far as the river Obi, the Caspian Sea and the Ganges; and lastly, those of Northern Africa.

Mongolian variety. Colour yellow; hair black, stiff, straight and scanty; head almost square; face broad, at the same time flat and depressed ... This variety comprehends the remaining inhabitants of Asia ... and the Finnish populations of the cold part of Europe, the Lapps, &c. and the race of Esquimaux, so widely diffused over North America, from Behring’s straits to the inhabited extremity of Greenland.

Ethiopian variety. Colour black; hair black and curly; head narrow, compressed at the sides; forehead knotty, uneven ... To this variety belong all the Africans, except those of the north.

American variety. Copper-coloured; hair black, stiff, straight and scanty; forehead short ... This variety comprehends the inhabitants of America except the Esquimaux.

Malay variety. Tawny-coloured; hair black, soft, curly, thick and plentiful; head moderately narrowed ... This last variety includes the islanders of the Pacific Ocean, together with the inhabitants of the Marianne, the Philippine, the Molucca and the Sunda Islands, and of the Malayan peninsula.

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Caucasian variety. I have taken the name of this variety from Mount Caucasus, both because its neighbourhood, and especially its southern slope, produces the most beautiful race of men, I mean the Georgian; and because all physiological reasons converge to this, that in that region, if anywhere, it seems we ought with the greatest probability to place the autochthones of mankind. For in the first place, that stock displays, as we have seen, the most beautiful form of the skull, from which, as from a mean and primeval type, the others diverge by most easy gradations on both sides to the two ultimate extremes ...
Ethiopian variety. This variety, principally because it is so different in colour from our own, has induced many to consider it, with the witty, but badly instructed in physiology, Voltaire, as a peculiar species of mankind. But it is not necessary for me to spend any time here upon refuting this opinion . . .

American variety. It is astonishing and humiliating what quantities of tables were formerly spread about the racial characters of this variety. Some have denied beards to the men, others menstruation to the women. Some have attributed one and the same colour to each and all the Americans; others a perfectly similar countenance to all of them. It has been so clearly demonstrated now by the unanimous consent of accurate and truthful observers, that the Americans are not naturally beardless . . .

Malay variety. Meanwhile even these differ so much between themselves through various degrees of beauty and other corporeal attributes, that there are some who divide the Tahitians themselves into two distinct races; the first paler in colour, of lofty stature, with face which can scarcely be distinguished from that of the European; the second, on the other hand, of moderate stature, colour and face little different from that of Mulattos . . .


**CARL LINNAEUS (1707–1778)**

**SYSTEMA NATURAEC (1735)**

HOMO Sapiens. Diurnal; varying by education and situation


   *Hair* black, straight, thick; *nostrils* wide; *face* harsh; *beard* scanty; obstinate, content, free. *Paints* himself with fine red lines. *Regulated* by customs.

3. Fair, sanguine, brawny. *European.*
   *Hair* yellow, brown, flowing; *eyes* blue; gentle, acute, inventive. Covered with close vestments. *Governed* by laws.

   *Hair* black; *eyes* dark; *severe*, haughty, covetous. *Covered* with loose garments. *Governed* by opinions.

   *Hair* black, frizzled; *skin* silky; *nose* flat; *lips* tumid; crafty, indolent, negligent. *Anoints* himself with grease. *Governed* by caprice.

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The Spaniards that live about that Country (especially farmers of the valley of Mixco . . .) allege that all their trading, and farming, is for the good of the Commonwealth, and therefore whereas there are not Spaniards enough for so ample and large a Country to do all their work, and all are not able to buy slaves . . . they stand in need of the Indians help to serve them for their pay and hire; whereupon it hath been considered, that a partition of Indian labourers be made every Monday, or Sunday in the afternoon to the Spaniards, according to the farms they occupy, or according to their several employments, calling, and trading with Mules, or any other way. So that for such and such a district there is named an officer who is called Juez Repartidor, who according to a List made of every farm, house, and person, is to give so many Indians by the week. And here is a door opened to the President of Guatemala, and to the Judges to provide well for their menial servants, whom they commonly appoint for this office, which is thus performed by them. They name the Town and place of their meeting upon Sunday or Monday, to which themselves and the Spaniards of that district do resort. The Indians of the several Towns are to have in a readiness so many labourers as the Court of Guatemala hath appointed to be weekly taken out of such a Town, who are conducted by an Indian officer to the Town of general meeting; and when they come thither with their tools, their spades, shovels, bills, or axes, with their provision of victuals for a week (which are commonly some dry cakes of Maiz, puddings of frijoles, or French beans, and a little Chile or biting long pepper, or a bit of cold meat for the first day or two) and with beds on their backs (which is only a coarse woolen mantle to wrap about them when they lie on the bare ground) then are they shut-up in the Town-house, some with blows, some with spurnings, some with boxes on the ear, if presently they go not in. Now all being gathered together, and the house filled with them, the Juez Repartidor or officer, calls by the order of the List such and such a Spaniard, and also calls out of the house to many Indians as by the Court are commanded to be given him (some are allowed three, some four, some ten, some fifteen, some twenty, according to their employments) and delivereth unto the Spaniard his Indians, and so to all the rest, till they be all served; who when they receive their Indians, take from them a tool, or their mantles, to secure them that they run not away, and for every Indian delivered unto them, they give unto the Juez Repartidor or officer half a Real, which is three pence an Indian for his fees . . . The wages appointed them will scarce find them meat and drink, for they are not allowed a Real a day, which is but sixpence, and with that they are to find themselves, but for six days work and diet they are to have five Reals, which is half a Crown. This same order is observed in the City of Guatemala, and Towns of Spaniards, where to every family that wants the service of an Indian or Indians, though it be but to fetch water and wood on their backs, or to go of errants, is allowed the like service from the nearest Indian Towns.