words as obsolete or archaic, denoting that they are no longer used of heard. But one epithet survives, because people want it to....That word, of course, is "nigger" (Asim, 4) 196) Most lexicographers trace the words "niggers" and "negroes" to "Niger, the Latin word for "black" (Asim, 10). The term "nigger" traces back to times of slavery as well. The word was used by British traders during the early to mid 1600s. "It was not until the 1970s that whites publicly diminished the use of that word as the political will of the country was telling us that the word "nigga" was unacceptable in any context. Nearly 370 years later the word became unacceptable and offensive in public speech" (Alonso, ragraph 2). The word "nigga" not only has never left our vocabulary, but it is becoming increasingly popular in recent years. What's up my nigga? How you doing my nigga? Tell that nigga I said what up. Nigga please. That's my nigga. Me and my niggas going to hoop today, you wanna join my nigga? Seriously, why can't we find words that aren't as degrading to call each other? There are plenty of words in the dictionary to substitute for the word nigga. What did Martin Luther King Jr. and his followers fight for? Why did the people before us fight for our freedom and liberation and for us to be identified as human beings, if we were only going to take the term and use it as if it has no meaning?

"The word nigger, you see, sums up for us who are colored all the bitter years of Timesult and struggle in America" (Asim, 128). "The Negro is believed to be stupid. "Immoral, diseased, lazy, incompetent, and dangerous-dangerous to the white man's virtue and social order" (Asim, 150). Struggle and insults, and yet, we continue to use it as if it was a word of pride. Common uses of the word nigga are casual, threatening, self identification, historically, and elitist/difference (Asim, paragraphs 5-9). When we as

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