

From One "White" Slave Plantation Owner to Another

Speech by Willie Lynch on the Shore of Virginia in 1712

Gentlemen,

I greet you here on the bank of the James River in the *year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and twelve*. First, I shall thank you, the Gentlemen of the Colony of Virginia, for bringing me here. **I am here to help you solve some of your problems with slaves.** Your invitation reached me on my modest plantation in the West Indies where I have experimented with some of the **newest and still the oldest methods for control of slaves.** Ancient Rome would envy us if my program is implemented. As our boat sailed south on the James River, named for our **illustrious King James, whose Bible we cherish**, I saw enough to know that your problem is not unique. While **Rome used cords of wood as crosses** for standing human bodies along the old highways in great numbers, you are here using the **tree and the rope** on occasion.

I caught the whiff of a dead slave hanging from a tree a couple of miles back. You are not only losing valuable stock by hangings, you are having uprisings, slaves are running away, your crops are sometimes left in the fields too long for maximum profit, you suffer occasional fires, your animals are killed, gentlemen.... You know what your problems are; I do not need to elaborate. I am not here to enumerate your problems, I am here to introduce to you to a method of solving them.

In my bag here, I have a fool-proof method for controlling your Black slaves. I guarantee everyone of you that **if installed correctly it will control the slaves for at least 300 years.** My method is simple, any member of your family or any overseer can use it.

I have outlined a number of differences among the slaves, and I take these differences and make them bigger. I use fear, distrust and envy for control purposes. These methods have worked on my modest plantation in the West Indies, and it will work throughout the South. Take this simple little list of difference and think about them. On the top of my list "**Age,**" but it is there because it only starts with an "A"; the second is "**Color**" or **shade**; there is intelligence, size, sex, size of plantations, attitude of owners, whether the slaves living in the valley, on a hill, East, West, North, South, have fine or coarse hair, or is tall or short.

Now that you have a list of differences, I shall give you an outline of action—but before that, I shall assure you that **distrust is stronger than trust, and envy is stronger than adulation, respect or admiration.**

The Black Slave, after receiving this indoctrination, shall carry on and will become self refueling and self-generating **for hundreds of years, maybe thousands.**

Don't forget, you must pitch the **old Black vs. the young Black male**, and the **young Black male against the old Black male**. You must use the **dark skin slaves vs. the light skin slaves**, and the **light skin slaves vs. the dark skin slaves**. You must use the **female vs. the male, and the male vs. the female**. You must also have your servants and overseers distrust all Blacks, but it is necessary that your slaves trust and depend on us. **They must love, respect and trust only us.**

Gentlemen, these kits are your keys to control, use them. Have your wives and children use them. Never miss opportunity. My plan is guaranteed, and the good thing about this plan is that if used intensely for one year, the slaves themselves will **remain perpetually distrustful.**