Excerpt from: “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”
by Peggy McIntosh

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| *“I was taught to see racism only in individual acts of meanness, not in invisible systems conferring dominance on my group”* |

DAILY EFFECTS OF WHITE PRIVILEGE

I decided to try to work on myself at least by identifying some of the daily effects of white privilege in my life. I have chosen those conditions that I think in my case attach somewhat more to skin-color privilege than to class, religion, [ethnicity], or geographic location, though of course all these other factors are [connected].

* I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.
* I can turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely represented.
* When I am told about our national [history] or about “civilization,” I am shown that people of my color made it what it is.
* I can be pretty sure that if I ask to talk to the “person in charge”, I will be facing a person of my race.
* I can easily buy posters, post-cards, picture books, greeting cards, dolls, toys and children’s magazines featuring people of my race.
* I can chose [makeup] or bandages in “flesh” color and have them more or less match my skin.