

The (White) Love That Dare Not Speak Its Name

I read James Baldwin's "Going To Meet the Man" as a rescripting of Freud's Oedipal scene, introducing the black male as a triangulating figure *vis-à-vis* the white male child's identification with each parent. Hence, for Baldwin, fantasies about black male sexuality necessarily mediate the resolution of the Oedipal complex in the American scene.

I extend Baldwin's reading of this race secret to the abuses that occurred at the Abu Ghraib military prison in order to better understand, not only the racialized and sexual nature of the violence, but also to determine what about it was symptomatically American. I ask how the race secret in this instance is cast violently onto the globe, and consider how digital technology restructures colonialism's field of vision.

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