

that relate to getting along with members of the white community. The first "reality" that the Invisible Man must grasp is that white men must be lied to. He admonishes him with this line, "Why, the dumbest black bastard in the cotton patch knows that the only way to please a white man is to tell him a lie!" The Invisible Man failed to give Mr. Norton an excuse for not going into the Golden Day in a situation where lying was needed. Dr. Bledsoe explains the necessity of black humility, to the Invisible Man again somewhat along the lines of his grandfather's advice. After explaining it is he who runs the college, not black or white pressure groups, he says, "I say 'Yes, suh' as loudly as any burrhead when it's convenient," and, "The only ones I even pretend to please are big white folk." Knowing that idealism and the promise of opportunity through education are swelling the Invisible Man's "ego," he tells him, "You're nobody, son. You don't exist." He also explains to the Invisible Man how to get ahead through his own personal example, "I had to be strong and purposeful to get where I am. I had to wait and wait and lick around...Yes, I had to act the nigger!" again pointing out the importance of humility on the part of the black man. He also has a few words in regards to success for him, "After you win the game, you take the prize and you keep it, protect it; there's nothing else to do." Dr. Bledsoe (a pun name for allegorical purposes -- Bled-plus-So, containing the concept of the long suffering black leader) realizes that the Invisible Man has a lot of pride and spirit, but rebukes him for it saying, "You let the white folk worry about pride and dignity - you learn where you are and get yourself power, influence, contacts with powerful and influential people - then stay in the dark and use it!" After the browbeating Dr. Bledsoe sends the Invisible Man to New York