

sensitive and understanding, he says, "Such frankness (between the races) just isn't possible because our motives are impure." He is pointing out the unbridgeable gap between black and white regardless of the openness and receptivity of the parties. He also gives the Invisible Man some advice on where he should live, saying, "There is so much you could do here where there is more freedom. You won't find what you're looking for when you return anyway; because so much is involved that you can't possibly know." This is advice that shapes the rest of the novel. This person ~~is~~ provides him another reason, besides escaping humiliation at home, for staying up north.

The Invisible Man now has no choice but to get a manual labor job, and finds one at a paint factory (color is a dominant motif). At the factory he encounters, and works under another "reality instructor" in the form of a little old black man who nearly runs the factory, or at least is very important to its operation.

He is a symbol of black success, and an important and trusted individual in the factory. This old man named Brockway is totally dedicated to the factory, which he even had a hand in building. Brockway is the sort of black man who is dedicated to his work so completely that he has little compassion for his fellow black workers, and believes in his self-importance fanatically. Although the only man who knows the plumbing of the factory he is paid a janitor's wages. Brockway is an example of misdirected pride and teaches the Invisible Man that all black men are not concerned with racial dignity. All Brockway can talk about is the paint factory and his job. He is also vehemently against the union men that the invisible man runs into at lunch, and promises to kill him if he has further involvement with the union. They fight when the old man reaches for his teeth that the Invisible Man mistakes for a knife. Things calm down for a minute even though the old man bit him. The old