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## The Mystery of Why God made Man from Dust Rather than Soil

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### Abstract

*This paper is made by reviewing literature that focuses on the mysteries that “why God made Man from Dust rather than Soil?” There are definite mysteries behind the question. In this analysis, I addressed the reasons why God created man from the dust but not from soil. This analysis was made based on content analysis by considering both the Scriptures and secular science. The scripture clearly says ‘God formed a man from the dust part of the earth, but not from the soil. But the mystery behind God’s intention to create a man from the dust is to refer to the life of man on earth, to show the feebleness of man’s nature, clarifies dissolves man’s identity and it also shows God’s Almighty power. Thus, God purposefully created man from the dust rather than the soil to solve the prevailing controversial issue of racial segregation all over the world.*

**Keywords:** *the dust, the soil, the skin color, white or black, and the man*

### 1. Introduction

Here is the question that popped up in my mind, ‘why God made Man from Dust rather than Soil?’ This question may be a question for some individuals. Before I answer the question, let me define two words, the dust and the soil. Superficially, these two words look synonymous with small differences. American Meteorological Society, (2000), defines “the dust” as a tiny thing that rises up in the air from the soil. But the soil has referred to the part of the earth’s surface consisting of humus which nourishes plants and disintegrated rocks.

And also the soil has its own structure, texture, identity, and color. We can also boldly say red or reddish or orange or black and white for the soil but not for the dust because the dust doesn’t have color.

This implies that the soil has color and the dust doesn’t, might be that is why the Father God formed a man from the dust that took my attention.

The prevailing reality on the earth in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century, is that men can be segregated and even kill each other because of their skin color. It puts some of them in trauma. And some may be described as white or black because of having white skin color. In this generation, they determine the people due to their skin color. I was questioning the reason why God might be creating a man from the dust would be considered as a mystery to solve the prevailing segregation among peoples. However, how the scholars explained the color and racial Issues, and let us see.

## 2. Related Work

### 2.1. The color and Racial Issues

Different scholars have written on the issue of color in various ways. Among these, reference DiAngelo (2011) talks about white fragility. She stated that it is the legal and systemic advantages given to white people by the United States, such as citizenship, the right to vote or the right to buy a house in the neighborhood of their choice. Because racism was not an incident that took place once upon a time in the 1960s, 1970s or 2020s.

DiAngelo (2011) but nevertheless stated that the racial situation cannot be seen on white people. But it is predominantly seen on people with brown color. She said that the people of color are almost always seen as “having a race” and described in racial terms (“the black man”) but whites rarely and called them “the man,” even “white does not have a race,” Richard W., (1992) also argues by supporting DiAngelo’s argument, “white people are just people. Within this construction, whites can represent humanity, while people of color, refers most particularly (black and Asian peoples) identification represent their own racialized experiences.” This concept implies that White does not have a race but this idea is not true because all human beings have a race. This is a point that some writers have a certain bias like others do.

Even DiAngelo (2011) just said that the dynamics of White Fragility put, in turn, reinstate white racial equilibrium so that this might be one time someone can encounter this thought and start writing “Black Fragile” I hope. She argued that the racial issue is benefiting whites and another day benefiting people of color. It is an issue that never ends somewhere and keeps happening when a man exists in this world. That is why, I also argued that it never ends in one generation, rather a back and forth phenomenon.

However, few writers are arguing the racial issues in different ways. Anthony B., (2012) explained the implicit bias that happened to black males in Schools and Society. He mentioned that they are considered subhuman which means they are not full men. This is a painful thought at that time and they would be changing from subhuman to Human Kind. In the history of the US, there was racial injustice; black people were not citizens, I do also say that even now we are observing the racial injustice. Still now all over the world the civic societies are struggling to eliminate it. A couple of years ago, the evidence is that we can see this reality in the trauma that happened to George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

This fact is undeniable; that is how human beings have privilege over the nonhuman (animal or robots or vehicles). This implies that I am not denying certain God-given privileges a man has. Among those differences such as having a high IQ or having a caliber mind and having anatomy difference among peoples.

Peggy M., (1989) raised a big question and searched for a solution to the prevailing racial problem. Her question was “Having described white privilege, what will I do to end it?” and a strongly suggestive solution for white supremacy. She said that it seems to me that obliviousness about white advantage, like obliviousness about male advantage, is kept strongly acculturated in the United States so as to maintain the myth of meritocracy. Disapproving the systems won’t be enough to change them. I was taught to think that racism would end if white individuals changed their attitudes. [But] “White” skin in the United States opens many doors for whites whether or not we approve of the way dominance has been conferred on us.

Like Peggy, Gloria B., (2009) also suggests a solution to how the acting white attitude would be an end, only by teaching them that to know they are black and try to change “the acting white” mindset. Glenn S., (2015) clearly mentioned by his famous book ‘*Courageous conversation about race*,’ with a strategic solution, is about how we can overcome segregation because of skin color.

The aforementioned facts also suggested a solution to reduce inter racial conflict. Anthony B., (2017) and Ginger A., (2012) mentioned in their arguments science and scripture. “The big bang theory, more or less, holds that planet earth and all its life forms developed from the dust, while the biblical account states that man was formed by God from the dust of the earth. He also created (the woman from the rib of Adam). So, I want to say something as a strategy to solve the hot issue of race and skin color. And I am also trying to bring up my view on the topics in such a stare.

In the meantime, “why did God create man from the dust rather than the soil?” I think I have found a solution for the existing situation of the world, so that I become happy and say eureka. The point I wanted to argue in this article is the reason why God created man from the dust. I hope He has intentionally created man from the dust to smoothen the peoples’ segregation and lessen the rate of traumatization by skin color.

The prevailing issue of skin color thoroughly twists what a man was created for. To start my points let me start by answering ‘why God made man from the dust?’ Various Bible translations describe that “God made a man from the dust.” I can say that about 98% of the bible translations are in favor of this idea. For evidence, in the book of Genesis (2:7). God made man from the dust part of the earth and Solomon in the book Ecclesiastes (12:7) says “...the dust return to the earth...” But we have to know the mystery why God made a man (us) from the dust rather than the soil? Has clearly mentioned the key reasons why God intended to make a man from the dust.

## 3. Result and Discussion

This section has simply been focused on the objectives. The discussion has mainly focused on four areas as a finding. In this narration the phrase “dust” refers to the life of man, elucidating man’s feebleness, dissolving the prevailing man’s identity, and also it might reveal the Almighty power of Father God.

### 3.1. Referring to the life of man

The first intention that God made man from the dust is to refer to our lives. The dust is a tiny small particle that can be easily blown on-air ...that indicates He made Adam not by digging a lot of soil from the ground but of the piece of dust.

The reason behind God took the dust, trust me, whether someone has white skin or black, so that He made us deliberately from the dust to tell us our life on earth is simple like dust. It can also be explained as being like a morning dew. He is creating man from the dust, and tells us the state of human life on earth, it is like the dust. It will be gone very fast as blustering air. The dust implies that men live and exist on the earth which means before passing away or dying. That is why I said ‘God’s intentional work in creating us from the dust’.

To strengthen this argument, beside the dust, the life of man also can be explained by dew. The dew can be seen for a while and disappears right away. In Hosea (6:4) and (13:3) the prophet explained about the loyalty of Ephraim and Judah, you are like a morning cloud and early dew which goes away sooner. Like husk

which is blown away from the threshing floor when winnowing and like smoke from a chimney. The life of a human being is like dew. As a human being we are alive now; we never know what will happen sooner or later. Human life is like breathing air...it comes into us in the form of breath and will go back to God when we die (Ecclesiastes 12:7). So, we cannot be proud of our dust statuses. Thus, like “dew”, the “dust” refers to the life of man. Man is simply designed to live by knowing this.

After finishing the life that man lived on earth, there is also another hidden secret that man has to return back to dust, to its source. Therefore, the dust is not only the origin that God made man from it but also the destination of man. Ecclesiastes says that the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the soul returns to God who gave it. Overall, He makes us from the dust and predominantly refers to the life of man. Thus the mystery of why God made man from the dust part of the soil is referring to the existence of mankind on earth.

### 3.2. Elucidation of man feebleness

In the Bible, every word requires big attention. Genesis 3:19 says that ‘God made man from dirt.’ The dirt is a mixture of a whole. The dirt and dust depends on the weather, the combinations of rocks, sands, and clays, geographic location, and the kind of organic matter in the soil. However, the verses emphasized that God had taken the dirt from the dust, showing man’s feebleness, which is a state of being very weak.

The feebleness of a man as explained by Ellicott's Commentary, (2020), God made a man not from the rocks, nor from ores of metals, but from the dust. It implies the feeble nature of the man’s body. Isaiah (40:6-8) elucidates that “all flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it”; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. The prophet says that “all flesh is grass” This implies human beings can not bust in the dust and grass context. Convincingly, ‘dust’ being a neutral substance and at the same time being a light-weight substance (which emphasizes our human weakness vis à vis God).

The feebleness of a man explained in the New Testament, Christ called the disciples on “all you who are weary and burdened, come to me!” (Mt 11:28). This weary nature of man is the prevailing reality of the dust that implies that we all are created from the dust. Christ doesn’t call us “Man is created from Metal but from dust or weary” come to me and I will give you relief; nobody said that I am not weary. That is, I said “He made the man from the dust which implies the feebleness of human beings.” When we understand our feebleness, we are created to know Him and give Him glory throughout our lives. Scripturally, the man is simply designed to live by glorifying the creator.

### 3.3. Dissolve the prevailing man identity

The third point is the dust does not have its identity, which means it does not have its own unique character. In the dust, there is no white and/or no black color because it doesn’t have color. If God created man from “the soil” man would have a color identity like either Black, white or Brown.

We can ask ourselves from what type of soil God made us, Was that clay, sandy or silty? Which type of soil was that? The fertile Arable soil? Was that from black topsoil? If He made us from sandy soil, which is not fertile, that might God made black people from sandy soil. He made the white people from clay. So that we

can really understand the reason why God intentionally created all men (whites or blacks) from the dust rather than the soil.

If someone is writing and preaching or teaching about the color issues, they have to think about the solution of how that would be away from those concepts. For me, if this issue is happening, it is a sign that we are forgetting the intended plan of God, the creator. Because He created man from the dust.

Intentionally He made us simply from the dust. It is because human beings don’t have to raise an issue of identity. Dust doesn’t have color. we can’t raise our identity like race, skin color so that God made human beings from the dust...even not from the soil to dissolve the prevailing man identity issues.

The time that man loses the Godley identity after the failure of Adam - our father transgressed the rule of God. Even before the failure of man, there was no racial difference up to Genesis (11:1) Human beings were the same. They speak one language, the same language. No color issue at that time. Even though they were without language differences. If then, so how did skin color issues pop up? It is because man is less likely to engage in the Bible.

I would suggest that let us come back to the Bible and engage in the Bible. If they are engaged, they know who they are? Where are they from? And how did He make them? Where are they going? And get an answer to such a lifetime question. It also gives a remedial solution to existing racial conflict. Again, let us come back to the Bible because He made us from the dust or the dirt.

Beside the bible this concept also connects with science. Some additional literature-based solutions for the prevailing racial crisis are clearly explained by Gloria B., (2009), who proposed a solution for someone seeing color typically labeling a person. But it should be noted that by seeing a skin color, we cannot determine a character. This is the implication of how people can see things in a cross-eyed look; it will end in one day. I hope Martin Luther’s dream will also come to be real. In our generation, a nation will be judged by their character but not by the color of their skin.

Identity issues predominantly will go with skin color. As a concluding remark, as in Gloria B., (2009) points out that an ideal solution proposed for the teacher, is that they shouldn’t really see color but see children. When I read her solution, it reminded me of a People-first language (PFL) thought in special education. Richard G. and Bouck O., (2017) says that PFL emphasizes the individuality, equality, and dignity of people with disabilities. This also implies that when we see people of color, I can suggest that we should focus first on human beings, but disregard their color. Thus in this situation we should look at the man, not his skin color.

Gloria B., (2009) mentioned her strong argument on culturally responsive pedagogy stating that “I don’t care if they are red, green, or Polka dot, I just treat them all like children.” She said the teacher claimed to be color blind. They must ignore the color so long as they are in the teaching profession. This solution should work for everyone. The police, health worker, administrator, social workers, officials, etc. must be color blind. They must equally treat a person regardless of his/her color and character.

As we all know, the issues of racial equality that are acute in the contemporary world, especially if we take into consideration the latest news from the US and around the globe, have been the rise of the BLM (Black Lives Matter) movement. It is because of the prevalence of racial injustice. If we don’t stop discrimination by



skin color, who knows in the future we might see “White Lives Matter,” (WLM) somewhere. In the place where the white peoples are a minority. That is why, I was still thinking, when will this stop?

So, discussing the problem from the theological perspective is worthwhile. It is found to be proposing a solution to the racial discrimination. Thus, we should consider that every human being is ‘created from dust’ i.e. without any specific color. The idea of humans created from dust shows the value and importance of such a method to combat racial discrimination. I believe that the divine creating us from the dust might solve the controversial issue of skin color all over the world. That is why, He intentionally created the man from the dust rather than the soil.

Racial privilege is equated to a concept that humans were created ‘from the soil’ which obviously has various colors. But the divine Creator did not use ‘soil’ to make humans, but He used ‘dust’ which is colorless. In my opinion, such a Biblical metaphor about dust is useful. It is a good way to resolve an important discussion taking place these days in the USA about the role of ‘people of color.’ This implies to see our human origin from ‘the dust’ is relevant to the contemporary debate one superior over the other. Scripture shows that the Bible is anti-discriminatory in its attitude towards the races of mankind.

Nowadays, I want to remind people that we cannot be determined by our color. According to Gloria B., (2009) it was the idea of Martin Luther, “human beings can be determined by character but not by their color.” The physical body of the black people is made from the same dust as the white people. Some people claim that black or brown people are made from the Devil. Contrary to this, the whites are from Angle. Then we all are (the man) Father God made from the dust or the dirt.

### 3.4. Explaining His Almighty power

The other secret behind the question that is how God created man from the dust is to show His almighty power. He takes the dust or dirt but doesn't take a lot of soil to make an adult man. This situation by itself implies another secret behind why Father God created man from the dust was to show the wisdom and power of God.

This situation is explained in the Department of Environmental Conservation, (1992). In any scientific studies, or even to make the soil test, we are supposed to take a sampling spot of soil that we can to drive the auger to a plow depth of 6 inches and draw the soil sample, and collect at least 10 to 15 samples from each sampling unit and place in a bucket or tray. The test gives only a rough picture of the pH and by nutrient levels. The soil's acidity, alkalinity, neutrality and the major nutrient content can be seen in the sample soil but not in the dust. The undeniable reality tells that ‘God made man from dirt’ (Genesis 3:19), He takes the dust or dirt but doesn't take it like a potter, who might take a lot of soil to make an adult man.

As we all know the potter man wants to make a pot, or a jar by taking the soil according to the size of the artifact object. When God made Adam, He made an adult man by adult size from the dust. How honer, such a tiny particle of the dust becomes a man? It is because “the tiny thing” is in the hands of almighty God. He is the one who brings something from nothing. I don't think that anyone doesn't ask that question of how God makes something out of nothing; it is simple for Him. Even He brings this huge universe by a verbal order. Genesis (1:3) tells that when God said, “Let

there be light, there was light, Let there be the earth and heaven, both appearing together or simultaneously.”

Joseph Benson, (2020) says that God made us “of the dust of the ground.” The Hebrew is, He formed man from the dust, we are dust, and even double dust; the tiny real dust and the breath of God. Ellicott's Commentary, (2020) literally supports Benson's idea that the intention of God formed man from the dust, is for shaping and molding. This aspect by itself tells us the power of Elohim's Almighty power, so Jehovah has wisdom and skill, and His works are full of gadgets and designs. He forms it by taking dust from the ground, not even the soil.

Ginger A., (2012) also stated that the book of Genesis has more information on “Genetics and Biblical events”, and also the complexity of human DNA. It's not the elements (“dust”) that we're made of that makes a human. According to various scientists, cells are the building blocks of the human body. But on average, man contains around 30 to 40 trillion cells (Eva B. et al, 2013). Even the dust implies that God took a single-cell that is enough to form a man. When we realize this idea that explains His Almighty power and wisdom.

Even Isaiah (40:15) says that “the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are considered a speck of dust on the scales; He lifts up the islands like fine dust.” This versus shows us both the Creature and the created man. The people of the whole world are like a drop in a bucket/pot. The same thing happened when He created Adam (the man) from the dust. When Isaiah explains the Creator, “He lifts up the islands like fine dust.” And creating man, from “the dust” or “a single Cell”, is simple for Him because God makes something out of nothing. Thus for Him, making a man from the fine dust is very simple and it is explaining His Almighty power.

## 4. Conclusion

In the article, I summarized, the issue is focusing on how God made a man from dust, which is from the tiny dust particles of the soil. Amazingly, when He creates a man from such tiny particles, He dissolves the identity of man which is the color of people – black or white.

The man's overall situation refers to his/her innermost part rather than the outside flesh. Nobody questions that the inner part of man differs whether they are white or black or brown. Man soul and spirit are the same. Scripturally, God created us by His image and likeness implies human internal component i.e soul and spirit rather than the outside flesh, black or brown or white. The article is to forward key solutions for the current racial situation in the world. Thus, I hope the reason that God made man from the dust, is to smoothen or stop the segregation of people by skin color.

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## 6. Conflict of Interest

The author has not declared any conflict of interests

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