Who—or what—were the first blacks of China? Precisely when did a conception of human blackness, construed as being—in an ethnoracial sense—roughly akin to our own, first arise in Chinese consciousness? Logic naturally disposes us to think that no such consciousness of blacks could ever have arisen prior to direct contact by the Chinese with them—with that being an event not plausibly having occurred much before the last quarter of the first millennium of the Common Era, at the earliest. Nevertheless, Chinese philosophical literature of as early as the fourth and third centuries BCE as well as other writings of disparate genres of subsequent eras confront us with an unexpected but still discernible reality. Therein, we find that there are already incipient intimations of a Chinese awareness of a breed of being, sometimes verifiably encountered and sometimes not, that differed uniquely from other men then known to them by possessing a complexion that was just as uncharacteristically alien as it was unalterably black.