



Chaos

Dr. Rubin Cockrell who is a professor at several colleges within the Tennessee region inspired me to write Chaos. Dr. Cockrell also serves as CEO of Positive Images & Associates, a firm that specializes in educational leadership, empowerment, and consulting.

In Dr. Cockrell's role with the Nashville, Tennessee-based company he trains business leaders, college students, and church groups to implement tools for achieving excellence and quality productivity within their lives and various other organizations all across the country.

Dr. Cockrell authored a book titled *The Hidden Curriculum: Life Lessons You Won't Learn in a Classroom*. This book is a must-read.

The definition of chaos is complete disorder and confusion. A state in which behaviors and events are not controlled by anything. The undercurrent of a chaotic environment is not only extremely profitable, but it is also a vehicle of control that is many times founded via roundtable agendas implemented by design.

There are two questions that present themselves in my humble opinion. Possibly more for you after you read.

1. Thinking as far back as the 1800s and propelling forward, to date, why do we still have to pray or vote for compassion, fairness, humility, and equality?
2. This question is specifically directed at our leaders. As home builders and managers of equality, properties and the quality of life we know, paint can cover up a lot of things and over centuries it will in the rental communities of life. However, as we all know once too many coats of paint start to build up eventually we will have to scrape all the old paint off or destroy only to do a total rebuild.

Regarding question 2, for an equality-propelled society why are our elder leaders afraid of the total rebuild to clean up all the chaos and mayhem deriving from atop down when it's warranted today?

Dating back centuries, our history from equality, ethical, and moral standpoint confirms too much has originated from humanity violations, civil & constitutional violations, oppression, genocide, greed, and theft. Although the answers will vary to the two questions posed based on educational levels, race, cultures, and generations. However, we cannot continue in our efforts of trying to make sense out of nonsense.

As a citizen or a noncitizen of America, if the information is pertinent enough we don't have the convenience, opportunity, nor options to leave things in the past because it's beneficial to do so. In fact, every day someone is being held accountable for things they may have said or done in their past. Be it old social media post, tweets, etc., titles have been vacated, careers have been destroyed, and countless other consequences. Our past and present leaders, prestigious political names and families, forefathers, and the everyday face should all be held accountable equally. It's clear too much wrong is portraying to be right.

Beyond the disconnect between the older and younger generations, the state of the church has to be prepared either way to assist in a process of change, digesting & embracing some hard-learned truths which have handcuffed our society for centuries. Today, I believe America and the world are ready more so than ever.





Coming from the lower tiers of life and the streets we as average citizens are forced to persevere through conspiracies, collusions, secrets, and societies big me little you syndromes. As a society, it will be extremely hard-pressed to convince us that the profits deriving from chaos have not superseded the people.

It won't be long before politics won't require experience. It also won't be long before a business guru will be running our country dealing with society as an employer and employee mind state which will ultimately perpetuate the ingredients of the 1700s and 1800s.

In the hood, many of us desire to be doctors and so much more. However, too many of us only see doctors via emergency rooms or doctor appointments.

Therefore, to all my dream chasers and trapoholics like me, I'm going to bring some of the gems from Dr. Cockrell who lived and graduated the harsh elements of the trenches, incarceration, and oppression. The games of life, greed, and so many other selfish games being played are what they are and will be what they've always been. That will never change, but people can help change people. In the same breath, regimes cannot reside within regimes even though all we primarily see is greed. From the top down we are all affected by a thriving life that exists in the murky waters of mayhem and chaos.

I hope this title of chaos resonates with the alleged elites, teachers, preachers, the classrooms, boardrooms, and all the unmentioned. Think of a nasty clump of coal. Over thousands of years as the coal gets compressed under unimaginable pressures it evolves into a diamond.

There are three types of people in the world, (1) dreamers, (2) doers, and (3) dreamers and doers. Change happens unpredictably and inevitably. Living in a time of instability and change, what separates people is how they embrace change and the attitudes with which they address the change.

Allen Cohen summed up the change in this manner "It takes a lot of courage to release the familiar and seemingly secured, to embrace the new. But there is no real security in what is no longer meaningful. There is more security in the adventurous and exciting, for in movement is life, and in change there is power." Thomas Edison said, "Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits." What he was trying to say is that even in moments of silence and stillness, you should still be hustling with ideas and creativity.

To understand mental fitness, you must first understand what it encompasses. It includes intelligence, perceptions, and attitude. A psychologist by the name of Abraham Maslow developed a theory and hierarchy of needs. There are five levels of needs being (1) physiological, (2) safety & security, (3) recognition, (4) self-esteem, and (5) self-actualization. His theory is the lower level needs must be met first before the higher needs can be met and satisfied. We cannot move forward if we are filled with trepidation and fear. The oldest and strongest emotion that we feel is fear. Fear deteriorates us from the inside out.

Nelson Mandela once said, "The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." It is out of fear and doubt from which comes the greatest triumphs. Susan Piver stated, "Fearlessness requires attention and receptivity – it takes focus to stand in the still eye of a tornado and not be swept away by it."

In life regardless of your title, profession, or position all of us hustle and are hustlers. Hustle by definition means, "To push or force one's way, jostle or shove, to obtain by aggressive or illicit means; to beg, solicit, or swindle. Hustle also means "To be aggressive, especially in business or other financial dealings; to convey or cause to move; to urge, pro speed up."





In life, most lessons are not learned in classrooms, they are learned through the trials and tribulations of life. Life lessons and scenarios are teachable moments that can be either stepping stones or stumbling blocks. What determines this is what we allow, our perspectives, and our attitudes.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Good things come to those that wait." A quote from Dr. Cockrell relevant, "Those who wait get the leftovers of those who hustle." You have to hustle mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually at all times and for your entire life. A quote from Thomas Holdcroft, "Life is a grindstone whether it grinds us down or polishes us up depends on us."

Attitudes are contagious; is mine worth catching today? Our decisions should derive from a space of peace and grace, not from a place of hurt and fear.

Many good people wonder why bad things continue to happen to them. To put a different perspective on this scenario, a quote from Shari Barr, "Expecting life to treat you well because you are a good person is like expecting an angry bull not to charge because you are a vegetarian."

We've all made mistakes. Hugh White says, "When you make a mistake, don't look back at it long. Take the reason of the thing into your mind, and then look forward. Mistakes are lessons of wisdom. The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power. You must realize your mistakes admit your weaknesses. Show your vulnerability. Don't cause maximum damage and fail to admit. Don't be in a state of denial. This will cause issues for you as a leader. When it comes to success it's not the number of mistakes you make; it's the number of times you make the same mistakes." The mentioned is very important in expounding your vision and in maneuvering through life. While one person hesitates because he feels inferior, the other is busy making mistakes and becoming superior.

As visionaries, trapaholics, and dreamers via our superhero powers of choice thinking outside the box will build intellectual capital, social capital, and human capital. Ultimately these collective components will equate to financial capital.

Regardless of the chaos of life, you will encounter countless haters, doubters, and nonbelievers. You can allow these behaviors to be a crutch or a stumbling block or you can allow these behaviors to be stepping stones. One class of society cannot exist without the other. You cannot achieve your vision, goals, dreams, or aspirations unless you bring people along with you.

As you bring people along, you then have a certain level of trust and respect that those individuals must have for you and visa versa. You have to push them, encourage them, empower them, and motivate them to achieve their goals, not just tell them what makes them feel good for you at the moment.

We must stop the double standards of today's society. Double standards harbor space for more bad than good.

If our leaders' lives are in chaos then the chaos will reflect in their businesses, life, and boardroom decisions. In this realm like anyone else, what will our leaders do to protect their interests, families, perceptions, lifestyles, etc.?

In life, we are all coaches and leaders to someone if no one but ourselves. We all have issues. Just as true unaddressed issues will taint untainted issues or situations.





Our coaches and leaders are a direct reflection of their spirits, habits, beliefs, and expectations of the elder leaders. Regardless, healthy or unhealthy issues will influence the atmosphere and culture of an organization.

The mentioned is an ingredient as to why there are no consistencies within our political parties, with our corporate leaders, within our judicial communities, within our educational systems and universities, within the church, etc. The leaders throughout the world are not that polished nor are us average citizens that tarnished. What has been extremely consistent is the climbing numbers surrounding addictions, incarceration, recidivism numbers, in the thought of like crimes and criminal histories sentencing disparity numbers, deteriorating quality care and stability for the seniors and retired, amongst many other issues.

Echoing Dr. Cockrell, "Failure is not an option, excuses are unacceptable, excellence must be our way of life."

In closing, undoubtedly mayhem, chaos, poverty, and every other problem on earth are extremely profitable opportunities. Just as profitable is one of my quotes that I and so many like me from the mud live by, "The minds of individuals living in and persevering through poverty are worth millions and possibly billions of dollars if only we open our eyes."

Oyez22. What does *open your eyes* mean to you?

Written (09/01/16) by Clifton A. Jackson

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