



Holes in My Foundation

*Inspired by Hashim Crawley who is VP of the KRAVAT brand,
Paul Perkins founder of ORION Electronics and Colin Kaepernick.*

KRAVAT is a global exclusive footwear and apparel company that started off as a dream with a few guys from the hood and mean streets of Newark, New Jersey.

Paul is a young visionary who graduated from the University of Cincinnati leaving footprints that have expanded as far as China.

Colin Kaepernick is a worthy NFL player that was subsequently blackballed from the league because of his social injustice protest during the national anthem.

Personally to acknowledge the holes in my foundation is the initial step taken to birth the process to solidify my foundation.

As individuals and as a society we all have holes in our foundations that can hinder our visions, educations, professions, perceptions, growth and more.

Holes in your foundation can be directed to anything that we learn or know is not right. Be it history, be it thought, actions, hustles, closet behaviors, etc.

Today we live in a society that has mastered the art of making sense out of nonsense.

In life everyone wants that vertical leap, that slam dunk lifestyle. However everyone who dunks have to take off from and return back to the floor.

The floor is the hood and the hood is the epicenter for so many things not limited to the economic platforms.

Daily we either go back to the hood, revert back to the hood, summons the hood directly or indirectly be it for family, friends, etc. However, in any event hood riches are beyond the hood in strength, in perseverance and everything that arrives from struggles.

Our greatest investments are the investments we make when we are dealing with nothing more than our reflections in the mirror.

I failed in so many areas. However I'm starting to acknowledge (1) as an individual I must stop looking for perfection from others that no one can give, and (2) every time I face a decision when I want to judge or do not desire to forgive, I have to revert back in thought to times when I did not enjoy being judged or sought forgiveness. Can you relate?

The mentioned is so easy to do, but as humans we are people of habits that make the easiest things to do so unnecessarily complicated.





Holes in our foundations are not a bad thing. In fact to acknowledge and address them is life best teacher known as experience.

Addressing the holes with my personal foundation while chasing my dreams from a physical space of incarceration confirms we can all do the same.

Although we are all flawed, I proudly represent my street family, conservatives and liberals, my 24 hours a day trapoholics, and uppity rich level an unlevel headed individuals urban and rural.

Truth be told regardless how we sound, our neighborhoods, class of life etc., many of our struggles or the ingredients are all the same, just different faces, different profiles and lifestyles.

Undeniably we all have holes in our foundations. However, the question is are you ready to take the initial steps to birth the process to solidify your foundations?

As individuals and a society we have shown an uncanny ability to convert weaknesses into strengths.

However, we must also keep in mind if we portray to convert a weakness to an illusion of a strength and we get lost in the alleged strengths, to perpetuate that illusion we will eventually expand the holes in foundations.

If we do actually turn weaknesses into strengths it is paramount we find ways to share those strengths with those internally and externally who shared or may have been affected by our weaknesses.

If we don't learn how to share the weaknesses and strengths in addressing the holes in our foundations there are only an illusion of alleged strengths.

So undoubtedly Colin Kaepernick and many others' messages remain best served on a global stage.

Speaking on Colin specifically, the collusion of the league, team ownerships, fan bases, Presidents, etc. can attempt to hijack the moment, however no one can ever kill the message.

We are at a point in America where many things that were in the dark is coming to light. The magnitude of the darkness's oppressive nature has become overwhelming.

There are many who feel some type of way about the timing of Colin's message during the playing of America's "Star Spangled Banner."

Although the original version of the Star Spangled Banner before editing contains questionable language, America has embraced the edited version as family.

However even though the majority of us have unconditional love and loyalty toward family, sometimes we learn things about our family that are embarrassing, hurtful or pisses us off.

Francis Scott Key's authored the "Star Spangled Banner" in 1814 at the height of slavery when African Americans amongst other races of color were considered animals and at best a third to three-fifths of a human being.





Abraham Lincoln won presidency in 1860 on a platform to abolish slavery. In 1865 via the 13th amendment slavery was alleged to be abolished.

To date slavery and its oppressive nature remains a multi-billion industry that generates an estimated 35 billion dollars annually.

In 1999 there were an estimated 20 million slaves worldwide. In 06 that number grew to 28.4 million and continues to grow to date.

So arguably would it be fair to say the unedited version of the Star Spangled Banner did not include African American's or other cultures and races of color at the height of slavery in 1814 when we weren't considered whole?

The truths and history are in the palms of your hands via your smartphones. Google or via the Siri's of the world simply ask.

Hashim, Paul and Colin thank you for being a light.

Collectively you and others reinvigorated my belief to be uneducated is one thing, to be deprived of education and history is something entirely different.

Written (08/30/016) by Clifton A. Jackson

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