



Still Breathing

Inspired by Jackie Robinson, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, the LA Dodgers Organization, MLB, and all those affected by prejudices, racial or cultural barriers, or lifestyle ignorance.

Culturally and accountably throughout the Jackie Robinson era a sad reality is before us revolving around MLB owners and communities supporting and or directly or indirectly participating in the fluid times of racial divisions and culture barriers that plague our society even today.

Looking back to 1947 although race and colors were wrongfully important to our mislead society, the Dodgers organization seen and believed in a talent today the world, record books, and professionals abroad knows as the great Jackie Robinson.

The Dodgers stood by their beliefs regardless the widespread backlashes associated with MLB, cultural, and racial divisions.

Although undeniably the LA Dodgers were exploited over the course of time Jackie Robinson opened the doors for countless African American and Latino talents which eventually catered to altering the ill perceptions of MLB, life, and game experiences.

The acts and residue of lies, theft, and deceit that harmed us back then in the 40s and before continue to harm us to date.

It's just today racial and cultural issues are no longer the primary faces of prejudice. It appears equality, double standard perceptions, and lifestyles are.

Cultural divisions continue to run deeper without recourse than any profession, career choice, or global platform.

If only more of us as individuals, communities, entities and conglomerates acted on humility like MLB and the Dodgers organization encouraging like the Jackie Robinson story.

The undercurrent and magnitude of the hate America was taught and perpetuated in 1947 and years prior arguably is a crime compared to genocide, acts of terror, and like crimes.

Therefore it appears our forefathers created an illusion alleging the desired change. However with merit the question arises; was humility, unity, equality, and growth ever a part of your itineraries in betterment of all mankind?

Today with the reach of social media because we hold everyone accountable about past or present comments who are to be held accountable for the collisions and oppressive acts being committed to select races and cultures in our own American home that harmed us prior to 1865 and after when slavery was alleged to be abolished?





Although opinions will vary it appears the residue that held us bondage throughout the legal and black-market slavery years in too many ways continues to date with our elders. Presentations vary from implemented alleged tuff crime laws not limited to conversations with no actions concerning healing and growth.

However the end results are mirroring the same results of oppression and slavery because a sincere effort to graduate that space in thought processes and equality arguably has not been sufficiently acted on approaching 2019.

Recidivism numbers, the media, microscopes, and the overall failures to adequately address equality issues continue to harm us as a society to date.

The DNA of our forefathers, elders, leaders, and their overall failures to adequately address equality issues continues to harm us as well.

Do all elders carry the mentioned harmful trait? Absolutely not.

However looking into the mirrors of our history if selfishness the mentalities of superiority and extremist are what we clearly hear in to many positions of authority and power.

It is important that we never lose sight of our purpose, visions, and dreams.

If no one ever believes in you as long as we are breathing we must never lose belief in ourselves regardless our alleged shortcomings, opportunities, or availabilities.

I am not a graduate or historian of this subject matter. However what I do have is a lot of hands-on experiences (arguably life's best teacher), and multiple degrees in survival from the hard knock-life of America's cold streets.

In life we so easily and naturally judge from near or afar. However what's amazing is no one, no circle, no fraternity, nor profession enjoys being judged. Not one.

Today not only are we still breathing our pure strength and resiliency as society has grown.

The importance and powers of voting are paramount.

No elected official or seat can be accomplished or survive the powers of public opinions and public perceptions unless we allow it to. Nor can elected officials achieve their seats without the youth, African American, and or Latino votes.

With that being said collectively everyone must educate themselves on what and who we are voting for per position because every vote is important.

Everyone who can vote must vote. There cannot be millions turning out to vote for alleged important positions but only hundreds turning out for alleged trivial local positions. If a position requires a vote that position is important.

In closing I do not know where the LA Dodgers organization or MLB stood in regards to slavery and oppression before the signing and travels with Jackie Robinson in 1947 and beyond.





However what I do know and appreciate is the growth, courage, and class exhibited toward initiating the footsteps of change back then and the opportunities the LA Dodgers and MLB continues to afford now.

Just ask the living legend Ervin Magic Johnson, MLB & Co., whom individually and collectively I'm sure will concur racial and or cultural barriers have no place in today's game or society.

Unfortunately throughout society deception continues to show its face daily. However we have to go through something to understand something.

I can proudly say moving forward through all the murky waters we are still breathing.

Written (06/30/16) by Clifton A. Jackson

Your Oyez22 activity, s/m likes, repost & hashtags are appreciated!

