



## You Can Never Incarcerate My Mind

As far back as I could remember the greater majority of people have never been arrested, faced a traffic judge or any other judge for that matter.

Besides many of today's peer pressures, many being well off more than others, the hood, urban and rural America has always been a space of being in some form of physical and or mental incarceration.

Undoubtedly our proud America has a wicked history. Although many heartaches and pains from our history are in our rearview mirrors, the fact remains too much heartache and pain has not been properly addressed, ownership taken and properly remedied, so therefore the residue of various known and unknown incarcerations exist by way of survival makeups, etc.

To this very day there are more people living amongst society incarcerated than those actually incarcerated.

Today collectively we have to continuously persevere no matter the gut-wrenching, unrealistic, unnecessary degrading obstacles or circumstances we face daily to establish, maintain or excel in everyday life and profession.

As individuals or as society God only knows the things we will do right or wrong to protect our children, our homes, our perceptions, a friend, our jobs, professional and fraternity relations, universities, our fronts & lifestyles, etc. In any event as a society our track records are clearly in question.

Everyone makes mistakes and some of the greatest minds do some of the dumbest things. For every action there is a reaction and for every mission there are decisions.

However the mention of decisions is where the home of double standards resides. Many times decisions can be right at that particular point in time but may not be right in the long run.

We are born completely innocent, however the development of our minds is nurtured, taught, and matured over a course of time.

All the anger and hate did not start in the hood, urban or rural America. In addition, although the hood, me nor you do not make any decisions it's alleged we define them. What a cycle called life.

Looking back in history, be it yesterday, 5, 10 or more years ago, clearly it is what it is. Although we are making strides it has not been a good look as an African American or Latino on the inside looking out.





As humans we derive via a womb and besides being cremated the majority of us upon death return back to the dirt.

Point being it is the dirt, Earth's purifying processes and pressures that over a course of time reproduces or transforms the dirt into nutrients, natural resources, diamonds and other precious jewels, even healthy vegetables.

The mentioned relations of dirt equates to life's mental or physical incarcerations know or unknown.

We cannot change what we as individuals, communities, leadership or even as a society has done overnight it's a process, however we can genuinely birth the process of humility, equality and change because all of our dirt embodies nutrients and fruits of life.

As a suggestion starting with myself, my peers, society, our leaders, not limited to conservatives, Democrats, Republicans, etc., so together we must stop the manipulation process of campaigning. Just as important as a society we must understand the power of this process and the overall ramifications of our vote, voting, losing our rights to vote and the powers of public opinions and perceptions holding an elected or appointed official/servants accountable because we also retain the public power to birth the process of removal.

Political servants, conglomerate figureheads, financial ties and associated fraternities are great accomplishments that should no longer supersede the betterment of the masses as it has for far too long now.

The mentioned plays a key role with mental and physical incarcerations, the double standards of society and our judicial communities amongst so many other categories.

If only we can conquer our fears to graduate and uncover some of our personal incarcerations to not only continue the process of assisting our youth but also to enhance the relations and quality of the global community.

Anyone may be or can be physically detained but only you can incarcerate your mind.

Written (05/17/16) by Clifton A. Jackson

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