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## Social Justice

Cedric Brumfeld

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Cedric Brumfield

December 11, 2013, I got my GED. I really would like a chance to go to college now that I am in prison, which is an educational goal I want to meet by mail and after my release from prison. I am not currently a resident of the State of California, but I will gladly move to California to pursue my college degree. I want to receive all of the help and assistance so I can get my Juris Doctor Degree as well as MBA. I'm a 44 yr old adult/nontraditional student. Please help me apply so that I can enroll into a paper based correspondence curriculum so I can work to get a degree in a Prelaw undergraduate. I want to enroll in law school, pass the bar, and become a lawyer and do my part to advance and enhance social justice as soon as possible. Please help me and I promise that you will not be sorry or regret it. Thank you for your time and I do look forward to hearing from you soon. In solidarity"

Sincerely yours,

Cedric

Social Justice

1.

I was born in Oakland, California on November 24th, 1976. However, from the fourth grade up until the second semester of my sophomore year in high school, I lived in Portland, Oregon. For most of middle school and high school I was bussed to a predominantly white school located in Cresham, a suburb of Portland. At first blush, I thought that all of this occurred because of the fact that I obtained one point shy of a 4.0 GPA.

Thanks to Saturday school, that was sponsored by the National Urban League and the Black United Fund, as well as my mom, who took me to the Multnomah County Public Library (that was at the time walking distance from the apartment we stayed in), I was able to read various books. I viewed documentaries and listened to my mom tell me of her personal experiences growing up and as a teenager. This is when the bus boycotts, freedom marches, lunch counter sit-ins, freedom rides, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 took place. **It was brought to my attention that people who didn't even know I would exist, had paid a great price for me to enjoy progress.**

At the same time there was opposition paving the way for the new Jim Crow, known as mass incarceration, or slavery by another name.

2.

I was victimized with micro aggressions known as The Pipeline to Prison, first by way of suspension for the slightest offense of defending myself from being assaulted and called “nigger” and “tar baby.” I was then placed in a special behavior class, then in an alternative school, until I simply dropped out of high school in my junior year.

**As I look back and reflect on my own experiences, along with the history of the struggle for equality, I am well aware of the fact that the struggle continues.** I, too, must do my part, take up the baton, and spend the rest of my life striving for social justice.

1.

Social justice, from my viewpoint, and the understanding that I have come to after studying, researching, reflecting and observing my life experience, is an ideal that makes everything equal and fair for everyone that makes up what I like to call the overall human family.

I, Cedric Jamal Brumfield, Black, or African American according to my birth certificate, have never really experienced just and fair treatment. History books, as well as older people, testify to the fact that the struggle for fairness and equality that existed for black people in America then, also continues now. I do not have to use a separate water fountain or eating establishment nor am I relegated to the balconies at main theatres. I don't have to sit in the back of the bus or experience lynching in certain parts of the country. However, the mental, emotional, and physical struggle is still there.

2.

I've made and taken time to study, research, and investigate the struggle for equality by way of various books that have given me different views, as well as looking at my own life to form my own perspective. What I have experienced is the new Jim Crow, and also slavery by another name.

3.

I, Cedric Brumfield, 247573, did not grow up seeing close and personal social injustices like that of the freedom marches, or of Emmett Till, or of the brothers Martin and Malcolm. **However in my own right I can agree that being black in America was/is a constant struggle, even during the best of times.**

I have read and studied the books that were written about the brothers Martin and Malcolm, and observed the signs of the times that I live in. Mass incarceration is not the only new Jim Crow, or slavery. **It's not a civil rights issue but a human rights issue, because poverty discrimination, as well as lack of opportunity, is a public health disaster and not a criminal justice issue.** The politicians make it out to be one, justifying draconian prison sentences. The derogatory words "nigger," "boy," "coon," and "bafoon" that were used to

classify a group of people exist now, in an age of colorblindness, but are replaced with “crime,” “criminal,” and “felon.”

4.

Let's look at the words that are combined to make “social justice.” The word “social” by itself is an adjective, characterized by friendly relations, companionship, or connected with fashionable society. It relates to living with others in a community. It is based on status in a society of life, and the welfare of human beings living together in colonies, or hives.

The word “justice” is a noun, defined as the quality of being just (which is an adverb, that can be defined as guided by reason and fairness). It is moral rightness or lawfulness, a claim of what is just according to law. It is the administering of deserved punishment or reward, to act fairly toward, and to appreciate properly. Albert Einstein is quoted for stating that “striving for social justice is the most valuable thing to do in life.” I agree. **When looking at the words “social” and “justice” separately, and then combining them into a compound word, they bring an ideal that all of humanity should strive for on a global collective level.**

**Genre:**

**Social Justice Autobiography**

**Tags:**

**Social Justice; racism; School-to Prison Pipeline; Jim Crow; Civil Rights; New Jim Crow; Slavery by Another Name; mass incarceration**

