Date: April 3, 2011

To: Between the Bars

## WRITINGS FROM BEHIND THE BARS

Where to start, here in California our Budget is such a mess, lawmakers think they should make more money than they do, and our children's education is paying the price. The cost of living is through the roof, higher education is out of reach, yet our lawmakers still want to cut more. They cut Public Safety and a big part of the prison budget. Let me say this about the prisons, they had cut CDCR last year and it really hurt in the rehabilitation and religious programs. In addition, all this time I thought the "R" in CDCR was for rehabilitation, boy was I wrong. The officers have been cut back, and at the same time, there go our programs. A person cannot blame the officers, because the Lawmakers do all cuts. I do know how hard it is out there in the free world, but these days the free world is not so free.

Let me tell you a little about myself, I am 51 years old from Southern California, I grew up in Torrance, I enjoyed surfing, water skiing, camping, and four (4) wheeling. I have been following the path of Asatru/Odinist for five (5) years, Northern European, Old Norse Religion. I had made some bad choices in my past, which I do take responsibility for my actions, which led me to doing 25 years to Life, under the California Three (3) Strikes unjust Law for," Unlawful Driving a Vehicle without Owners Consent", (Joy Riding) at Mule Creek State Prison. I have never Blogged before, nor do I really understand it. Therefore, what I am going to do is write a little about my life in prison the last 13 years.

This is the third time I have been in prison, you could say, I do not learn. Nevertheless, the truth is I did learn to be a better inmate, I learned to get around the cops, how to get drunk in prison, how to do all the bad things I should not do. All of my past times in prison where doing sports, card games, and telling stories, kicking it with the homeboy's. Over the last three (3) years I have involved myself in different Self-Help Groups, Victims Awareness Offender Program (VAOP), Criminals Gangmembers Anonymous (CGA), Veteran's Support Group (VSG), these groups have offered me the tools for my recovery, and the knowledge to recognize my addictions, and defects in my character. And boy do I have defects... But I believe that I can better myself, and by doing that, maybe I can better the people around me. I hopefully await your response to this new Blog of mine.

Gratefully:

Wayne Shipman, D-23057

Mule Creek State Prison (MCSP)

Housing: C-14-136L. P.O. Box 409060

Ione, California, 95640