

Thoughts From THE HEART

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2350 HRS:

----- "BEING A PART-OF TWO WORLDS" -----

IN MY EXPERIENCE BEING BLACK AND JEWISH MEANT ANOTHER TRICKY BRIDGE TO CROSS IN LIFE. GROWING UP DURING THE 50'S, 60'S, AND 70'S THE WATER EXPERIENCED RACISM FROM BOTH MY WORLD'S. SO I NEVER REALLY FELT CLOSE TO EITHER SIDE OF THE FAMILY. THE JEWISH SIDE WAS NOT KNOWN, OR TO MY MOTHER EXILE, IF YOU WILL AND MY FATHER SIDE OF THE FAMILY ALWAYS HAS THE JEWISH JOKES - IF YOU WANT TO CALL THEM THAT - I CALLED IT BEING ANTI-SEMITIC..... SO FOR A LONG TIME I HID MY JEWISH ROOTS. I DIDN'T HAVE THE CHOICE TO CHOOSE WHO MY PARENT'S WERE TO BE. AND NOW AS AN

ADULT, IN PRISON [NORTH CENTRAL CORRECTIONAL]
WHICH IS NOW BEING OPERATED BY A PRIVATE
PRISON [PROFIT-MAKING] COMPANY - M.T.C. I
FIND MYSELF HAVING TO DEFEND MY JEWISH
ROOTS AGAINST ANTI-SEMITIC STAFF MEMBERS. THREE
DAYS AGO - THE WRITER HAD AN ENCOUNTER WITH A
NURSE AGAIN. MIND YOU THIS IS THE SAME NURSE
WHO WAS WITH THE STATE OF OHIO DEPT. OF
CORRECTIONS - WHEN THE INSTITUTION WAS STILL BEING
OPERATED BY THE STATE OF OHIO. SHE SAW ME
WITH MY-YARMULKE- AND STATED, "I DON'T
KNOW YOU WAS ONE OF THEM MUSLIM" I
STATED "I'M NOT MUSLIM, I'M JEWISH- AND
THIS IS CALLED A "YARMULKE" IN WHICH ALL MALE
JEWS WEAR". SHE LOOKED ME RIGHT IN THE
EYE AND SAID, "YOU CAN'T BE JEWISH - YOUR"
BLACK - I NEVER SEEN ANY BLACK JEWS
BEFORE". SO I TRIED TO EDUCATE HER
BY JEWISH LAW - DUE TO MY MOTHER BEING
JEWISH - I AM ALSO. SO THIS SECOND EN-
COUNTER - SHE GAVE ME A DIRECT ORDER TO TAKE
MY HAT OFF WHILE IN THE MEDICAL DEPT.
I INFORMED HER - THIS IS NOT A HAT, IT'S
A "YARMULKE" AND PURSUANT DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS
ADM. REGS. AND POLICY - I DON'T HAVE TO
TAKE IT OFF - INSIDE OF ANY BUILDING.
DR&C POLICIES ARE STILL IN EFFECT

MTC The people I work for are just —
operating the place. This person don't like
people of color and is in a position
of authority to abuse such against people
of color, most of all a Black-Jew or
what I'm known as here, "THE SAMMY
DAVIS JR JEW". BY THE STAFF. They
try to push my buttons - But I won't
let them - I hold my peace and know —
that G-D will fight my battles plus the
Jewish community here, especially myself, HAVE —
~~BEEN~~ Blessed with the outside Jewish —
Volunteers who come's every other —
Tuesday and Wednesday Evening, They —
HAVE ENBRACED me with TRUE AND UNCON —
LOVE. They don't see Black or —
White - They see a fellow Jew - no matter —
who his father ~~may~~ have been. We were blessed
with their presence during CHANUKAH and had
a good time. With Pass-over coming - we are
already in talks and ^{are} planning the Seder meal.
with them. They are truly a blessing - Most
of all they render a listening ear, They
don't snort us, or look down on us for
being here - [They give advise - and show
us - love -] caring spirits if you will. God
sent.

Well Sleep IS coming FAST - So I'll
Sign off for now - But I look back
on the days when the STATE Correctional
Officers WERE here - NEVER once has a Problem
with them about being Black and Jewish. Other
than that one "Nurse". Didn't hear the comments,
"Here comes that 'N' Jew or 'F'ing Black Jew.
They don't think I hear them - because I don't
RESPONSE to their ANTI-SEMITIC REMARKS - But I
guess "MTC"^{THE} PRIVATE Prison Company - Don't instruct
their employees to respect prisoners FAITH'S.
The only other ~~thing~~^{thing} one would say, when
the state was here, "I NEVER met a Black
JEW IN PERSON, seen some on PBS speak - But
you ARE a first, as meeting one. I don't
have a problem with that. Well I'm really
closing out now - The paper is moving.
And my eyes grow WEAK