

Daniel Gwynn Blog Update

Date: 1/29/13

Subject: "Spine Check"

I overheard an antagonist's comment the other day that, "He don't have ne spine, no backbone." Most prisoners ride off of their reputations (street creds), or they make a name for themselves in here. I couldn't understand how he had thought this applied to me? All I did was choose to not engage in a frivolous argument, so how does this make me "spineless?"

I have no "street creds" or a violent history that would gain me any jail-house respect. I had renounced my former self for a more positive one. I chose to rehabilitate myself, and one aspect of that journey was learning to love & respect myself again. Accepting that I had any worth was very difficult after the number my parents did on me. But I've learned that I do have worth, and am still growing in it.

The next thing I did was to change my attitude about life by taking responsibility for who I am and what I do (done). I shocked many people by my admission of my former life as a "crack addict." There's nothing but shame in my adventurous tales from the dark side, but the truth must be told.

I then had to learn to respect life, especially other people. Respecting other people has been a challenge; but the basic is to treat others as I would wish to be treated. And life in general is so majestic and commands respect for its beauty & ferocity. Nature feeds us & inspires us, but also spans us when we get disrespectful. Good or bad, Life is what we make of it, and we only have one life to live. So why take one second for granted!

I choose to make my life mean something; a positive contribution free of conflict & hostility. I don't feel I need to be the tough guy on the block, or prove anything at all. So does this make me "spineless," I don't think so!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Gwynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.