

JUNE 5, 2013

HELLO WORLD!

MAY PEACE AND BLESSINGS BE UPON YOU AS YOU READ THIS SHORT COMMUNIQUE.

AS THE GREEK PHILOSOPHER AND MATHEMATICIAN, Pythagoras, WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "DO NOT SAY A LITTLE IN MANY WORDS, BUT A GREAT DEAL IN A FEW"; I WILL ATTEMPT TO DO JUST THAT. 😊

WHEN THE JUDGE GAVE ME MY SENTENCE OF THIRTY (30) YEARS-TO-LIFE UNDER CALIFORNIA'S HORRIBLE "THREE STRIKES LAW" FOR A NON-VIOLENT CRIME, HE GAVE ME THIS TIME TO PUNISH ME AND TOLD ME "TO THINK ABOUT MY CRIME"... AND BELIEVE ME I HAVE. HOWEVER, DURING THESE PAST FOURTEEN (14) YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT, I'VE COME TO REALIZE THAT GOD GAVE ME THIS TIME TO HEAL. I'M TRYING. SO I AM STILL STANDING TALL, WITH MY HEAD TO THE SKY AND MY FEET ON THE GROUND, BECAUSE "MAN" DID NOT CREATE ME. GOD DID (WHOM I CALL "ALLAH"). LIKEWISE, MAN CANNOT BREAK ME. AND "ALLAH" NEVER WILL. THE JUDGE, SOCIETY, "MAN"; THEY CAN TAKE "MY TIME", BUT THEY CAN NEVER TAKE "MY SPIRIT."

WITH THAT SAID, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE SOME "REFLECTIVE POETRY" THAT I WROTE BACK IN MARCH OF 2012. IT IS ENTITLED: "I AM"...

I AM ZAKEE ABDUL HAKIM (MY ISLAMIC NAME), A MUSLIM IN AMERICA.

THIS IS WHO I AM, TODAY. IN ARABIC, THIS NAME MEANS
1.

"THE INTELLIGENT AND PURE ("ZAKEE") SERVANT ("ABDUL") OF THE MOST WISE ("AL-HAKIM"), WHICH IS ALLAH.

I AM TRYING VERY HARD TO LIVE UP TO THIS NAME.

I WONDER IF EQUALITY, JUSTICE, AND TRUE FREEDOM WILL EVER COME TO FRUITION IN THESE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

I HEAR THE FRUSTRATIONS OF THE 99% POOR THAT IS DIRECTED TOWARDS THE 1% ELITISTS OF OUR SOCIETY.

I SEE GUN TOWERS, RAZOR WIRE, AND HIGH STONE RAM-PARTS DESIGNED TO KEEP ME HIDDEN FROM SOCIETY BECAUSE I STOLE MONEY WHILE HIGH ON COCAINE, AND I SEE THIS RESULTING 30-YEARS-TO-LIFE SENTENCE AS WHAT IT IS... CAPITOL PUNISHMENT, THE DEATH PENALTY IN SLOW MOTION.

I WANT TO BE FREE... TO LIVE, LOVE, AND FIND MY LIFE'S PATH AND PURPOSE.

I KNOW MY CRIMES OF THE PAST DO NOT DEFINE WHO I AM TODAY.

I AM ZAKEE ABDUL HAKIM, A MUSLIM IN AMERICA.

I PRETEND THAT SOCIAL, RACIAL, AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITY DO NOT TROUBLE ME, WHEN IN REALITY IT REALLY DOES.

I FEEL THAT OUR BACKGROUNDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES MAY HAVE INFLUENCED WHO WE ARE, BUT, ULTIMATELY, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHO WE BECOME.

I TOUCH THE GROUND WITH MY FOREHEAD, IN PRAYER, FIVE TIME A DAY.

I WORRY ABOUT HOW MY LIFE CAN BE CHANGED IN A MATTER OF MINUTES BY PEOPLE WHO DON'T EVEN KNOW A SINGLE THING ABOUT ME.

I CRY WHEN THE PEOPLE I CARE MOST ABOUT IN THIS WORLD ARE TAKEN FROM ME WAY TOO SOON.

I AM ZAKEE ABDUL HAKIM, A MUSLIM IN AMERICA.

I DO UNDERSTAND THAT IF IT IS MY OPINION THAT I AM LIVING A DREADFUL AND INSUFFERABLE LIFE, THEN THAT IS THE KIND OF LIFE THAT I WILL LIVE.

I SAY WHAT I MEAN, AND I MEAN WHAT I SAY.
I DREAM OF THE DAY WHEN I WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO MECCA IN SAUDI ARABIA TO PERFORM MY "HAJJ".
I TRY TO REMEMBER THAT "HAPPINESS" IS NOT A HORSE; I CANNOT HARNESS IT.

I HOPE THAT I WILL ALWAYS BE FAITHFUL TO MY TRUE INSTINCTS AND IMPULSES, THE ONES THAT WILL CARRY ME IN A DIRECTION OF THE EXCELLENCE THAT I MOST DESIRE AND VALUE. SURELY THAT WILL LEAD ME TO A NOBLE LIFE.

I AM ZAKEE ABDUL HAKIM, A MUSLIM IN AMERICA, AND I AM AN AMERICAN, TOO...