

Daniel Gwynn Blog Update

Date: 8/17/13

Subject: "Racism"

We've finally got to see the movie "42" (Jackie Robinson Bio-drama), and although it was a very good movie, it was kind of difficult to watch the hatred & prejudice spewed in it. As the vile hateful words ripped through my eardrums, I was transported back to a difficult time in my childhood in the late 70's early 80's. My friends & I were on a tour for the Community Center's Youth Tennis League playing an away game in an all white neighborhood (8 blocks from my home). We were a small group of pre-teens trying to play some tennis, when we were assaulted on & off the court by hateful remarks hurled at us, along with bottles & rocks. These were adults attacking children for no reason other than the color of our skin. We were unable to finish our matches, and were chased out of the neighborhood.

How can someone hate another person just because the color of their skin is different? It wasn't my fault I ended up in this country. My ancestors were abducted and brought here against their will, because white people back then were too lazy to do their own work, and they also refused to acknowledge that we were human beings. How can people be so wrong?! And how can they teach their children to perpetuate that ignorance?! What have people of color done to deserve such hatred from white people? All we did was get coerced into a life of slavery; and racism came as a means of accepting what they had done to us: then racism evolved into prejudice for stealing their jobs. If we weren't brought here against our will, then the racist white folks wouldn't have to worry about us taking their jobs!!!

I think that once slavery was abolished, prejudices became more prevalent. Times were hard and society needed someone to blame--hard working blacks were a slap in the face to out of work whites. When people get hungry & scared they become desperate, which leads to unruly behavior.

I'm trying to understand racism & prejudice, as we continue to struggle under its dark cloud. It doesn't make sense to me. I've tried to hate white people for the injustices that continue

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to befall people of color, especially my ancestors, but I'm just not feeling it. How can I blame someone for something that someone else did?!! If I don't like someone, it's going to be for what they did and not their ancestors. Sure, I'm still surviving under the dark clouds of racism & prejudices instigated by a people long gone, but I don't hate anyone today because of them. The instigators of the crimes against African Americans are long gone, and this is a time for healing, not perpetuation. Yes, there are still some racists among us, but they're slowly dying out.

I can proudly identify with my ancestors, and I cry for them, but I also live for them because they dreamed of a better world for their children, and sacrificed so much for that dream to come true. They survived torture, rape, mutilation & humiliation for the freedoms we enjoy & take for granted everyday. So how can I not honor that!!! We've come a long way, so why can't we continue to go even further.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Daniel Gwynn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.